

As the leg he has lost, but like all our great heroes of the past he accepts that great cost . . . in turn . . .

You see, he's got a life to live . . . And so much more to this our world to so give . . .

To teach us, to reach us . . . as we so watch in wonder, as his most magnificent heart gives . . .

For on this day . . . we must understand . . . This Army Man, so shows us the way . . . as taller than most he now so stands . . . And if I have a son, I pray he'd be like this one . . . who runs with his heart all the way to Heaven's sun . . .

From Out of The West . . . Once, again . . . as here has so come one of our Nation's best . . .

Who our hearts will so bless, who leave us breathless . . .

In Honor of Kody Wilson

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask that you join me in honoring CPL Kody Wilson, and recognize his courage, commitment and patriotism to serving the United States and the people of Kansas. I truly wish all the best for him in his future endeavors and will remain grateful for his service to our country.

TRIBUTE TO RAMONA RIPSTON

**HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 3, 2008*

Mr. BERMAN. Madam Speaker, my colleagues, Representative JANE HARMAN, Representative HENRY WAXMAN, Representative ADAM SCHIFF, Representative DIANE WATSON, Representative MAXINE WATERS, Representative XAVIER BECERRA, Representative LINDA SANCHEZ, REPRESENTATIVE HILDA SOLIS and I are greatly pleased to join Ramona Ripston's army of fans in recognizing her decades of service to the American Civil Liberties Union of Southern California, ACLU/SC, and also in celebrating the dedication of the Ramona Ripston Center for Civil Liberties and Civil Rights in Los Angeles. Over many years of friendship, we have admired Ramona's work and sought her advice, as she guided the ACLU/SC as its executive director. She is one of the Nation's premier and most distinguished advocates for civil rights and against violence and hatred.

Many of us have known Ramona for 30 or more years and have been fortunate to work with her on a whole host of issues ranging from immigration reform to the Voting Rights Act, the Constitution and the first amendment. It's been a great pleasure to watch the grace and dedication she brings to everything she does. Whether working with corporate leaders in the boardroom, policymakers on Capitol Hill, and movie stars, or walking Skid Row, she has always brought something extra and very special to the table.

Ramona's view of civil liberties embodies action more than words. She is a frequent visitor in the poorest parts of our communities where she meets with the homeless and destitute of Los Angeles, serving them by making them aware of what a civil liberties organization is and how it can help them know and ex-

ercise their basic rights. She does this not only from compassion and empathy, but because she is more comfortable there than sitting in her office. Because of this propensity, the ACLU/SC is the only affiliate to advocate an economic Bill of Rights. She simply succeeded in making economic rights a civil liberties issue.

When civil wars in Central America brought thousands of refugees to America, Ramona could be found where immigrants gathered. She was seeking information about how the INS and our social service and educational entities dealt with them, carrying on the decades of work done by the ACLU/SU in advocating for the rights of all people, including racial and ethnic minorities and the newly-arrived.

In the same way, Ramona made equality of educational opportunity a priority—not just by reading scores and statistics, but by going out to schools in poor areas and meeting with students. She made her office a part of those communities.

Even a quick and cursory review of Ramona's accomplishments and the legion of honors awarded her by prominent community and national leaders and by numerous organizations dedicated to human rights demonstrates the extent of her work: her assertive and articulate voice constantly advancing the causes dear to her and vital to the protection of our liberties—from the right to free speech to the ability to organize as workers, the protection of antiwar demonstrators, the fights against censorship and the defense of civil rights. The ACLU/SC and Ramona have often held controversial positions and done so in the face of vociferous attacks. It is with profound appreciation for their courage, foresight, and tenacity that we salute both her and the organization she has guided.

The ACLU holds that the Constitution is its client, but for Ramona Ripston, it has also been all about the clients themselves. It is a joy to honor her and to congratulate her for the high esteem in which she is held and for the width and breadth of her humanitarian and democratic ideals.

As the new headquarters building—the Ramona Ripston Center for Civil Liberties and Civil Rights—is dedicated, we ask our colleagues to join us in paying tribute to Ramona, and to the ACLU of Southern California for decades of work in defense of liberty and justice for all. The fight is never over and we are grateful for the bulwark you will continue to be.

THE THINGS WHICH MATTER

**HON. CAROLYN C. KILPATRICK**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 3, 2008*

Ms. KILPATRICK. Madam Speaker, I would like to submit the following poem, written by Mr. Albert Carey Caswell, in memory of our late great colleague, Congresswoman Stephanie Tubbs Jones.

