

CONGRATULATIONS LONE STAR
COLLEGE SYSTEM

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 10, 2008

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, congratulations to the Lone Star College System on its successful name change last year, and on surpassing the 50,000 student mark. Today, the Lone Star College System is the largest community college system in the Houston area and the second largest in the state of Texas. One in five high school graduates from area-wide school districts attend one of their branch campuses. Several of the system's campuses are in my district. The system also offers dual credit courses to over 5,000 high school students, giving students the opportunity to graduate high school with college credit.

Lone Star College System was established in 1972 when the voters of the Humble, Aldine, and Spring Independent School Districts voted to meet the need for a junior college to serve their communities. In the fall of 1973 the college was formed. Aldine High School hosted the first classes. In its first year the school enrolled 613 students led by 16 staff members.

Between 1981 and 2003, the college underwent a series of expansions and adopted the name of North Harris Montgomery Community College District. In November 2007, students and community members voted to rename the college Lone Star College System.

With graduates contributing in vital areas of our society upon graduation, this college has become a very valuable institution of education for my district and for Texas.

HONORING THE 275TH ANNIVERSARY OF WORCESTER TOWNSHIP, MONTGOMERY COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 10, 2008

Mr. GERLACH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a southeastern Pennsylvania municipality celebrating its 275th anniversary.

Worcester Township, Montgomery County, was established in 1733 by 22 landowners on roughly 10,000 acres originally part of the land grant given to William Penn by King Charles II of England.

English, Dutch, German and Welsh immigrants, many seeking religious freedom, settled the Township, which was a mostly wooded wilderness at its inception. Eventually, the Township was transformed into a farming community that came to be known as a breadbasket for nearby Norristown and Philadelphia.

Worcester also played a role in the founding of our nation. General George Washington's troops camped at the Peter Wentz Farmstead before and after the Battle of Germantown. And the cemetery across from Bethel Hill Church serves as the final resting place for patriots who gave their lives in the pursuit of liberty.

While the population has grown to nearly 8,000 residents today, the Township remains

committed to preserving acres of scenic farmlands and open space.

Residents will mark the Township's 275th anniversary on Saturday, July 12, 2008 during a Community Day celebration in Heebner Park.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me today in congratulating the Worcester Township on its historic anniversary.

OP-ED SUPPORTING THE DEVELOPMENT AND GROWTH OF CARIBBEAN NATIONS

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 10, 2008

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce an Opinion Editorial from the New York CaribNews that reflects support for the development of the Caribbean Community and Common Market (CARICOM) states. CaribNews is a New York based publication that serves as the voice of the Caribbean community.

The editorial which was published on Tuesday, July 8, 2008 is entitled; "The Diaspora And The Rolling Heads of State". The author of the Op-Ed, Dr. Basil Wilson, recognizes the achievements made by CARICOM nations to improve trade relations within the region and globally. "In 2008, CARICOM is to make further strides in the development of a single market economy".

Dr. Wilson also addresses the New York based Caribbean Diaspora as it relates to Caribbean economies. He explains; "Billions of dollars (from the U.S.) are sent to the respective islands to help out family members, to expand existing homes, to start businesses, and to provide some of the basic necessities of life".

This piece acknowledges the economic achievements made by Caribbean nations, therefore contributing to the region's legitimacy as a viable trading partner. At the same time, Dr. Wilson encourages entrepreneurial leadership in the Caribbean to further stimulate economic growth.

[From the CaribNews, July 8, 2008]

THE DIASPORA AND THE ROLLING HEADS OF STATE

(By Dr. Basil Wilson)

It was befitting to hold the meeting bringing together the Caribbean community in New York and the Caribbean heads of state at York College, City University of New York, where the President of that institution, Marcia Keizs and the Provost and Senior Vice President of Academic Affairs have roots in the Caribbean and a majority of the 6,000 student body are either first or second generation Caribbean.

As one of the Caribbean heads of state remarked, he had to travel to New York to address an audience of Caribbean people as the movement of Caribbean people within the region remains limited with the exception of the students in higher education moving among the Mona, Cave Hill and St. Augustine campuses of the University of the West Indies. The Friday evening meeting on June 20, 2008 was designed to facilitate an intellectual exchange between leaders and non-leaders about the Diaspora and the future of, CARICOM.

The Diaspora community already plays a critical role in the form of remittances. Bil-

lions of dollars are sent to the respective islands to help out family members, to expand existing homes, to start businesses, and to provide some of the basic necessities of life. In many islands remittances have been instrumental in reducing the percentage of people living in poverty.

The format of the exchange enabled designated heads of state to address the audience and to allow the audience to ask questions or to make comments. This kind of mass questioning tends to attract to the open microphones speakers who are long-winded and with wide ranging concerns that invariably brings a certain incoherence to the discourse.

