

SUPPORTING NATIONAL
COMMUNITY COLLEGE MONTH

SPEECH OF

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 5, 2009

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, as a former student who attended community college, I stand in strong support of H. Res. 338, a resolution which supports the goals and ideals of National Community College Month. Our nation's community colleges provide the dream of achieving a higher education to millions of students each year. Community colleges are the nation's key supplier of workforce development and retraining needs and in addition, they build lasting partnerships and contribute significantly to the communities they serve. My congressional district is home to one of the oldest and most diverse community colleges in California—the Riverside Community College District—so I am proud to express my support of National Community College Month.

RECOGNIZING THE 17TH ANNUAL
LETTER CARRIERS NATIONAL
FOOD DRIVE**HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 7, 2009

Ms. DeLAURO. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure I rise to recognize and show my support for the 17th Annual Letter Carriers National Food Drive.

The Letter Carriers National Food Drive is being conducted in more than 10,000 cities and towns, in every congressional district in all 50 states and jurisdictions. On May 9th, letter carriers will collect food from their postal customers along their route. This is the largest one-day food drive in the country with nearly one billion pounds of food being donated to food banks and pantries since its inception.

The Annual Letter Carriers National Food Drive is made possible by the letter carriers represented by the National Association of Letter Carriers (AFL-CIO), rural letter carriers, other postal employees and volunteers, as well as the countless citizens who donate. To participate, all someone has to do is place a box or can of non-perishable food next to the mailbox on May 9th and a letter carrier will collect it and bring it back to the postal station to be sorted before it is delivered to a local food bank.

To nearly 35.5 million people in our country, hunger is a daily struggle. During this troubling economic time, many families are finding it increasingly difficult to put food on the table. This year, more than ever, donations are needed.

I urge my colleagues to stand with me and recognize and support the 17th Annual Letter Carriers National Food Drive.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MICHAEL E. CAPUANO

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 7, 2009

Mr. CAPUANO. Madam Speaker, on Monday, May 4, 2009, and Tuesday, May 5, 2009, I was unable to be in attendance and missed several rollcall votes as a result of an illness. I wish to state for the record how I would have voted had I been present: Rollcall No. 229—"yes"; Rollcall No. 230—"yes"; Rollcall No. 231—"yes"; Rollcall No. 232—"yes"; Rollcall No. 233—"yes."

RECOGNIZING RIVERDALE HIGH
SCHOOL**HON. DEVIN NUNES**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 7, 2009

Mr. NUNES. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate the faculty and students of Riverdale High School for a truly remarkable achievement.

On May 12, Riverdale High will be awarded the National College Board's Inspiration Award—an award that recognizes America's three most improved secondary schools.

As many of my colleagues will recall, the National College Board's Inspiration Award seeks out schools with high academic standards, as well as schools that encourage students to prepare for college. Once selected, recipients are afforded national recognition and a check for \$25,000.

Madam Speaker, Riverdale High School has approximately 1,500 students. More than 80 percent are on free or reduced lunch. Almost half of the school's students are migrants and a quarter of the population is learning English for the first time. Despite these challenges, Riverdale High offers an academically rigorous environment, including 12 AP courses, a choral and music program, as well as ROP, and drama and agriculture curriculum.

With this academic rigor has come great academic achievement. Riverdale High School has achieved a graduation rate of 98 percent over the past three years. Of these young men and women, 90 percent are continuing their education.

Simply put, they are doing amazing work in this small community. You cannot argue with results and I would like to extend my congratulations to all of the people who have made this honor for Riverdale High possible.

IT'S TIME TO FIND OUT WHAT
CAUSED THE ECONOMIC MELT-
DOWN**HON. WILLIAM D. DELAHUNT**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 7, 2009

Mr. DELAHUNT. Madam Speaker, I rise today as the current economic crisis continues to take a devastating toll on families and businesses across this nation, and the world.

Never before have we witnessed so much economic turmoil. Within a matter of months,

Americans saw much of their life savings and their home equity disappear. Nest eggs evaporated literally overnight. Plans for a college education dashed. The dream of homeownership turned into a nightmare of foreclosure.

