

Chihuly, jazz virtuoso Ernestine Anderson, Pulitzer Prize winning cartoonist David Horsey, and playwright August Wilson. Her memorable performances with the Seattle Opera and the Seattle Symphony merit the Rainier Club adulation.

We look forward to future renditions of the world's great music by the versatile Jane Eaglen. I would invite you to Seattle to hear her in the complete Ring cycle this August, but the Seattle Opera says it's sold out.

FRIENDS OF THE CHILDREN
NATIONAL DEMONSTRATION ACT

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 27, 2005

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, I am introducing the "Friends of the Children National Demonstration Act" that would authorize \$7.5 million for Friends of the Children to support local program operations at existing sites and to disseminate findings to policymakers and other youth-serving programs. Friends of the Children is the only program in the nation that provides carefully screened full-time professional mentors to at-risk children for 12 years starting at five years of age.

This innovative program began in Portland, Oregon, starting in 1993 with 3 "Friends", mentors serving 24 children. Today, Friends of the Children serves over 600 children in 11 communities across the nation. The young people who participate are truly the most defenseless—they are children of poverty; they have been in foster care, on welfare, and have parents who are incarcerated or are homeless.

I look forward to working with my colleagues to pass this bill and make a commitment to improving the lives of at-risk children.

CONGRATULATING WEST ANCHORAGE
HIGH SCHOOL ON ITS PARTICIPATION
IN THE "WE THE PEOPLE" COMPETITION

HON. DON YOUNG

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 27, 2005

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, from April 30–May 2, 2005 more than 1200 students from across the United States will visit Washington, D.C. to take part in the national finals of We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution, the most extensive educational program in the country developed specifically to educate young people about the U.S. Constitution and Bill of Rights. Administered by the Center for Civic Education, the We the People program is funded by the U.S. Department of Education.

I am proud to announce that the class from West Anchorage High School will represent the state of Alaska in this prestigious national event. These outstanding students, through their knowledge of the U.S. Constitution, won their statewide competition and earned the chance to come to our nation's capitol and compete at the national level.

While in Washington, the students will participate in a three-day academic competition

that simulates a congressional hearing in which they "testify" before a panel of judges. Students demonstrate their knowledge and understanding of constitutional principles and have opportunities to evaluate, take, and defend positions on relevant historical and contemporary issues. It is important to note that the Educational Testing Service (ETS) characterizes the We the People program as a "great instructional success." Independent studies by ETS have revealed that We the People students "significantly outperformed comparison students on every topic of the tests taken."

Congratulations to Elizabeth DeYoung, Monique Eniero, Roberta Gordaoff, Danielle Johnson, Jayme Johnson, Vassar Louis-Bradford, Gareth Olds, Michael Pascual, Courtney Prokosch, Alexander Richert, Gerriane Villanueva, Jeffery Wittsey and their teacher Pamela Orme.

I wish these students the best of luck at the We the People national finals and applaud their outstanding achievement.

APPLAUDING KAZAKHSTAN'S
PRESIDENT NURSULTAN
NAZARBAYEV

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 27, 2005

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the President and the people of Kazakhstan on the 10th anniversary of the removal of the last nuclear weapons from their territory within the framework of the Cooperative Threat Reduction program.

I applaud Kazakhstan's President Nursultan Nazarbayev's leadership and courage. Today, we can state with great confidence that the decision of Kazakhstan's leader to renounce the world's fourth largest arsenal of deadly nuclear weapons was made not only in the interest of the mankind, but it has changed the course of world history. As we all know, proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and international terrorism remain major threats to the world in this new century. It is frightful to imagine a scenario where terrorist organizations such as Al-Qaeda could have gained access to Kazakhstan's nuclear arsenal.

Mankind is more secure because of the contribution of Kazakhstan and its leader.

Kazakhstan is a universally recognized leader and one of the key players in nonproliferation and deserves praise for its actions. We believe Kazakhstan, under the leadership of President Nazarbayev, will continue to strengthen this role.

Kazakhstan stands firmly by its international commitments in nonproliferation and stands ready to expand this cooperation with the United States. Convincing evidence of the growing cooperation was evident in the signing in the December 2004 amendment to the bilateral agreement on the nonproliferation of weapons of mass destruction which brought the two nations to a new level of cooperation in preventing the threat of bio-terrorism.

Today, we mark not only the successful interaction between our nations in nonproliferation, but also the growing relations of the strategic partnership between the United States and Kazakhstan. Since the first days of

independence Kazakhstan has chosen to build a truly democratic and market oriented society, and proved itself as a strong and essential partner and ally of the United States. American people will never forget the support of the President and people of Kazakhstan at the difficult time following 9/11. I would also like to express my gratitude to Kazakh military engineers who have so far destroyed more than 3 million pieces of ordnance in Iraq, and saved the lives of many Iraqis and those of our brave soldiers.

Kazakhstan's continued dynamic development is a pledge of prosperity and stability for all of Central Asia. President Nazarbayev rightfully should get credit for transforming his country into an undeniable leader in political and economic reforms.

Mr. Speaker, again I would like to congratulate the President and the people of Kazakhstan on their achievements and wish this young country full achievement of its potential. With a great deal of optimism, I look forward to the years ahead as the partnership between Kazakhstan and the United States strengthens to benefit the people of both nations and the world at large.

RECOGNIZING THE DISTINGUISHED
SERVICE OF THE CASTRO
BROTHERS

HON. DUNCAN HUNTER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 27, 2005

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor eight brothers who have distinguished service records worthy of commendation. Although men in the same families have served side by side and generation after generation throughout our nation's history, few families can claim the level of service that is shared by the Castro family. Together, the Castro brothers' military service totals 172 years, an average of nearly 22 years each.

As Chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, I want to thank the Castro brothers for their distinguished leadership, dedication and service to their country, community and fellow veterans. My fellow colleagues, I ask that you join me in recognizing: Master Sergeant Abe Castro, Sergeant First Class Carlos Castro, Sergeant Jose Castro, Sergeant Juan Castro, Sergeant Erasmo Castro, Captain Julio Castro, Master Sergeant Basilio Castro, and Sergeant Arthur Castro. While each of the Castro brothers served our nation with honor and distinction, I would like to pay particular attention to the service of Abe and Jose Castro. As a rifleman in World War II and Korea, Abe was wounded a total of five times, received four Purple Hearts, two Combat Infantry Badges, a Silver Star, a Bronze Star, and seven battle stars. His brother Jose, who served in the Korean War, was wounded 3 times in combat, and recommended for the Bronze and Silver Stars.

During this time of conflict, patriotism runs high and many Americans ask what they can do for their country. The Castro brothers, like those on guard today, have made the bold and courageous decision to dedicate a part of their lives to making our nation and the world a safer place for all. They responded to our nation's call by voluntarily offering their service and contributing their very best.