

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN MEMORY OF NAOMI GRAY

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 19, 2007

Ms. PELOSI. Madam Speaker, with deep sadness, I rise to pay my respects to one of San Francisco's most beloved and admired community leaders. Naomi Thomas Gray died peacefully on December 29 at Laguna Honda Hospital in San Francisco after a lifetime of service to our City and our Nation.

Born in Hattiesburg, Mississippi, Naomi earned a Master of Science Degree in Social Services at Indiana University. She moved to New York to work for Planned Parenthood as a field organizer, quickly rising to Vice President for Field Services. For two decades, she crisscrossed America developing community education and organizing programs for Planned Parenthood. She lived among migrant workers where she taught family planning. She forged links with black communities in the rural South by winning over Baptist preachers. She served as a consultant to family planning programs around the globe.

Upon retirement in 1972, she turned her knowledge and might to San Francisco, where she became a champion of the African American and health communities.

Naomi served as a consultant to numerous family planning and health organizations. She founded and served two terms on San Francisco's Health Commission, where she worked to increase access to health care for our City's most vulnerable and disadvantaged residents and she strengthened the affirmative action programs at the San Francisco Department of Health. She warned of the danger of HIV/AIDS to the black community and founded the Black Coalition on AIDS and the African American AIDS Leadership Group.

She was an intrepid champion of the African American community. As founder and president of the Institute for Urban Affairs, she focused on issues of concern to African American children and families. As Executive Director of the Sojourner Truth Foster Family Service Agency, she advocated for and mentored children in the foster care system. She was President of the Black Leadership Forum, member of the Black Chamber of Commerce, and Chair of the Mayor's Task Force on Public Housing and the Mayor's Task Force on Children, Youth and Their Families.

An advocate for excellence in education, Naomi Gray founded the Twenty-First Century Academic School and co-founded the African American Education Leadership Group.

She received awards and commendations too numerous to list. For 30 years, I have been blessed with her support, advice, and friendship. It is an honor to stand before the House to celebrate the life of San Francisco's beloved Naomi Gray.

I hope it is a comfort to her loving nieces, nephews, and other extended family that so many people are mourning her loss and praying for them at this time.

HONORING CHRISTY WALSH

HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 19, 2007

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today to remember and honor Christy Walsh. Christy was Woodland Middle School counselor in Franklin, TN. After a life dedicated to helping mold the youth of America and a valiant 4-year battle with cancer, Christy finally has peace and rest.

We all know how important counselors and educational officials are to our communities. In our school systems throughout America, counselors are there for our children, to guide them, advise them through their education and life choices, and to celebrate with them in good times and comfort them in the bad. Christy was innovative, energetic, and dedicated to our kids and we can't thank her enough for that.

Christy served as a Students Taking a Right Stand (STAR) counselor where she led a movement to help guide students away from drug abuse and held support groups for children with social issues such as grief and anger. Her dedication to STAR has had a tremendous positive impact on these students and left a ray of hope for the children she influenced.

I invite my colleagues to, again, join me in extending our condolences to her son Brennan and the entire Walsh family and keep them in our thoughts and prayers. May Christy and her work live on in the hearts of her family, friends and the children that she helped throughout her life.

HONORING MUHAMMAD ALI ON
HIS 65TH BIRTHDAY

SPEECH OF

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 17, 2007

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 58, to honor Muhammad Ali, global humanitarian, on the occasion of his 65th birthday. Mr. Ali was crowned "Sportsman of the Century" by Sports Illustrated in 1999 and has traveled around the world working for hunger and poverty relieve, supporting education efforts of all kinds, and encouraging people to respect and better understand one another.

Muhammad Ali was born in Louisville, KY, on January 17, 1942, and was named Cassius Marcellus Clay, Jr. He later changed his name after joining the Nation of Islam and subsequently converted to Sunni Islam in 1975. He won the World Heavyweight Boxing championship three times, and won the North American Boxing Federation championship as well as an Olympic gold medal.

