

Accounts of teacher sexual misconduct have inundated headlines across our country. In 2004, a study required by the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 reported that an estimated 4.5 million children are subject to sexual misconduct by a school employee sometime between kindergarten and 12th grade—that's nearly 1 in 10 students that are targets of sexual misconduct during their school career. As far as I'm concerned, that's one too many.

Further, a 2007 seven-month Associated Press investigation found a total of 2,570 educators across the nation were punished for sexual misconduct from 2001–2005, representing about a quarter of all educator misconduct cases in that time period.

More than a dozen states have considered legislation to strengthen laws for screening and reporting of sexual misconduct by educators last year—many of which became law. However, without adopting systematic policies and procedures at the national level all states remain vulnerable when hiring school employees from states with mediocre reporting procedures and lackluster ethical standards. Our classrooms deserve much more than a piecemeal effort that leaves our nation's schools exposed to predators moving from state to state.

Ernie Allen, President and CEO of the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children said, "This Act brings long-overdue recognition to the problem of child sexual exploitation in the school system."

It is abundantly clear that the system we have in place has failed our students—repeatedly. Before we read about another teacher assaulting yet another student or another classroom shaken by another breach of trust, now—not later—let us give schools the tools they need to keep repeat sexual offenders from preying on students within the very institutions that should be a safe-haven for our children.

We have a unique opportunity before us to empower educators and parents nationwide and make it crystal clear we will not allow those who would prey on young, vulnerable minds to compromise the integrity of our school system and tarnish an honorable profession. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this legislation, ensuring the safety of our children.

IN MEMORY OF BETHEA R. HOOK

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 23, 2009

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, on February 17th, Mr. Bethea R. Hook of Lexington County, South Carolina passed away. Mr. Hook was a cherished member of his community, and spent his lifetime in service to his country and his neighbors as a member of the Mt. Hermon Lutheran Church, president of the Church Council, a Sunday School Superintendent, and scout master of Boy Scout Troup No. 356 to name just a few of his many accomplishments. He was a leader in his community as the owner of Hook's Flowers and vital to the establishment of the U.S. Highway 1 Flea Market. He was also an active member and former president of the Woodmen of the World.

He answered the call of his generation and served as a Navy Chief Boatswain's Mate dur-

ing World War II and went on to be an advocate for his fellow veterans as Commander of the American Legion Post No. 7.

At this time, our thoughts and prayers are with Mr. Hook's family—including his wife of 62 years, Margie Eargle Hook, his sons, Norman Bethea Hook and Richard Jefferson Hook, his daughter, Myra Darlene Kinard, and his three grandchildren, Tradd Bethea Hook, Ashley Ann Hook, and Richard Tyler Hook.

COMMENDING MR. GARY STILTS

HON. JO ANN EMERSON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 23, 2009

Mrs. EMERSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend Mr. Gary Stilts, Wappapello Lake Operations Manager for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Mr. Stilts is retiring this week after a long and distinguished career of more than 30 years of federal service. Nearly 28 of those years have been in the service of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers at Wappapello Lake in the Eighth Congressional District.

During his time at Wappapello, Mr. Stilts has dramatically improved public access to the natural resources offered at the lake, and he has forged key local partnerships that enabled the placement of fishing piers, access points, and a fish cleaning station at the lake. Major flood control improvements and an important transportation infrastructure project have been implemented at Wappapello Lake during his term of service as well.

The remarkable thing about Mr. Stilts has been his ability to make Wappapello Lake a true member of the local community. The lake is important to families, for recreation, and to businesses, for the tourism it draws. Under Mr. Stilts's leadership, Wappapello Lake twice won the Natural Resources Project of the Year Award, in 1999 and again in 2008.

In a district with as many acres of fields, forests and, yes, lakes, as the Eighth Congressional District of Missouri, good stewardship is at the pinnacle of importance. Mr. Stilts has left his mark on Wappapello Lake and the surrounding area by first and foremost being a good steward. His hard work and good advocacy for Wappapello Lake have made it an important fixture on the list of the very best natural resources in our state. I wish him the best in his retirement and thank him for his excellent service to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and to the citizens of the Eighth Congressional District of Missouri.

THE STUDENT INTERNET SAFETY ACT

HON. ADAM H. PUTNAM

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 23, 2009

Mr. PUTNAM. Madam Speaker, on January 28, 2009, I introduced the Student Internet Safety Act, legislation that would provide our Nation's schools more leeway in teaching children about the dangers associated with predators on the Internet.