The world economy has changed dramatically since the initiation of CARICOM. In 2008, CARICOM is to make further strides in the development of a single market economy. Even within the units of CARICOM, there are no economies of scale. There are opportunities for investment and for the pooling of resources. The economist, Dr. Norman Girvan, has produced a paper outlining the future for further economic expansion. Trinidad and Tobago has emerged as the economic giant in the region and is standing even taller as the price of oil soars towards one hundred and fifty dollars per barrel. T and T is overflowing with investment capital at the same time nonexporting oil countries in the region are reeling from the rapid rise in oil and food prices that are now the norm in the world economy.

CARICOM at the beginning of the year signed a trade agreement with the European Union that opens those economies to Caribbean products and European products to the Caribbean region. CARICOM and CARIFORUM can no longer look inwards. It must look outwards either as a region or as independent islands. There is the dire urgency to put together an export oriented strategy to compete in the global economy of the 21st century.

The crime calamity in the Caribbean basin is indeed an outgrowth of the economic crisis and even though some sorely needed initiatives will be able to strengthen the shaky social order, long term stability will depend on the strengthening of the export sector in relationship to the world economy.

The Caribbean entered the world economy as an exporter of sugar with African slave labor. By the beginning of the 19th century, sugar production in the old English colonies had peaked and was unable to match the yield per acre of the new sugar-cane fields in Cuba. In the post-emancipation years and post-colonial interlude, the economies of the Caribbean remained moribund, starved of British investment capital and survived through the British protectionist system reserved for primary producers of the colonial empire. That arrangement created a condition of chronic surplus labor and forced segments of the Caribbean labor force to seek their fortunes elsewhere such as in the banana fields of Central America, the sugar-cane fields of Cuba, the construction complex of the Panama Canal, and the industrialized factories in the United States at the advent of World War I. In the post-second world war, thousands fled the region to work in the industrial and service enterprises of the United Kingdom.

In the post-colonial years in an age of global protectionism, most Caribbean countries opted for the developmental strategy of industrialization by invitation hiding behind the high walls of tariff barriers. That resulted in an economy with an export producing primary sector of sugar and banana and the new sector of light manufacturing serving the needs of the domestic market. The developmental strategy accelerated the movement from country to town where the

limited manufacturing sector lacked the capacity to absorb the burgeoning labor force. Salvation came through the export of skilled and unskilled labor to the United States, Canada and the United Kingdom.

The growth in the labor force has tapered off in the contemporary period and the unemployment rate in April 2006 was estimated at 134,000 or 10.7 percent of the labor force. Nonetheless, Jamaica has a precious stratum of own-account workers estimated at 376,000. In the goods producing sector, there are 200,000 people employed in agriculture, 105,000 in construction and a mere 80,000 in manufacturing. Traditional agriculture, particularly sugar-cane, there is an effort to adapt that industry through the conversion of sugar-cane into the fuel producing ethanol. The purchase of the sugar industry by Brazilian investors should make the sugar industry more viable and contribute to reducing Jamaica's dependency on fossil fuel and with sufficient capacity to export ethanol to the United States.

Jamaica's economy in the last decade has seen the expansion of the alumina industry and a massive increase in the tourist sector. Alumina and bauxite are highly capital intensive and only 7,000 workers are absorbed in the mining industry. The tourist industry is labor intensive but has failed to absorb all those looking for work as the burgeoning squatter settlements are rampant in the parishes where tourism is concentrated.

Jamaica has made some headway in the export of manufacturing goods. That sector exports approximately 700m in 2006 and if Jamaica is going to absorb its surplus labor problem, there will have to be exponential growth in that sector of the economy, particularly in agro-products.

The Jamaica exporting sector is assisted by state policy. Members of the Jamaica Exporters Association are eligible for loans with reduced interest rates. But what is desperately needed is a strategic developmental plan that brings together venture capitalists from abroad and Jamaica's indigenous bourgeoisie aimed at creating large scale production of juices like guava, june plum, etc. aimed at flooding both the European and the United States market. Micro-enterprises cannot compete in a global market and Jamaica is in need of large scale production aimed at mega-markets to absorb Jamaica's surplus workers.

All the successful countries that have made the transition from fledgling developing countries, like Singapore, South Korea, Malaysia, Taiwan and China, have made it through adopting an export-oriented strategy.

What is required is the emergence of an entrepreneurial class with a clear understanding of the complexity of globalization that will partner with government to build that export capacity. In this age of globalization, CARICOM must look outwards and build the necessary bridges with the Caribbean Diaspora to ensure that the Caribbean is not trapped in the backwater of globalization.

HONORING THE ROCHESTER, ILLINOIS LADY ROCKETS SOCCER TEAM

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 10, 2008

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor the Rochester Lady Rockets soccer team on their success in winning the cham-

pionship game of the Illinois High School Association Class A State tournament.

