

HONORING THE SERVICE OF
STATE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF
FARM SERVICE AGENCY, DOTSON
COLLINS

HON. JOHN BOOZMAN

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 4, 2009

Mr. BOOZMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Arkansas Executive Director of Farm Service Agency, Dotson Collins, for his commitment to this country.

Dotson has led a life of service, first in the U.S. Armed Forces. He studied agriculture under the GI Bill and he used that knowledge and understanding to become a leader in the field.

Dotson first served as USDA State Executive Director under President Ronald Reagan and President George H.W. Bush. In 2006, under President George W. Bush he was anxious to do it again.

Dotson devoted his life to helping Arkansas. The list of positions he has held is impressive, from Labor Commissioner and Director of the Commodity Food Stamp Division, to Policy Advisor of Agriculture, Veterans and Military Affairs, Environment and Rural Development.

In roles that would leave the rest of us tired, Dotson found time to serve as President of the Christian Union Council, a position he has held for the last 20 years and he's looking at ways he can continue to help Arkansans.

I appreciate the leadership Dotson has shown and most of all I appreciate his friendship.

THE IMPORTANCE OF THE STEEL
INDUSTRY

HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 4, 2009

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker, there is perhaps no industry that better encompasses the American spirit than the steel industry. Spanning for generations, the steel industry has offered the benefit of employment to millions of Americans, producing material that would serve as the backbone of America.

Earlier today, a number of my colleagues joined me for a hearing entitled the "State of the Steel Industry." At the hearing, industry executives joined with labor unions to discuss the future of American steel production.

The present economic recession, coupled with the dubious trade and economic policies of competing nations abroad, makes the future of the industry of grave concern. In my district alone, hundreds of Ohioans depend on the industry for gainful employment. These jobs are good jobs. Given the present state of the economy in Ohio, we cannot afford to lose these jobs.

I am proud to be a Member of the Congressional Steel Caucus, and proud to have the opportunity to work on behalf of the millions of Americans whose employment depends on the production of American steel. I look forward to working with all of my colleagues who share my passion for this issue to ensure that the American steel industry can thrive.

There is no question that American steel can compete with any industry in the world on

a level playing field. Congress must make that field even.

HONORING KEVIN CORWIN

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 4, 2009

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Kevin Corwin of Gallatin, Missouri. Kevin is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 67, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Kevin has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Kevin has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Kevin Corwin for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

IN MEMORY OF KEN RUFENER

HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 4, 2009

Mr. GALLEGLY. Madam Speaker, I rise in memory of my friend, Ken Rufener, who passed away Saturday after a fulfilling 89 years.

Ken Rufener was the epitome of service. He served as a United States Air Force statistical officer in the Far Eastern theater during World War II, and subsequently made the Air Force his first career. Before retiring 26 years later, Ken was assigned to the Pentagon before being loaned to the Rand Corporation in Southern California.

After the Air Force, Ken moved his wife, Doris, and their two children to Westlake Village and he went to work as a cost analyst for the Hughes Aircraft company for the next 15 years.

His new home became the beneficiary of Ken's energy, sense of service and sense of community. He helped bring youth baseball to Westlake Village, serving as first vice president and coach of the Westlake Athletic Association. He is credited with keeping the Westlake Golf Course from becoming an industrial park. Ken also served as president of the First Neighborhood Homeowners Association.

In 1987, Ken was elected to the Westlake City Council for his first of two 4-year terms and served as mayor for 2 years. After retiring from the council, Ken was elected in 1997 to a 4-year term on the Las Virgenes District Water Board.

Ken was a member of the Military Order of the World Wars and the Retired Officers Association of America.

Among the awards Ken received for his service were the Patrick Henry Patriotism Award, Westlake Village Citizen of the Year,

and the Conejo Valley/Las Virgenes Civitas award for service to the Conejo Valley.

Ken and Doris's daughter, Karen, died about 10 years ago.

Madam Speaker, I know my colleagues will join my wife, Janice, and me in offering condolences to Ken's wife of 62 years, Doris, their son, David, and all their family and friends, and in celebrating Ken's life of service to his country, his community and his family.

Godspeed, Ken.

