

A good wage job is the foundation for the economic security of all Americans, and particularly so for people of color who have historically been denied opportunity in our country. Rhetoric about "family values" is disingenuous if large segments of our Nation are not given the chance to earn a good wage and provide for their children, spouses, and increasingly parents, whose retirement income is not sufficient to sustain independent living.

This is quite evident in my city—New York City—the Nation's largest metropolis and home to the panorama of racial and ethnic groups that represent the emerging face of America. In this great city, and in many others across the country, the economic devastation has hit close to home. Last year one of our city's leading nonpartisan, not-for-profit social policy and advocacy organizations—the Community Service Society or "CSS"—issued a landmark report on the crisis of Black male unemployment.

For those of you not familiar with the Community Service Society, it is an organization that has a 160-year history of working to alleviate conditions of poverty affecting low-income New Yorkers. CSS' roots in working to raise living conditions for city residents can be traced back to the settlement house movement in New York City and its role in founding the Columbia University School of Social Work. It is an organization that has played an invaluable role historically in the life of our city and continues to be a voice of conscience today.

The study revealed some 50 percent of Black men in New York City were removed from the labor market. Fifty percent! By any standards it should be unacceptable for half of any group to be without work. Now to be fair, the latest CSS report indicates some improvement in jobholding for Black men but they have steadily lost ground relative to other groups in the city. It is a tragedy that should evoke shame and outrage in the 21st century.

CSS also issued a report that revealed the degree to which young people in our city, age 16 to 24, are not in school and out of work—tagged "disconnected" for the manner in which they are excluded from civic life. In total, the report calculated that there are 170,000 disconnected young people in our communities—a population that surpasses our state capital of Albany and many mid-size American cities.

We know there are a number of factors fueling this crisis. Many of our public schools serving the population of young people the CSS report identified as disconnected are not equipped to prepare them for the realities of today's work world. And while we all advocate for higher standards, improved test scores absent any connection to a good wage job is a hollow victory. Many of us, including myself, understand the importance of retooling vocational and technical education so students who do not see college as an immediate option will have the opportunity to earn a living.

Likewise, we are aware of traditional barriers that have obstructed Black Americans from economic opportunity. In the spirit of bipartisanship I recently accepted an invitation by the mayor of our city, Mayor Michael Bloomberg, a Republican, to serve on a city commission that will identify ways to eliminate

barriers to employment in the construction trades for minorities, veterans and women. Joining me on that commission is the CEO of the Community Service Society, David Jones.

It is an important first step in taking an industry-by-industry, sector-by-sector audit of impediments that are driving these dramatic disparities in employment. And the onus for change is not wholly on the private sector. The public sector must do a better job in ensuring equity in employment. For instance, the Fire Department of New York, a great and storied agency by most measures, has failed to be forward thinking in its hiring practices. In its most recent probationary class, minorities are only 14 percent of the new recruits. White males comprise 92 percent of the department. It is for that reason that the Justice Department has launched an investigation into the FDNY's hiring and promotion practices. So we know that government must also take corrective action.

Now, against this backdrop we have a White House that is moving in the opposite direction of widening opportunity. In fact, President Bush's budget proposal has several elements that will only widen the gap I have described. The President proposes to cut the Workforce Investment Act by \$61.5 million, end the program to reintegrate young offenders in communities, and reduces federal student loans by \$10.7 billion over 10 years. Our president has also proposed eliminating the Perkins Vocational and Technical Education Act, a cut that means an estimated loss of \$65 million to New York State.

And New Yorkers most affected by these proposed cuts are clear on their priorities. In a survey of low-income New Yorkers commissioned by the Community Service Society, and tied to their labor market research, respondents expressed support for job training and education, and the upgrading of vocational and technical education.

It is a significant snapshot of the opinions of the city's working poor—the first of its kind in the nation that I know of that seeks to ferret out the views of the economically disadvantaged.

None of this is good news for New Yorkers or most residents of our nation's large urban centers. And most certainly for Black Americans in general, and Black men specifically. Combined with the risk that the President's misguided Social Security proposal poses for Black seniors, President Bush's budget has placed us on the cusp of an economic disaster of cataclysmic proportion in the Black community.

We are not alone in New York City facing this crisis. Many American cities, big and small, are experiencing the same problems to varying degrees. We cannot sit by idly and see families devastated and communities destroyed while economic opportunity passes us by. That is why I have asked several of my colleagues in the House to join me on this Special Order to educate the American public and sensitize the White House to the economic imperative facing our constituents.

