

launched the Heritage Foundation and Free Congress Foundation and played a key role in mobilizing cultural conservatives into political battle was someone who left postwar conservatism and the world a different place than it was before he came on the political scene. In short, he was a man of consequence.

Born in Racine, Wisconsin, Weyrich had a passion for politics almost since childhood. Active in Young Republicans at the University of Wisconsin (Madison), the young Weyrich quit college to become a political reporter for the Milwaukee Sentinel and later became a television reporter in Kenosha, Wisconsin and then in Denver, Colorado.

In 1967, Weyrich came to Washington as press secretary to conservative Sen. Gordon Allot (R.-Col.). At one point, Weyrich later recalled to me, he had received an invitation by mistake to a luncheon of liberal staffers on Capitol Hill Weyrich attended anyway and, in his words, "I saw all the liberal groups and staffers going through issues, giving assignments to people, and agreeing to meet again. Conservatives needed to be doing the same thing and I decided to do something about it."

Beginning with staffers from conservative House and Senate offices, and later with leaders of national right-of-center groups, Weyrich began regular lunches and meetings that are today a staple of the modern conservative movement. With the financial support of Colorado beer baron Joseph Coors, Weyrich and fellow Hill staffer Ed Feulner launched the Heritage Foundation in 1973. A counterforce to the liberal Brookings Institute, Heritage would grow into one of the most respected "think tanks" and provide the intellectual firepower in the Reagan Administration in 1980 and to Congress after Republicans won control of both Houses in 1994.

In the 1970s, Weyrich helped launch the Committee for the Survival of a Free Congress (which later became the Free Congress Foundation) and the Moral Majority. Both groups were pivotal in mobilizing religious conservatives into political activity for candidates and, in 1978, played critical roles in the elections of such conservative titans as Sens. Bill Armstrong (R.-Col.) and Gordon Humphrey (R.-NH) and Reps. Newt Gingrich (R.-GA) and Dan Lungren (R.-CA).

Quoting Napoleon's celebrated question "How many legions does the Pope have?" Weyrich once told me, "Believing Christians now have many legions—and they're voting." (Raised a Roman Catholic, Weyrich himself became angry when a priest attacked something his then-boss Allott was supporting in the Senate; he thereupon joined the Eastern Rite Orthodox Church and later became a deacon.)

Weyrich attempted to bring change and fresh activity to every aspect of politics. As more and more countries became democratic and elected their leaders, Weyrich became president of the Kriebel Institute from 1989–96 and trained political activists in Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union. (At one point, he and fellow Kriebel trainer Gary Hoffmeister performed a vaudeville skit to demonstrate campaigning to budding Russian politicians.) The former TV newsmen founded the satellite television station National Empowerment Television and later hosted a talk show on satellite radio.

Occasionally, Weyrich critics on both the right and left would bring up his penchant for abrupt replies and gruffness. His response to me was "I never wanted everyone to like me—just enough people so we can get political change."

In September of this year, more than 400 friends, Members of Congress and other political leaders packed the Four Seasons

Hotel to pay tribute to the activist, who had been in failing health from a spinal injury in '01. In thanking his friends, Weyrich recalled how, in spite of his health problems, life had been good to him: an only child, he had had a strong marriage to wife Joyce that produced five children; interested in the U.S. Senate all his life, he got to work there; a lover of trains, he served on the national board of Amtrak and the Amtrak Reform Council; a lifelong conservative, he played a major role in shaping its modern form.

And, even when we disagreed or he took issue with Human Events, Weyrich was a faithful reader who would frequently cite columns in our publication. I already miss Paul Weyrich very much. We all will in the future.

INTRODUCTION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS ENERGY SUSTAINABILITY ACT OF 2009

HON. STEVE BUYER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 8, 2009

Mr. BUYER. Madam Speaker, today, my distinguished colleague Mr. MICHAUD and I, along with several of our other colleagues, are introducing the bipartisan Department of Veterans Affairs, VA, Energy Sustainability Act of 2009. This legislation would establish strategic and long-term plans for energy sustainability and conservation within the VA.

Addressing our Nation's energy problem calls for Congress to adopt a multi-faceted approach to include the use of alternative fuels, restructuring building systems, and encouraging the use of energy efficient systems and vehicles. Our bill would require a report on the installation of alternative fuel stations at VA facilities, as funded in P.L. 110–329, and require a feasibility study regarding the installation of energy efficient and renewable energy systems in Department buildings. Such systems include solar technologies, energy efficient roof and building envelope systems, wind technology, and wood-based bio-fuels.

