

tiny ripple of hope, and crossing each other from a million different centers of energy and daring those ripples build a current which can sweep down the mightiest walls of oppression and resistance." It is with great honor that I am able to speak about this amazing group of young activists who are spreading hope each and every day; not just in their own communities but across the country, to those who suffer from intellectual disabilities and their families.

Too often the power of our words is underestimated and misunderstood. Today marks the culmination of a month long campaign to educate all of us about the positive and negative effects that our words can have. It is with great joy today, that I am able to use my words to support their courage and activism.

Thank you to all who pledge today to think of others before they speak and thank you to all who strive each day to promote universal human dignity.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF LAREDO FBI SUPERVISORY SENIOR AGENT NORMAN A. TOWNSEND

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 31, 2009

Mr. CUELLAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Norman A. Townsend for his service to the people of the State of Texas and the nation as a whole. As he prepares to move forward with his career of public service with the FBI, we proudly honor him for his five years of service to the Laredo Resident Agency where he has served as a senior supervisory agent.

Mr. Townsend earned a Bachelor's Degree in Accounting and a Master's in Criminology from Central Oklahoma University in Edmond before he began his career with the FBI on July 5, 1977. He worked as a fingerprint examiner and an accounting technician in Oklahoma City before attending the FBI Academy in Quantico, Virginia in 1984. Later that year he was assigned as a special agent to the Houston Division in Beaumont, Texas where he performed a number of investigations and continued his dedicated service to the bureau.

On August 4, 2003, Mr. Townsend transferred to the San Antonio Division in Laredo, Texas where he worked as a Supervisory Senior Agent. For the past five years, he has served the community, the state, and our country under the Federal Bureau of Investigation in Laredo. He has supervised agents, task force officers, and support personnel as they conducted investigations on public corruption, white collar crime, and joint task force terrorist investigations.

Madam Speaker, please join me in honoring Norman Townsend for his five years of dedicated service to the FBI Laredo Resident Agency and his 31 years of service to the FBI as he prepares to move forward with his career in the bureau.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. J. GRESHAM BARRETT

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 31, 2009

Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, unfortunately I missed recorded votes on the House floor on Monday, March 30, 2009. Had I been present, I would have voted "Present" on rollcall vote No. 163 (on motion to table H. Res. 295), "yea" on rollcall vote No. 164 (Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree to H.R. 20), "yea" on rollcall vote No. 165 (Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree to H.R. 479).

ARKANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY'S 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. MARION BERRY

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 31, 2009

Mr. BERRY. Madam Speaker, I rise here today to pay tribute to one of Arkansas's finest educational institutions, Arkansas State University. The University will commemorate its 100th anniversary this month. This achievement is a significant milestone for this school and all who helped shape its history.

On April 1st, 2009, the Jonesboro Community will gather at Arkansas State University to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the passage of Act 100, which established the first four agricultural schools in Arkansas. Over the past several decades, ASU has been the beneficiary of a foundation of excellence, built by the hard work and dedication from faculty, alumni, administrators and the community. Many individuals have invested in ensuring the success of the school, and thanks to their efforts we are also here today to thank them for their service.

To build a great school, time and patience are needed to attract and sustain a great faculty, develop a strong academic program, and foster an alumni network. The process is long and arduous, but Arkansas State University is resilient and continues to produce distinguished alumni and groundbreaking achievements year after year.

Arkansas State University with its first-rate, innovative style of education provides an unparalleled learning experience for their students. The growing strength of the school is demonstrated by the success of its students after they graduate and its world renowned reputation. Most importantly, the ideas and achievements from ASU's alumni will continue to transform and benefit our nation for generations.

I stand here today to ask my colleagues in the United States Congress to join me in congratulating Arkansas State University on this significant milestone. Arkansas State University has been powering the minds of its students for 100 years. The University has come a long way, has much to celebrate, and more successes to anticipate in the years to come.

RECOGNITION OF MICHAEL J. MANGINI'S E-911 INSTITUTE INDUSTRY PROFESSIONAL AWARD

HON. JAMES P. MCGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 31, 2009

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, a week ago today, I had the privilege of attending the E-911 Institute's 6th Annual Honors Gala Dinner Program to present my constituent, Michael J. Mangini, with the organization's prestigious industry professional award. I am grateful to have had the opportunity to personally recognize the extraordinary contributions Michael has made to public safety during the course of his remarkable career. I respectfully request that my remarks from that evening be printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD as a lasting and enduring tribute to this very special man. Thank you.

