

Hawaii, where she started Artists for Orphans, an international non-profit dedicated to providing educational, financial, physical and emotional support to orphans in Ethiopia.

After devoting herself to this bold, compassionate work for more than a decade, Yve-I left Hawaii to move back northeast to be with her ailing father, caring for him until his last day. After his passing, she returned to working with young children in Washington, D.C. before ultimately moving to California to be with and care for her youngest grandchildren.

Yve-I gave of herself easily and was wonderful with children. I witnessed time and time again, as she was the mother-in-law to my son, and along with me, was a grandmother to Simone the daughter of my son and her daughter. Whether we were together at family gatherings on special occasions or simply spending time with our children and grandchildren, Yve-I's generous and loving spirit brought a sense of comfort and togetherness to our family which has not only nurtured our youngest members, but has strengthened the ties between us all.

Throughout her life, Yve-I was fully dedicated to complete spiritual and human development and her devotion to becoming the most complete and aware person that she could was evidenced by her constant growth and personal evolution. At the end of her life it became her goal to return to Ethiopia to live out her days so that she could continue the work of Artists for Orphans and practice her religion at an age-old founding church of her faith, and that is what she did, being laid to rest on March 17, 2006 in Shashamene, Ethiopia, where she was known as Mama Love. She is survived by her life partner, Menelek Fitzgerald, her children Aisha Patrice, Abina, Yasmina, Memuna, Bilqis, Nasir, Mahmud, and Netanya; her siblings Adrienne, Donald and Wayne; thirteen grandchildren; her nephews; and numerous cousins, colleagues and friends.

Today the family and friends of the woman who journeyed from Audrey to Yve-I come together to celebrate her life and the countless ways in which her bright and compassionate spirit touched lives of others, no matter what name they knew her by during her lifetime. Her giving nature and deep wisdom was known to and cherished by all, and will continue to lift up the lives of our young people and all who knew her for generations to come. On behalf of California's 9th U.S. Congressional District, I am proud to add my voice to the countless others who have united in thanks, appreciation, and joy to remember this very special, remarkable and loving woman, Yve-I Rastafari.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF ERMA BYRD

**HON. RUSH D. HOLT**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 30, 2006*

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize and honor the memory of Erma Byrd, the wife of the senior Senator from West Virginia. We mourn the death of this great lady.

Here in this chamber it is important that we acknowledge the importance of the spouses of those who serve in the U.S. Congress. There

is no more distinguished member of the legislative branch than the Senator from West Virginia, and certainly none who has served so effectively for so long. Surely, some of the credit for this distinguished service should go to Erma Byrd.

My family and I have known the Byrds for much longer than half a century. Senator BYRD and his wife have been devoted to each other for almost 69 years. She has been his closest companion and, I believe, his closest advisor. When they first married, he turned over to her his wallet and the family finances. He relied on her for everything domestic. For decades, in the evenings after his superb legislative and political work on Capitol Hill, when other members of Congress set off for receptions and social functions, Senator BYRD returned home to sit with Erma and read, often to each other.

Erma Byrd has been a dear friend of my mother. The daughter of a coal miner, Erma Byrd was a woman who showed great consideration for other people. She was a woman with a backbone and what we would call West Virginia gumption. The whole country of the United States knows Senator BYRD as a great legislator and great orator who can be counted on as the most adamant defender of our Constitution and a champion of the honor and traditions of the Congress, especially the U.S. Senate. What many Americans may not know is the man who has given devotion to and, until her death last week, received devotion from his honorable and capable wife. I join others here in expressing my sympathies to this great colleague.

TRIBUTE TO MRS. ERMA BYRD

**HON. ALAN B. MOLLOHAN**

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 30, 2006*

Mr. MOLLOHAN. Mr. Speaker, hearts are heavy in West Virginia this week as we mourn the loss of a very special woman: Mrs. Erma Byrd, the beloved wife of our distinguished senior Senator.

ROBERT C. BYRD and Erma Ora James met as students at Mark Twain Grade School in Raleigh county. They married in 1937, at the tender age of 19. In that simple ceremony, a lasting bond was forged, and an incredible journey was begun.

Their journey took them from the coalfields of southern West Virginia to the halls of this great Capitol. At every point along the way, Erma Byrd was a constant source of strength, support and inspiration—whether in raising their wonderful family or anchoring the incredible career of her devoted husband.

In his words, she was a “priceless treasure, a multifaceted woman of great insight and wisdom, of quiet humor and common sense.”

What a wonderful tribute to a wonderful woman.