CONDEMNING THE ATTACK ON
THE TIFERET ISRAEL SYNA-
GOGUE IN CARACAS, VENEZUELA

HON. DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 4, 2009

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my profound concern and indignation regarding the recent attack on the Tiferet Israel Sephardic synagogue in Caracas, Venezuela.

The attack, which occurred just days after International Holocaust Remembrance Day, on the Jewish Sabbath, was reminiscent of Kristallnacht.

For five hours, violent anti-Semites profaned and vandalized a Sephardic synagogue in capital city Caracas, leaving behind graffiti with words of hatred.

But the violence didn't stop there. Sacred torah scrolls were hurled about recklessly and damaged. The synagogue's guard was held at gunpoint and was found on the floor of the building by synagogue members on Saturday morning.

Let me be clear. This brazen attack on the Venezuelan Jewish community did not occur in a vacuum.

It was the direct result of the Venezuelan government's leaders, officials, media commentators and others, who have fostered an atmosphere of intimidation against the Jewish community.

During the Gaza crisis, anti-Semitic and anti-Israel statements were made by the Venezuelan President, the foreign minister, interior minister, the president of the national assembly, a number of congress members, and governors across the country.

In the most recent example of his blatantly anti-Semitic public comments, President Hugo Chavez said "the Israelis criticize Hitler but have done something worse," and also asked "Don't Jews repudiate the Holocaust? This is precisely what we're witnessing."

Hateful, fear-mongering comments like these were condemned by our own Department of State, in a 2008 report where they listed "drawing comparisons of contemporary Israeli policy to that of the Nazis" as an example of anti-Semitism.

President Chavez "condemned" Friday's attack on Tiferet Israel as briefly as possible, making no mention of plans to ensure the safety and security of the Jewish community in his country. He did, however, take a considerable amount of time to throw mud at his opponents, accusing them of staging the synagogue assault. This is unacceptable.

In November 2008, President Chavez signed a statement along with the presidents of Argentina and Brazil condemning religious

intolerance, and "in particular anti-Semitism and anti-Islamism."

In the strongest of terms I urge the government of Venezuela to live up to this statement, and end the incessant bullying and harassment of the Jews of Venezuela.

HONORING AMBASSADOR JOE M.
RODGERS

HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 4, 2009

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the extraordinary life of Ambassador Joe Rodgers, who passed away on Monday at the age of 75. He exemplified the values of dedication, hard work and perseverance; and he committed himself to serving others. This is the inheritance he leaves his family and all those who knew him.

Although a native of Alabama, he built many of the iconic buildings that define his adopted hometown of Nashville. From the Schermerhorn Symphony Center to the Wildhorse Saloon to the Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum, many of the most well-known and well-loved buildings in Middle Tennessee will stand as a permanent memorial to Joe Rodgers. He was an enormous force in the construction industry, building a series of companies that built hotels, hospitals, university buildings and countless other structures around the country and around the world.

Not content to rest on his success in business, Joe Rodgers engaged in public life through his support of candidates who shared his belief in fiscal conservatism. He would eventually become National Finance Chairman for both the Republican National Committee and the re-election effort of President Reagan. In 1985, President Reagan named him the U.S. Ambassador to France. His exemplary service was rewarded with the rank of Grand Officer of the Legion of Honor presented by French President Mitterand. He also served on both the Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board and the U.S. Trade Representative's Foreign Advisory Committee.

At home in Nashville he was involved with countless civic, charitable and religious groups such as the Boy Scouts of America, the Chamber of Commerce, the Fellowship of Christian Athletes and Vanderbilt University.

Indeed it is difficult to find another person who has had so much impact on so many different aspects of our community. He will be missed and our sympathy is with his loving family.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in appreciation of a life well lived.

NATIONAL TEEN DATING VIOLENCE AWARENESS AND PREVENTION WEEK

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 3, 2009

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, we must pass House Resolution 103

and bring awareness to an often overlooked yet extremely dangerous issue.

As a parent, I know the dangers my children faced when they were growing up. I often lost sleep worrying that something would happen to one of my kids that was beyond my control. It was part of the reason I decided to run for Congress.

Today, more than ever, we need to make people aware of the dangers our children face, we never did. Children have such broad access to information that it ages them in ways still not fully understood.