HONORING MR. RANDY TEAGUE

**HON. JEB HENSARLING**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 17, 2005

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to honor Mr. Randy Teague of Mabank, Texas for his longtime support of agriculture in and around Henderson County of Texas. From 2000 to 2004, Mr. Teague served on the Henderson County Beef Committee, serving as its chairman in 2004. He has been an organizer of the Henderson County Livestock Show since 2000, and is a member of the Henderson County Show Board.

A father to three children, John Carter, Clara Jane, and Cash, Mr. Teague married his wife, Amy Morris, in January of 1999. Along with his agricultural activities, Mr. Teague is the Chairman of the Nominating Committee at the First Baptist Church in Mabank. He is also a supporter of the Kaufman County Women's and Children shelter, the Gold Card Luncheon Program for Mabank High School, the Special Olympics, and the Make a Wish Foundation.

As a father, a husband, a devout churchgoer, and a community leader, Mr. Randy Teague has embodied the values of family, faith, and hard work that lie at the core of American society. As his representative in Congress, it is my distinct pleasure to honor him today on the floor of the United States House of Representatives.

SALUTE TO LIEUTENANT COLONEL ANDREW LOTWIN ON HIS RETIREMENT

**HON. ELLEN O. TAUSCHER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 17, 2005

Mrs. TAUSCHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to salute Lieutenant Colonel Andrew Lotwin on his retirement after 20 years of distinguished service in the United States Army. I had the good fortune to have Lt. Col. Lotwin serve as a Military Fellow in my office for a year, and the further good fortune of developing a lasting friendship with him and his wonderful family. I can say without reservation that Lt. Col. Lotwin truly exemplifies what it means to wear the uniform of our great nation. His patriotism, intelligence and integrity and service are an example to all.

Lt. Col. Lotwin began what would become a distinguished military career more than twenty years ago when he entered the United States Military Academy at West Point. During his military career he also received master's degrees from the University of California at Los Angeles and Webster University, and studied national security at Georgetown University. He also served as a faculty member at the United States Military Academy and at other prestigious military schools and conferences.

Throughout his career, Lt. Col. Lotwin specialized in intelligence issues, military procurement and relations with Congress. He served as a program manager in the Joint Program

office for the Predator UAV. He formed a joint government-industry team to support a fielding plan for the JSTARS program. And as the U.S. Army representative to the NATO Alliance Ground Surveillance Steering Committee, Lt. Col. Lotwin saved the U.S. Government millions of dollars by establishing the JSTARS Common Ground Station as the baseline architecture for this NATO initiative.

Early in his career, Lt. Col. Lotwin served as a special agent in the Pentagon's Counter-intelligence Detachment. He returned to the field of intelligence in recent years in his capacity as Special Assistant to the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Legislative Affairs. Lt. Col. Lotwin represented the Department of Defense in the areas of Intelligence, Space, Special Access Programs, and Information Technology critical to the Global War on Terrorism. Lt. Col. Lotwin displayed his trademark skills of leadership, management, professionalism and discretion. They served him well on Capitol Hill, where he became a vital link between Congress and the Pentagon and helped facilitate a better understanding of complicated matters vital to our national security.

Mr. Speaker, I got to know Lt. Col. Lotwin best during the year he served as my Military Fellow. He was an invaluable and truly wonderful presence in my office. He's the kind of guy who instantly earns your friendship with his humor and your respect with his intelligence. He brought not just a career-long knowledge of the Army and our Armed Forces, but his interest and aptitude in a wide array of other issues made him a valuable member of my team. His insight and advice helped me represent and serve the people of the Tenth Congressional District in California.

Andrew and his wife Holly are blessed with three wonderful children—Amanda, Dana, and Noah. I really believe that military families are one of our country's most precious military resources, and this is certainly the case with the Lotwins. Holly's devotion to Andrew, their family and our country are evident. Like Andrew, she is a great American hero.

As Andrew Lotwin begins what is sure to be a remarkable second career, I wish him and his family all the best. America has been blessed to have him in our Armed Forces, and I applaud him for his continued service to our country.

---

#### HONORING JERRY KALOV

### HON. DARRELL E. ISSA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 17, 2005*

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, on February 28 we lost a great American when Jerry Kalov passed away after a long battle against leukemia.

Jerry Kalov was a great American because he lived the rags to riches story. He grew up poor in Chicago and worked in several stores and rose to lead major companies including International Jensen and Harman International.