On the sad occasion of her passing, Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in expressing heartfelt condolences to Senator BYRD and his family. Our thoughts are with them as they say goodbye to Erma Byrd and cherish the memory of her caring kindness and love.

COLLEGE ACCESS AND OPPORTUNITY ACT OF 2005

SPEECH OF

**HON. RUSH D. HOLT**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 29, 2006*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 609) to amend and extend the Higher Education Act of 1965, with Mr. BISHOP of Utah in the chair.

Mr. Chairman, I rise to reiterate and reinforce my remarks yesterday during the debate on the McMorris-Holt amendment. I restate my commitment to work with those who want to see improvements in the adjunct teacher corps.

As I said in my previous comments, having been a professor of physics at the university level, I am well aware that knowledge of a subject is only one part of helping students learn. Being an effective teacher is much more than that. Pedagogy is both an art and a science, and pedagogical training is a critical part of being an educator.

Placing an Adjunct Teacher directly into the classroom without any pre-service training would be unfair to the Adjunct Teacher and to the students he or she would be teaching. To raise the level of performance in the classroom, Adjunct Teachers must undergo advanced training. This training must not be cursory, and should include pedagogy and the most recent research on how students learn science, mathematics, and foreign languages. It should also include practical experience with real students in classroom settings.

I want to emphasize that the Adjunct Teacher Corps program is not about replacing teachers. As the word “adjunct” signifies, these teachers would be an additional supplement to school facilities. Schools applying for these grants will tailor their Adjunct program to suit their unique needs, and in doing so, they must include parents and teachers in the planning process. This program will particularly help those educational agencies facing dire teacher shortages, or levels of achievement so low that no one teacher can solve it on his or her own. As it currently stands, many of our high-need school districts do not have enough people who are currently qualified under No Child Left Behind to teach math, science and foreign languages. While we increase those ranks, we can also supplement them with adjunct teachers with subject matter expertise. Specifically, this amendment requires adjunct teachers to possess, at a minimum, a bachelor's degree and demonstrated expertise in mathematics, science, or a critical foreign language as defined by No Child Left Behind. Every school, in every town, should have a diverse faculty with pedagogical and subject matter expertise.

I also want to state that the size of this program is very small. This program will be competing for funding with five others for a share of a \$41 million authorization.

It is my hope that this program will have long-term beneficial results. Before it was introduced, I wanted to ensure that the amendment includes provision for pre-service training and continued mentoring of these content specialists. Just as Teach for America has been a valuable asset to many school districts, I believe that these content specialists can make

valuable contributions to schools. After participating in the adjunct teacher program, I hope that many of these individuals will decide to stay in their school districts and serve as certified teachers.

Notably, our focus is on the most dire needs first. The amendment requires that those who apply for the funds demonstrate the need for, and expected benefits of, using adjunct teachers in the participating schools. This may include information on the difficulties that participating schools face in recruiting qualified faculty in mathematics, science, critical foreign language courses. They must also demonstrate measurable objectives for the project, including the number of adjunct teachers the eligible entity intends to place in classrooms, and academic gains that the students should make.

As pleased as I am with the amendment's progress so far, I also recognize that more work needs to be done in conference. Specifically, I am most concerned with perfecting the "Use of Funds" section to make clear that reimbursement of outside entities for the costs associated with allowing an employee to serve as an Adjunct Teacher must comply with collective bargaining agreements. I believe we can do that by spelling out that section 2(F)'s requirement that applicants demonstrate their compliance with existing contractual obligations includes collective bargaining agreements. That is my current reading of the amendment, but it could not hurt to tighten the language.

In closing, I want to thank my colleagues for the bipartisan support they have given to this amendment. I want to especially thank my Republican colleagues on the House Education and Workforce Committee for accepting some of my changes and working with me to improve the amendment from where it started. I look forward to ensuring this amendment's continued progress in conference with the Senate.

BUDGET CUTS HARM WOMEN AND CHILDREN

SPEECH OF

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 29, 2006

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, tonight I join my colleagues in highlighting the detrimental effects the President's fiscal year 2007 budget will have on women.

From health and education, to the protection and development of women and girls internationally, this administration intends to cut funding in programs that are vital to women's well-being and development.

Worse still Mr. Speaker, many of the programs that the President intends to cut disproportionately impact minority women negatively.

For example, in the area of health, the fiscal year 2007 budget cuts \$1 million out of the National Center on Minority Health and Health Disparities. This is a critical facility that directs money and technical assistance to organizations working with minorities on diseases that disproportionately kill women, such as heart disease, diabetes and obesity.

Additionally, the President's budget would cut funds from the minority HIV/AIDS initiative which actively seeks to address the prevention and treatment needs of minority communities heavily impacted by HIV/AIDS.

