

IN HONOR OF SERGEANT ROBERT
P. KASSIN

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 24, 2006

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of SGT Robert P. Kassin.

Robert dedicated his life to serving his country, and last Sunday, July 16, he made the ultimate sacrifice while serving in Afghanistan.

Sergeant Kassin was killed near Larzab, in Afghanistan's Zabul province, when his platoon came under enemy fire. He died proudly, eager to defend our Nation and help the people of Afghanistan.

For almost a decade, Robert faithfully defended his country. After graduating from high school in Clovis, NM, he joined the Army in September 1996, volunteering for deployment and reenlisting shortly after arriving in Afghanistan. Robert took pride in all that he did, and this was apparent to all who knew him.

Robert leaves behind his parents, Robert Joseph and Lucia Kassin of Clovis, his 7-year-old son, his wife, Judy, and two stepdaughters. His son and stepdaughters will grow up proud of their father, Sergeant Kassin, knowing that he gave his all in service to our country.

Our most sincere and heartfelt sympathies are with Robert's family and friends during this time of great loss. We will always remember his bravery and the sacrifice he made proudly serving our great Nation.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN LINDER

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 24, 2006

Mr. LINDER. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall vote No. 380, House passage of S. 2754, I inadvertently was recorded as voting "nay."

I would like the record to reflect the fact that I wanted my vote to be recorded as "yea."

This does not change the outcome of the vote.

COMMENDING AND SUPPORTING
RADIO AL MAHABA

SPEECH OF

HON. KAY GRANGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 18, 2006

Ms. GRANGER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of House Resolution 784 commending Radio Station Al-Mahaba in Iraq.

Radio Al-Mahaba, which means "love" in Arabic, is the only radio station in Iraq or the Greater Middle East whose programming is geared toward the issues important to women.

The station's programming is meant to be an educational tool for women, focusing on subjects such as parenting, healthcare, relationships and other social topics.

The station broadcasts in three different languages, giving women freedom to voice their opinions and hear other opinions.

Articles about Radio Al-Mahaba have appeared in the New York Times, Wall Street Journal, Chicago Tribune and USA Today.

I recently had the honor of meeting with employees of Radio Al-Mahaba on a delegation I led to Iraq to work with Iraqi women leaders and Parliamentarians.

Right now, they are on the verge of having to shut their doors because of terrorist threats against the group and a lack of funding.

Many insurgents do not want to see women have a voice or play a significant role in Iraq. Despite these threats, the employees remain determined to stay on the air.

To do this, they are working for free to keep the station running. If this is not a clear expression of a desire for a free and open society, I don't know what is.

The station eventually hopes to broadcast into Iran in order to let Iranian women know that freedom can be achieved but only if they stand up for their rights.

Mr. Speaker, this is a non-partisan issue. Radio Al-Mahaba deserves our support.

It's crucial that women have a strong voice in Iraqi society, especially as Iraqis work to form a democracy.

Radio Al-Mahaba provides women with a vehicle to have that voice.

STEM CELL RESEARCH ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 2005—VETO MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 109-127)

SPEECH OF

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 19, 2006

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, yesterday marked a true tragedy for the medical history of this country. For the first time in 5 years, this President chose to veto a bill that has the potential to save millions of lives and impact millions more.

This veto will go down in history as a monumental step backward for medical research and a profound and significant disappointment for victims and their families. Hope was just a signature away and to millions of people in this country, this President could have become a hero simply by signing H.R. 810, the Stem Cell Research Enhancement Act, into law. Instead, he chose to veto this bill and stall the advancement of science.

In contrast, by signing S. 3504, the President gave cover to opponents of lifesaving science. I would hope that this President would give more credit to the American public. S. 3504 is a useless bill that does nothing for victims of ravaging diseases and instead rubs salt in the wound.

Mr. Speaker, I stand here with many of my colleagues, pleading with the President to listen to 72 percent of Americans, the overwhelming majority of scientists, researchers, and even Nobel laureates who all recognize the promise that embryonic stem cell research holds.

Right now, only 22 of the 78 stem cell lines approved by President Bush are left. Many of these lines have been contaminated and are no longer useful, but more than 400,000 frozen embryos exist in the United States. To be

clear, these are embryos that were extracted for in vitro fertilization. Most of them will be discarded. If the President had signed H.R. 810, they would have instead been used to save human lives. With further research, these cells may be used as "replacement" cells and tissues to treat many diseases including Parkinson's disease, Alzheimer's disease, diabetes, AIDS, Lou Gehrig's disease and others.

