

HONORING THE SERVICE OF HIS EXCELLENCY YASHAR ALIYEV, AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN TO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 23, 2011

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the departing Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Azerbaijan to the United States of America, His Excellency Yashar Aliyev. Mr. Aliyev has served in this post since December 2006, but his diplomatic career is long and distinguished.

Ambassador Aliyev began his diplomatic career at the United Nations in 1992, serving as political affairs counselor and chargé d'affaires of Azerbaijan's Permanent Mission. He was also Azerbaijan's delegate to the First and Fourth Committees at the forty-seventh through fifty-sixth sessions of the United Nations General Assembly. Having joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Azerbaijan in 1989, Ambassador Aliyev held posts as political officer, first secretary and deputy director in the Ministry's Department of Information and Political Analysis, as well as director of the Department of International Organizations. From 2002–2006, he served as Azerbaijan's Permanent Representative to the United Nations.

It has been my honor and privilege to work with Ambassador Aliyev on issues important to Azerbaijan. I have come to regard him as a determined and passionate advocate for his country and the strategic partnership between Azerbaijan and the United States. I praise the Ambassador for his tremendous efforts and contributions to raise awareness among Members of Congress and Administration officials of the important role Azerbaijan is playing in the security of the United States.

I want to offer Ambassador Aliyev my appreciation for his 5 years of service in Washington, D.C. As Ambassador Aliyev moves on to new responsibilities and assignments, I extend to him my highest regards and best wishes. Mister Speaker, I ask all of my colleagues to join me today in wishing His Excellency Yashar Aliyev the best and congratulating him on his impressive service.

THE BIGGEST LITTLE LEAGUERS

HON. TIM SCOTT

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 23, 2011

Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, in the heart of Charleston, South Carolina, lies Cannon Street; it's a modest street spanning just a few city blocks. However, within its history lies the story of what Dr. Creighton Hale, the former CEO of little league baseball, called "the most significant amateur team in baseball history."

In 1955, the area surrounding this street was one of economic blight and social unease. In an effort to keep kids out of trouble and teach skills that only team sports can pro-

vide, the local YMCA organized four little league teams for the neighborhood kids. The Cannon Street YMCA All-Stars would advance to the Charleston City Little League playoff games, but would never be given the opportunity to earn a spot in the Little League World Series. It was not because they were unworthy players or because they could not afford to go. The color of their skin stifled the dreams of these twelve-year-old boys.

The Charleston playoff games were boycotted in 1955 to preserve racial segregation. Because teams again refused to play against them, the Cannon Street All-Stars advanced past the state and regional playoffs. The National Little League invited the All-Stars to the Little League World Series as special guests; they could not compete for the title because technically they hadn't played their way to the championships. They returned to Charleston, dismayed and disappointed.

As children, they embodied the very characteristics that organized sports aim to impart—teamwork, courage and respect. As adults they have worked in productive and valuable careers such as architecture, law enforcement and education. As they have grown older, they are now volunteers in their communities—giving back, yet again. While they never had the opportunity to compete, their story has demonstrated where we have come from as a nation.

Last month members of my staff had the opportunity to meet several of the original Cannon Street Little Leaguers who traveled to Washington, D.C. to be recognized at Nationals Stadium before the Nationals-Phillies game. Their story remains powerful more than 65 years later, and I know my staff will never forget having the opportunity to meet them.

Today, the neighborhood that encompasses Cannon Street has developed into an integral part of the Charleston education and science community. It is home to a number of colleges and universities and a world-class research hospital. The boys of the Cannon Street Little League Team are men who through their careers and service to the community have become assets to their neighborhoods. In spite of the adversity they encountered and the challenges they confronted, these young people illustrated to the world the absurdity of segregation and the hatred inherent in racism.

In the fifty-five years since they were excluded from competing to earn a spot at the Little League World Series in their own right, America has matured. I'd like to believe that a handful of twelve-year-olds contributed to our maturity.

It is with great admiration that I share their story and my respect for these men with you, my colleagues.

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL CHILDHOOD OBESITY MONTH

HON. JAY INSLEE

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 23, 2011

Mr. INSLEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize September as National Childhood Obesity Month. Childhood obesity is one of the biggest health challenges facing our country; driving up medical costs, hurting our economy, and shortening lives. For the first time

our children and grandchildren are projected to live shorter and less healthy lives than we do. Medical costs associated with obesity total more than a billion dollars a year. The price tag will continue to increase as our youth face more and more diseases normally only found in adult populations, like hypertension, type 2 diabetes, and high cholesterol. This growing epidemic is driven by environmental, economic, and social factors that make fats, salt and sugars cheaper and more available than fresh fruits and vegetables and limit the opportunities for sports and recreation.

The good news is that prevention works and by working together we can buck this trend. Together, we can improve access to healthier foods, increase availability of active transportation for our youth, and ensure our communities are walkable.

We face an uphill battle—according to Washington State's Healthy Youth Survey, 24% of 10th graders are either obese or overweight, and less than half of children surveyed were getting enough fruits and vegetables. Yet already, many leaders and communities in Washington are stepping on the plate and are committed to taking on this fight by making healthy, important changes. From Moses Lake to Mount Vernon, communities are successfully incorporating policies to increase access to healthy foods and physical activity. Seattle's Odessa Brown Children's Clinic, located in a community where nearly 40% of children are overweight or obese, is on the front lines of combating childhood obesity. The clinic has successfully integrated childhood obesity prevention and treatment program into their primary care to address the challenge.

Childhood obesity prevention should be a top priority. In Congress, I worked to pass the Affordable Care Act because I believe an increased focus on preventative medicine and increasing access to care will improve our nation's health. I also support the Fit Kids Act, to ensure that children get enough physical activity. We know what we need to do to reverse this alarming national epidemic. It will not be easy, but together we can fight the childhood obesity trend.

TRANSPARENCY IN REGULATORY ANALYSIS OF IMPACTS ON THE NATION ACT OF 2011

SPEECH OF

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 22, 2011

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2401) to require analyses of the cumulative and incremental impacts of certain rules and actions of the Environmental Protection Agency, and for other purposes:

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Chair, I rise in strong opposition to H.R. 2401, The TRAIN Act. This bill would continue the subordination of public health and common sense to the narrow, temporary and misguided pursuit of profits for the few. It endeavors to kill essential environmental and public health protections by imposing the exact kind of redtape my colleagues so emphatically claim to oppose.

The TRAIN Act slams the brakes on essential public health initiatives, first by burdening