The budget cuts the Office of Minority Health by a staggering \$11 million and the Office on Women's Health would receive a significant cut.

It's not just health that is slashed in the President's budget.

The President proposes cutting funding for education initiatives for homeless children and youth by \$600,000 and cut Pell grants by a whopping \$430 million—with an award cap of \$4,050.

Furthermore, the President has proposed a \$1 million decrease to fair housing assistance programs for our most needy.

Mr. Speaker, I could stand here all night and list the outrageous cuts in health, education, and housing programs the President's budget would inflict, but I would be remiss if I didn't also highlight the cuts to programs that

guarantee the safety of women domestically and abroad.

One of the most successful programs to prevent violence against women while funding the prosecution of those who have committed those crimes, the Violence Against Women Act or VAWA, will face a potential \$39.5 million cut.

Additionally, women's health is the President's proposed \$2 million cut to the United Nations Development Fund and a \$9 million cut to the United Nations Population Fund will jeopardize the health and safety of women around the world.

Mr. Speaker, our budget is a moral document. It reflects the values of our Nation. I'm sad to say these aren't the values that my sisters in Congress and across the country hold dear.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to think about what a budget like the one the President has proposed means to each and everyone of their constituents. You can't tell me we can't do better.

TRIBUTE TO JOHNSON COUNTY MOVERS AND SHAKERS AWARD WINNERS OF 2006

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 30, 2006

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to note an important event in the Third Congressional District of Kansas. On April 24, 2006, the Volunteer Center of Johnson County in Overland Park, KS, will honor outstanding youth volunteers. One hundred and eleven young people have been nominated by school personnel and nonprofit organizations for their dedication and service to the community. Eight of these youth are being recognized for their efforts toward receipt of the Congressional Award. Youth volunteerism continues to grow and be a strong force in Johnson County. These 111 youth exemplify the true meaning of volunteerism and giving back to their community. It is my honor to recognize each student volunteer and their schools by listing them in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

Name	School	Age	Grade	CA medal	City
Katie Agnew	Bishop Miege High School	18	12		Roeland Park
Dana Alamis	Indian Trail Jr. High	15	9		Olathe
Molly Allison-Gallimore	Home School	16	10	Silver Medal	Spring Hill, Prairie Village, Olathe
Clare Amey	Bishop Miege High School	17	11		Olathe
Avery Arjo	Oregon Trail Junior High	13	8		Lenexa
Simmi Arora	Olathe Northwest High School	17	12		Leawood
Sydney Ayers	Barstow High School	15	9	Gold Medal	Shawnee Mission, Overland Park
M. Celeste Banks	Trailridge Middle School	14	8		Fairway
Annie Belle	California Trail Jr. High	14	9		Shawnee
Anne Bellis	Pembroke Hill	16	10		Olathe
Carlene Bolton	Mill Valley High School	17	12		Shawnee Mission
Steven Burnett	Olathe North High School	18	12		Olathe
Rebecca Byron	Bishop Miege High School	18	12		Shawnee
Caitlin Carter	Westridge Middle School	14	8		Shawnee Mission
Jenna Christensen	Shawnee Mission North High School	17	11	Silver Medal	Overland Park
Jill Christensen	Shawnee Mission North High School	15	10	Silver Medal	Olathe
Lee Clemon	Olathe South High School	18	12		Shawnee Mission
Sara "Kat" Conoley	Shawnee Mission West High School	18	12		Olathe
Benjamin Eggers	Olathe Northwest High School	17	12		Shawnee
Caitlin Ellison	Mill Valley High School	17	12		Shawnee
Christopher Fairchild	Midland Adventist Academy	14	8		Shawnee
Rindy Fairchild	Midland Adventist Academy	16	10		Shawnee
Ashlan Fisher	Shawnee Mission East High School	17	11		Leawood
Jennifer Garren	Westridge Middle School	14	8		Overland Park
Kate Garrett	Shawnee Mission West High School	17	11		Lenexa
Kevin Garrett	Shawnee Mission West High School	14	9		Lenexa
Michael Garrett	Westridge Middle School	13	7		Shawnee Mission
Will Gates	Shawnee Mission East High School	18	12		Fairway
Rachel Gittinger	Bishop Miege	17	12		Overland Park
M. Caroline Goehausen	Shawnee Mission East High School	18	12		Leawood
Orriah Graves	Bishop Miege	16	11		Overland Park
Chanel Griffin	Westridge Middle School	13	8		Lenexa
Kristen Nicole Harper	Mill Valley High School	17	12		Shawnee