Today, unemployment continues to rise, credit markets are in a shambles, and businesses large and small are closing. The problems in our banking and financial system have infected the global economy, undermining confidence in our own markets.

To boost sagging demand in our economy, the federal government is now spending hundreds of billions of dollars at a pace that is unprecedented in our history. As the Congress and the new administration put in place measures to resolve this crisis, it is time for the Congress to provide the American people with a clear assessment on how we got into this mess and what ought to be done to prevent it from happening again.

Frankly speaking, given all the money that's been spent, the American people deserve a full accounting. They deserve an honest and unvarnished assessment of the causes of this crisis. Because, without a thorough diagnosis, how can we make sure that a crisis like this never happens again?

That is why I am joining with Congressman STEVEN LATOURETTE in calling for the establishment of an independent, bipartisan commission, charged with examining the root causes of the current global financial crisis.

It would resemble the 9/11 Commission in its objectivity and independence and have one year to investigate the crisis. It would have the authority to refer to law enforcement any evidence that institutions or individuals may have violated existing laws. At the end of its investigation, the Commission will report to the President and to the Congress its recommendations for statutory or regulatory changes necessary to protect our country from a repeat of this financial collapse.

I voted against the Wall Street bailout proposals last fall, because, as I said back then, they did not deal with the root causes of the crisis; they failed to give the American people a full and fair accounting of what happened; and they failed to hold accountable those who caused the crisis.

Today, I still believe we must do this and unless we take these actions, we will be failing in our responsibility as an institution to fully serve the people who elected us. I urge my colleagues and all Americans to support this proposal.

CODY TURNBULL

SPEECH OF

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 7, 2009

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Cody Turnbull of Weston, Missouri. Cody 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 249, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Cody has been very active with his troop, participating in many Scout activities. Over the many years Cody 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 Cody Turnball for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

IN HONOR OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF LETTER CARRIERS AND THE OHIO STATE ASSOCIATION OF LETTER CARRIERS ANNUAL FOOD DRIVE TO "STAMP OUT HUNGER"

HON. PATRICK J. TIBERI

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 7, 2009

Mr. TIBERI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize the dedication and achievements of the National Association of Letter Carriers and the Ohio State Association of Letter Carriers. May 9th, 2009 marks the 17th annual NALC National Food Drive to "Stamp Out Hunger." On that day, letter carriers will collect non-perishable donations from homes as they deliver mail along postal routes.

Letter carriers from over 10,000 cities and towns in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and Guam collected a record setting 73.1 million pounds in last year's drive. The drive is held annually on the second Saturday in May. Donations will be collected by more than 1,400 local branches of the 300,000-member postal union and delivered to food banks, pantries and shelters in the communities where they are collected.

I am honored to have the opportunity to recognize the National Association of Letter Carriers and the Ohio State Association of Letter Carriers for their dedication and hard work in the communities to help provide food for the growing number of American families facing hunger in these difficult economic times.

SUPPORTING NATIONAL CHARTER SCHOOLS WEEK

SPEECH OF

HON. ROB BISHOP

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 6, 2009

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I'm honored to be able to sponsor this resolution commending Charter Schools for their contributions to education, and designating this week as National Charter School Week. Successful businesses don't build a product and then find a target group to which to market their product. Successful businesses pick a target group, find a need, then build a product that satisfies that need.

When we talk about reforming education, we must remember that parents are the target market. Kids belong to the parent, not to an educator or a legislator. We unfortunately forget this too often. There is sometimes an institutional attitude of antagonism toward parents. In a 1910 essay entitled *How We Think*, even John Dewey wrote that one inhibitor to problem solving was parental values. One could ask whose values would have been more ap-

propriate. A school's direction ought to be agreeable to parents. The final word ought to be with parents. If the parents are satisfied, who else cares and what else matters? Schools are for the kids and the parents and no one else.

Charter schools take us a large step in that direction—the direction of treating parents as the customers. In Utah, there are currently 67 charter schools serving 27,000 kids, and there are several more slated to open this year. Several have a specific emphasis on math and science, and several others focus on the arts. The curriculum is often selected by parents. There are no geographical boundaries to any of them. Some charters belong to a school district, and others are their own district.