As our country adapts to the increased global demand for energy resources, it is imperative that we effectively implement wise consumption policies and take real steps to mitigate the impact of increased costs. This bill would create a VA Office of Energy Management, and an Energy Advisory Committee consisting of VA officials and private sector experts on energy management. The Office of Energy Management, with the advice and recommendations of the Energy Advisory Committee and national laboratories such as those at Lawrence Livermore and Oak Ridge, would be responsible for helping VA meet a number of specific energy sustainability goals. This includes compliance with Presidential Order 13423, VA Directive 0055, and the long term sustainable energy plans in this legislation. The Office would also establish a database to track VA's energy and water consumption.

In an effort to assist our Nation's veterans in their individual efforts to become more energy efficient, our bill would provide an additional amount of up to \$10,000 for high efficiency systems for veterans who qualify for specially adaptive housing grants under section 2101(a)(2) of title 38, United States Code. Additionally, it would provide veterans who qual-

ify for a specially adapted auto grant, under section 3902(a) of title 38, United States Code, the additional amount necessary to purchase alternative fuel vehicles.

Finally, VA would be authorized to conduct a pilot program for the sale of air pollution emission reduction incentives, also known as emission reduction credits, and VA would be authorized to retain proceeds from the sales. America's veterans should benefit from the VA's efforts to produce cleaner energy.

Madam Speaker, as the cost of fossil fuels rises and resources become scarcer, our nation must provide services for our veterans in an energy efficient manner. A sustainable energy program at VA will conserve energy and financial resources that can be used to provide care for our veterans. I encourage my colleagues to support the bipartisan Department of Veterans Affairs Energy Sustainability Act of 2009.

INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTION HONORING "GO FOR BROKE" REGIMENTS WITH CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 8, 2009

Mr. SCHIFF. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation recognizing the Japanese-American 100th Infantry Battalion and 442nd Regimental Combat Team, commonly known as the "Go For Broke" regiments, for their dedicated service to our Nation during World War II.

These brave men served with pride, courage and conviction, waging a war on two fronts—abroad against a forceful and oppressive fascism, and at home against the intolerance of racial injustice. After the bombing of Pearl Harbor incited doubts about the loyalty of Japanese-Americans, these brave men who enlisted to fight to protect our Nation were faced with segregated training conditions, families and friends relocated to internment camps, and repeated questions about their combat abilities. At a time when they could have easily turned their backs on a country which had seemingly turned its back on them, these men chose the nobler, bolder, and more difficult route.

The "Go For Broke" regiments went on to earn several awards for their distinctive service in combat, including: 7 Presidential Unit Citations, 21 Medals of Honor, 29 Distinguished Service Crosses, 560 Silver Stars, 4,000 Bronze Stars, 22 Legion of Merit Medals, 15 Soldier's Medals, and over 4,000 Purple Hearts, among numerous additional distinctions. For their size and length of service, the 100th Infantry Battalion and the 442nd Regimental Combat Team were the most decorated U.S. military units of the war. However, these regiments have yet to be honored with a Congressional Gold Medal.

To answer the call of duty requires exceptional courage and sacrifice, but to respond with a vigor and persistence unaffected by those who sought to malign and impede their every achievement reveals an incredible spirit and admirable will. Please join me in honoring these courageous men by supporting the granting of a Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to the U.S. Army's 100th Infantry

Battalion and 442nd Regimental Combat Team.

INTRODUCING THE NATIONAL HURRICANE RESEARCH INITIATIVE ACT OF 2009

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 8, 2009

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today with my colleague and good friend from Florida, Representative ROS-LEHTINEN, and almost 20 bipartisan original cosponsors to introduce a very significant piece of legislation, the National Hurricane Research Initiative Act of 2009.

This legislation is largely based on the recommendations presented in a 2007 National Science Foundation, NSF, report, *Hurricane Warning: The Critical Need for a National Hurricane Research Initiative*.

The report delivered a stern warning: "Relative to the tremendous damage future hurricanes will inflict, the current federal investment in hurricane science and engineering is entirely insufficient."

The state of science today is not advanced enough to inform us reliably about when or where hurricanes are going to strike or what their precise impact on our communities will be.

Since 2001, hurricane damage has cost our Nation almost \$36 billion in economic losses per year. In 2005, Hurricanes Katrina, Rita and Wilma accounted for over \$160 billion in total damages and the loss of almost 1,500 innocent lives. Further, the impact from inland flooding and tornadoes, which can result from the onset of hurricanes and tropical storms, can be felt throughout the entire United States.

Currently, 50 percent of the U.S. population lives within 50 miles of the coastline. As populations and economies continue to expand in these high risk coastline areas, the economic and societal costs will only increase when future hurricanes strike our Nation.

Our Government can ill afford to ignore the advice of its premier scientists and put our populations and infrastructure at risk. We need to nationally invest in new research to better prepare, respond and mitigate these disasters.

This comprehensive hurricane research bill will improve hurricane research dramatically in the United States. The bill authorizes \$2.35 billion in critical hurricane research funding to help scientists study and better understand how hurricanes form and intensify, as well as enhance early warning systems, infrastructure durability standards, and hurricane tracking and prediction capabilities.