Ali received the Presidential Medal of Freedom at a White House ceremony on November 9, 2005, and the prestigious "Otto Hahn peace medal in Gold" of the United Nations Association of Germany in Berlin on December 17, 2005, for his work with the United States civil rights movement and the United Nations.

Ali, since retiring from boxing, has devoted himself to humanitarian endeavors around the globe. It is estimated that he has helped to provide more than 22 million meals to feed the hungry. He travels, on average, more than 200 days per year to promote his humanitarian efforts. Please join me in support of this bill honoring Muhammad Ali and extending best wishes to him and his family on the occasion of his 65th birthday.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF
H.R. 6, CLEAN ENERGY ACT OF
2007

SPEECH OF

HON. TODD TIAHRT

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 18, 2007

Mr. TIAHRT. Madam Speaker, I rise today in opposition to the bill being considered before the House today that would raise taxes on the energy industry, encourage American jobs to go overseas and cause us to become more dependent on foreign sources of oil and gas. H.R. 6 can only make energy more expensive for the American people. And I urge my colleagues to join me in voting against this anti-manufacturing bill.

Raising taxes on a legitimate American manufacturing industry, regardless of its size or profitability, is not good for our economy or for creating and retaining more domestic jobs. H.R. 6 would siphon billions of dollars out of the energy economy that otherwise could have been reinvested into jobs and domestic energy projects.

In the past few years when fuel prices skyrocketed, I heard regularly from my constituents who were experiencing financial hardship due to these high energy costs. Farmers and ranchers were stuck with rising energy bills, small businesses were forced to raise prices for their products and services and American families were forced to spend more of their disposable income on gasoline.

Rather than focusing on ways to continue lowering energy costs, the Democrats are intent on doing precisely the opposite. Raising taxes on the American manufacturing industry that produces our oil and gas is not the way to help lower energy costs for consumers.

Not only could H.R. 6 lead to higher gasoline prices by raising taxes, but it could also bring about more expensive natural gas. Higher natural gas prices are a very real possibility if natural gas investment, exploration and production fall. Americans already pay more for

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natural gas than any other country in the world. Higher natural gas will not just be an inconvenience; it will cost more American jobs.

Because we pay as much as 600 percent more for natural gas than other countries, American businesses are often at a competitive disadvantage when trying to compete with foreign businesses.

As elected officials sent to Washington to represent the interests of our constituents, we cannot afford to pass legislation that harms jobs and raises the cost of doing business for domestic manufacturers of energy. Singling out one domestic industry and excluding it from manufacturing tax breaks that other manufacturers are entitled to use is nothing more than pandering by the Democrats for political gain.

Instead of voting to raise taxes on energy manufactures, we should instead be considering proposals today that would encourage more domestic energy, which in turn would produce more American jobs and would boost our economy. We should be voting on legislation that would help America increase its refining capacity. We should be making it easier for energy companies to invest in American jobs by exploring for new sources of domestic oil and natural gas. Instead, we are voting on a Democrat energy bill that will encourage more dependence on foreign sources of oil and gas.

This bill is especially harmful for small and medium refineries that are reinvesting their profits to expand refining capacity. In a time when America imports 10 percent of its refined fuel, we should be encouraging expansion of our own refining industry, not raising their cost of doing business. When we raise taxes, we discourage reinvestment and make it more likely the United States will become more dependent on foreign countries for our refined energy products.

As many have already pointed out, the United States dependency on foreign oil is already more than 60 percent, and growing. When we become even more dependent on unstable regions of the world for our oil and gas energy needs, we are placing more of our security into the hands of unpredictable and often hostile foreign governments and dictators.

As a member of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence and the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Defense, I can tell you placing more of our energy security into dangerous regions of the world is the wrong path for America.

I am a supporter of both using and investing in alternative forms of energy as one way to decrease American dependency on foreign oil. The State of Kansas has great potential for being a leader in wind energy production and being a supplier of biomass for biofuel production.

But while our present economy depends largely on safe access to dependable sources of oil and natural gas, we must not penalize these manufacturing industries that provide us with the energy we all use.

I urge all my colleagues who care about keeping American jobs, boosting our economy and treating manufacturers tax equity to vote against this misleading Democrat energy bill.

