

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CITY  
OF KINGSPORT ON THE HIGHER  
EDUCATION INITIATIVE

SPEECH OF

**HON. DAVID P. ROE**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 9, 2009*

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate the Higher Education Initiative by the City of Kingsport. The Higher Education Initiative worked to revitalize the economy in Kingsport by improving the overall education level of its labor force.

Madam Speaker, I am not the only one praising Kingsport for their initiative. Kingsport has been awarded the 2009 Innovations in American Government Awards by The Ash Institute for Democratic Governance and Innovation at the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University for its higher education initiatives.

To win this prestigious award, Kingsport had to compete against 600 other federal, state and local governments.

The Kingsport Center for Higher Education consists of five institutions: Carson-Newman College, King College, Lincoln Memorial University, Northeast State Community College, and the University of Tennessee. This unique partnership allows the Center to offer courses and programs ranging from associate to doctoral degrees.

Just recently, I moved my district congressional office to this impressive facility. As a member of the Education and Labor Committee, I support this great initiative and I thank Kingsport for their dedication to their local economy and their commitment to education.

Since Kingsport has taken the initiative towards promoting higher education nearly a decade ago, there has been a 23 percent increase in high school graduates, a 27.5 percent increase in those with Associate Degrees and a 19.2 increase in those with Bachelor's Degrees.

Education adds value and improves quality of life. I commend the City of Kingsport for their hard work and dedication that has truly made the city a better place.

TRIBUTE TO THOMAS PELAIA

**HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 14, 2009*

Mr. PASCRELL. Madam Speaker, I would like to call to your attention the work of an outstanding individual, Thomas Pelaia, who will be recognized by the John I. Crecco Foundation with its Public Safety Award on September 11, 2009 for his many years of dedicated service to keeping our communities safe.

It is only fitting that he be honored in this, the permanent record of the greatest democracy ever known, because he is the embodiment of the patriotism and community service that make our nation great.

Thomas Pelaia joined the Bloomfield Fire Department on May 13, 1980. After serving as a line fireman, he was transferred to the Fire

Prevention Bureau where he served as an Inspector, Senior Inspector, and now as the Fire Official who is the Chief Inspector of Fire Prevention. During his tenure there, he has worked to make Bloomfield one of the safest communities in the nation. In 1999, he partnered with the Bloomfield Board of Education in having fire sprinklers installed in major school construction projects. To date, three of the eight elementary schools and the high school are fully equipped with sprinkler systems; many of the other schools are partially equipped.

Tom has been the Deputy Essex County Fire Mutual Aid Coordinator since 1994. On January 19, 2000 he organized the mutual aid response to the devastating fire at Seton Hall University. Shortly after the fire, Tom worked closely with Bloomfield College to have sprinklers installed throughout all of the dormitories, even before legislation was passed to mandate them. Due to his efforts in protecting these schools, he was honored as Fire Protection Inspector of the Year in May 2001 by the New Jersey State Fire Prevention and Protection Association and the New Jersey State Department of Community Affairs. Also as Fire Coordinator, he organized Essex County's response to New York City after the tragic events of eight years ago when the September 11, 2001 attacks took place. He organized the response of 25 Essex County fire companies to protect the boroughs of Staten Island and Brooklyn on September 12 and 13, 2001.

Tom was an integral part of the accreditation team that worked to have the Bloomfield Fire Department receive International Accreditation. It is the first in New Jersey and the first career Fire Department in the northeast to receive this prestigious recognition which was awarded in March of this year. Tom has been an active member of many organizations throughout the years. He has served as Bloomfield FMBA Local 19 Treasurer, Vice President, President, and Executive Delegate for over 15 years. He also served the New Jersey State FMBA as a District Vice President and Legislative Committeeman.

Tom currently serves as a Fire Advisor to the Bloomfield Volunteer Emergency Squad. He is the Secretary of the Bloomfield Firemen's Relief Association and is the Essex County Legislative Committeeman for the New Jersey State Fireman's Association. As a 35 year member of the Bell and Siren Club, Inc., he is the Chairman of its Essex Committee and the Vice President of the International Convention which will be hosted in New Jersey in 2011. He is also an active member of the Essex County Fire Prevention Association and the Essex County Fire Chief's Association. Tom is also a member of Bloomfield UNICO. He resides in Livingston, New Jersey, with his wife Maria and his niece Danielle.

The job of a United States Congressman involves much that is rewarding, yet nothing compares to being able to highlight the achievements of great Americans like Thomas Pelaia.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you join our colleagues, Thomas's family and friends, everyone at the John I. Crecco Foundation, and me in recognizing the outstanding contributions of Thomas Pelaia to his community.