There is often a higher demand than there is supply of seats in a charter, so in Utah those seats are generally awarded by a lottery system. Nationally, there are more than 365,000 kids on charter school waiting lists. Why is it that parents want their kids to attend charter schools? It's because a charter school meets their needs better. Charter schools take us closer to the goal of treating the parents as the customers. In many cases charters have a large percentage of students who are either minorities or economically disadvantaged—in one Utah charter, 70% of the students fall in this category. Many of these are kids who haven't done well in traditional public schools, but who thrive in the charter school. Several studies have backed this up by showing that kids who are behind academically do better in a charter school than they would in a traditional public school. Charters are able to innovate, find creative ways to meet the needs of parents and kids, and the customer is satisfied.

In that sense, charter schools are the most accountable of all our public schools. They're directly accountable to parents, because if the parents aren't satisfied, they'll take their kids elsewhere. In Utah, it's working. According to one study, 94% of parents gave their children's charter school an A or B grade. The success of Charter schools should also teach us the potential of the public education system. Charter schools are not private schools. They are public schools. Public schools can easily compete with private schools when the public schools are released from bureaucratic restrictions and allowed to be creative. Only with the freedom to be creative can any school meet the individual needs of students and parents. Without choices and freedom to be creative, kids become a widget on a conveyor belt to the local school "factory."

There are a number of things we can do to allow charters to continue to grow, including eliminating the caps on the number of charter schools, and addressing inequitable funding treatment. We will continue to encourage these reforms, and we'll continue to lower the barriers to innovation and creativity in education.

One member of the Utah State Charter School Board said, in many ways, charter schools are doing for education what the printing press did for the world of communication. Charter schools have promised creativity, innovation, inspiration, and motivation, and I believe they have delivered.

Charter schools have ignited the desire to rethink aspects of our nation's education system. They have shown how involved parents

can and will be in their children's education. They are finding ways to reduce class size, deliver the Core Curriculum to smaller school communities, and increase individualization of instruction.

Charter schools are helping our public education system to be the best it can be for every child. I commend the parents, teachers, administrators, and creative innovators involved in charter schools throughout the country.

A TRIBUTE TO SISTER JULIA MARY FARLEY, C.S.J. ON THE OCCASION OF THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF HER WORK AS FOUNDING DIRECTOR OF GOOD SHEPHERD CENTER FOR HOMELESS WOMEN & CHILDREN IN LOS ANGELES

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 7, 2009

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Sister Julia Mary Farley, an extraordinary and dedicated woman who has been providing care and shelter for homeless women and children in the 34th District in Los Angeles for the last quarter of a century. On May 15, 2009, friends and supporters of the Good Shepherd Center for Homeless Women & Children will celebrate the center's 25th anniversary and honor Sister Julia Mary for her years of service to the homeless.

A native of Chicago, Sister Julia Mary has been a member of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet since 1951. She has a Master's Degree in Health Administration from the University of California, Los Angeles, and an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree from Loyola Marymount University. As a hospital administrator, Sister Julia Mary worked in hospitals in Lewiston, Idaho, and Pasco, Washington, St. Mary's Hospital in Tucson, Arizona, and Daniel Freeman Hospitals in Inglewood and Marina del Rey, California. She also taught at Mount St. Mary's College and several elementary schools in Los Angeles. In 1983, Sister Julia Mary joined the staff of Angels Flight, a crisis intervention center for runaway teenagers operated by Catholic Charities of Los Angeles, Inc.

The following year, Cardinal Timothy Manning noticed that the number of homeless women on the street around St. Vibiana's Cathedral in downtown Los Angeles was increasing dramatically. To address this disturbing trend, he initiated the establishment of a program to provide emergency services to homeless women. He named Sister Julia Mary as the new program's director.

Since 1984, the Good Shepherd Center has empowered women to move from homelessness to self-sufficiency through its housing, employment, and support services. Under Sister Julia Mary's leadership, the center has grown from an emergency shelter and drop-in center to five residential facilities offering a broad spectrum of employment and support services a quarter of a century later.

Following the opening of the emergency shelter and drop-in center on May 6, 1984, Good Shepherd Center expanded its services