

S. 1402, VETERANS AND DEPENDENTS MILLENNIUM EDUCATION ACT

HON. CIRO D. RODRIGUEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 6, 2000

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. Mr. Speaker, as an original co-sponsor of the House version of this measure, I commend the House and the House Veterans' Affairs Committee for bringing this long-awaited increase in education resources for veterans to quick passage. I urge the Senate to accept the House version and send this bill to the President.

In this legislation, we boost Montgomery GI bill funding significantly. The increase is fully offset and will go directly to veterans to help pay for their education. The bill would primarily increase the Montgomery GI Bill (MGIB) benefit from \$536 to \$600 per month on October 1, 2000, and to \$720 per month on October 1, 2002, for full-time students, with proportionate increases for part-time students. I am disappointed that we cannot offer a benefit which is tied to the real escalating costs of higher education, and plans that recognize the actual growing costs of tuition should be given their day.

As a college professor who taught and advised students who were eligible for Montgomery GI bill benefits, I know first hand the tremendous help that this program has conferred upon those who have served their nation.

I am pleased with the additional provisions of S. 1402. As amended, these include:

1. Furnishing individuals still on active duty who either turned down a previous opportunity to convert to the MGIB or had a zero balance in their Vietnam-era Veterans' Education Assistance Program (VEAP) account, the option to pay \$2,700 to convert to MGIB eligibility.

2. Increasing survivors' and dependents' educational assistance benefits for full-time students from \$485 to \$600 per month effective October 1, 2000, and \$720 per month effective October 1, 2002, with proportionate increases for part-time students; also authorizes an annual cost of living adjustment.

4. Permitting the award of Survivors' and Dependents' Educational Assistance payments to be retroactive to the date of the entitling event, that is, service-connected death or award of 100 percent disability rating.

5. Allowing monthly educational assistance benefits to be paid between term, quarter, or semester intervals of up to 8 weeks.

6. Allowing use of MGIB benefits to pay the fee for a veteran's civilian occupational licensing or certification examination.

The added flexibility this bill would provide is crucial as more and more veterans seek higher education after their service. While this does not satisfy all the problems that may be out there or emerge in the future, it goes a long way in boosting the finest educational program for those who have served, the Montgomery GI bill.

I regret missing the vote on this important bill, where I would have voted aye on passage, as I was in the district attending my daughter's high school graduation.

TRIBUTE TO NORBERT L. KANE, AN OUTSTANDING EDUCATOR AND CHICAGO CITIZEN

HON. WILLIAM O. LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 6, 2000

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I would like to pay tribute today to a dedicated educator who has spent the last 44 years serving the Chicago Public School (CPS) system and the Southwest side of Chicago. This year, Norbert L. Kane, an Assistant Principal at Hubbard High School, will be retiring after 35 years of hard work for local students.

Norbert Kane represents all that Chicago citizens can ask for in an educator. He is a devoted family man, married to Delores Kane and a father of six children. Professionally, Norbert excelled in the program of management for Hubbard High School—Region 5. With his many organizational talents, Norbert earned the respect of his many colleagues and students.

In addition, Norbert has been honored for his many self-less contributions to the 3rd Congressional District and Southwest Chicago. For several years, Mr. Kane administered the Combined Charities Campaign, as well as numerous blood drives. He has also served as American Legion District Commander—1st Division, while being constantly committed to the beautification of Hubbard High School.

Mr. Speaker, Hubbard High School is regrettably going to lose an outstanding Assistant Principal and public servant. It gives me great pleasure to share Mr. Kane's accomplishments with my colleagues today. Again, I thank Norbert L. Kane for his many years of service, and I wish him equal success in his retirement.

THE RESURRECTION PROJECT CELEBRATES ITS 10TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. LUIS V. GUTIERREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 6, 2000

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Speaker, it is a great privilege for me to pay tribute to the Resurrection Project (TRP) for its invaluable work creating healthy communities on the occasion of its 10th anniversary.

Founded on May 22, 1990 by a coalition of Pilsen churches, The Resurrection Project is an institution-based neighborhood organization whose mission is to build relationships and challenge people to act on their faith and values to create healthy communities through organizing, education and community development.

The Resurrection Project provides assistance through community organizing, family programs, housing services, real estate development, asset management and workforce and business development.

The Resurrection Project builds institutional power and develops new leadership by organizing through its member institutions and block club network. TRP prepares leaders to actively participate in the issues affecting their

community. TRP's Family and Community Programs respond to the developmental needs of children, adults and families by building upon their values and culture. Each program works to build skills and create opportunities that promote stronger families. TRP programs include Esperanza Familiar (Family Hope), Supportive Housing Programs and the Centro Familiar Guadalupano (Guadalupano Family Center). The Housing Services division educates families on property ownership issues and facilitates investment by residents and financial institutions into the community.