But Jerry's "riches" were not his degrees or his money. Jerry had no college degree and

he died without a fortune. Jerry was one of America's richest men because of the huge number of lives he affected, including mine.

Jerry's passion was helping people become leaders. He took so many under his wing and he mentored us without judging us but always making us better.

For me, he took a successful businessman and taught me about humility, diplomacy and patience. He continued to mentor me even after I entered Congress and helped keep me grounded in what is a rare and heady atmosphere.

For Consumer Electronics Association president Gary Shapiro he took a brash lawyer and instilled business savvy and people skills. Jerry taught him that if you care about your employees, results will follow. He mentored Gary and several volunteer CEA chairmen and helped transform a sleepy small association into a top 20 economic and political powerhouse.

Among the CEA leaders he mentored was Kathy Gornik. Kathy owns a small Kentucky loudspeaker company. Jerry convinced her that she could lead a major national association and with Jerry's help, Kathy tripled the association's membership and created a special focus on smaller entrepreneurial companies.

Jerry mentored several others including JEDEC president John Kelly, NARDA president Elly Valas and Casio president John McDonald.

We have lost a friend, an influencer of people and a model for sharing through mentoring. Jerry reminds me that a man's worth is measured by the people he affected. Jerry helped shape many of us and we will miss him.

---

#### INTRODUCING THE NATIONAL DROUGHT PREPAREDNESS ACT

### HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 17, 2005*

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with Representatives REBERG, HERSETH, and OSBORNE to introduce the National Drought Preparedness Act. The companion to our bill is will also be introduced in the other body by Senators PETE DOMENICI and MAX BAUCUS in the near future.

In 1998, Congress passed legislation creating the National Drought Policy Commission. The Commission was tasked with the responsibility to examine current U.S. policy on drought. To summarize the Commission's fifty-page report in a few short words, "The U.S. does not have a policy on drought."

I wish I had just made a joke. The fact that we don't have a drought policy, however, is a joke—and not a good one at that.

Drought is not just an agriculture issue, nor is it only a water management issue. When droughts occur, forest fires erupt, small businesses close, crop yields decrease, and in many instances, people die.

In my home state of Florida, we are always taking steps to mitigate the affects of hurricanes and floods—regardless of what season it is. In the Midwest, similar efforts are made

to plan for tornadoes, and in the West, the same could be said for wildfire prevention and earthquakes.

It is time for America to move away from the costly, ad-hoc, and response-oriented approach to drought, and toward a more pro-active approach that focuses on preparation and planning. Coordination between federal, state, and local governments, in addition to watershed groups, farmers and ranchers, and resource dependent businesses, is the only way we will successfully curb the effects of drought before we find ourselves in one. The bill we are introducing today provides a new focus on an otherwise often ignored natural disaster.

Our bill accomplishes four major goals.

First, the bill begins to move the country away from the costly, ad-hoc, and response-oriented approach to drought, and toward a more pro-active approach focused on preparation and planning. The new national policy will provide the tools and focus for Federal, State, tribal and local governments to address the diverse impacts and costs caused by drought.

Second, the bill will improve the delivery of Federal drought programs. To ensure improved program delivery, integration and leadership, the National Drought Preparedness Act establishes the National Drought Council under the direction of the Secretary of Agriculture. The Council will provide the coordinating and integrating function for the more than 80 federal drought programs currently in existence.

Third, the bill establishes new tools for drought preparedness planning. Building on current water policy, the Drought Council will assist states, local governments, tribes, and other entities in the development and implementation of drought preparedness plans. The bill does not mandate state and local planning, but is intended to facilitate the development and implementation of drought plans through the establishment of a Drought Assistance Fund. Importantly, the bill also preserves state authority over water allocation.

Fourth, the bill improves our forecasting and monitoring abilities. Under our legislation, the Drought Council will facilitate the development of the National Integrated Drought Information System in order to improve the characterization of current drought conditions and the forecasting of future droughts, as well as provide a better basis to trigger federal drought assistance.

Mr. Speaker, the creation of a coordinated and comprehensive National Drought Council will provide efficient and time sensitive coordination between federal agencies in preparing for and responding to droughts, as well as assisting Congress in identifying our immediate and long term needs in providing drought relief.

I am looking forward to working with my colleagues and moving this bill forward. Americans are hurting throughout this country today because of water shortages and prolonged droughts. Congress must act immediately, and time is of the essence.

I ask my colleagues to support this bill, and I urge the House leadership to bring this bill to the floor for its swift consideration.