THE THINGS WHICH MATTER

The things which matter . . .  
The moments which count, the ones all the  
end which so amount . . .

All in our lives, are all of those things in our hearts of which are so tantamount . . .

The very ones . . .

Which all in the end, are what our souls are really so all about . . .

As to this our world, what we so give no doubt . . . all in these our lives to tout . . .

Are all those things which really matter . . . Are but the ones, which so make The Angels hearts so shout!

All in the end, are but really what our lives are all about!

The Ways and Means . . .

By which we overcome all the odds, all in our life's themes . . .

Are but the ones, our songs which so make our Lord's heart so shine and gleam . . .

Stephanie Tubbs Jones . . .

A Heroine . . . A Pioneer . . . A Champion for Civil Rights so seen!

A great strong great woman of firsts, who but lived The American Dream!

The only thing bigger than her bright big smile . . .

Was but her fine kind and warm heart, that which so caressed all . . . all the while . . .

For in these our short lifetimes, these are but the things you'll find!

For it's how we live . . .

And it's how we lead, all in this world which so helps her to succeed . . .

And who we care for, and for whom we bleed . . . giving to her what she so needs!

Are but All Those Things Which Really Matter . . .

All in these our times, all in these our short lives which we so bring about . . .

All in the end, what really up in Heaven . . . what so matters no doubt!

SCHOOL SAFETY ENHANCEMENT ACT 2007

**HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 3, 2008*

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I support H.R. 2352, the "School Safety Enhancements Act of 2007", which is aimed at making America a safer place. The bill under consideration addresses health and safety issues for children. I support this bill and I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

H.R. 2352 is necessary and will ensure the protection and safety of our children in a learning environment. Violence at our schools have increased at an alarming rate in States such as California, Colorado, Illinois, Louisiana, Minnesota, Missouri, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, and Wisconsin over the last few years. H.R. 2352 seeks to curb that stem of violence.

H.R. 2352 increases authorized annual funding from \$30 million to \$50 million for FY 2008–2009 for the Secure Our Schools grant program, and decreases the non-Federal grant participation percentage from 50 percent to 20 percent. It requires institutions of higher education to conduct annual campus safety assessments and develop and implement campus emergency response plans.

This bill seeks to address the violence in our schools. It will ensure the safety of students and teachers and will make sure that education is the paramount concern of educators.

The Act also increases the Federal portion of the funding from 50 percent to 80 percent, which decreases the non-Federal portion from 50 percent to 20 percent. According to the Community Oriented Policing Services, COPS, Office of the Department of Justice, which administers the Secure Our Schools grants, many of the poorer communities that need help the most have been unable to participate in the program because they cannot afford the previously required 50 percent non-federal grant match. The proposed change in non-Federal funding is more in line with the COPS traditional 75/25 percent split, and should allow more participation in the program.

The Act increases the possible uses of funding to include surveillance equipment, hotlines to report potentially dangerous situations and capital improvements to make school facilities more secure. Finally, the Act requires the establishment of an interagency task force to develop and promulgate advisory school safety guidelines.

The Act amends the existing requirements for grant applications, and requires each grant application to be accompanied by a report, signed by the chief education officer and the attorney general or other chief legal officer, demonstrating that the proposed use of the grant funds is an effective means for improving school safety, is consistent with a comprehensive approach to preventing school violence, and meets the individualized needs of the particular school.

Finally, the Act amends the Higher Education Act and requires each eligible participating institution to conduct an annual campus safety assessment, and develop and implement a campus emergency response plan to address emergency situations, including natural disasters, active shooter situations, and terrorist attacks. The bill is sponsored by Mr. ROTHMAN, and has 52 cosponsors.

MY THREE AMENDMENTS THAT WERE OFFERED AND ACCEPTED

I have three amendments that I offered and that were accepted concerning this bill. The first extended the current requirement of establishing a hotline or tip line to include the reporting of hazardous conditions, including the presence of hazardous chemicals.

The second one requires schools to develop and implement safety measures to protect students in the event of a terrorist attack or other hazardous condition or situation. It would further require that no funds would be disbursed unless the school had a safety plan in place to respond to a terrorist attack or other hazardous condition or situation.

