

IN HONOR OF JEAN MURRELL
CAPERS

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 13, 2000

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor retired Judge Jean Murrell Capers with The Black Professionals Association Charitable Foundation Life Achievement Award. She has led a life of dynamic public service in the city of Cleveland for 87 years, and we are blessed that she continues to do so.

Judge Capers was born and raised in the same Cleveland neighborhood. From her early years, her remarkable talent and dedication shone. At Central High School, she was an exceptional athlete in basketball, swimming and tennis. She graduated with honors and started college at age 16. After earning her degree from Western Reserve University's School of Education, she returned to the Cleveland public school system to teach elementary students for several years. Her starting salary in 1932 and \$79.32 per month.

In order to serve her community in a leadership role, she ran for Cleveland City Council and won a seat. Her dedication to public service then led her to earn her juris doctorate from John Marshall School of Law by going to school at night. This education helped her to be a more effective city council member. Not only on council, but in her daily workday, she persevered to help individuals in Cleveland. Her long list of clients kept her much busier than most of colleagues. Judge Capers came to the aid of many people who needed her help, especially those who could not afford to pay her much.

In 1960, she became an assistant Attorney General. After that term, she became special counsel to the Ohio Attorney General from 1964 to 1966. Judge Capers was one of the original members of the Women's Advisory Council of the Women's Division at the Ohio Bureau of Employment Services. For this exceptional record, Governor James Rhodes appointed her to Municipal Court Judge in 1977. She then served an additional six year term when she was elected to the position in 1979.

In addition to her outstanding career of public service, she worked to help others through other activities. Judge Capers founded and helped organize political groups whose purpose was to increase the status of women regardless of race or political persuasion. She provided encouragement and guidance as a mentor to many public servants in Ohio, other states and in other nations.

In 1995, Judge Capers was recognized in the John Marshall School of Law's Centennial in the film: Four Decades of African American Leadership. She is also featured in the book *Rebels in Law: Voices in History of Black Women Lawyers*, by J. Clay Smith Jr. She is highlighted as a lawyer who is a leader in her community. Judge Capers was inducted into the Ohio Women's Hall of Fame in 1998.

Today, at age 87, retired Judge Capers continues to help young people, especially women, and mentor them in their career choices. We thank her for being an inspiration to numerous people in their formative years

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

and in public service. As only the fifth person to receive this prestigious Life Achievement Award, we humbly honor Judge Capers for her extraordinary dedication to our community.

RECOGNITION OF SCIENCE DAY 2000

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 13, 2000

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, today I recognize Science Day 2000, sponsored by The Science Coalition, an alliance of more than 400 organizations, institutions, and individuals dedicated to sustaining the federal government's historic commitment to U.S. leadership in basic science. Representatives of The Science Coalition visited several Members of Congress today to remind us that an investment in research is an investment in our future.

Medical advances depend on advances in basic science and engineering. For example, scientists are recreating pancreatic islet cells to replace damaged ones, essentially reconstructing the pancreas to treat diabetes. Islet implants are possible thanks to nanotechnology. Working molecule by molecule, scientist are able to create new molecular structures and this ability may lead to new ways of building human tissue and organs. The federal investment in research makes many of these breakthroughs possible.

Advancement in science and engineering requires the interactions of many disciplines. The interaction of physics, chemistry, materials science, computer science, and engineering in combination with the biological sciences makes advancements in health technologies, instruments, and treatments possible.

The physical sciences have transformed the modern world. We could not have mapped the human genome without advances in information technology. Modern navigation aids would not be possible without the Global Positioning System, an outgrowth of astronomy. New diagnostic tools such as digital mammography are grounded in electrical engineering and mathematics.

The economy is changing. Innovations in information technology and research based industries like telecommunications and biotechnology are leading the nation to a new level of prosperity based on federally funded research.

Twenty years ago few could have imagined an economic expansion based primarily on fiber optics and information technology. Yet they are at the core of today's information and innovation economy. How did we get there? Through university research. The next new economy is taking shape at universities today.

Alan Greenspan and leaders of industry continue to state that our economic prosperity is flowing from investments in science and technology we made years ago. Technologies that fuel today's economy came from these investments at university laboratories.

The global market for products manufactured by research-intensive industries such as aerospace, computers, electronics, communications, and pharmaceuticals, is growing

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more than twice as fast as that for other manufactured goods. This is driving national economic growth around the world. Increased federal investment in university research is one of the most important steps we can take to prepare for the "information and innovation" economy of the 21st century.

The current pace of new scientific breakthroughs holds the promise to raise the quality of our lives even further. To make this a reality however, it is imperative that we continue to fuel this engine by ensuring a sustained commitment of federal funding for basic research in these fields.

As a scientist and a Member of Congress, I am in a special position to speak about the need to ensure continued success of the research and development enterprise by increasing federal support for basic research. With this goal in mind, I am a cosponsor of The Federal Research Investment Act, H.R. 3161. This bill calls for doubling the federal government's current rate of investment in research and development over a 10-year period. This would be achieved through annual increases above inflation, so that by fiscal year 2010, 2.6 percent of the Federal budget would be spent on non-defense R&D. This bill would assure a basic level of federal funding across a wide array of non-defense, basic scientific, biomedical, and engineering research.

This legislation would provide a balanced investment across 15 agencies engaged in activities for basic research including: the National Institutes of Health, within the Department of Health and Human Services; the National Science Foundation; the National Institute of Standards and Technology, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration; the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the Centers for Disease Control, the Department of Energy and the Department of Agriculture. We must fuel the engine that directs such prosperity by adequately funding the next generation of potential scientific discoveries.

In addition to increasing our financial commitment to the basic research enterprise, we must also ensure that we produce a technologically proficient workforce. Improving science education for all children in our public schools is also critical to developing a broader appreciation for science and the scientific method in society and producing well-trained and informed citizens. I believe that teachers are the most critical element in improving education. Nothing makes more of an impact on our children than a well-trained, caring, and dedicated teacher.

Public schools will have to hire more than two million new teachers over the next 10 years. Many of these new teachers will have to teach math and science in the elementary grades. Unfortunately, many of today's teachers, especially in elementary school, do not feel prepared to teach science. Over half of America's high school teachers of physical sciences (including chemistry and earth science) do not have a major or minor in any physical science. About one-third of public high school math teachers do not have a teaching certificate in math.

Science literacy is at the core of maintaining our economic strength, given the realities of global competition. We must strive for an education system that teaches every student