Everyday, children and teens alike rely on the internet for multiple resources. Whether it's

research for a school project, visiting an online social network such as Facebook or Myspace, or checking movie times for a local theater, our Nation's youth remains increasingly active online and it is paramount that they are aware of the potential risks of online predators and know how to stay safe online.

While many parents continue to educate their children about the importance of online safety, this is an important message that our schools should have the ability to reinforce as well. Currently, school districts that receive grants under the Ed Tech Program and the Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities Program from the U.S. Department of Education may use the Federal funds for a wide variety of authorized activities, such as drug and violence prevention activities, establishing and maintaining a school safety hotline, or developing, enhancing, or implementing information technology courses.

The Student Internet Safety Act would expand the list of authorized activities to allow schools to develop and implement programs that promote the safe use of the Internet by students, such as programs that educate students about appropriate online behavior, including interacting with individuals on social networking Web sites and in chat rooms; protect students against online predators, cyberbullying, or unwanted exposure to inappropriate material; or promote involvement by parents in the use of the Internet by their children.

I am encouraged by the support this legislation has received both locally and nationally as well. Polk County Sheriff Grady Judd stated, "All of us must take a proactive action to teach our kids how to stay safe online. This legislation takes important steps to make this happen. Nothing is more important to our communities' future than the safety and well being of our children." In addition, Ernie Allen, President and CEO of the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children said, "The internet holds tremendous potential for our Nation's youth. But we must educate young people about how to prevent online victimization so they may have safer experiences online."

Given the vital role the Internet plays in schools across the Nation, the Student Internet Safety Act would give schools the ability to educate their students about staying safe in a rapidly growing online community. We teach our children how to look both ways before crossing the street; we also need to teach them the safety rules for the information superhighway.

I welcome the support of my colleagues and look forward to working together to ensure the safety of our children from the dangers associated with predators on the Internet.

IN RECOGNITION OF MARTHA SCOTT SMITH

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 23, 2009

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, this Thursday, February 26th, the Palmetto Society of United Way of the Midlands will be honoring their Humanitarian of the Year Award recipient Martha Scott Smith. Martha is State Director for AT&T—Public Affairs in South Carolina and an extraordinary

community leader. Her accomplishments are many and include being the first Black female to serve as chair of not only the American Red Cross Board but also chair of the South Carolina State Museum Board and chair of the Midlands Technical College Foundation board.

As an advocate for philanthropy throughout her community, Martha is a founding member of Women in Philanthropy, a leading advocate with the United Way, and president of the Columbia Urban League guild.

Martha's positive impact on our community goes back to when she was a middle school teacher and was instrumental in the establishment of a gifted and talented student program for Richland School District 1. She's continued to work on behalf of education as a member of the Board of Visitors of Claflin University and the Allen University board.

These days, I am honored that she has agreed to serve as a member of the Second Congressional District's Minority Advisory Board. Her input and perspective are vital to our work to best represent the people of the Second Congressional District.

Throughout her career and in her personal life, Martha has earned a reputation for decency, hard work, and a passion for fighting for the needs of others. I commend her on this extraordinary honor, and look forward to her continued friendship and counsel.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 23, 2009

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Speaker, I wish to make the following disclosure in accordance with the Republican Earmark Transparency Standards requiring Members to place a statement in the Congressional Record prior to a floor vote on a bill that includes earmarks they have requested.

Specifically, H.R. 637, the South Orange County Recycled Water Enhancement Act, which I introduced on January 22, 2009, contains two earmarks as defined under House Rule XXI, clause 9. Both earmarks contained in H.R. 637 authorize appropriations for projects under Title XVI of Public Law 102-575, the Reclamation Wastewater and Groundwater Study and Facilities Act.

The first project authorized in H.R. 637 is an advanced water treatment plant facility and recycled water system located in the City of San Juan Capistrano. Located in Orange County, California, the City of San Juan Capistrano relies on imported water from the Sacramento/San Joaquin Bay-Delta and the Colorado River to meet much of its water needs. Recognizing the increasing need to provide local water for irrigation, large fields and other non-potable uses, the City plans to construct a water recycling project consisting of four reservoirs, one pump station, and 29 pipelines. The legislation authorizes \$18.5 million of federal appropriations, which sunsets 10 years following the passage of the H.R. 637. The federal cost share shall not exceed 25 percent of the total project cost and no federal funds shall be used for project operation and maintenance.