TRP staff provides home owner education, client counseling and oversees the marketing and sales for its New Homes program. The Resurrection Project also develops and renovates community-owned real estate in a sustainable, affordable manner. TRP undertakes the property acquisition, financial packaging and construction management for its rental housing and commercial developments. TRP also oversees the physical, financial and tenant management of all its properties, ensuring the long term sustainability of the organization's real estate projects. TRP is developing the economic capacity of community residents through an innovative approach to workforce and business development. The Resurrection Construction Cooperative provides entrepreneurial assistance to new and emerging construction related businesses. The Resurrection Loan Fund provides working capital loans up to one-hundred thousand dollars to these businesses. The Resurrection Employment program offers comprehensive support to individuals seeking better employment. Staff provides support on an individual basis, assessing skills and guiding participants through the job-seeking process.

Resurrection Project's exceptional work for our community has been recognized with awards such as the LaSalle Bank's Tom Gobby Community Leadership Award, BP Amoco Foundation's BP Amoco Leader Award for job creation, Bank of America's Community Impact Award and Fannie Mae Foundation's Maxwell Award of Excellence for the Production of Low Income Housing.

Some of TRPs accomplishments include building 112 new homes for low and moderate income families, developing a new daycare and after school care center for 208 children, assisting 32 local contractors to begin, develop and expand their own construction businesses, creating a bilingual second stage housing program for homeless single mothers and generating more than twenty-five million dollars in community investment.

I have witnessed the many positive accomplishments of the Resurrection Project throughout my community. The organization's hard work, commitment and dedication is invaluable to the people I serve. I commend the Resurrection Project for ten years of building affordable new homes and rental housing, helping businesses grow, challenging community residents to become leaders and strengthening families through the development of new child care centers.

TRIBUTE TO FERNANDO LUIS GARCIA, EURIPIDES RUBIO, JR., CARLOS JAMES LOZADA AND HECTOR COLON SANTIAGO

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday June 6, 2000

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to call your attention to the deeds of four distinguished servicemen, who were honored on Friday, May 26, 2000 by the Puerto Rican Parade of Paterson 2000/Desfile Puertorriqueno, Inc. 2000 in coordination with Memorial Day. It is only fitting since these soldiers, Fernando Luis Garcia, Euripides Rubio, Jr., Carlos James Lozada and Hector Colon Santiago are among the 3,400 plus brave men that have merited the Medal of Honor. The Medal of Honor is the highest award for valor in action against an enemy force that can be bestowed upon an individual serving in the Armed Services of the United States. The Medal is generally presented to its recipient by the President of the United States of America in the name of Congress, it is often called the Congressional Medal of Honor. The world lost four truly remarkable people when these four brave men perished while in the line of duty.

Fernando Luis Garcia served as a Private First Class in the United States Marine Corps, Company, 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines, 1st Marine Division. He entered the service in San Juan Puerto Rico. He was born on August 14, 1929 in Utuado, Puerto Rico.

The stellar life of Fernando Luis Garcia was cut short when he was killed in Korea on September 5, 1952. An excerpt from his citation notes, "He was intrepid in his service as a member of Company I, in action against enemy aggressor forces. PFC Garcia unhesitatingly chose to sacrifice himself for the life of another Marine. His great personal valor and cool decision in the face of almost certain death, sustain and enhance the finest traditions of the United States Naval Services. He gallantly gave his life for his country."

Euripides Rubio, Jr. attained the rank of Captain in the United States Army in Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 28th Infantry, 1st Infantry Division, RVN. He entered the service at Fort Buchanan in Puerto Rico. He was born on March 1, 1938 in Ponce, Puerto Rico.

The military exploits of Euripides Rubio were marked with bravery and valor. He started his tour of duty on July 10, 1966 and lost his life on November 8, 1966 in Tay Ninh Province, Republic of Vietnam. He was 28 years old. His citation shows he was feted for, "Braving withering fire, aiding the wounded, unhesitatingly assuming command and selflessly exposing himself to enemy fire. Captain Rubio's singularly heroic act turned the tide of battle, and his extraordinary leadership and valor were a magnificent inspiration to his men." His name can be found on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, DC on the wall panel 12E, row 44.

Carlos James Lozada served his country at the rank of Private First Class in the United States Army, 2nd Battalion, 503rd Infantry, 173rd Airborne Brigade. He entered the service in New York City, New York. He was born on September 6, 1946 in Caguas, Puerto Rico.