Good evening. I'm pleased to be here tonight with my colleagues for this occasion. I am proud to be a member of the E-911 Caucus and am very grateful for the important work that the E-911 Institute does on behalf emergency preparedness all across the country. I am especially honored to have been invited to present your association's prestigious industry professional award this year to one of the true unsung heroes of your profession and a constituent of mine from Hopkinton, Massachusetts, Michael Mangini.

To those of you not from Massachusetts, Hopkinton is best known as the starting place for the Boston Marathon. I can't drive 26 miles never mind run it but I wanted to share that fun fact with all of you nonetheless. Michael is joined here tonight by his wife, Susan; their daughter Christina; and his very proud parents, Mr. & Mrs. Mangini. I also want to point out Michael's friend and colleague at Plant CML, Paul Fahey, who nominated Mike for this award. Paul's parents are also constituents of mine from Worcester, Massachusetts so this is like an episode of "All in the Family" for me tonight.

In all seriousness, Michael Mangini is truly deserving of the honor you bestow on him tonight. He has devoted his entire professional career to improving emergency communications in both the public and private sectors. First, as Director of Technical Services for the City of Boston's Emergency Services Department, Michael earned the respect and admiration of the entire public safety community. His conscientious commitment to his job, his extraordinary expertise in the field and his unflinching professionalism garnered the attention of no less than the Governor of Massachusetts who asked him to serve as a founding member of the first state-wide emergency telecommunications board in 1991. As Chair of the Board's Standards Committee, Michael was principally responsible for the development and implementation of one of the largest and most successful E-911 programs in the nation. He served on the state's emergency telecommunications board for fully eleven years, and his contributions in that role have undeniably made the Commonwealth of Massachusetts a safer place to live for all of its citizens.

In addition to his service to the state, Michael has been an active member of the Association of Public Communications Officials (APCO) International since 1986 and is a past recipient of its highest honor, the Presidential Award. Michael has also been a member of the National Emergency Number Association (NENA) since 1987 and served as

President of the Massachusetts Chapter. Today, Michael serves as Director of Solutions Engineering at Plant CML where he is responsible for leading the company's largest and most complex projects.

Other than the love of family, I don't think there is any greater honor in life than to receive the recognition of your peers in your chosen profession. Michael Mangini is not only a worthy recipient of this industry professional award, he is also owed a debt of gratitude for his service to his community, his Commonwealth and his country. I am very proud to be able to present him with this award.

TRIBUTE TO CÉSAR E. CHÁVEZ

HON. SUSAN A. DAVIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 31, 2009

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a great man who stood up for justice and fair treatment for all Americans.

During his life, César E. Chávez was committed to providing fair wages, better working conditions, decent housing, and quality education for all. Mr. Chávez also served the United States proudly in the Navy during World War II. His spirit and his vision are still alive today and I am determined to celebrate what he stood for and his great accomplishments.

Madam Speaker, today, I introduce legislation to rename the post office located at 2777 Logan Avenue in the Barrio Logan section of San Diego as the "César E. Chávez Post Office." This is the least we can do to honor such a great but humble man dedicated to justice. Please join me in giving Mr. Chávez his rightful place in American history.

HONORING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE INDIANA CHILDREN'S WISH FUND

HON. ANDRÉ CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 31, 2009

Mr. CARSON of Indiana. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Indiana Children's Wish Fund on its 25th anniversary and for its mission of fulfilling the dreams of children suffering from life-threatening illnesses.

Children forced to battle terminal diseases rarely get to experience a normal childhood and are forced to grow up quickly. By granting their wishes, this organization seeks to bring a smile to these children's faces by bringing laughter, joy and normalcy to their lives.

Since 1984, this organization has granted 2,000 wishes to Indiana children between the ages of 3–18. Each year, it assists approximately 140 children, many of whom are referred to the Wish Fund by hospitals, social workers and families from across the state. With the average cost of a wish being \$5500, the Wish Fund would not have been able to provide these services without the generous support of its community.

I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Indiana Children's Wish Fund as it celebrates 25 years of service and for its com-

mitment to helping children realize their dreams.

BEST-IN-CLASS APPLIANCE BILL

HON. JANE HARMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 31, 2009

Ms. HARMAN. Madam Speaker, Congressman MIKE ROGERS of Michigan and I have co-authored H.R. 1786, a bill that will help Americans transition from older, energy-wasting washing machines, refrigerators, and other household appliances to newer, super-efficient versions.

