

WHAT REALLY MATTERS

"Never lose track of what really matters. It does not matter how many points you earn, medals you win or trophies you take home. What really matters is what kind of competitor you are, what kind of son or daughter you are, what kind of student you are, and what kind of adult you will become!"

Mr. Speaker, my wife, Laurie, and I know many of these championship football players and recognize that each of them is a champion in our community. Menominee and the people of the Upper Peninsula know that when we proudly chant "U.P. Power", it is a reflection of our pride in our Menominee Maroon football tradition and the fine young men who brought home another football championship to our fine community. It is with great pride that I ask the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in congratulating and honoring these football champions.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TIMOTHY V. JOHNSON

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 8, 2006

Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, unfortunately as the result of a death in the family and my need to return to Illinois by Saturday morning for the funeral services, I was unable to cast my votes on the following pieces of legislation. I request that the RECORD state my intentions on these votes had I been present to vote.

I would have voted "aye" for H. Res. 1100, the rule providing for consideration of H.R. 6406, to modify temporarily certain rates of duty and make other technical amendments to the trade laws, to extend certain trade preference programs, and for other purposes.

I would have voted "aye" on H.R. 5948, the Belarus Democracy Reauthorization Act of 2006. Passage of the Belarus Democracy Reauthorization Act supports Belarus as an emerging democracy with U.S. assistance by strengthening democratic institutions and processes within the country. Our country has a long history of promoting democracy worldwide and this bill will assist the people of Belarus with foreign aid and the risk of U.S. sanctions should the recent political upheavals and the repression of democratic groups in the country continue.

I would have voted "present" in response to the Call of the House. I am sorry to have missed Speaker J. DENNIS HASTERT's farewell speech. I respect and admire him, and am proud to serve with him in the Illinois congressional delegation. His long tenure as the Speaker of the House is historic, and he will be celebrated as an esteemed statesman.

I would have voted "aye" on H.R. 6406, to modify temporarily certain rates of duty and make other technical amendments to the trade laws, to extend certain trade preference programs, and for other purposes. This package contains trade provisions I have supported in the past and will continue to do so in the future. These provisions will help expand the competitiveness of U.S. manufacturers and exporters within the global marketplace.

I would have voted "aye" on the Conference Report on H.R. 5682, the Henry J. Hyde U.S.-

India Peaceful Atomic Energy Cooperation Act of 2006. India has been a longtime and important ally to the U.S. and U.S. assistance in the development of a civilian nuclear energy program will only cement the strategic partnership between our two countries. With the passage of the cooperation agreement with India the U.S. can be assured the peaceful sharing of nuclear energy technologies under international safeguards while preventing the spread of nuclear weapon information to rogue countries, such as North Korea and Iran.

I would have voted "aye" on H.J. Res. 102, making further continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2007. While I am disappointed that we were not able to pass the remaining appropriations bills under regular order, I feel that it is important that we continue to fund our government program at adequate levels until we can address the appropriations bills in the next session of Congress.

Finally, I would have voted "aye" on the following bills, considered under suspension of the rules:

1. H.R. 6407—Postal Accountability and Enhancement Act

2. H. Res. 1104—Providing for a severance payment for employees of leadership offices and committees of the House of Representatives who are separated from employment solely and directly as a result of a change in the party holding the majority of the membership in the House

3. H.R. 6060—Department of State Authorities Act of 2006

4. S. 4050—Sergeant First Class Robert Lee 'Bobby' Hollar, Jr. Post Office Building Designation Act

5. S. 4093—A bill to amend the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 to extend a suspension of limitation on the period for which certain borrowers are eligible for guaranteed assistance

6. H.R. 5304—Preventing Harassment through Outbound Number Enforcement Act

7. S. 3821—COMPETE Act of 2006

8. S. 4042—A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to prohibit disruptions of funerals of members or former members of the Armed Forces

9. H.R. 6427—To increase the amount in certain funding agreements relating to patents and nonprofit organizations to be used for scientific research, development, and education, and for other purposes

10. H.R. 6428—To authorize the Secretary of the Army to carry out certain elements of the project for hurricane and storm damage reduction, Morganza to the Gulf of Mexico, Louisiana

11. S. 2735—Dam Safety Act of 2006

12. S. Con. Res. 123—A concurrent resolution providing for correction to the enrollment of the bill H.R. 5946

13. H.R. 5946—Stevens-Inouye International Fisheries Monitoring and Compliance Legacy Act of 2006

14. H.R. 4075—Marine Mammal Protection Act Amendments of 2006

TRIBUTE TO MR. BRIAN J. HARD

HON. GREG WALDEN

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 8, 2006

Mr. WALDEN of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight, our final night of the 109th Congress,

to express my gratitude to and appreciation for a very good friend of mine, Mr. Brian J. Hard. I've had the honor of counting on Brian's exemplary service to my office and the people of Oregon's Second Congressional District for the past 8 years, and at the end of this month Brian will conclude his service in the United States House of Representatives as he returns home to the great State of Oregon with his lovely bride, Laura. This occasion will cap 12 years of outstanding public service by Brian in the Congress, and this distinguished institution will be losing one of its finest staff members.

