

RECOGNIZING ARMED FORCES DAY

SPEECH OF

HON. ANN KIRKPATRICK

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 13, 2009

Ms. KIRKPATRICK of Arizona. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 377, which observes this Saturday's Armed Forces Day and celebrates the courageous service of our men and women in uniform.

Our fighting men and women in the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps and Coast Guard, whether on active duty, reserve, or serving in the National Guard, have been protecting our Nation bravely and honorably since before we were even a Nation. They continue to do so today. I have just recently returned from the combat zone in Afghanistan, where I had the chance to visit with our troops on the frontlines of the struggle against global terrorism. I was impressed and moved by their commitment as they continue to sacrifice so much to keep us safe and free.

This year, we celebrate Armed Forces Day on May 16. I encourage all Americans to take time out of this day to thank those who have risked and too often given their lives to preserve freedom and democracy. But one day is not nearly enough to recognize all that the members of our Armed Forces have done for this country. Every day should be an Armed Forces Day, a Memorial Day and a Veterans' Day. We have done great work in this Congress to better keep our promises to our service members and our Veterans, but we still have much more to do to make sure they receive the treatment and respect they have earned.

In the coming weeks, I will be working to increase access to quality physical and mental health care and to great educational opportunities for our Veterans. I encourage all of my colleagues to support this resolution, but I also urge them to join in my efforts to try to pay the eternal debt of gratitude we owe to our fighting men and women.

HONORING ZACHARY RAYMOND
BUKATY

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 14, 2009

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Zachary Raymond Bukaty a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 332, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Zachary has been very active with his troop participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Zachary has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Zachary Raymond Bukaty for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

21ST CENTURY GREEN HIGH-PERFORMING PUBLIC SCHOOL FACILITIES ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 13, 2009

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2187) to direct the Secretary of Education to make grants to State educational agencies for the modernization, renovation, or repair of public school facilities, and for other purposes:

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Chair, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 2187, the 21st Century Green High-Performing Public School Facilities Act. I joined a cosponsor of this legislation because I believe our children are our greatest hope and their success determines the future success of our nation. To best prepare them for their future, we have a responsibility to provide them with the best education possible.

Today's legislation helps to further that goal by ensuring that our school districts have the funding they need to provide safe and healthy learning environments for our children. We know that America's schools are millions of dollars short of the funding needed to renovate and equip our schools for the 21st Century. H.R. 2187 would authorize \$6.4 billion for school facilities projects for fiscal year 2010, providing a down payment for work to modernize our schools, while at the same time greening our schools. This legislation also requires school improvement projects to meet green building standards, as well as provides funds to help schools to track the energy needs and use of their facilities. Under this bill, Michigan would receive over \$244 million for school facilities projects.

As father and a grandfather, nothing is more important to me than ensuring that the schools in the 15th and Michigan are safe and well-constructed. However, with state budgets in peril, many schools are struggling to maintain their payrolls, let alone make the improvements necessary to their schools. We know that green schools reduce pollution by using about 30 percent less water and energy than conventional schools. By providing funding for green building and renovation, we will help relieve some of the burden on the school budgets by helping our schools to save on energy expenses. This will result in savings that schools can dedicate to modernization, equipment, or reform.

At the same time we are improving the buildings our children and grandchildren learn in, we are also creating much needed new jobs. An estimate by the Economic Policy Institute finds that this legislation would support as many as 136,000 new green jobs. This will put some of the thousands of unemployed in Michigan back to work, while also teaching them new skills in the clean energy sector.

In the 110th Congress the House passed this legislation, but unfortunately it was not considered by the Senate before adjournment. As the school year comes to a close, I urge my colleagues in the Senate to consider this legislation quickly so that this summer school districts across the country can begin greening their schools.

SUPPORTING THE GOALS OF MOTHER'S DAY

SPEECH OF

HON. PHIL GINGREY

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 12, 2009

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of House Resolution 388, celebrating the role of mothers in the United States and supporting the goals and ideals of Mother's Day.

House Resolution 388 enumerates not only the "immeasurable contributions toward building strong families, thriving communities, and ultimately a strong Nation" made by mothers but also the importance of Mother's Day in recognition of these contributions.

From hallowed chambers to corporate boardrooms to classrooms to assembly lines, none of us would be the individuals we are without our mothers. While every family, every relationship is unique, we know that the bond between a child and a maternal figure—whether a mother, a grandmother, a stepmother, or a foster mother—is so very important. Strong families are the backbone of our nation. It is therefore very appropriate that we take this time today to celebrate and recognize the contributions of our nation's mothers to the strength and prosperity of America.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to take a moment of personal privilege, as I have done before on the floor of this House, to talk a little bit about a very special woman—my Mother, Mrs. Helen Cecelia Gannon Gingrey.

Born in New York City in 1918, my mother has lived and continues to live life to its fullest. From the hustle and bustle of Manhattan to the serenity and beauty of South Carolina, my mother—grounded in her deep faith and her love for her husband, her children, her grandchildren, and her great grandchildren—has never stopped, never strayed from her commitment to God and to family.

Mr. Speaker, at 91 years young, my mother has also refused to let time and its effects keep her down, so much so that at the end of last year, she opted for a second knee replacement—with full knowledge of the inherent risks—because of her commitment to living life and making the most of every opportunity that God has given her. She faced this challenge as she does everything—with a big smile and an abiding faith.

I am happy to report that in the months following the surgery, she has recovered very well and hasn't missed a beat. As this House honors our nation's mothers, I would like to say a special thank you to my mother, not just for the blessing that she has been to me and our family, but for being a shining example of a life well-lived.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this Resolution for mothers everywhere, and I yield back.

SPENCER FISH

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 14, 2009

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Spencer Fish of Liberty,