They look at their favorite movie or TV stars and want to emulate them. They research adult topics on the Internet and share information through cell phones and facebook with their friends. They feel because they know things they view as adult, they are adults. Parents do not discuss regularly enough drug use, domestic violence or sex with their children.

This legislation will set aside a week to help foster discussion between the parent and the child, which is the number one way to prevent the awful outcomes which have become far too common on our daily news. This resolution will also bring attention to this matter and would let Americans know that this issue is serious.

The statistics are staggering: one out of every eleven adolescents have reported they have been the victim of a physical abuse. Of the teenagers who are in "serious relationships" one in five have reported being abused in some way. Our children are trying to be like us and in the process they are growing up far too fast. The scariest statistic is, of children who are between the age of 11 and 12, the youngest of our teens, has been or knows someone who has been abused. This is a true travesty.

We can no longer sit by and reminisce about the golden age of child rearing. Children can not be left alone and can expect to turn out like we did. As Chair of the Congressional Children's Caucus, I have worked tirelessly to ensure all America's children can lead safe and productive lives. We must ensure they get the right start.

This resolution will not only prevent our children from living through a terrible ordeal, but it will also help curtail future attacks. Evidence exists showing the severity of domestic violence among a couple is far greater if there is a pattern of abuse from early on in the abuser's life. We have a duty to protect our children and we have a duty to protect our fellow citizens and assure the right to live in peace.

Proclaiming this week National Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Week will show how serious this issue is and continue the discussion which has already begun in many homes. This resolution will also expand the discussion to many homes in the district I represent as well as the rest of the country. We must pass this resolution today and send a clear message to our fellow citizens that this issue will not go away.

Madam Speaker, I urge its immediate passage so we can begin to solve a problem that's gone unchecked far too long. We can make a difference in these and future young adults. The time to act is now.

MIDDLE CLASS INVESTOR RELIEF ACT

HON. MARK STEVEN KIRK

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 4, 2009

Mr. KIRK. Madam Speaker, in the past year, shareholders in American companies have seen the value of their holdings drop by 30 percent. Congress is taking action to stimulate our economy, and reviewing options to strengthen oversight of the capital markets that keep our economy going.

We must not forget the small investor. Middle class families have watched their nest eggs shrink and their home values drop. Their shaken confidence impacts consumer spending and the future growth of our nation's economy. Some middle class Americans nearing retirement may need to work additional years to earn back their stock losses.

With continuing economic uncertainty, we must bring relief to middle class families while boosting investor confidence in an uncertain stock market. Today, I am introducing the Middle Class Investor Relief Act, increasing the maximum annual capital loss a taxpayer can take from \$3,000 to \$20,000.

Current tax law is asymmetrical with regard to taxing capital gains and writing off capital losses. Long-term gains are taxed at 15 percent while capital loss write-offs are capped at \$3,000 per year. An individual who lost more than \$3,000 in the stock market could take years to rebuild his or her holdings. The Middle Class Investor Relief Act will correct the asymmetry of current tax law and help middle class Americans recover losses and rebuild their portfolios.

2008 REALTOR ACHIEVEMENT AWARD: MICHELE BRENNAN

HON. DAVID G. REICHERT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 4, 2009

Mr. REICHERT. Madam Speaker, I rise in recognition of a wonderful American, a devoted professional, volunteer and personal friend. Michele Brennan, a constituent, was recently honored by the Seattle-King County Association of Realtors with "The Realtor Achievement Award" for an extraordinary body of work improving both the association and real estate industry overall.

Michele, a dedicated wife and mother of two children, has worked in the real estate industry for 25 years. She ensures that my office is aware of the issues important for Realtors, the families they serve, and my constituents in the Eighth District of Washington.

Apart from her professional duties in the real estate industry, Michele is a selfless leader dedicated to the betterment of her community. A long-serving volunteer in the Auburn, Washington School District, Michele has also served as president of the Kent, Washington Swim and Tennis Club and as a member of the Windermere Foundation Board, where she worked hard on behalf of needy families and children. It is difficult to fully explain Michele's dedicated community involvement because, either as a leader or "behind-the-scenes" organizer, Michele is interested not in earning praise, but only in making a positive impact.