The second project authorized in H.R. 637 will expand reclaimed water distribution, stor-

age and treatment facilities in the City of San Clemente. The City of San Clemente also relies on imported water to meet some of its needs. In 1991, San Clemente completed construction of a water treatment and reclaimed water facility that produced 2.2 million gallons of reclaimed water per day. The plant could be expanded to produce over 4 million gallons per day. The project would also consist of a two million gallon storage reservoir, a pumping station, retrofit of an existing pumping station at the treatment facility, and pipelines. The legislation authorizes \$5 million of federal appropriations, which sunsets 10 years following the passage of the H.R. 637. The federal cost share shall not exceed 25 percent of the total project cost and no federal funds shall be used for project operation and maintenance.

I certify that neither project has a direct and foreseeable effect on any of my financial interests, nor the financial interests of any member of my family. Consistent with the Republican Conference's policy on earmarks, I hereby certify that to the best of my knowledge this request (1) is not directed to an entity or program that will be named after a sitting Member of Congress; (2) is not intended to be used by an entity to secure funds for other entities unless the use of funding is consistent with the specified purpose of the earmark; and (3) meets or exceeds all statutory requirements for matching funds where applicable.

IN RECOGNITION AND CELEBRATION OF PEACE CORPS WEEK

HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 23, 2009

Mr. HONDA. Madam Speaker, as a returned Peace Corps Volunteer, I am honored to formally recognize the work of the Peace Corps on the 48th Anniversary of its inception and to help kick off National Peace Corps Week. Countries from all over the globe will celebrate past contributions to the international community from the Peace Corps as well as look forward with anticipation to what the future holds for the organization.

During National Peace Corps Week, we salute and honor the men and women of this Nation who have selflessly served abroad as Peace Corps Volunteers, as well as those current Volunteers who continue to carry out the Peace Corps mission: world peace and friendship.

The Peace Corp provides a unique opportunity for Volunteers to travel the world and help some of the most impoverished people in the world while improving oneself. I fondly remember my time as a volunteer in El Salvador after answering President John F. Kennedy's call to service where I built schools and health clinics. The experience meant much to me personally and professionally, the beginning of my lifelong commitment to public service. I returned with a passion for teaching, and quickly put my skills, including fluency in Spanish, to use in Santa Clara County schools. Most importantly, I returned to the United States with a deeper understanding of humanity and a personal commitment to speak on behalf of the marginalized and powerless.

Since President John F. Kennedy's call to service in 1960, over 195,000 people have

served as Peace Corps Volunteers spanning 139 countries. I hope that these numbers can be greatly expanded as a new era of hope and service begins. Today, a renewed call to service has been issued by President Barack Obama challenging Americans from all walks of life to bear the torch of peace and good will that many Americans in the past have carried proudly to other countries.

I am greatly encouraged by President Obama's commitment to expand public service by building upon the Peace Corps and creating innovative programs that inspire Americans to volunteer and serve. In addition, President Obama supports the expansion of the Peace Corps to 16,000 by 2011, the Peace Corps 50th Anniversary. I am in total support of the expansion of this worthy and necessary organization.

Today, I honor the Peace Corps and its brave Volunteers for their service to our Nation and to the international community. For years, the volunteers of the Peace Corps have helped developing nations fulfill their needs for trained men and women, championed the cause of charity and philanthropy, found common ways to address global challenges, and set forth a dialogue of understanding between Americans and locals from other countries. Peace Corps Volunteers set a universal standard for how we are to embrace the realities of an ever-shrinking world.

With a bleak economic outlook and an international community under pressure, the Peace Corps mission is more vital than ever. I look forward to helping President Barack Obama fulfill his promise of renewing America's reputation worldwide and revitalizing America's commitment to service.

TRIBUTE TO DAVID FOSTER

HON. FRED UPTON

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 23, 2009

Mr. UPTON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to Mr. David Foster of Grand Haven, Michigan. After 34 years of service, Mr. Foster is set to retire as the Chief Engineer of the Army Corps of exemplary Engineers Lake Michigan Area Office in Grand Haven.

Mr. Foster is an accomplished engineer who has spent most of his career near Lake Michigan. He was born in Muskegon, graduated from Whitehall High School, and received his bachelor's degree in civil engineering from Michigan State University. Dave began his work with the Army Corps of Engineers in 1975 and has served with distinction and honor in Muskegon, Fort Wayne, and Grand Haven.

Throughout his career Dave has played a vital role in supporting Great Lakes shipping, flood control, and clean up through his work with the Army Corps. In Southwest Michigan, residents and businesses have benefited from Dave Foster's effective ability to solve problems and find solutions to difficult situations. On many occasions, residents have praised the work of the Army Corps in beach nourishment and flood control projects, both which are essential for our area. Just last year, commercial shipping in my district ground to a halt as silt clogged the federal shipping channel. It