

The first of Sullivan County's grand hotels was constructed in 1846 and over the next century, hundreds of additional hotels, camps, bungalow colonies, and resorts were constructed. During the peak decades of Sullivan County's resort industry, the communities in the Catskills surged each summer with an influx of families looking to enjoy Sullivan County's tremendous beauty and many offerings. The County became increasingly popular as a vacation destination for Jewish families, who helped to build up the entertainment and hospitality industry that came to define the Catskill region. Sullivan County became widely known as part of the Borscht Belt, and its resorts and hotels helped to launch the careers of many of this country's most beloved comedians and entertainers in the decades following the Second World War.

Sullivan County is renowned for its profound beauty and tremendous natural assets, including the picturesque Catskill and Shawangunk Mountains and Delaware River Valley. The Delaware River Valley in Sullivan County is designated by the National Park Service as part of the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River and recognized for its incredible recreational, historic and cultural resources. This River corridor, located in close proximity to the New York metropolitan area, continues to attract many thousands of visitors who are drawn by the area's fishing, hunting, boating, golfing, and other activities.

Tourism remains a vital part of the economy for Sullivan County today. As the birthplace of fly-fishing, the County continues to attract sportsmen from around the world to the area's famous trout streams. The Town of Bethel in Sullivan County, once the site of the legendary Woodstock Music Festival in August 1969, now hosts the stately Bethel Woods Center for the Arts, which attracts nationally renowned performers. Sullivan County has worked diligently to build upon its historic legacy and its impressive surroundings and revitalize its economy with new industries, including green technology and a new generation of hospitality businesses.

Madam Speaker, I am delighted to offer my congratulations and best wishes to the residents and businesses of Sullivan County as they celebrate this Bicentennial and as they continue to build upon the region's rich history to ensure that Sullivan County remains an extraordinary place to live and to visit.

HONORING COLONEL MARY BETH BEDELL

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 26, 2009

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize U.S. Army Colonel Mary Beth Bedell. Colonel Bedell is from Willow Springs, Missouri and has served our country with dedication and valor for 37 years. Colonel Bedell has served tours in Vietnam, Operation Desert Storm, Operation Enduring Freedom, and Operation Iraqi Freedom. Her other postings include Fort Sam Houston, in San Antonio, Texas in 1972, Fort San Francisco, Leighton Barracks, Wuerzburg, Germany from 1991 to 1994, Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri from 1994 to 1997, Fort Drum, New York from 1997 to 2000, Walter Reed, Washington D.C. from 2000 to 2004, and Fort Sam Houston, San Antonio, Texas from 2004 to 2009.

During this time, her husband, Dennis Bedell, and their children, Kergin, Carl, and Brian, supported her as she served the Army without hesitation. The people of Missouri and the United States thank Colonel Bedell and her family for their mutual service and sacrifices.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask all my colleagues to join me in commending the career of Colonel Mary Beth Bedell, who has exemplified the qualities of dedication, leadership, and service throughout her tenure with the US Military.

INTRODUCTION OF THE AMERICAN DREAM ACT

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 26, 2009

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to join my colleague Representative HOWARD BERMAN in introducing the American Dream Act, a bill that would enable thousands of ambitious young people to attend college and fulfill their God-given potential.

The Act is the product of Congressman BERMAN's tireless efforts on behalf of undocumented students. Recognizing the senselessness of wasting their promise, we worked to-

gether to craft this crucial legislation, which stands as a testament to his commitment to fighting for the most vulnerable Americans. I commend him for his leadership on this important issue and thank him for his friendship.

The Act's premise is simple and just: Undocumented students deserve the same opportunities as the 2.8 million others who graduate from this country's high schools every year. We cannot afford to waste our investments in these talented, motivated young people who are products of our schools and our communities. Indeed, in this era of globalization, America will struggle to maintain its competitive advantage if we continue to deprive some of our most promising students the chance to earn a college education.

The American Dream Act offers a prudent, equitable solution to the challenges that undocumented students face in attempting to gain admission to our colleges and universities. First, it provides a path to legalization and citizenship to students who entered the U.S. before the age of 16, have lived here for 5 years, and have completed two years of higher education or military service. Second, because they often face severe economic hardships, the bill also eliminates a federal provision that discourages states from allowing undocumented students to pay in-state tuition.

The fight to fix a policy that squanders the intellectual gifts of so many is part of a much wider struggle. Our immigration system is broken. It divides families, enables the persecution of workers and denies immigrants basic legal protections. The American Dream Act is a critical component of comprehensive immigration reform. As we work with President Obama's administration over the coming months to overhaul our immigration system, we should ensure that The American Dream Act is a critical component of our plans.

The millions of high school students who comprise the Class of 2009 are mere months away from graduation. Among them are thousands of kids who have the potential to become doctors, lawyers and even members of Congress but face insurmountable legal obstacles. We have a moral obligation to remove these impediments so that all of our young people can accomplish their goals. Moreover, this nation cannot afford to waste the investment we have already made in these young people and inhibit their potential by denying them the opportunity to earn a college degree. Please join me in supporting the American Dream Act.