

deliver troops and vital supplies in support of operations such as Desert Shield/Desert Storm, Grenada, and most recently in Haiti. In recognition of these readiness and port security missions, the Appropriations Subcommittee on National Security, which I chair, has consistently provided funding support for the Coast Guard. In addition, I have worked to ensure that we better link our military intelligence assets with the Coast Guard to provide greater assistance in its drug-interdiction and security-related efforts. Such intelligence and detection capabilities dramatically improve the Coast Guard's ability to do its job, and I look forward to promoting more effective cooperation between the services in the future.

While the duties and expectations of the Coast Guard continue to grow, the funding necessary to fully meet them has not. Over the years, the Coast Guard has worked to find cost-effective ways to meet the demands placed upon it within an extremely tight budget, and I commend them. It is difficult to find another part of Government that does so much, so well, with so little. The last 2 years serve as the greatest example of this conflict between goals and resources. This administration has recommended sharp reductions in funding for drug interdiction, and as a result reports now indicate Caribbean trafficking may again be rising.

Changing administration policies with regard to Haiti and Cuba have encouraged greater and greater numbers of refugees to take to the water, forcing the Coast Guard to shift assets from other important areas to tackle this overwhelming burden. In each of these instances, the Coast Guard has become our Nation's last line of defense, and the line is being stretched thinner and thinner.

If past performance is any guide, the men and women of the Coast Guard will continue to meet the new threats to America's national and economic security with creativity, perseverance, and professionalism. Mr. Speaker, I salute them and their important mission and rise in support of this legislation to give them the tools to continue to undertake their important work which saves lives and protects our coastline.

RACHEL D. KILLIAN,
SCRIPTWRITING CONTEST WINNER

HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 11, 1995

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, each year the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States and its ladies auxiliary conduct the Voice of Democracy broadcast scriptwriting contest. This past year, more than 126,000 secondary school students participated in the contest competing for the 54 national scholarships totaling more than \$109,000.

This year's Tennessee winner is Rachel D. Killian, a junior at South-Doyle High School. Miss Killian is an active member of her student council, enjoys reading and drama, and belongs to Knoxville Youth in Government. She plans a career in television and radio journalism-communications. Miss Killian was sponsored by VEW Post 1733 and its ladies auxiliary in Knoxville, TN.

I would ask that Miss Killian's essay, "My Vision for America" be entered into the RECORD. I believe we can all benefit from her insightful, patriotic remarks:

MY VISION FOR AMERICA

This country was founded by people of great vision. Although they came from different countries and backgrounds, they had a common dream which brought them together—the dream of a land where they could have better lives. By working together, these strong pioneers made this dream of freedom and opportunity a fantastic reality we call "America."

During the past two hundred years, this vision of freedom has appealed to many trapped under oppressive governments. Thousands found their way to America each year, escaping from wars, hunger, political unrest and religious persecution. They found a haven in America. These immigrants are our ancestors. They are our relatives not necessarily by blood, but by a common heritage. They endured many pains and sacrifices to arrive here. Many had nothing to hang on to but a dream.

These early Americans were genuinely grateful for every opportunity they were given. They respected the government for all it provided and gladly participated in the duties of citizenship. Unlike the grateful citizens of the past, many Americans today insult the government and blame the system for every problem. They demand benefits, such as military protections, without accepting the burden of paying taxes. They often believe they are entitled to certain rights over others and have forgotten what it means to be tolerant of others' beliefs. Worst of all, they display a loss of confidence in the future of America and the capability of American leaders. These unpatriotic feelings are destroying the optimism, the honor and the pride we should have in America. Because there are people burning with anger instead of burning with pride, we have lost the sense of brotherhood which once flowed from sea to shining sea and united this country.

My vision of America calls for a change in every American heart. We must remember the dreams of our immigrant ancestors and imitate some of their patriotic values such as love for each other, for our community and for our government. The men and women who created our nation did not expect others to rescue them from hardships. They were not complainers, but achievers, and their hard work brought America prosperity.

In my dream we are more like our ancestors. We are people of vision pushing for what we know is right. We display tolerance and patience for other individuals, and we emphasize our similarities rather than our differences. We look at our collective ancestors and say, "We are one, with one spirit. We are an American Family."

In my vision, I see a "new" America with patriotic citizens who know and appreciate all the lyrics to the "Star-Spangled Banner." I see citizens who talk about what's right with the country instead of what's wrong, where Uncle Sam is welcome at every dinner table and where citizens are proud to show they are Americans at times other than during the Olympics. I see a country that shares dreams and reaches for goals that will benefit everyone, not just a select few. I see Americans with changed attitudes toward each other and a land where every worker has a respected place and purpose—where every single person feels like an important part of one united spirit.

There are ways that my vision for America could be achieved. First, American newspapers need to print more positive articles to improve the public morale. Second, to remind citizens of their many blessings, ev-

eryone needs to be informed of the lack of human rights in other countries. It is so easy to forget how lucky we are to be living in the United States. Finally, Americans must stop dividing into so many groups. Instead of being Democrat or Republican, upper class or blue collar, black or white, we should be American. If we are going to be strong as a country, and supportive of each other, then we must be united as a people.

My vision for America is not a new one. Our ancestors held the same hopes for this country, but over the years their visions have been forgotten. If we could remember one thing from their success, then it should be that we must never stop believing in our visions for America. History has taught us that there are dreams that can come true.

VISION FOR AMERICA

HON. MICHAEL BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 11, 1995

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, each year the Veterans of Foreign Wars and its ladies auxiliary conduct the Voice of Democracy broadcast scriptwriting contest. This year more than 126,000 secondary school students participated in the contest, competing for the 54 national scholarships totaling more than \$109,000. The contest theme for this year was "My Vision For America."

I am proud to announce that one of my constituents, Stephen Jensen, won fourth place honors and a \$6,000 scholarship in the Voice of Democracy contest. Stephen is a junior at Tarpon Springs High School and hopes to pursue a career in entertainment or public relations.

In his speech, Stephen reminds us all of what can be accomplished when people are united by a common objective. I would like to share Stephen's speech with you.

What a vision we must have been. Drenched in sweat, caked with mud, and surrounded by the foul stench of rotting vegetation and debris, over six thousand volunteers toiled in Albany, Georgia this past summer under the blazing July sun to help the people whose lives were devastated by the worst floods in recent history. Side by side we gutted out homes and churches sodden by the floods and stripped the buildings down to their foundations. Sharing in this service gave me a vision of what an American community can accomplish when people are united by a common purpose.

There are those in this country who are overwhelmed by another flood sweeping through the streets of our land. The surge of violence and crime, drug abuse, loss of private and public virtue and the erosion of the family are but some of the storm-waters surging over the banks in our country today. Our first reaction is to view these problems with bitterness and despair, but if we can truly hold on to a positive vision, we will not lose hope. Let us share in the view expressed by American poet, Carl Sandburg when he wrote, "I see America not in the setting sun of a black night of despair ahead of us. I see America in the crimson light of a rising sun, fresh from the burning, creative hand of God. I see great days ahead, great days possible to men and women of will and vision."

Experiencing great opposition is not unique to Americans today. Are the challenges we face any more difficult than those faced by previous generations? Early colonists struggled with disease, famine, and the