Mr. Speaker, as a founder and current co-chair of the Working Group on Parkinson's Disease and as someone who lost my father to Parkinson's disease, I know firsthand just how important this legislation is and how important it is to open up the stem cell lines. I cannot be more clear: This bill is about saving lives and preventing devastating diseases from ravaging and ending people's lives.

In vetoing this legislation, this President has stalled science, ended hope, and reversed progress.

I stand with a bipartisan majority of Congress to express my severe disappointment with the President's decision to veto this life-saving legislation.

HONORING MARY TSUKAMOTO

HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 24, 2006

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor Mary Tsukamoto for her commitment to educating young people in the Elk Grove Unified School District and to advocating for the Japanese-American community. With the use of the curriculum that she developed in the Elk Grove School District and the naming of the Mary Tsukamoto Elementary School in Sacramento, CA, Ms. Tsukamoto has been honored since her passing 8 years ago.

Born in 1915 into an immigrant family in San Francisco, Mary Tsukamoto and her four siblings attended segregated schools throughout childhood. In 1942, when Mary was just 27, she, her husband, Al, and their daughter, Marielle, were sent to an internment camp in Arkansas. Following that dark period in her life, Mary Tsukamoto emerged determined to fight for Japanese-American causes.

As an Elk Grove School District teacher for 25 years, Mary developed an educational curriculum addressing the treatment of Asian-Americans in the United States. This curriculum, "Time of Remembrance," is a living history program featuring interviews, photographs, and artifacts from the internment camps compiled by Mary Tsukamoto. The motto for "Time of Remembrance" is that "never again" should an American lose his or her fundamental rights.

After her retirement from teaching in the mid-1970s, Mary Tsukamoto continued to teach and lead the community. Her leadership contributed to the successful effort to seek a federal apology and restitution for Japanese-American internment. Subsequently, Mary co-authored a book with Elizabeth Pinkerton titled *We the People: A Story of Internment in America*, and worked closely with the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, DC to create an exhibit about Japanese-American internment. This activism, along with her outstanding teaching record, was recognized during this year's National Women's History Month and at

receptions in both California and Washington, DC.

Recently Mary was selected as one of ten National Women's History Month honorees by the National Women's History Project. With this honor, her life story was featured on XM radio and on the Lifetime TV Channel. This year's National Women's History Month theme was "Women: Builders of Communities and Dreams," a fitting theme to describe the life of a community hero.

As a civil rights activist, author, and teacher, Mary Tsukamoto affected the lives and perspectives of many Americans. Her legacy is seen in civil rights legislation and the state-wide use of her curriculum. It is in recognition and admiration of Mary Tsukamoto that I stand in honor today. Her life's work is remembered and respected.

PLEDGE PROTECTION ACT OF 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. EARL POMEROY

OF NORTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 19, 2006

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2389) to amend title 28, United States Code, with respect to the jurisdiction of Federal courts over certain cases and controversies involving the Pledge of Allegiance:

Mr. POMEROY. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to H.R. 2389, The Pledge Protection Act of 2005.

As I said in 2004 when the House voted on the Pledge Protection Act in the 108th Congress, I strongly believe that the Pledge of Allegiance, including the phrase, "under God" is a constitutional expression of patriotism.

Therefore, I—along with many of my colleagues—was outraged by court decisions that erroneously declared the Pledge of Allegiance unconstitutional. As a result, I consistently have voted in favor of legislation reaffirming the place of the Pledge of Allegiance in its entirety in our schools.

In the 108th Congress, I voted in favor of H. Res. 132, which urged the Supreme Court "to correct the constitutionally infirm and incorrect holding" by the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals in its revised decision on the *Newdow v. U.S. Congress* case. This resolution also expressed the sense of the House of Representatives that the recitation of the Pledge is a patriotic act—not a religious act, that the Pledge should retain the phrase "One nation, under God," and that Congressional policy should encourage the voluntary recitation of the Pledge in public school classrooms. I also voted in favor of an amendment offered by Rep. Hostettler to H.R. 2799, the Commerce, Justice and State and Related Agencies Appropriations bill, which prohibited any funds appropriated by the bill being used to enforce the court's decision in *Newdow v. U.S. Congress*.

In the 107th Congress, I voted in favor of H. Res. 459, which expressed the view of the House of Representatives that the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals' original decision in *Newdow v. U.S. Congress* to strike the words "under God" from the Pledge of Allegiance was incorrectly decided. Similarly, I strongly supported

S. 2690, legislation that reaffirmed the language of the Pledge of Allegiance, including the phrase "one Nation under God."

