

public school districts in the county and the Delaware County School Boards' Legislative Council.

The issue of unfunded mandates has received much attention lately. I want to commend County Council for the leadership you have shown in bringing this issue to the attention of the general public. We can also look at Governor-elect Tom Ridge's campaign pledge in which he states: "I will fight to give our communities greater control over their schools and tax dollars, free from state micromanagement. I want to provide districts with relief from existing state mandates and stop the flow of new ones to encourage greater local control and help ease the pressure on local property taxes." Likewise, the new leadership in Congress has also expressed their intent to focus on this issue. It appears that the issue of unfunded mandates is approaching front-burner status on the political agenda.

Focusing public attention on unfunded mandates and the impact they have on local school district budgets has also been a priority of Delaware County school districts for the past five years. In the 1991-92 school year, a committee of superintendents and school board members started a process to identify some of the high cost mandates affecting schools. A survey was developed and completed by all school districts that identified and placed a dollar cost on some critical areas. A presentation of the results was made to the Delaware County legislative delegation at the School Boards' Annual Legislative Breakfast held on May 15, 1992. The following is a partial list of the information shared at that time. Although the cost data will have changed since that time, what hasn't changed is the economic impact these mandates have on local school budgets.

Certification restrictions and staff ratios as applied to Nurses, Dental Hygienists, Librarians (\$3,014,750)

Sabbatical leaves for purposes of study and travel (\$4,508,317 over previous five years)

State requirement to transport nonpublic school students up to ten miles outside local school district boundaries (\$6,072,374)

Use of prevailing wage rate on school construction projects in excess of \$25 thousand (\$12,329,800 over previous five years and projected for immediate future)

Asbestos abatement (\$17,650,107)

Underground storage tank inspection and removal (\$5,901,000)

Transportation of Early Intervention students (\$302,600)

The development of Act 178 Professional Development Plans (\$668,000)

Implementation of a Teacher Induction Program (\$173,730)

Special education costs have consistently exceeded the funds available from both state and federal sources. Because of the many due process requirements and the strict limitations on class size along with additional supportive services needed, this is an expensive mandate. In addition, while not required to do so under federal law, Pennsylvania has chosen to include the education of the gifted under state special education rules and regulations. The federal government originally promised to fund 40% of the cost of this law but in actuality the federal share has never exceeded 12%. It must be said that in and of themselves each of the mandates may be considered to serve a noble purpose. However, the cumulative effects of these and all the other mandates imposed on local districts impose a fiscal and human resource cost on schools. Meeting the demands of some of these mandates may take away resources from other areas of the school program deemed important by the local community.

As a next step in this process, the fifteen Delaware County school districts and the In-

termediate Unit have contracted with the Pennsylvania Economy League to identify existing mandates that impact upon the operation of the schools and to assess their economic impact. In addition, the other three suburban intermediate units in Bucks, Chester and Montgomery Counties have likewise expressed an interest in participating and supporting this study.

In 1982 the Pennsylvania Local Government Commission, after an exhaustive study, identified 6,979 state imposed mandates upon local government units in Pennsylvania. Moreover, the Pennsylvania School Boards Association, representing all 501 school districts in the Commonwealth has identified burdensome mandates the Association has targeted for legislative remedy including the following:

Prohibiting the furlough of staff for economic reasons;

The requirement to transport nonpublic students up to 10 miles outside the district;

The awarding of tenure after two years of successful teaching;

The requirement to hire certificated school nurses, dental hygienists and home and school visitors according to a state-established pupil ratio;

Providing full year and split year sabbaticals for travel;

Permanent certification for teachers and administrators.

It is clear that now is the time for concerted action by all agencies of local government to ease the financial burden caused by unfunded or partially funded state and federal mandates. On behalf of Mr. Walter Senkow, President of the Intermediate Unit Board of Directors, Mr. James Fahey, Chairman of the School Boards' Legislative Council, and Dr. Roger Place, Chairman of the Superintendents' Advisory Council, I commend County Council and our legislative delegation for sponsoring today's hearing. We stand ready to work cooperatively with you to address these important concerns.

TRIBUTE TO JESS SOLTESS

HON. SANDER M. LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 19, 1995

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Jess Soltes as he retires from the position of Ferndale city manager after 24 years of distinguished service to Ferndale, MI, and the surrounding community. In 1971, Jess began his distinguished career serving Ferndale as community development services director. In 1978, he was elevated to his current position of city manager.

Mr. Speaker, I have had the pleasure to represent the city of Ferndale for 13 years. It is a dynamic community growing and changing to better serve its citizens. Jess has truly played a key role in Ferndale's development and success.

On the occasion of his retirement, I would like to congratulate and thank Jess Soltes for his commitment and dedication to the city of Ferndale. I would like to extend my best wishes to Jess and his wife Sue for many years of health and happiness.

TRIBUTE IN MEMORY OF SLAIN
SAN ANTONIO POLICE OFFICER
FABIAN DOMINGUEZ

HON. FRANK TEJEDA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 19, 1995

Mr. TEJEDA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a grim duty, to report to you and the House the senseless murder of Fabian Dominguez, a patrolman who served valiantly on the San Antonio Police Force. In an act of selfless duty, he lost his life at the hands of young thugs.

The details are poignant: On his way home from his shift, Patrolman Dominguez stopped to investigate a suspicious situation at his neighbor's home. He surprised some would-be burglars and was shot to death. Three teenagers have been charged with his murder.

At his funeral, the pastor of Trinity Baptist Church, the Reverend Buckner Fanning, is reported to have said: "Fabian was off-duty. Duty didn't require he stop. But love did. Commitment did. Love for God. Love for his neighbor. Love always stops where there's trouble. Love never takes a vacation. Love is never off-duty." These words ring true.

We in this Congress must continue to strive to convince our youth, our children, that life is precious, not something to be thrown away casually. We hear about a lack of values in our society, and it stems from the failure to recognize the special unique spirit of each human. It stems from a lack of self-respect. Our challenge is to create incentives to put that ultimate value, the value of human life, into the hearts of all of us.

Each day, in San Antonio and in other cities, towns, and counties across this country, law enforcement officers put their lives on the line to protect us from those who would do us harm. Some walk the beat, some patrol in cars, on horseback or bicycles, and yet others serve from behind the desk. Brave men and women, dedicated to public safety, give us their all, and it is appropriate for us in this House of Representatives to pay tribute to each of them.

Patrolman Dominguez was laid to rest with full honors yesterday. In recognition of his service, Police Chief William Gibson retired badge No. 0399, worn proudly by Mr. Dominguez. Our hearts go out to his family, and particularly to his wife and twin 8-month-old daughters, who will look at the American flag given to them, first draped over their husband's and father's coffin, with pride and sadness.

INTRODUCTION OF A BILL TO PROHIBIT PAY AND ALLOWANCES TO INCARCERATED MILITARY PERSONNEL

HON. BLANCHE LAMBERT LINCOLN

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 19, 1995

Mrs. LINCOLN. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to introduce legislation that would prohibit pay and allowances to military personnel who are under a sentence that includes dismissal or a dishonorable or bad-conduct discharge. In this