CONGRATULATING DOLPHIN  
HEIGHTS NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH  
GROUP OF THE YEAR

**HON. SAM JOHNSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 14, 2009*

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise to congratulate the outstanding members and citizen leaders who make up the Dolphin Heights Neighborhood Crime Watch.

It is a great honor to recognize the Dolphin Heights Neighborhood Crime Watch and I wish this group continued success.

The Dolphin Heights Neighborhood Crime Watch took a firm stand in letting the criminals know that the activities that they were involved in were not going to continue in their community. Due to the efforts, participation and teamwork provided by the Dolphin Heights Neighborhood Crime Watch Group, the Dallas Police Department and the City Prosecutor, a 12 percent decrease in crime within the past year was noticed among the following criminal offenses: 5 percent decrease in Business Burglaries, 7 percent decrease in Burglary of Motor Vehicles, 6 percent decrease in Thefts and a 2 percent decrease in Auto Thefts. Officers of the Southeast Patrol Division made a total of forty-seven (47) Arrests and issued seven hundred and eighty-six (786) Citations involving Drugs, Prostitution, Urban Habitation, Alcohol Violations, Code Violations, Auto Thefts, Assaults, Traffic Violations and Outstanding Warrants.

They also have other successful community programs, including City of Hope, Eye on the Community, Treasure of Hope, National Night Out, Community Clean-up, Community Emergency Response Team, and the After School Program.

The Dolphin Heights Neighborhood Crime Watch is a hard working group that believes in teamwork and accomplishing their goals.

I am pleased to congratulate the Dolphin Heights Neighborhood Crime Watch on their outstanding efforts and share their good work with my colleagues in the United States Congress and the American people. They're making Texas a better place to live, work and raise a family.

GRATITUDE FOR THE SERVICE OF  
LILLIAN V. GERMAN

**HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 14, 2009*

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to thank one of the most dedicated and indispensable members of the Judiciary Committee staff, Lillian German. For the past 6 years, Lillian has served as a counsel to the Committee, working principally as the Deputy Chief Oversight Counsel during the 110th and 111th Congresses.

A proud native of Houston, Texas, Lillian graduated from the University of North Texas where she was a leader in student government and a member of the Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority. She earned her law degree from Southern Methodist University, and, following

her graduation, served as a briefing attorney for the Texas Attorney General and in private practice in Dallas.

Lillian came to Washington 15 years ago to work on the Hill, and has served in the offices of many of our dear friends and colleagues. Lillian first worked as press secretary and then Chief of Staff to Congresswoman Eddie Bernice Johnson. With Congresswoman Johnson, Congressman Jesse Jackson, Jr., and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People Legal Defense Fund, Lillian helped organize a historic bus tour throughout the south to highlight the impact of the Supreme Court's decision in *Shaw v. Reno* (1993) on voting rights and minority districts. Lillian went on to serve as the Legislative Director for Congresswoman Barbara Rose Collins, with whom she worked to draft several amendments to the 1996 Telecommunications Act to increase minority ownership of commercial broadcasting companies. Lillian continued on as Press Secretary and Chief of Staff for Congressman Alcee Hastings. She organized Vice President Al Gore's first environmental justice site tours of southern Florida's minority communities and brownfield lands, and during the 2000 Presidential election, Lillian served as an area political director for the Gore recount committee. Following the September 11 terrorist attacks, Lillian helped usher through a \$125 million grant to assist the Nation's tourism industry, and she successfully managed the effort to secure the Health Care Financing Administration's approval of the Dean Ornish Program for reversing coronary heart disease. Lillian then served as the Chief of Staff to Congresswoman Sheila Jackson-Lee, where she worked with the Houston community in the wake of Enron's collapse. During the 2002 Florida Governor's race, Lillian worked as the Get-Out-the-Vote director for Miami-Dade County Democrats.

Lillian joined the Judiciary Committee in 2003 and has made numerous contributions to the committee's civil rights, criminal justice, and government oversight work. She helped secure funding for the expansion of the U.S. Marshal Service's Safe Surrender Initiative to seven additional States, including the District of Columbia and my home State of Michigan. She visited the Texas-Mexico border several times to investigate government's response to the high-death tolls and helped with the committee's immigration field hearings in Texas, Michigan, California, and Iowa. She led the House's investigation into the wrongful firing of rail workers under the Transportation Security Administration's Transportation Worker Identification Card program, which ultimately resulted in the reinstatement of 36 workers. She successfully led the Committee's effort to release three inmates wrongfully incarcerated in solitary confinement for 36 years in the Angola Penitentiary in Louisiana, and she and I recently met with Governor Bobby Jindal to discuss the prisoners' final release. She organized committee hearings on FBI whistleblower protections; the Justice Department's role in the Jena Six cases; and voter intimidation during the 2006 elections, which featured then-Senator Barack Obama as a witness.

