

While it is intuitive that our reliance on the international market for our oil and gas supply has an effect on the stability of our economy and our national security, we do not have up-to-date intelligence information on what this dependence means to our national and global security. The legislation before us today would require a National Intelligence Estimate, NEI, of the long-term and short-term outlook for oil and gas prices, supply, and demand as well as an assessment of how our dependence on foreign fuels affects both our short-term and long-term national security. I would like to commend my colleague from Louisiana, Representative DON CAZAYOUX, for introducing H.R. 6545. This legislation would provide us with the information that we need in order to make informed decisions about the relationship between crude oil and natural gas prices and our national security.

The National Energy Security Intelligence Act would also study the national security implications of potential use of energy resources as leverage against the United States by Venezuela, Iran, or other potential adversaries as a result of increased energy prices. One of the most damaging ways Iran could leverage oil prices higher would be to disrupt or even cut off the flow of oil from the Persian Gulf. As chairman of the House Select Intelligence Oversight Panel, I believe it is essential that this NIE address Iran's ability to attack shipping and oil production infrastructure in the Persian Gulf region. Twenty years ago, Iran's efforts to disrupt shipping in the gulf led directly to a military confrontation between our countries. Published reports indicate that Iran has greatly expanded its sea mine stocks, its ballistic missile force, and other assets that could be used to disrupt oil production and shipment through the gulf. The NIE must address these issues if we are to have a full picture of Iran's potential to drive oil prices higher through military action. I support this bill, and I urge my colleagues to do likewise.

HONORING WALTER GLENN KELM

**HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 23, 2008*

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Walter Glenn Kelm, who was recognized this week by Florida Governor Charlie Crist with the Points of Light Award for his outstanding volunteerism. Glenn has committed countless hours and tireless efforts for the past 16 years to provide healthy meals for those less fortunate.

Glenn began his volunteer mission in 1992 when he established the Shephard's Cupboard. Each day after work Glenn would collect food from local grocery stores and donate it for those who otherwise could not afford a nutritious meal. Then, in 1997, he left the Shephard's Cupboard to help start the Volunteer Way Food Bank. Glenn has served many roles at the Volunteer Way, including volunteer board member and later treasurer, but has always stepped up with a smile to do whatever needed to be done. Because of Glenn's active involvement, the Volunteer Way quickly expanded their outreach. Last year they distributed over 5,000,000 pounds of food all over central Florida to those who most need it.

Madam Speaker, Glenn's devoted volunteer efforts have helped provide so many Floridians with healthy meals. I am very much honored to recognize a man whose work has greatly improved the lives of those less fortunate, and will undoubtedly continue to do so. I congratulate him for deservedly receiving the Points of Light Award and believe all American can learn from his commitment and passion.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF EAST CENTRAL ALABAMA UNITED CEREBRAL PALSY

**HON. MIKE ROGERS**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 23, 2008*

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Madam Speaker, I respectfully ask the attention of the House today to pay special recognition to the work of East Central Alabama United Cerebral Palsy. For the last 50 years, this admirable organization has pursued its mission of providing personalized educational and therapeutic services to children with a wide range of developmental disabilities.

In January of 1972, ECAUCP opened Calhoun County's first cerebral palsy center. Just 6 years later the center expanded to provide a full range of treatment for children in need. Today, ECAUCP and the State Department of Mental Health spearhead Alabama's Early Intervention Program which benefits developmentally delayed children and their families.

I am pleased to help recognize the fine work of East Central Alabama United Cerebral Palsy, and wish them the very best in their next 50 years of service to our communities.

EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR NATIONAL GEAR UP DAY

SPEECH OF

**HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 22, 2008*

Mr. HONDA. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 1311, supporting the designation of July 22, 2008 as National GEAR UP Day. Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs (GEAR UP) serves to increase the number of low-income students who are prepared to enter and succeed in postsecondary education. Through the hard work of program staff, students, families, and educators, GEAR UP has proven to be an incredibly successful program, providing services at high-poverty middle and high schools. This year marks the 10th Anniversary since Congress established the GEAR UP program, exemplifying our commitment towards providing a quality education to the disadvantaged youth of America.

In a society that depends on, and rewards, those who have a strong educational background, lagging behind can have severe consequences. In this day and age, when our country has transitioned from a post-industrial economy into a knowledge based economy, investing in education is more important than ever, and a high school degree is seen as one

of the first steps towards achieving that quality education. Research has shown that having a high school degree significantly increases an individual's annual earnings and labor force participation rates, and that these rates increase with greater educational attainment.

According to the National Center for Education Statistics, 8.9 percent of 15–24 year-old students from low-income families dropped out during grades 10–12 in 2005, compared to 3.8 percent from middle-income and 1.5 percent from high-income families. In the same year, 53.5 percent of high school graduates from low-income families enrolled in college immediately after high school, compared to 65.1 percent of middle-income students and 81.2 percent of high-income students.

GEAR UP is currently focused on three objectives to reduce the disadvantages low-income students face compared to their middle-income and high-income peers: increasing academic performance and preparation for postsecondary education, increasing high school graduation and post-secondary enrollment rates, and increasing students' and their families' knowledge of postsecondary education options, preparation, and financing. These efforts are working—in 2006, 85.5 percent of the second cohort of GEAR UP students graduated from high school. This remarkable graduation rate is well above those of other low-income students who did not participate in GEAR UP (64 percent) and all students nationally (73.9 percent).

While the effects of GEAR UP are evident, there are currently many low-income students who are unable to participate in the program and many areas in which the program can improve. We need to raise awareness and bolster discussions about how to tailor GEAR UP for all of our low-income students. Recognizing July 22nd, 2008 as National GEAR UP Day could provide the opportunity for conversation about the challenges and opportunities faced by lower income students and will recognize the success of so many who have defied expectations. Funding is also vital towards the successful implementation and expansion of GEAR UP, and as a Member of the Appropriations Committee, I will work to ensure improved funding for GEAR UP and other critical Federal programs focused on improving educational opportunities, supporting the work of teachers and schools, and increasing access to higher education.

SUNSET MEMORIAL

**HON. TRENT FRANKS**

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 23, 2008*

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona. Madam Speaker, I stand once again before this House with yet another Sunset Memorial.

It is July 23, 2008, in the land of the free and the home of the brave, and before the sun set today in America, almost 4,000 more defenseless unborn children were killed by abortion on demand. That's just today, Madam Speaker. That's more than the number of innocent lives lost on September 11 in this country, only it happens every day.

It has now been exactly 12,966 days since the tragedy called Roe v. Wade was first handed down. Since then, the very foundation