

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING GEORGE LAW

**HON. RALPH M. HALL**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 12, 2005*

Mr. HALL. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to pay tribute to George Law of Sulphur Springs, TX, who has been selected as the Sulphur Springs Kiwanis Layperson of the Year by Golden K and Sulphur Springs Kiwanis Clubs.

These Clubs will recognize George at a special dinner on May 19, 2005. Hopkins County Judge Cletis Millsap and the Commissioners Court will proclaim May 20 as George Law day. Sulphur Springs Mayor Chris Brown and members of the City Council will issue a proclamation in his honor. State Representative Mark Homer will send special recognition from the Texas Legislature, and I appreciate the opportunity to recognize this outstanding citizen of Sulphur Springs in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

George is a retired educator, having served more than 20 years as both a teacher and principal. George was vocational agriculture teacher in McCauley, science teacher and Kiwanis Key Club advisor in Sulphur Springs, and principal in the Como-Pickton Consolidated Independent School District. Throughout his years as an educator, George exceeded what might be expected to challenge and encourage young people. He provided emotional support and, in some cases, financial assistance to some of his students in critical need. Untold numbers of former students who have gone on to complete their college education give George the credit for challenging and supporting them.

In addition to his work in education, George has devoted countless hours to his community. For more than 35 years he has been a strong supporter of Boy Scouts and continues to support scouting both financially and through his personal efforts. He has been a driver for the Road to Recovery Program, driving residents to other cities for medical appointments and treatment.

George also is an active member and trustee of First United Methodist Church of Sulphur Springs. As a member of the church building committee, he served as contractor for the renovation of the church administration building free of charge. George has been president of the Messengers' Class, Methodist Men, serves as an usher and helps in the church kitchen. Everywhere he goes George is a general advocate for his church.

George and his wife, Barbara, have instilled good work ethics in their children and grandchildren. When he left the teaching profession he would never say he retired. He would say, "I just quit," and continued to work tirelessly for his family, his church, the Sulphur Springs Golden K Kiwanis, and his community.

According to Kerry Craig, assistant editor of the Sulphur Springs News Telegram, on any project George undertakes, his approach is to "Lead, follow, or get out of the way." Mr.

Speaker, so many in Sulphur Springs have benefited from George's leadership and involvement in his community. Today in the House of Representatives, let us join his family and many friends in paying tribute to this outstanding citizen and great American—George Law.

RECOGNIZING THE REVEREND  
MICHAEL H. HARRISON, SR.

**HON. TIM RYAN**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 12, 2005*

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of The Reverend Michael H. Harrison, Sr., for his decade of inimitable service to the Youngstown community.

After serving the United Baptist Church in Akron for 10 years, Pastor Harrison was called to lead the 125-member congregation of the Union Baptist Church in Youngstown, Ohio, in 1995. In just four years, the Pastor built the congregation to more than 650 people from our community. Today, thanks to his work, a new sanctuary of the Union Baptist Church can seat over 800 worshippers.

In addition to his tireless commitment to his church and congregation, Pastor Harrison has shared his leadership with countless other civic and religious organizations. He is Chair of the African-American Leadership Commission and is also the 1st Vice President of the Ohio Baptist State Convention. The Pastor previously served as President of the Baptist Pastor's Council of Youngstown and vicinity. In 2004, he was honored as "One of the World's Most Beloved Pastors" by Gospel Today Magazine.

I commend The Reverend Michael H. Harrison, Sr., for his selfless dedication to our community.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION  
OF H.R. 1279, GANG DETERRENCE  
AND COMMUNITY PROTECTION  
ACT OF 2005

SPEECH OF

**HON. MARK UDALL**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 11, 2005*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 6) to ensure jobs for our future with secure, affordable, and reliable energy:

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Chairman, I do not support this bill in its current form, and must vote against it.

Gang violence is real and serious. And there are already a wide range of Federal laws on the books that can be and are used to combat it. For example, Federal prosecu-

tors are already armed with the Continuing Criminal enterprise, CCE, and Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act, RICO, statutes.

So, is there an urgent need to pass new legislation that "federalizes" criminal gang activity and pushes the Federal Government further into law enforcement that is now being handled by the states? I doubt it, and think a better approach would be to support state and local law enforcement directly.

I am also not convinced that it makes sense to further expand the definition of criminal street gang and to reclassify some misdemeanors as crimes of violence, as this bill would do, and I am particularly concerned about the provisions to establish new mandatory minimum sentences.

Violent and dangerous people, whether members of gangs or not, need to be securely confined. But our experience with mandatory minimum sentences shows they are ineffective in preventing crime, they distort the sentencing process, and result mainly in a considerable waste of taxpayers' money.

I think instead of adding new Federal laws, Congress would achieve better results by providing greater assistance to state and local law enforcement agencies and to prevention programs which can reduce the impetus for young people to join gangs.

The bill does include some provisions that I support, including those that will make it easier for law enforcement agencies to have access to information about people who are in the country illegally and are subject to deportation. However, I think that they are outweighed by the bill's defects and so I will vote against this measure.

PISKARYOVSKOYE MEMORIAL  
CEMETERY AT ST. PETERSBURG,  
RUSSIA

**HON. JOE WILSON**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 12, 2005*

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, the eyes of the world have been on Moscow this week as Allies celebrated the 60th anniversary of victory over Nazism.

When Russians historically held off the 900-day siege of Leningrad, St. Petersburg served as an extraordinary front in Russia. The Piskaryovskoye Memorial Cemetery at St. Petersburg is a vivid reminder of this sacrifice, containing over 600,000 deceased in the largest mass grave in history.

On Sunday, I joined Congresswoman MAD-ELEINE BORDALLO in representing the United States at a wreath laying ceremony attended by representatives from 30 other nations. The program was inspiring and recognized the restored friendship of the people of Russia and America.

St. Petersburg Governor Valentina  
Matviyenko, Vice Governor Aleksandr

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.