

service. As I remember my friend, I will remember his vitality, his sense of humor, his devotion to service, and most of all, his leadership and inspiration. We should all remember Svend Auken as a great citizen of the world.

INTRODUCTION OF THE "SAFE ROUTES TO HIGH SCHOOLS ACT OF 2009"

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 4, 2009

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Speaker, obesity rates for children between the ages of 12 and 19 have more than tripled in the past fifteen years, with 17.6 percent of high school age children now classified as obese. This has a profound impact on the long-term health of our nation, as 80 percent of obese children become obese adults, putting them at a higher risk for diabetes, hypertension, cancer, and other chronic health conditions, and placing an increased long-term burden on our healthcare system. The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) recommends that children be active for at least 60 minutes five times a week, but statistics show that activity levels drop rapidly as students head into their high school years. Increasing opportunities for adolescents to be physically active will help combat the rise in teenage obesity.

We should provide students with safe, active ways to get to and from school and encourage healthy, active lifestyles and daily exercise at a time when they are seeking independence and cementing lifelong habits that will make them safer and healthier.

This is why I am introducing the Safe Routes to High Schools Act, a bill to expand the popular Safe Routes to Schools program to include high schools. The Safe Routes to Schools program has been extraordinarily successful, with over 4,500 programs across the country, but it currently does not cover high schools. High school students represent a population most likely to suffer from high rates of obesity and also most in need of flexible, independent, and low-cost transportation choices, especially in times of economic crisis. This simple policy change will allow an already successful program to serve the students who need it the most.

I hope that my colleagues will join me in supporting this legislation to ensure that children of all ages have safe ways to get to school burning calories instead of carbon.

RECOGNIZING SITRIN HEALTH CARE'S WHEELCHAIR CURLING TEAM

HON. MICHAEL A. ARCURI

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 4, 2009

Mr. ARCURI. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Sitrin Health Care's wheelchair curling team, which will represent the United States as Team USA at the 2010 Paralympic Games. Today marks the 100-day countdown to the games set to begin March 12, 2010 in Vancouver, B.C.

Sitrin's team has earned worldwide attention over the last few years, winning the bronze medal at the 2008 World Wheelchair Curling Championships in Switzerland and narrowly missing the bronze in the 2009 World Wheelchair Curling Championship held in Vancouver. In preparation for next year's competition, Team USA has been practicing at the Olympic Training Center in Lake Placid, New York, and competing internationally in Norway and Scotland.

The team's impressive record of achievement owes to Sitrin's Success Through Adaptive Recreation and Sports (STARS) program, created in 2001 to provide individuals with physical disabilities opportunities to engage in a variety of sports on a recreational or competitive basis. In addition to curling, the STARS program includes adaptive golf, wheelchair basketball, adaptive paddling and wheelchair road racing. Sitrin, located in my district in New Hartford, New York, operates the wheelchair curling program in partnership with the Utica Curling Club in Whitesboro, New York.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Sitrin's wheelchair curling team on its accomplishments to date, and in wishing the athletes luck in the upcoming Paralympic games. Sitrin's paralympians are an inspiration to athletes across our nation, and I look forward to following their success in Vancouver.

CALLING ON THE U.S. AND INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY TO ADDRESS THE NEEDS OF SRI LANKA'S TAMIL INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS

SPEECH OF

HON. MICHAEL E. McMAHON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 3, 2009

Mr. McMAHON. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of House Resolution 711.

The Tamil people have been exposed to unspeakable tragedies by all sides in the most recent ethnic conflict.

Yet, the so-called end to the conflict in Sri Lanka has only brought more suffering and brutality to the Tamil people.

Housed in barrack-style IDP camps, without the option of release, these 300,000 refugees are repeatedly betrayed by Sri Lankan officials that claim to be protecting them from the LTTE, a terrorist organization who was uprooted this Spring.

Furthermore, stories of torture and injustice seep through the high barbed-wire walls surrounding these camps, despite limited access to outside NGOs and the media.

This is frightening and simply unacceptable. My message has always been clear: I will not stand for the atrocities being committed in Sri Lanka.

Through my work on the House Foreign Affairs Committee, and the subcommittee on the Middle East and South Asia, I have worked with Chairman BERMAN to include a provision in the Foreign Relations Authorization Act to condemn the Sri Lankan government's inaction and to mandate a cultural exchange for the new generation of Sri Lankans to study tolerance in the United States.

For three long decades, Sri Lankans have been pitted against one another.

And, thousands of innocent lives have been lost.

It is time for a new direction in Sri Lanka.

It is time for a political solution and an integration of minorities in Sri Lanka.

Clearly, it is not enough to release a small number of refugees to host families or, for that matter, to farmland—as the government has reportedly been doing.

These people must immediately be allowed to return to their homes and to their daily lives.

A TRIBUTE TO JESSE W. GRIDER

HON. BRETT GUTHRIE

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 4, 2009

Mr. GUTHRIE. Madam Speaker, 1 week from today, our Nation will honor our veterans and remember all those who have fallen in order for us to be free.

I rise today to honor one veteran in particular, Jesse W. Grider, a true patriot whose dedication to our Commonwealth and Nation is to be commended.

Mr. Grider enrolled in the National Guard in 1950 at the age of 17. Upon his return from the Korean war, Mr. Grider continued his dedication to his country and district by serving in the Glasgow Police Department, attaining the rank of sergeant.

In 1958, he was appointed a U.S. Deputy Marshal in the Western District of Kentucky, where he served as an instructor and trainer. At one point in his career, Mr. Grider had trained two-thirds of the deputy marshals in the United States.

After his work at the U.S. Marshal's Service in Washington, D.C., Mr. Grider returned to Kentucky in 1973 where he served as Chief Deputy Marshal before being appointed in 1975 as the U.S. Marshal for the Western District of Kentucky.

After his retirement as U.S. Marshal, Mr. Grider was appointed Clerk of the U.S. District Court in the Western District of Kentucky, where he served 17 years.

On Veteran's Day, friends, family and members of the Barren County and Glasgow communities will come together to recognize Mr. Grider's distinguished career. I join them in honoring Jesse W. Grider and thank him for his service and the great contributions he has made to our Nation and community.

CONGRATULATIONS, LT. COMMANDER JOHN R. LOGAN

HON. DONNA M. CHRISTENSEN

OF VIRGIN ISLANDS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 4, 2009

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Madam Speaker, today I rise to recognize the achievements of a Navy Lieutenant from my district, John R. Logan, who will be promoted to the rank of Lt. Commander in a ceremony that will be held this morning here in the Capitol Building. Presently serving as the Command Chaplain at the Marine Barracks here in Washington, D.C., Lt. Logan has been decorated with the Navy and