

class in 1949. After a post-graduate year at Chattanooga's Baylor School, he entered the University of Alabama where he played basketball and baseball. After two years, he transferred to Howard College (now Samford University) and graduated with honors from the School of Pharmacy.

His parents had purchased Central Drug Store in downtown Tuscaloosa and turned it into a success. When Harrison graduated from college, his father purchased another struggling drug store near the University of Alabama. Druid Drug became successful and famous as the favorite coffee hangout of Coach Bear Bryant and his staff. Three more Tuscaloosa stores were added over the next several years. In 1967, Harco, Inc., was founded. Harco, Inc., would eventually operate 153 Harco Drug stores, 55 Carport Auto Parts stores, and 7 Harco Totalcare (home healthcare) stores. The company was sold in 1997 to Rite Aid.

During Harrison's years as CEO of Harco, he served as chairman of the National Association of Chain Drug Stores, Affiliated Drug Stores, and the Southern Drug Store Association. Harco and Harrison received many national business and pharmacy industry honors and awards.

Harrison's charitable spirit and support of education have dynamically impacted his community and state. He established the James I. Harrison School of Pharmacy, Auburn University; the Harrison Center for Academic Excellence, Judson College; the James I. Harrison Family Endowed Teaching Excellence Faculty Fellow, University of Alabama; and the Caritas Community Service Award, University of Alabama. Harrison is a member and past chairman of the UA President's Cabinet. He is a founding member of Success by Six Educational Initiative in Tuscaloosa County; a founding member and first president of the Alexis de Tocqueville Society chapter supporting United Way of West Alabama; and a member of the Mayor's Pre-K Advisory Board, Tuscaloosa. He is a patron to Children's Hands-on Museum and to the UA Rural Infant Stimulation Environmental Center.

He holds honorary doctorates from the University of Alabama and Judson College, is in several business and civic halls of fame, and serves on many corporate and civic boards. Harrison and his wife, Peggy, have five children and fifteen grandchildren.

Madam Speaker, I would like to offer my congratulations to James I. Harrison, Jr. for his many personal and professional achievements and offer a heartfelt "thank you" for a job well done. I know his wife, Peggy, his family, and many friends join with me in praising his accomplishments and extending thanks for his many efforts over the years for the State of Alabama.

THE GREEN CHEMISTRY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. PETER WELCH

OF VERMONT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 4, 2007

Mr. WELCH of Vermont. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank my colleagues on the Science & Technology Committee for their efforts in bringing H.R. 2850, the Green Chemistry Research and Development Act of 2007 to the House floor. This legislation is important and very necessary.

"Green chemistry and engineering" is the term used to describe the environmentally conscious design of chemical products and processes that are made safer to human health and the environment by reducing or eliminating the use or creation of hazardous and harmful substances.

Like many Americans, I am dedicated to reducing the causes and effects of global warming. Many of the solutions to global warming and other serious environmental problems need to be addressed at the molecular design level. This legislation does just that. It provides a path forward so that our chemists and engineers are able to conduct their work and research in an environmentally friendly manner.

This bill is also in alignment with the innovations legislation that was signed into law in August. It will help to sustain the United States' position as a global leader in the science and engineering fields and promote our ability to compete with other nations. The National Academies report, "Rising Above the Gathering Storm", commissioned by the House Science & Technology Committee, points out the growing concern for America's ability to compete in today's global economy. H.R. 2850 supports innovation by:

Authorizing funding for green chemistry and engineering research;

Investing in young researchers;

Fostering collaborative R&D partnerships among our universities, industry, and nonprofit organizations;

Promoting education and training of undergraduate and graduate students, as well as professional chemists and chemical engineers;

Recognizing the value of the Manufacturing Extension Partnerships in the adoption of green chemistry and engineering innovations; and

Providing for much needed science research to identify barriers to commercialization of safer chemistry and engineering practices.

This legislation is supported by my constituents who are members of the Green Mountain American Chemical Society. This organization includes members from Vermont's universities and colleges, and from Vermont industries, such as IBM, BF Goodrich, Seventh Generation, and Biotek. Other supporters of H.R. 2850 include Vermont's Manufacturing Extension Partnerships and the Vermont Technology Council.

Vermont's business community is advocating "green chemistry and engineering" research. Vermont-based Seventh Generation Inc. is a leading nationwide distributor of environmentally sensitive household soaps, detergents, paper products and diapers. According to Jeff Hollender and Martin Wolfe at Seventh Generation, on the face of it, green chemistry is pretty basic: find ways to make non-toxic or less harmful chemical alternatives from non-toxic or less harmful raw materials using processes that don't create pollution, and manufacture goods using less water, energy, and other natural resources. While the concept is simple, the reality is far from it. However, instead of representing failure, the current lack of alternatives just means that a lot of work still needs to be done.

Educators in Vermont are also supportive of increasing resources for green chemistry research. Dr. Daniel Savin of the University of Vermont is doing critical green chemistry research on the development and use of biodegradable plastics that are derived from re-

newable biomass resources as an alternative to the traditional petroleum-based plastics, whose production results in harmful greenhouse gas emissions. Dr. Savin is investigating the extraction of the feedstock for a new plastics material from whey-protein, a natural byproduct of Vermont's very important cheese production. These plastics could be used in pest control applications, weed suppression, and water retention; reducing the use of harmful chemicals and the depletion of natural resources. This is just one example of the value of investing in green chemistry and engineering research.

H.R. 2850 represents an important investment in green chemistry and engineering research and education. I am pleased to support its passage and urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

TRIBUTE TO SPECIALIST ERIC M. HOLKE, CALIFORNIA NATIONAL GUARD

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 7, 2007

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to a hero from my congressional district, California National Guardsman Eric Holke. Today I ask that the House of Representatives honor and remember this incredible young man who died in service to his country.

Eric grew up in Riverside and Crestline, California. He graduated from Rim of the World High School in 1995 and was interested in working with children. Before Eric was deployed in December, he worked with autistic children and was attending college in hopes of becoming a teacher. Specialist Holke had a strong sense of duty: he had served two tours previously, one in Iraq and one in Afghanistan. During his tour in Iraq he was injured but dedicated himself to getting better so that he could reenlist, which he did. Specialist Holke was called up in December 2006 and on July 15, 2007 he was killed in action in Iraq.

In reading about Eric's life, I was impressed by his devotion to family, friends and children. He is survived by his wife Cassidhe and son Steven. Our community has lost a great man and Cassidhe and Steven have lost a wonderful husband and father.

As we look at the incredibly rich military history of our country we realize that this history is comprised of men, just like Eric, who bravely fought for the ideals of freedom and democracy. Each story is unique and humbling for those of us who, far from the dangers they have faced, live our lives in relative comfort and ease. The day the Holke family had to lay Eric to rest was probably the hardest moment the family has ever faced and my thoughts, prayers and deepest gratitude for their sacrifice goes out to them. There are no words that can relieve their pain and what words I offer only begin to convey my deep respect and highest appreciation.

Specialist Holke's wife, son, relatives and friends have given a part of themselves in the loss of their loved one and I hope they know that Specialist Holke, the goodness he brought to this world and the sacrifice he has made, will be remembered.