

Who are but all our finest daughters and
sons, who so bring us to tears . . .

Who but live by a code . . .

Who but carry that burden, who but teach us
all so . . . as they carry that load . . .

As now once again, such a very fine man . . .
by the name of Kody, so shows us the
way . . .

What the word hero so means!

Like Bob Dole of Kansas, they are both one
and the same . . .

Who from this great heartland the word hero
can claim!

Without his one leg . . .

He lives by a code of honor and faith so
strode . . . that would make any heart
beg . . .

For there in his darkest of pain, in what God
has so left to him . . . so remains . . .
the greatest I say . . .

As we so watch him and learn . . .

As Kody so teaches us all to discern . . . how
a heart full of courage can burn . . .

As the leg he has lost, but like all our great
heroes of the past he accepts that great
cost . . . in turn . . .

You see, he's got a life to live . . .

And so much more to this our world to so
give . . .

To teach us, to reach us . . . as we so watch
in wonder, as his most magnificent
heart gives . . .

For on this day . . . we must understand . . .
This Army Man, so shows us the way . . . as
taller than most he now so stands . . .

And if I have a son, I pray he'd be like this
one . . . who runs with his heart all the
way to Heaven's sun . . .

From Out of The West . . .

Once, again . . . as here has so come one of
our Nation's best . . .

Who our hearts will so bless, who leave us
breathless . . .

In Honor of Kody Wilson

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask that you join
me in honoring CPL Kody Wilson, and recog-
nize his courage, commitment and patriotism
to serving the United States and the people of
Kansas. I truly wish all the best for him in his
future endeavors and will remain grateful for
his service to our country.

TRIBUTE TO RAMONA RIPSTON

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 3, 2008

Mr. BERMAN. Madam Speaker, my col-
leagues, Representative JANE HARMAN, Rep-
resentative HENRY WAXMAN, Representative
ADAM SCHIFF, Representative DIANE WATSON,
Representative MAXINE WATERS, Representa-
tive XAVIER BECERRA, Representative LINDA
SÁNCHEZ, REPRESENTATIVE HILDA SOLIS and I
are greatly pleased to join Ramona Ripston's
army of fans in recognizing her decades of
service to the American Civil Liberties Union
of Southern California, ACLU/SC, and also in
celebrating the dedication of the Ramona
Ripston Center for Civil Liberties and Civil
Rights in Los Angeles. Over many years of
friendship, we have admired Ramona's work
and sought her advice, as she guided the
ACLU/SC as its executive director. She is one
of the Nation's premier and most distinguished
advocates for civil rights and against violence
and hatred.

Many of us have known Ramona for 30 or
more years and have been fortunate to work

with her on a whole host of issues ranging
from immigration reform to the Voting Rights
Act, the Constitution and the first amendment.
It's been a great pleasure to watch the grace
and dedication she brings to everything she
does. Whether working with corporate leaders
in the boardroom, policymakers on Capitol Hill,
and movie stars, or walking Skid Row, she
has always brought something extra and very
special to the table.

Ramona's view of civil liberties embodies
action more than words. She is a frequent vis-
itor in the poorest parts of our communities
where she meets with the homeless and des-
titute of Los Angeles, serving them by making
them aware of what a civil liberties organiza-
tion is and how it can help them know and ex-
ercise their basic rights. She does this not
only from compassion and empathy, but be-
cause she is more comfortable there than sit-
ting in her office. Because of this propensity,
the ACLU/SC is the only affiliate to advocate
an economic Bill of Rights. She simply suc-
ceeded in making economic rights a civil lib-
erties issue.

When civil wars in Central America brought
thousands of refugees to America, Ramona
could be found where immigrants gathered.
She was seeking information about how the
INS and our social service and educational
entities dealt with them, carrying on the de-
cades of work done by the ACLU/SU in advo-
cating for the rights of all people, including ra-
cial and ethnic minorities and the newly-ar-
rived.

In the same way, Ramona made equality of
educational opportunity a priority—not just by
reading scores and statistics, but by going out
to schools in poor areas and meeting with stu-
dents. She made her office a part of those
communities.

Even a quick and cursory review of Ramo-
na's accomplishments and the legion of hon-
ors awarded her by prominent community and
national leaders and by numerous organiza-
tions dedicated to human rights demonstrates
the extent of her work: her assertive and ar-
ticate voice constantly advancing the causes
dear to her and vital to the protection of our
liberties—from the right to free speech to the
ability to organize as workers, the protection
of antiwar demonstrators, the fights against cen-
sorship and the defense of civil rights. The
ACLU/SC and Ramona have often held con-
troversial positions and done so in the face of
vociferous attacks. It is with profound appre-
ciation for their courage, foresight, and tena-
city that we salute both her and the organiza-
tion she has guided.

The ACLU holds that the Constitution is its
client, but for Ramona Ripston, it has also
been all about the clients themselves. It is a
joy to honor her and to congratulate her for
the high esteem in which she is held and for
the width and breadth of her humanitarian and
democratic ideals.

As the new headquarters building—the Ra-
mona Ripston Center for Civil Liberties and
Civil Rights—is dedicated, we ask our col-
leagues to join us in paying tribute to Ramona,
and to the ACLU of Southern California for
decades of work in defense of liberty and jus-
tice for all. The fight is never over and we are
grateful for the bulwark you will continue to be.

THE THINGS WHICH MATTER

HON. CAROLYN C. KILPATRICK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 3, 2008

Ms. KILPATRICK. Madam Speaker, I would
like to submit the following poem, written by
Mr. Albert Carey Caswell, in memory of our
late great colleague, Congresswoman Steph-
anie Tubbs Jones.

THE THINGS WHICH MATTER

The things which matter . . .

The moments which count, the ones all the
end which so amount . . .

All in our lives, are all of those things in our
hearts of which are so tantamount . . .

The very ones . . .

Which all in the end, are what our souls are
really so all about . . .

As to this our world, what we so give no
doubt . . . all in these our lives to tout
. . .

Are all those things which really matter . . .

Are but the ones, which so make The Angels
hearts so shout!

All in the end, are but really what our lives
are all about!

The Ways and Means . . .

By which we overcome all the odds, all in
our life's themes . . .

Are but the ones, our songs which so make
our Lord's heart so shine and gleam
. . .

Stephanie Tubbs Jones . . .

A Heroine . . . A Pioneer . . . A Champion
for Civil Rights so seen!

A great strong great woman of firsts, who
but lived The American Dream!

The only thing bigger than her bright big
smile . . .

Was but her fine kind and warm heart, that
which so caressed all . . . all the while
. . .

For in these our short lifetimes, these are
but the things you'll find!

For it's how we live . . .

And it's how we lead, all in this world which
so helps her to succeed . . .

And who we care for, and for whom we bleed
. . . giving to her what she so needs!

Are but All Those Things Which Really Mat-
ter . . .

All in these our times, all in these our short
lives which we so bring about . . .

All in the end, what really up in Heaven . . .
what so matters no doubt!

SCHOOL SAFETY ENHANCEMENT ACT 2007

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 3, 2008

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam
Speaker, I support H.R. 2352, the "School
Safety Enhancements Act of 2007", which is
aimed at making America a safer place. The
bill under consideration addresses health and
safety issues for children. I support this bill
and I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

H.R. 2352 is necessary and will ensure the
protection and safety of our children in a
learning environment. Violence at our schools
have increased at an alarming rate in States