The entire Nation would deeply benefit from enhanced, coordinated hurricane research. Better intensity forecasting, long-range projections of hurricane activity, emergency management, and hurricane mitigation would be advantageous to everyone—from improving the ability of local communities to respond to hurricanes to reducing the Federal Government's share in recovery efforts by billions of dollars.

Madam Speaker, our Nation and my State of Florida in particular are all too familiar with the immense damage hurricanes can inflict. It is imperative that we take significant actions to

increase Federal investment in new research to better prepare for, respond to, and mitigate the devastating impacts of hurricanes. Let us resolve to act promptly to address ways to prevent and respond to future hurricanes before the next hurricane strikes.

I ask for my colleagues' support and urge the House leadership to bring this legislation to the floor for its swift consideration. There is no time for further delay.

LESLIE POHLEY HONORED AS FLORIDA'S OUTSTANDING MIDDLE SCHOOL SCIENCE TEACHER OF THE YEAR

HON. C.W. BILL YOUNG

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 8, 2009

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Leslie Pohley, a teacher I represent at Largo Middle School, who has been named Florida's Outstanding Middle School Science Teacher of the Year.

Ms. Pohley was honored by her peers at the Florida Association of Science Teachers. Her principal Fred Ulrich told *The St. Petersburg Times*, "She is the science teacher every principal would love to have on staff. She cares about her students."

A teacher at Largo Middle School for 30 years, Ms. Pohley grew up in Pinellas County, Florida where she now teaches. She graduated from Clearwater High School in 1973 and holds two bachelor's degrees from the University of South Florida. One degree is in science education and the other in biology.

Previous honors for Ms. Pohley include being named the 2003 Air Force Association Science Teacher of the Year, the 2004 recipient of the Southwest Florida Water Management District Outstanding Leadership in Environmental Education Award, and being selected for a National Science Foundation fellowship program at the University of Georgia.

Madam Speaker, at a time when the education of our children is a top national priority, especially in the fields of math and science, I salute Leslie Pohley for her lifelong dedication to teaching. Throughout the past 30 years, teaching from the same classroom at Largo Middle School, she has touched the lives of thousands of students and impressed upon them the value and importance of the sciences.

HONORING THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SHARING THE DREAM CELEBRATION IN ARLINGTON, TEXAS

HON. JOE BARTON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 8, 2009

Mr. BARTON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the "Sharing Dr. King's Dream Celebration" in Arlington, Texas, which marks its 20th Anniversary this year.

It is one of the longest Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Celebrations in the country, with citywide events taking place over four days starting January 16th

The city's first MLK, Jr., celebration was held back in 1989. The organizing committee included groups from all over the community, including the Arlington Chamber of Commerce, City of Arlington, Arlington Independent School District, Arlington Ministerial Association, Black Citizen's Advisory Council, U.S. Postal Service, Marion Anderson Society, Fort Worth Star Telegram, The University of Texas at Arlington and Tarrant County College—South East campus.

That first event attracted nearly 1,000 participants. Over the years "Sharing the Dream" has continued to grow and it now includes diversity training, sensitivity workshops, banquets, festivals and other multicultural events. This celebration truly embodies what Dr. King's vision was all about and that is a reflection of all communities coming together.

And Arlington's MLK, Jr. Celebration committee continues to expand the event. Each year, in cooperation with the United States Postal Service, they produce an official cachet envelope and a special pictorial cancellation postmark to commemorate the citywide celebration. These special envelopes and postmarks have become favorites of collectors all over the nation.

The theme for this year's cachet envelope and postmark is "20th Anniversary—Sharing the Dream".

The design is always chosen from student submissions to various art or essay contests organized by the Arlington Independent School District. The celebration also recognizes special individuals who have taken the time to make a difference within their respective communities in the areas of Education, Community Service and Government.

This is a unique and very special celebration that each year honors the contribution's of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and on its 20th Anniversary, I am proud to recognize the individuals and organizations that have helped make this event possible over the years and all of the people who have shared Dr. King's dream by attending.

INTRODUCTION OF H.R. 294 THE VETERAN OWNED SMALL BUSINESS PROMOTION ACT OF 2009

HON. STEVE BUYER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 8, 2009

Mr. BUYER. Madam Speaker, today I am introducing the Veteran Owned Small Business Promotion Act of 2009. As this body ponders legislation to stimulate the economy and create new jobs, I believe the best economic stimulus we can offer is to empower those who have defended America, and the Department of Veterans' Affairs should play a major role in that effort.

This legislation includes our nation's veterans in our economic recovery by promoting veteran-owned small businesses. Those who have done so much to protect the American economy deserve every opportunity to start and grow a viable business. This bill would renew VA's authority to guarantee small business loans up to \$500,000 for small businesses owned and operated by veterans. VA would be authorized up to \$1 billion in loan guarantees for each fiscal year. The previous