I first got to know Brian when I was the Majority Leader of the Oregon House of Representatives and he was fresh out of Oregon State University and had begun his service to our state in the Oregon Capitol. He succeeded in numerous professional capacities in Oregon and eventually accepted a key staff position in 1995 with one of my predecessors in the Oregon congressional delegation in Washington, DC. Brian and I renewed our ties in 1998 when I first ran for election to Congress and he was working for the honorable Chairman of the House Agriculture Committee, Bob Smith, whom I succeeded. I was very fortunate when Brian accepted my offer to work in my office upon my election, thus beginning a harmonious and successful relationship.

As my Legislative Director for the vast majority of my service in the House, Brian has played a pivotal role in so many accomplishments we've worked hard to achieve for the people of Oregon. He has been a highly effective point person for numerous key issues over the years, from commerce, telecommunications and health care, to transportation, agriculture, trade matters and many other issues that have arisen and quickly needed a steady hand to manage. In addition to the legislative issues that consume much of our focus in the Congress, Brian has recruited and led a strong team of legislative staff in my office. He's also fostered extensive relationships with a great number of citizens, leaders and public officials in the Pacific Northwest and Washington, DC. And when the sheer overload of activity has heightened stress levels, we've always been able to count on Brian's fantastic sense of humor to bring a much-needed dose of comic relief.

Brian's professional attributes have been a tremendous resource for me and those I represent. For his public service and dedication, I'm grateful. As important to me as the constant hard work Brian has exerted in our effort to deliver to Oregonians is the strong friendship I share with him. Brian is simply one of the most sincere and likable persons one can have the good fortune of knowing well. This goes for Laura Hard too. They're a wonderful couple, and I'm very proud to count them as close friends.

As Brian and Laura begin their journey homeward bound, I ask my colleagues to join me in bidding them a heartfelt official farewell, with significant thanks to Brian for 12 years of outstanding service to Oregon and our Nation. You will be sorely missed.

Go Ducks!

CONDEMNING IRAN'S COMMIT-
MENT TO HOLD INTERNATIONAL
HOLOCAUST DENIAL CON-
FERENCE

SPEECH OF

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2006

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Res. 1091, which condemns in the strongest terms Iran's commitment to hold an international Holocaust denial conference on December 11–12, 2006. I am proud to be an original cosponsor of this important resolution.

I have the honor of representing one of the world's largest communities of Holocaust survivors in the United States. It is on their behalf, and on behalf of all of their friends and family who perished at the hands of the Nazis and their collaborators during World War II, that I make this statement today.

Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad's current intent to host an international Holocaust denial conference is only the latest abominable act he has taken in a series of anti-Semitic Holocaust denial statements and actions since he rose to power.

Those of us who understand history and humanity will not let President Ahmadinejad's efforts to diminish what was one of mankind's worst disasters go unanswered. No rational person can deny the systematic state-sponsored murder of 6,000,000 Jews and other targeted groups by Nazi Germany and its collaborators during World War II. The Holocaust happened. It was the worst crime and the largest mass murder of the last century. It is a fact.

President Ahmadinejad's past and present declarations and actions—spewing outrageous anti-Semitic and anti-Israel rhetoric, remaining a primary source of funding, training, and support for terrorist groups, and openly threatening Israel and the United States—prove President Ahmadinejad is on a crusade of hatred and are deeply troubling acts.

I hope other governments, especially those in Middle East and Islamic world, and those on the UN Security Council will join me in speaking out against this hateful and untruthful rhetoric. President Ahmadinejad's assault on the truth is an insult to all.

After the Holocaust the Jewish people vowed to "Never Forget." We will never forget. And the world must never forget. And we will never bow to the ignorance, threats, bigotry and fanaticism of Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad—a man whose actions and words are an insult to the great Persian people.

I thank my colleagues who will vote unanimously to pass H. Res. 1091.

MOURNING THE PASSING OF
DEARBORN MAYOR MICHAEL
GUIDO

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 8, 2006

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to mourn the passing and commemorate the life

of Dearborn, Michigan's Mayor Michael Guido. Mayor Guido, 52, passed away last night at his home surrounded by his family.