The need for schools to respond to hazardous conditions or situations is necessary because often children are confronted with hazardous conditions and they simply ignore them. This has been a big problem in the Houston Independent School district. For example, in Key Middle School students were getting sick because they were learning in classrooms where mold was growing on the walls and ceilings. The students saw the mold and were getting sick but they did not know

how to respond. These amendments would ensure that children are aware of the toxicity of these chemicals and organic substances. This is a real threat. Key Middle School was subsequently closed because of the severe health risks posed to students. My call for student awareness, training, and prevention as pertains to a terrorist attack does not need much explanation. In light of the tragic events of 9/11, we can never be too cautious with schooling and protecting our children. Children need to know what to do and how to respond to dangerous situations during a terrorist threat.

My last amendment goes to the heart of administrative practice. The original bill required that a taskforce create guideline. Because the taskforce is to be established within 30 days of enactment of this act, my amendment allows the taskforce to convene and within 60 days issue a preliminary advisory school safety guideline and after that time it should provide the public with an opportunity through notice and comment and publish a final advisory school safety guideline not later than 30 days after the preliminary guidelines. This is good administrative practice and ensures public participation by students, teachers, and parents.

I urge my colleagues to support this very important bill.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE SERVICE OF STANLEY REED

HON. JOHN BOOZMAN

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 3, 2008

Mr. BOOZMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise in recognition of the commitment and service, my friend Stanley Reed provides to Arkansas youth.

Stanley is a leader in the state, serving as President of the Arkansas Farm Bureau, a former member of the Arkansas Board of Trustees, a board member of Baptist Health, and Simmons First National Corporation and a member of the Board of Advisors of the Arkansas World Trade Center and of the Brandon Burlsworth Foundation.

His professional achievements are far reaching, and so are his accomplishments away from the Board Rooms. Stanley spends much of his time and energy being an example for Arkansas youths and helping them lead a better life.

Stanley's life of service will be honored by Arkansas Governor Mike Beebe and the Arkansas Sheriffs' Youth Ranches, an organization that provides a stable living environment with responsible role models.

Stanley has been a very good friend and was a teammate at the University of Arkansas. He has been blessed with a wonderful family, his wife Charlene, son Nathan and daughters Hailey and Anna.

I have had the privilege to work with Stanley throughout my professional career. His dedication, persistence and leadership are all exemplary qualities. I appreciate his friendship and example. I am honored to have had the opportunity to have worked with such a great man, and thank him for his service.

A TRIBUTE TO GENERAL BRUCE CARLSON

HON. MICHAEL R. TURNER

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 3, 2008

Mr. TURNER. Madam Speaker, I appreciate the opportunity to pay tribute to United States Air Force General Bruce Carlson for his 37 years of distinguished and honorable service in the United States Air Force and to our Nation.

General Carlson has had a distinguished career, beginning with his graduation from the Air Force ROTC program at the University of Minnesota. He has held numerous flying assignments, staff and command positions throughout his career. He commanded the 49th Fighter Wing at Holloman Air Force Base, the Air Force's first stealth fighter wing. His staff assignments included time at HQ AF, the office of the Secretary of the Air Force, the office of the Secretary of Defense and the Joint Staff. Prior to serving as Commander of Air Force Materiel Command, General Carlson served as Commander of the 8th Air Force, Barksdale AFB and Joint Functional Component Commander for Space and Global Strike, U. S. Strategic Command, Offutt AFB.

As Commander of AFMC, General Carlson led the organization to meet leadership challenges and world threats. General Carlson championed the Air Force alternative fuels program and delivered on Presidential and Secretary of the Air Force challenges to reduce the military's dependence on foreign oil. General Carlson also oversaw the development and deployment of AngelFire persistent surveillance and reconnaissance program. Under his command, AngelFire deployed to the CENTCOM AOR with the help of Air Force Research Laboratory personnel, marking the first-ever deployment of an AFRL program directly into combat. Additionally, General Carlson delivered the first MQ-9 Reaper to the 42nd Attack Squadron at Creech AFB nearly a year ahead of schedule to meet Air Combat Command requirements.

He received numerous military awards for his service including: Defense Distinguished Service Medal with oak leaf cluster, Legion of Merit, Meritorious Service Medal with two oak leaf clusters, and the Air Force Commendation Medal with two oak leaf clusters. He also received the highest honor from the Air Force enlisted corps, the Order of the Sword. In addition, General Carlson is a command pilot with over 3,300 flight hours.

I have known General Carlson since he took command of AFMC in August 2005.

General Carlson is a man who is honest, provides a straight assessment and has the highest degree of ethics. His service honors the Air Force and our country. I've appreciated his dedication to duty and his willingness to work with the surrounding community. General Carlson truly exemplifies the core values of the Air Force, "Integrity First, Service Before Self, Excellence in All We Do."