However, as I stated last year, I am concerned that the passage of H.R. 2389 would threaten the separation of powers set forth in the United States Constitution. Historically, the United States Supreme Court has the final authority on questions regarding a Federal law's constitutionality. However, H.R. 2389 would allow future Congresses to enact laws that clearly violate basic constitutional principles, while at the same time barring these laws from review by the Supreme Court. This lack of checks and balances could undermine the strength of America's most fundamental founding document. Given these significant issues with H.R. 2389, I again plan on voting against this measure.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF ENDICOTT

HON. MAURICE D. HINCHEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 24, 2006

Mr. HINCHEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the village of Endicott in Broome County, NY, which is part of the 22nd Congressional District that I proudly serve. This year marks the 100th anniversary of the founding of Endicott. I am pleased to recognize the village of Endicott and the important contributions it has made to Broome County and to the State of New York on its centennial anniversary.

Located along the majestic Susquehanna River, the village of Endicott makes up one-third of the "Triple Cities" region of New York, along with the Village of Johnson City and the city of Binghamton. The Tuscarora tribes of the Iroquois Confederacy originally inhabited the area of present day Endicott before European settlement in 1795. Between this time and when Endicott was incorporated in 1906, the village grew steadily in the 19th century with the construction of schools and transportation systems. The first Endicott-Johnson shoe factory in Endicott was constructed on North Street in 1901 which promoted expansion of the village and growth throughout the Triple Cities region. The village was named after Henry B. Endicott who founded and owned the business that was Endicott-Johnson.

Endicott-Johnson was vital to the growth of the community and as an employer it pioneered the concept of worker's dignity. At Endicott-Johnson, labor was seen as a group of people rather than a commodity. Endicott-Johnson workers were given benefits such as profit sharing in the company, financial help when they needed it during an emergency such as an illness or a death in the family, and Endicott-Johnson was also one of the first companies who shortened the work day from 9½ to 8 hours a day with wages remaining the same. Employees were so pleased with their working conditions that they felt it was unnecessary to join a union and, while factories nationwide were experiencing violent riots Endicott-Johnson's workers and management enjoyed a respectful harmonious relationship. In addition to the fairness shown to the employees, Endicott-Johnson was also

known as offering a "Square Deal" to its customers and Binghamton is now known as the "Home of the Square Deal," a place that summarized an unwritten compact that let the public know that with Endicott-Johnson products they were receiving high-quality merchandise while informing potential Endicott-Johnson employees that when working for the company, they would be working for a company that would treat them with respect.

After the incorporation of Endicott in 1906, the 20th century proved to hold more opportunities for expansion for the village with the founding of International Business Machines, IBM, the company helped create jobs in the area as well as helped expand Endicott with recreational services created for IBM employees as well as for the public.

Like the Endicott-Johnson Shoe Company, the workers were seen as people instead of labor to be exploited. IBM also took care of its employees during hard times such as the Great Depression when it provided workers with life insurance and survivors benefits. Later, during World War II, IBM established a fund for widows and orphans of the IBM employees that were fighting overseas.

In 1921, the village of Endicott gained size and prestige by absorbing the adjacent village of Union. The villages had grown together closely, so it became hard to determine geographically where one village started and the other ended. This unification greatly strengthened the community and positioned it for greater growth and prosperity.

Despite its classification as a village, Endicott provides many amenities of a large city such as an airport, paid fire and police protection as well as many other services. The village today also offers many forms of entertainment for its inhabitants as well as visitors such as stage performances at the Cider Mill Playhouse and the Endicott Performing Arts Center as well as golfing at the En-Joie Golf Course, which is also home to the Broome County, B.C., Open, a regular stop on the PGA Tour. There is also the Little Italy section of Endicott on the North Side which also boasts a strong culture. In addition to all of these forms of recreation, there are many parks available and carousels which are so ubiquitous to the Southern Tier that Greater Binghamton is often referred to as the carousel capital.

Endicott's vibrant history is alive and evident today. Villages like Endicott are an essential component of our Nation's past, present, and future, and deserve to be honored and recognized for their numerous contributions. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to recognize the village of Endicott, NY, as it celebrates the 100th anniversary of its founding.

CONGRATULATING MR. RON LANEY

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 24, 2006

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Ron Laney for his forward-looking leadership and commitment to child protection.

After retiring from the Marine Corps as a result of injuries sustained during combat in