The son of Italian immigrants, Michael Guido got his start in politics 1978 when he was elected as the youngest Councilman in Dearborn history. Eight years later, in 1986, Councilman Guido followed up this historic first by being the youngest person in Dearborn history to be elected mayor—a capacity in which he served until his last days.

Despite being diagnosed with cancer in February 2006, Mayor Guido remained on the job every day, continuing to work long hours at City Hall and around town, attending public events throughout his outpatient treatment. He even found the strength to serve as 64th President of the United States Conference of Mayors, proving himself many times over as the leader of this bipartisan force for our Nation's mayors.

Mayor Guido initiated outstanding improvements to City services, especially in public safety areas, directed the construction or renovation of notable city facilities, and oversaw the completion of dramatic private developments that improved the city's tax base and long term viability.

He was serious about his commitment to exceptional public service. He set high standards, and initiated many programs that were innovative upon their implementation. Among those are curbside recycling and composting, loose leaf collection, and a myriad of public safety initiatives—advanced life support, an emergency warning system, and an automated notification system. As a believer in technology to provide efficient public service, he knew that there is no replacement for personal contact and required employees to not just follow-up with residents, but to solve their problems.

During his tenure as Mayor, he changed the facade of Dearborn by initiating development projects that revived the critical downtown areas, including West Village and West Village Commons in the west end, and Georgetown Commons in the east end. His drive to keep Dearborn attractive for families and young professionals in the face of competition from newer communities culminated in the construction of the Ford Community & Performing Arts Center in 2001.

Other significant projects included the expansion of the Dearborn Ice Skating Center, the construction of a new Police Headquarters, the expansion of the Robert Herndon Dearborn Hills Golf Course, the redesign of Ford Woods Park, improvements to Camp Dearborn and neighborhood pools and parks, and expansion of Esper Branch Library.

While he will be remembered for his accomplishments, he will also be remembered for his humor and ability to relate to people. As an accomplished speaker, he adeptly incorporated jokes into formal presentations, and his conversation was pointed yet entertaining with quips and impersonations.

Mayor Guido's impact upon the City of Dearborn will continue to be recognized within his community and nationally. During an interview years ago, he said he wanted his epitaph to be "He loved the people of Dearborn, and they loved him . . ." We will all miss his leadership and will remember his legacy in the City of Dearborn.

TRIBUTE TO THE AIR WAR
COLLEGE CLASS OF 2006

HON. ADAM H. PUTNAM

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 8, 2006

Mr. PUTNAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise with great pride to call attention to a very special and noteworthy group—the Air War College Class of 2006. This class graduated on May 25, 2006. These men and women, not only from our own Armed Forces, but those of 46 other countries have distinguished themselves, their school, their communities, and their nations.

The Air War College Class of 2006 had a remarkable year and I believe these men and women deserve formal recognition for their accomplishments. By any measure, the class of 2006 has not only blazed new trails, but established new standards of excellence.

This was the first class to execute the Professional Military Education (PME) phase II curriculum, thus producing joint service qualified officers. It was the first class to have mid-year students join the class and complete the demanding academic curriculum. It was also the first class to have 46 international fellows, and the first class to send students, as part of its premiere regional studies, to the country of Turkmenistan. More importantly, it was the first class to have State Week, a full week dedicated to the interaction between DOS/DOD that will facilitate future cooperation and more efficient interaction between these future leaders.

Established in 1946, this is the 60th year of the Air War College. The Air War College mission is to be "the foremost center for air and space education and thought—preparing the world's best strategic leaders." Students must meet rigorous academic requirements, take responsibility for academic progress, behavior, and attendance, and they are expected to participate in school and community activities. They have not only met those rigorous demands but far exceeded them. The class of 2006 and their faculty have consistently shown not only leadership, but generosity. Together they donated 67 pints of blood, raised almost \$100,000 for several charities; and members of the class generously gave their time to travel to Biloxi, MS, to aid in the recovery after Hurricane Katrina. Notably, other members opened their homes to displaced military personnel during that tragic time.

I would like to extend my enthusiastic congratulations to the Air War College Class of 2006, "Warriors, Leaders, and Statesmen" upon their graduation. I wish them Godspeed as they move to their next assignments, some directly into harm's way, as they become tomorrow's strategic leaders in the global war on terror.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GENE TAYLOR

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 8, 2006

Mr. TAYLOR of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, December 5th, 2006, I was unavoidably detained, and I was unable to cast my vote during rollcall number 524 on H. Res.