

DEVELOPMENT, RELIEF, AND EDUCATION FOR ALIEN MINORS ACT OF 2010

SPEECH OF

HON. ALBIO SIRES

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 8, 2010

Mr. SIRES. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commend the passage of the DREAM Act by the House of Representatives on December 8, 2010. I am a longtime supporter of the bill, and I am thankful that we finally have the opportunity to move forward with this significant and life-changing legislation. With the passage of the DREAM Act, an estimated 800,000 young people that have been kept in the shadows and overlooked by this country would be given what they never had before: a chance.

Currently, there are young people in this country who know no other home, yet they do not have access to the opportunities that make this country strong. They are unable to resolve their immigration status and therefore can offer little to the country that they love. The DREAM Act would make it possible for those brought to this country as young children who have grown up in the United States to contribute to the United States and achieve their full potential.

This bill is carefully constructed to target only those people most deserving of this opportunity. To earn conditional immigration status, these young people must demonstrate that they have graduated high school, obtained a GED, or been accepted to an institution of higher learning. They must also have arrived in the United States before they were 16, have lived in the United States for at least five years before the bill's enactment, and be under 29 years of age. After a minimum of thirteen years and if additional requirements are met, those eligible can apply for U.S. citizenship.

The contributions of these young people would benefit our country and our economy, and I would like to thank my colleagues who supported this extraordinary legislation. This bill would allow young people throughout the country to pursue the kind of futures that they deserve. It would also allow our country to take advantage of the talents that these bright young people have to offer.

The enactment of the DREAM Act would give young people the chance to better themselves and in turn would make this country a better place.

HONORING THE SERVICE AND SACRIFICE OF UNITED STATES ARMY SERGEANT FIRST CLASS JAMES E. THODE

HON. GABRIELLE GIFFORDS

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 9, 2010

Ms. GIFFORDS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor United States Army Sergeant First Class James E. Thode, who was killed in action on December 2, 2010.

A resident of Tucson since the age of 6, James graduated from Catalina Magnet High School before attending the University of Ari-

zona. A decorated combat veteran, he was assigned to Detachment 1 of the 118th Engineer Sapper Company, 1457th Engineer Battalion based out of American Fork, Utah. He was on his third combat deployment with the Army National Guard in Sabari District, Khowst Province, Afghanistan when he was killed by insurgents who attacked his convoy with an improvised explosive device. In his civilian life, James served as a police officer in Farmington, New Mexico, having joined the department in 1996 and working as a field training officer and member of the SWAT team.

Among his many decorations, he earned the Bronze Star, Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal and the Purple Heart. He was one of our Nation's most elite, best and bravest, and he will be remembered always.

We remember James and offer our deepest condolences and sincerest prayers to his family. My words cannot effectively convey the feeling of great loss nor can they offer adequate consolation. However, it is my hope that in future days, his family may take some comfort in knowing that James made a difference in the lives of many others and serves as an example of a competent and caring leader and friend that will live on in the hearts and minds of all those he touched.

This body and this country owe James and his family a debt of gratitude, and it is vital that we remember him and his service to this country.

Sergeant First Class James Thode is survived by his wife, Carlotta; mother, Evelyn; father, Ernest; daughter, Ashley; son, Tommy and sister, MaryAnn.

HONORING WILSON H. PARRAN

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 9, 2010

Mr. HOYER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Wilson H. Parran, a member of the Calvert County Board of Commissioners since 2002 and president of that commission from 2006–2010. It is my distinct honor to share his story of commitment, dedication and public service to Calvert County, to our great State of Maryland and to our Nation.

Commissioner Parran was born and raised in Calvert County, where he still resides today with his wife Deborah. The youngest of ten children, he grew up on a tobacco farm where his parents were sharecroppers. Wilson grew up under segregation. At the age of six, he had to walk a mile to catch the school bus every day, even though some buses stopped on his street. Wilson learned at an early age, as he watched his mother go before the County Board of Education to get a her son a bus ride to school, that you must be an advocate and in so doing you can see government in action. Twenty-five years later, Wilson was serving on that same Calvert County Board of Education, motivated by his experiences to give back to his community and support education for the betterment of all students.

Following his parents' model of hard work and high expectations to reach for your dreams, Wilson worked his way from entry-level technology positions to a top tele-

communications executive. In 1969 he went on leave to join the military, serving in the Air Force for 4 years during the Vietnam War era. Wilson had been out of high school for 12 years before he received his first degree. While serving on the school boards he was going to school himself, and became the first member of his family to graduate from college. An advocate of lifelong learning, Wilson served on the Calvert County Board of Education for 6 years and the Maryland Board of Education for 5 years. Commissioner Parran is past president of the Maryland Association of Counties, MACo, and represented Calvert County on the MACo Legislative Committee. He has served on numerous civic organizations including being on the Calvert Memorial Hospital Foundation Board and president of the Maryland Association of Board of Education, MABE. He is a member of the NAACP and was the recipient of the MABE 2007 Charles W. Willis Award for outstanding School Board Leadership.

Mr. Parran was elected to the Calvert County Board of County Commissioners in 2002, and achieved re-election in 2006. Following his re-election, board members crossed party lines to elect him as president, a position in which he has demonstrated courage, judgment, and integrity.

Calvert County has been well served by Commissioner Parran's two decades of dedicated public service. He has been an ardent advocate for maintaining Calvert County's quality of life, assuring a balance between its rich agricultural heritage and its expanded economic base. We are indebted to his service and leadership and know that his parent's would be so proud to see that the foundation they set of strong family values and commitment to community have reaped many fruits.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring Commissioner Wilson H. Parran for his years of public service, dedicated work and commitment to excellence on behalf of the people of Calvert County.

IN HONOR OF MS. JEAN VELORIA GIORDANO

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 9, 2010

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor and remembrance of Ms. Jean Veloria Giordano, a generous spirit and a devoted mother, daughter, sister, and friend. Even during the hardest parts of her long struggle with cancer, she lived life with uncommon joy and appreciation for those around her.

Jamie, as her friends knew her, was born in Dededo, Guam, on February 6, 1962, to David and Juanita Veloria. She moved to Ohio as a young adult and soon became well-known in Cleveland as a vivacious hairdresser who always saved an open ear and an open heart for her clients. She had a special connection to the natural world and frequently visited Bridal Veil Falls in Walton, Ohio to reflect and renew her spirit.

Even during her final days, Jamie always put her best face forward. On her way to chemotherapy sessions, she made sure to stop to pick up coffee and donuts for the hospital's parking attendant. According to a close