On behalf of the Judiciary Committee, its staff, and this distinguished body, I would like to thank Lillian for her service. Throughout her time on the Hill, she has been a stalwart voice for social justice and the under-represented. Lillian is a tour-de-force that will be sorely

missed. Her spirit, loyalty, wit, generosity, and professionalism have made all of the offices in which she has worked places to belong and places to thrive. We are losing a dear advisor, mentor, and friend.

We wish her the best of luck and extend to her our deepest gratitude.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE FRED  
BABER FAMILY AS THE 2009  
OKALOOSA FARM FAMILY OF  
THE YEAR

**HON. JEFF MILLER**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 14, 2009*

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, it is a great honor for me to rise today to extend congratulations to the Fred Baber family for being selected the 2009 Okaloosa County Farm Family of the Year.

Mr. Fred Baber, the family's patriarch, celebrated his 90th birthday this year, but he still loves to rise before dawn and head out to farm in Laurel Hill, Florida. He is the herd manager for Roger's Ranch and manages 60 head of cattle. In their early days as Ohio farmers, Fred and his brother were pioneers in the fields of artificial insemination (AI) and dairy herd improvement association milk testing (DHIA). Fred brought his advanced knowledge of these techniques to Florida. He also built one of the first Harvester silos in the local area, and was instrumental in bringing the Tampa Independent Dairy Farmers Milk Co-op to the Florida panhandle.

Fred's family is a huge part of his successful farming career. His son Andy helps him run the family farm, producing peanuts, soybeans, and hay. Andy, the oldest of eight Baber children, and his wife Barbara both work at Ruckel Properties. Andy also serves on the Okaloosa County Farm Services Agency Board.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I would like to offer my congratulations to Baber family's tireless work and dedication to family, faith and trade. They are a role model for all of us. My wife Vicki and I wish their entire family best wishes for continued success.

TRIBUTE TO SAN DIEGO POWER  
SURGE 96

**HON. DUNCAN HUNTER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 14, 2009*

Mr. HUNTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of San Diego Power Surge 96 for its championship victory in the Amateur Softball Association's 2009 Girls National Fastpitch Tournament. The girls of Power Surge 96 competed against some of the most talented and formidable teams in the country—and they did not disappoint their fans. Their national championship victory represents a great accomplishment for not only each team member, but also for the San Diego community.

Over the course of the tournament, Power Surge 96 won a total of nine games to com-

pliment the team's overall and quite impressive record of 92 wins, 7 losses and 1 tie. The team's final matchup turned into a heroic test of endurance and skill after falling behind to their opponent, the SoCal Jynx, early in the game. In the seventh inning, Power Surge 96 tied the score at three, forcing the game into extra innings where they eventually took the lead and never looked back.

On their way to the top, the girls of Power Surge 96 prevailed through a qualifying tournament that included several tough opponents. That tournament, the ASA Southern California State Championship, was the first qualifying victory for any Power Surge team since forming in 1992 and competing at the national level.

In 2009, Power Surge 96 competed in a total of nine tournaments. The team won six of those tournaments outright, sharing a seventh as co-champion. Altogether, 2009 was a great year for the girls of Power Surge 96, highlighted by their national championship victory. Surely, their victory will help motivate them to reach the same level of achievement next year, when they resume competitive play and prepare to defend their national championship.

The girls of Power Surge 96 deserve great credit and recognition for their success and remarkable accomplishment. Their national championship victory, as well as the time they have shared together and hours invested in practice and preparation, is an experience they will always remember. It is an experience that will stay with them well into their adult lives and, hopefully one day, be shared with their children to encourage and inspire them to reach new heights.

Madam Speaker, it is an honor to rise in recognition of Power Surge 96 and I ask that my colleagues join me in paying tribute to this team of talented girls. Next year's national championship tournament will not be easy but if there is any group up to the challenge, it is the girls of Power Surge 96.

WIND ENERGY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT ACT AND HEAVY  
DUTY HYBRID VEHICLE RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT AND  
DEMONSTRATION ACT

**HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 14, 2009*

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my support for the Wind Energy Research and Development Act (H.R. 3165) and the Heavy Duty Hybrid Vehicle Research, Development and Demonstration Act (H.R. 445). I thank my colleagues on the Science and Technology Committee for their work on these important bills, which will help secure America's role as a global leader in innovation.

An aggressive transition to a clean renewable energy economy is necessary to modernize America's economy for the 21st century. In this historic moment, we have the responsibility and the opportunity to secure America's place as a global hub of technological innovation, an economic leader, and a steward of our planet. Passage of H.R. 3165 and H.R. 445 will focus American ingenuity to achieve these important goals.