

I would have voted "aye" on rollcall 255 and "aye" on rollcall 256.

HONORING THE ACADEMY FOR GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP FOR BEING NAMED A GREEN RIBBON SCHOOL

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 31, 2012

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the Academy for Global Citizenship in Chicago, Illinois, for its recognition by the U.S. Department of Education as a "Green Ribbon School."

Green Ribbon Schools (GRS) is an award program launched in 2011 that recognizes schools participating in activities that promote and encourage a healthy and environmentally friendly learning environment. This year, the Department of Education recognized 78 schools across the United States, including the Academy for Global Citizenship located in Garfield Ridge on Chicago's Southwest Side.

The Academy for Global Citizenship engages students in a green experience from the moment they set foot on campus. Its asphalt parking lot was transformed into an organic garden that the students help sow, cultivate, and tend throughout the year. Inside the school students are fed organic and locally-sourced meals each day, after which they separate their garbage and recyclables, as well as their compost waste which is used to fertilize the gardens around the campus.

In class, students learn about sustainable and renewable energy and lifestyles, including a transportation unit that includes the study of walking, biking, and alternative fuels, and a wellness class that focuses health, nutrition, and environmental sustainability as a lens to understand how the world works.

Through these formal and informal activities, teachers enhance students' education as they teach the biology and chemistry behind composting and fertilization, the energy physics behind alternative energy sources, and the health-science behind good nutrition.

The Academy for Global Citizenship is also green at the administrative level. The school hosts community workshops on topics such as small space gardening, backyard composting, and energy use reduction. In addition, the school tracks its energy and water usage, setting reduction goals each year, and purchasing 100% of its electricity from a provider that produces only wind power.

Green schools, like the Academy for Global Citizenship, benefit our communities in numerous ways. In buying food from local sources, they contribute to the local economy and local jobs. In reducing their energy usage, these schools help improve our energy independence. In producing a rich and interactive curriculum on green living, they educate our children and create the workforce needed for the future of our economy. I am happy to see such important work being done on a local level and the Academy for Global Citizenship acting as a model for other institutions.

I commend the Academy for Global Citizenship and I hope my colleagues will join me in congratulating all 78 of the Green Ribbon School award winners.

FIRST GRADUATION OF SOUTH GIBSON COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL

HON. STEPHEN LEE FINCHER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 31, 2012

Mr. FINCHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor South Gibson County High School (SGC), which will be holding its first ever Graduation on Friday, May 18th. SGC, located in Medina, Tennessee, opened its doors in August of 2009 to approximately 250 students. Since then, SGC's first freshman and sophomore classes have developed into critical thinkers who are active participants in their communities.

Few institutions are as vital to preserving our country's future as our public schools, and SGC has done its part to foster a spirit of academic success.

On behalf of the residents of the 8th Congressional District of Tennessee, I am proud to congratulate each and every student in SGC's first graduating class, and I wish them the very best in their upcoming endeavors.

WMD INTELLIGENCE AND INFORMATION SHARING ACT OF 2012

SPEECH OF

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 30, 2012

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the bill before us, H.R. 2764, the WMD Intelligence and Information Sharing Act of 2012. As a former member of the House Committee on Homeland Security, I am proud to co-sponsor this bill, which will increase coordination and information sharing between the Department of Homeland Security, the Intelligence Community, and Federal, State and local authorities. This bill will also enhance DHS's ability to analyze, prepare for, and prevent potential threats from weapons of mass destruction.

We all know that WMDs continue to pose a serious threat to the United States. As rogue states such as Iran with established ties to terrorism continue to pursue nuclear weapons, the threat is all too real that WMDs could fall into the hands of those who would like to attack our country.

The bill we are considering today is comprised of two provisions from H.R. 2356, the WMD Prevention and Preparedness Act of 2011, which was considered and passed by the Homeland Security Committee earlier this month. I was proud to introduce H.R. 2356 as a comprehensive bill to prevent a WMD attack along with my colleague from New York and the Chair of the Homeland Security Committee, Congressman PETER KING. This bipartisan legislation would finally begin to implement the recommendations of the 9-11 Commission and the Weapons of Mass Destruction Commission, and I hope we can bring the entire bill to a vote as soon as possible.

I am glad to see that we are taking these long-overdue steps to make our country safer in the wake of the horrific terrorist attacks which occurred over a decade ago on September 11, 2001, and I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

HONORING THE SISTERS OF ST. JOSEPH OF ORANGE

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 31, 2012

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today along with my colleagues Representatives LORETTA SANCHEZ, ED ROYCE, JOHN CAMPBELL, GARY MILLER, JERRY LEWIS, RANDY NEUGEBAUER and LYNN WOOLSEY in recognition of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Orange, one of the youngest of the American congregations, for its historic and ongoing contributions to the proliferation of education and health care across the country. The assembly traces its roots through the St. Joseph congregations of La Grange, Illinois; Concordia, Kansas; Rochester, New York; and Carondelet, Missouri, all of which are traced back to around 1650 in Le Puy, France.

The Sisters of St. Joseph of Orange was established in 1912 by Mother Bernard Gosselin when she and eight sisters left La Grange, Illinois, near Chicago with 60 cents among them to establish a school in Eureka, California. With the outbreak of the flu epidemic in 1918 the Sisters expanded their ministries from teaching to include providing for the medical needs of the community, and opened St. Joseph Hospital in Eureka in 1920.

By 1922, the Sisters were teaching in several Southern California areas and recognized that the community could better develop its ministries by moving the Motherhouse to Orange, California.

The Sisters of St. Joseph of Orange are dedicated to transcending language, culture and access-to-care barriers to bring healthcare to people in need throughout the world. The Sisters extended their work in health, education and religious instruction to the people of Papua New Guinea and Australia in the 1940s.

Today, the congregation's commitment to education is expressed in a variety of forms including elementary, secondary, university and other adult education. The organization remains committed to the cause of promoting and providing an outstanding level of health care through acute-care hospitals, rehabilitation programs, home health care, community education, primary care clinics, and wellness programs.

The works of the congregation have expanded beyond education and health care to also include such things as helping new immigrants and women in need, feeding the hungry, giving shelter to the homeless, and fostering spiritual development.

As a result of their dedication to the same spirit of charity, simplicity, and humility characteristic of the Sisters of St. Joseph throughout the world and Mother Bernard's further guiding words of faith, foresight and flexibility, the Sisters of St. Joseph of Orange help thousands of people in need each year.

Mister Speaker, it is appropriate at this time that we recognize and thank the Sisters of St. Joseph of Orange for their dedication and service to the people of California and the world. We congratulate the Sisters of St. Joseph of Orange on their 100th anniversary, on the occasion of their 100 year Jubilee.