The venerable Carlos James Lozada began his tour of duty on June 11, 1967. He was struck down, while missing, at the age of 21. He died on November 20, 1967 in Dak To, Republic of Vietnam. Part of his citation reads, "PFC Lozada apparently realized that if he abandoned his position, there would be nothing to hold back the surging North Vietnamese soldiers and that the entire Company withdrawal would be jeopardized. He made this decision realizing that the enemy was converging on three sides. His heroic deed served as an inspiration to his comrades throughout the ensuing four-day battle." His name is inscribed on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial wall panel 30E, row 45.

Hector Colon Santiago's rank was Specialist Fourth Class. He served in the United States Army, Company B, 5th Battalion, 7th Cavalry Division. He entered the service in New York City, New York. He was born on December 20, 1942 in Salinas, Puerto Rico.

A remarkable individual, Hector Colon Santiago began his tour of duty on October 23, 1967. He died at the age of 25 on June 28, 1968 in Quang Tri Province, Republic of Vietnam. A portion of his citation states, "Specialist Fourth Class Santiago-Colon distinguished himself at the cost of his life while serving as a gunner in the mortar platoon of Company B. He heroically sacrificed himself to save the lives of those who occupied the fox-hole with him, and provided them with the inspiration to continue fighting until they had forced the enemy to retreat from the perimeter." His name is etched in the wall of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial on panel 54W, Row, 13.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join our colleagues, the Puerto Rican Parade of Paterson 2000/Desfile Puertorriqueno, Inc. 2000, Puerto Rico, the United States and me in recognizing the outstanding and invaluable achievements and sacrifices of Fernando Luis Garcia, Euripides Rubio, Jr., Carlos James Lozada and Hector Colon Santiago. Each of these men was cited for, "Conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty."

TRIBUTE TO MARY KORTE—PRESIDENTIAL AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 6, 2000

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this moment to congratulate Mary Korte for receiving the 1999 Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching. She is one of 200 teachers to receive this prestigious award nationally and one of four to receive this award from Colorado. She will also receive a \$7,500 grant in the name of Grand Junction High School in conjunction with the award. Her dedication and enthusiasm are unsurpassed in the field of math and science.

Mary's real passion lies in educating her students about the environment. A class entitled "River Dynamics" is one included in her curriculum. This class allows students to rigorously investigate rivers using many different academic skills. She encourages students to

be "hands on" and enjoys seeing them actively participate in their environmental communities.

It is encouraging to see teachers of Mary's stature receive awards for excellence in their prescribed academic rigor. Mary has also received the Radio Shack National Teachers Award among her many accomplishments. I am confident she will continue to strive for academic excellence and continue to encourage our future generations to pursue an active role in the health of their environment.

THE ADMISSION OF ISRAEL TO THE "WEOG" GROUP AT THE UNITED NATIONS IS A CRITICAL STEP FORWARD

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 6, 2000

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, just a few days ago the leaders of Western Europe took an immensely important step by inviting the State of Israel to join the "Western Europe and Other Group" (WEOG) at the United Nations. Membership in a regional grouping is significant at the United Nations because seats on the UN Security Council and other similar rotating positions are made through regional caucuses.

Israel has been a member of the United Nations since 1949—the year after the State of Israel was officially proclaimed—but during that half century, until it was invited to join the WEOG group last week, it was never a member of a regional group. As a result, Israel is the only country in the UN never to hold one of the rotating Security Council seats.

Mr. Speaker, this welcome decision is one that many of our colleagues in the Congress have fought to achieve through letters, resolutions and similar actions. Several months ago, at my suggestion, the ambassadors in Washington of the countries who are members of the WEOG group were invited to a meeting with members of the Committee on International Relations, where we pressed for the inclusion of Israel in that regional grouping. This important meeting made clear to our friends in Western Europe the importance that we in the Congress have given to this issue, and I think it was essential in helping to overcome the ill-founded resistance to Israel's participation in WEOG.

As I said to that large group of ambassadors attending the meeting, geographical proximity is not a consideration since WEOG includes, Turkey, the United States, Canada, Australia and New Zealand, in addition to the countries of Western Europe. Israel's strong links with Europe and North America as well as its advanced economy make its interests and policies very consistent with those of the other participants in the WEOG. Israel's exclusion from the Asia Group and the Middle East subgroup is a case of blatant discrimination and a deliberate effort to de-legitimize the State of Israel.

Some of the countries who are members of WEOG were particularly supportive of Israel's participation, and I want to thank in particular the United Kingdom, as well as the northern countries of Denmark, Norway, Sweden and Finland for their enlightened efforts on this matter.