According to the Department of Energy, appliances currently account for about 20 percent of energy bills in a typical household. Many of these "clunkers" are the products of another era—manufactured years (sometimes decades) ago, when technology was antiquated and efficiency a low priority. Removing old, inefficient appliances from circulation will go a long way toward cutting energy consumption and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Our bill will task the DOE with creating a "Best-in-Class" appliance program to provide financial "bonuses" to retailers for every Best-in-Class product sold (defined as the top 10 percent of models in the product class, in terms of efficiency), and to manufacturers that mass produce Best-in-Class appliances.

Retailers who participate in the program must provide a government-funded "bounty" (a reduction in price for a new, more efficient appliance) to consumers who surrender old appliances. Experience shows that many consumers hoard old appliances—perhaps moving them from the kitchen to the basement—eliminating the potential energy savings resulting from the purchase of a newer appliance. This trade-in feature will help take these clunkers completely out of circulation, substantially accelerating our transition to an energy-efficient economy.

This bill is a consensus product, and is endorsed by the NRDC and leading industry groups. We urge its swift passage.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TIMOTHY V. JOHNSON

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 31, 2009

Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois. Madam Speaker, on March 30, 2009, I was unable to cast my votes on the Motion to Table H. Res. 295, H.R. 20, and H.R. 479 and wish the record to reflect my intentions had I been able to vote.

Had I been present for rollcall No. 163, on the Motion to Table H. Res. 295, Raising a question of the privileges of the House, I would have voted "nay."

Had I been present for rollcall No. 164, on suspending the Rules and passing H.R. 20, the Melanie Blocker Stokes MOTHERS Act, I would have voted "yea."

Had I been present for rollcall No. 165, on suspending the Rules and passing H.R. 479, the Wakefield Act, I would have voted "yea."

TRIBUTE TO ALVIN SYKES

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 31, 2009

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. Madam Speaker, on April 24th, the Olathe, Kansas, Human Rights Commission will pay tribute to Alvin Sykes, a tireless crusader for civil rights within the Kansas City metropolitan region, who recently persuaded the U.S. Congress to approve, and President Bush to sign, legislation establishing a permanent "cold case" unit in the U.S. Department of Justice to review approximately 100 unsolved murders, including the notorious killing of 14 year old Emmett Till in Mississippi in 1955. Both as chairman of the Emmett Till Justice Campaign and as a leader of numerous other struggles for human rights and racial justice in the Kansas City area, Alvin Sykes has received much-deserved national attention for his efforts, as is detailed in two articles from USA Today and wolffmanproductions.com, which I am including with this tribute. I join with the Olathe Human Rights Commission in paying tribute to this important leader within the Kansas City community and I know that all members of the U.S. House of Representatives join with me in celebrating this tireless activist for social justice.

[From USA Today]

PERSEVERANCE PAYS OFF FOR CIVIL RIGHTS ACTIVIST

(By Laura Parker)

WASHINGTON.—Alvin Sykes holds none of the standard credentials to wield influence in the power corridors of this political city. He is a 51-year-old high school dropout with no steady job.

Yet senators listen to him. Prosecutors return his calls. As a self-made civil rights activist, Sykes persuaded the Justice Department to re-investigate the 1955 slaying of 14-year-old Emmett Till, and he deserves a fair share of the credit for the department's recent decision to review as many as 100 old murders in 14 states.

Attorney General Alberto Gonzales announced the investigation as Congress prepares to vote on a bill that would set up a permanent cold case unit in the Justice Department to probe those old crimes.

Last year, Sykes, as chairman of the Emmett Till Justice Campaign, persuaded his then-home-state senator, Jim Talent, R-Mo., to introduce the bill. Since then, Sykes and other civil rights leaders have helped sell it. Although Talent lost his seat in last fall's election, the bill—which authorizes \$11.5 million to fund the unit—has new sponsors and has gained momentum in both houses and parties.

"He reflects the spirit of the civil rights movement, where ordinary people found a way to make a difference," says Brenda Jones, spokeswoman for Rep. John Lewis, D-Ga., whose beating during a protest march through Selma, Ala., in 1965 helped propel the Voting Rights Act through Congress. Lewis is sponsoring the House version of the Till bill.

Sykes is described by those who know him as tenacious and informed. "He's a very pragmatic man," says Donald Burger, a retired Justice Department mediator who met Sykes in the 1970s during battles to desegregate Kansas City, Mo., schools.

U.S. Attorney Jim Greenlee of Mississippi's northern district in Oxford had never heard of Sykes when Sykes asked him in 2004 to reopen the Till case.