Kelly Werthwien, Kelcie Kolis, Sarah Wright, Grace Capranica, Marissa Burge, Beth Fitzsimmons, Kellse Sandercock, Amy Shackelford, Jessica Heaton, Jillian Sulcer, Mollie Edgecomb, Kassie McIntyre, Taylor Heissing, Kelcee Walsh, Amy Cassidy, Maryssa Bandy, Taylor McDermott, Alecia Mantei, Taryn Butler, Aubrey Heck, Caley Cook and Casey Turner, along with head coach Chad Kutscher, Assistant Coaches Scott Tucker, Andrew Ford and Kristi Coppernoll and Trainer Sara Powless, put together a 16-4-3 season and swept through the sectional tournament en route to their first State championship.

This is the third straight year in which the Lady Rockets reached the State tournament, and the first for Coach Kutscher.

I am very pleased to congratulate the Rochester Lady Rockets on their victory and wish them the best of luck for next season.

“CREATING A BRIGHTER TOMORROW”

HON. DONALD A. MANZULLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 10, 2008

Mr. MANZULLO. Madam Speaker, I would like to commend to the attention of this Congress the following speech by one of my constituents, 16-year-old Heidi Erbsen, of Stephenson County, Illinois. Heidi participated in an oratory contest hosted by the American Legion. Her speech won first place at the local, division and state levels, and she then moved on and completed as a quarter finalist at the national level of competition. As we face the difficult decisions of today, I hope Heidi's words will stir us to cling to our heritage as we seek to create a brighter tomorrow.

CREATING A BRIGHTER TOMORROW

(By Heidi Erbsen)

As many of you know, Abraham Lincoln is notorious for the Gettysburg Address, which states, “Four score and seven years ago our fathers brought forth on this continent, a new nation, conceived in Liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal. Now we are engaged in a great civil war, testing whether that nation or any nation so conceived and so dedicated, can long endure. We are met on a great battlefield of that war. We have come to dedicate a portion of that field, as a final resting place for those who here gave their lives that that nation might live.” When he spoke these words in 1863, it must have been hard for him to imagine our country's future. With all of the struggles facing our nation, how could he have ever known for sure that we would continue to prosper? The Civil War had split the nation, torn families apart, and claimed thousands of American lives, yet President Lincoln still believed in a brighter tomorrow for his country and his people. This mentality has carried our country through every single struggle it has faced. It is the belief that the people of our nation can give it a brighter tomorrow. And now, for over 200 years our country has prospered because of this belief, and it will continue to do so as long as we uphold this legacy.

When the monarchy in Europe began to mandate religion and other personal affairs in the 1600s, many people began to seek ref-

uge from their oppression. The rule in Europe made it so hard for people to live without persecution that many sought to leave their homes in search of a New Life. Thousands of these people found their new life in what was then known as the New World. Since the pilgrims sailed to America, this country has been a monument of hope. This New Land represented a chance for men and women to start over new. It gave them a chance to create their own fortune and futures. It was a land not yet at the grip of a stifling ruler or government. Most of these colonists arrived here with nothing in their pockets, and a dream in their hearts. It was the dream of freedom and prosperity, and it would not by any means come easy. The first men and women to colonize America suffered more than any of us can imagine. They endured brutal wars, strife, famine, and much more, but they never gave up their dream, and slowly they began to see this dream come alive. When the same ill leadership the pilgrims had escaped in the 1600s began to take hold of the New World in the 1700s the colonists finally fought back. After the Revolutionary War plagued them with years of death and despair, a new horizon dawned on America. The Declaration of Independence was signed and what was formerly known as The New World became The United States of America.

Becoming a free nation of our own may have seemed like the end of struggle for the people of America at the time, but it was really only the beginning. After being ruled by a single monarch for so long the people in our country had no idea how to govern themselves. When they were finally declared a free nation there was a long period of struggle for guidance and rule. Many feared that any form of government would tarnish the freedom they had struggled so hard to achieve. The very men who wrote our Constitution harvested the fear that they would become their own dictator. They knew that it was entirely up to them to see that the future of their country was a bright one, free from persecution and oppression in any form. That is why they did everything in their power to dispose of any form of ultimate rule. They knew they had only one chance to set the land of their dreams into motion. They wanted a balance between the power and the people. This way the people could have a say in what was just in everyday life rather than abiding by the rules of a leader focused only on what would make things easier for him or her. As a solution, they developed a three-part system, each containing officials elected either indirectly or directly by the people, each branch having one main duty: To see that one particular person or even section of the government never gained too much power. Not only did this three-part system give them the balance they were striving for, but our writers of our constitution hoped to ensure that every man, woman, and child living in America benefited from the natural freedoms to which we are all entitled. And to this day, it does just that.

As citizens of America today, we are still reaping the benefits of the sturdy foundation that was built up by our ancestors. The men and women who came together to put a stop to persecution did so not in vain. Look around. We are still living without it today. We have preserved their efforts, but in doing so some of us have lost sight of the sacrifices that have been made. Today many Americans take the freedoms we have for granted. I've lived in the United States all my life, and I'm sure many of you have. I understand completely how hard it is to walk out that front door every morning and not take what we have for granted. When you live in a country as free and prosperous as ours how