COLLEGE STUDENT RELIEF ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 17, 2007

Mr. SCHIFF. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of the College Student Relief Act. America's economy continues to change, and a college education has grown increasingly more important. Unfortunately, it has also grown increasingly more expensive, with tuition and fees for a four-year public college rising 41 percent—after inflation—since 2001. Federally subsidized loans provide a crucial helping hand to middle class students and families. This legislation will lessen the burden on hard-working students and families by cutting interest rates on federally subsidized student loans in half over a period of five years, from 6.8 percent to 3.4 percent.

In California, the average college student with federally subsidized loans graduates with more than \$15,000 of debt. The costs of college are such that it is simply unaffordable for many students without help. Over the next decade, 4.4 million high school graduates will be prevented from attending a 4-year college by financial barriers. Our Nation's economic competitiveness relies upon having the best educated workforce possible and investment in postsecondary education will yield great societal benefits.

Madam Speaker, this legislation will make a difference in the lives of millions of young people, helping to put them on secure financial footing as they move from college to the working world. And it does so responsibly, within the structure of the PAY-GO rules that ensure that the entire \$6 billion in costs will be paid for by reasonable offsets. I urge a "Yes" vote on this important legislation.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF ARTHUR F. WESTFALL

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 19, 2007

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Arthur F. Westfall, whose personal service to the Valley View community in Ohio is a shining example of the commitment and devotion that holds this great country together. Arthur's life was marked by his dedication to country, community, and family.

Arthur graduated from Cuyahoga Heights High School and worked as a homebuilder as a young man, before he was elected mayor in 1971—a position he held for almost 30 years before he retired in 1999, along with being a public insurance adjuster. During these years, his work and commitment as a mayor helped Valley View prosper and become one of the main economic power centers in Northeast Ohio.

Throughout his life Arthur was enthusiastic about and devoted to the citizens of his community. As a public insurance adjuster, he did appraisals that helped claimants receive compensation from insurance companies following

catastrophes. And, as a devoted citizen and mayor, Arthur studied law enforcement and criminology at Case Western Reserve University to inform development of a strong police department.

Arthur also helped to improve infrastructure for the citizens of Valley View by building capacity in the water supply, developing a transportation program, as well as a number of benefits for the elderly, things that were not available for the small farmland village back in 1971.

Arthur's legacy continues through his wife, Helen; three children, Sharon White, Randall and Lance; six grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring the memory of Arthur F. Westfall as a loving community leader. Arthur's lifelong commitment to both community and family is a great example of how one man can dedicate his life to helping others.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOE KNOLLENBERG

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 19, 2007

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Madam Speaker, on January 9 and 10, 2007, I was absent and missed rollcall votes 12–18. For the record, had I been present on January 9, I would have voted: rollcall vote 12—"yea"; rollcall vote 13—"no"; rollcall vote 14—"yea"; and rollcall vote 15—"yea".

Further, had I been present on January 10, I would have voted: rollcall vote 16—"no"; rollcall vote 17—"no"; and rollcall vote 18—"yea."

I support an increase in the minimum wage. The last time the minimum wage was increased was 10 years ago and workers deserve to have the minimum wage increased to \$7.25.

I am pleased the House of Representatives passed the initial version of H.R. 2 and look forward to voting on its final passage in the coming weeks.

CONGRATULATING BISHOP HENRY BARNWELL FOR RECEIVING THE CALVIN C. GOODE LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

HON. ED PASTOR

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 19, 2007

Mr. PASTOR. Madam Speaker, I rise before you today to congratulate Bishop Henry Barnwell for receiving the Calvin C. Goode Lifetime Achievement award during the 21st Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Awards Breakfast in Phoenix. This award, named after Phoenix City Councilman Calvin C. Goode, recognizes an exceptional individual who has made Phoenix a better place through a lifelong dedication to promoting social and economic justice, defending civil rights, and enhancing the dignity of all people. Bishop Barnwell exemplifies all of these qualities.

Bishop Barnwell is the retired pastor of the First New Life Missionary Baptist Church, a