

NATIONAL SENIOR CENTER WEEK

HON. CHARLES E. SCHUMER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 17, 1995

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to announce that the week of May 14–21, 1995, has been designated National Senior Center Week. The 335 senior centers in New York City will join with the over 10,000 senior centers nationally and the National Council on Aging's National Institute of Senior Centers as sponsors of the week. The Council of Senior Centers and Services is coordinating the Senior Center Week Celebration in New York City.

In addition to the importance of providing meals for seniors living on tight budgets, senior centers are vital meeting places that serve the educational and social needs of our Nation's seniors. The sense of community experienced by an isolated older person of any income level or as a place to proudly bring younger family members adds immeasurably to the quality of life and emotional and physical well-being. I also know the value of senior centers from personal experience—they were a great benefit to my grandparents.

By naming this week National Senior Center Week, we are acknowledging the vital work that goes on every day to create a safe haven for seniors. I know all my colleagues in the House of Representatives will join me in applauding their efforts and wishing all our senior centers many more years of success.

TRIBUTE TO DR. RICHARD J.
ZANINI**HON. BARBARA B. KENNELLY**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 17, 1995

Mrs. KENNELLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an outstanding educator, Dr. Richard J. Zanini of Wethersfield, CT, who is retiring in June. During his 35 years of service Dr. Zanini served as a teacher, a program specialist, a supervisor, and assistant superintendent. For the last 13 years, he has served as superintendent of schools in Wethersfield.

Dr. Zanini was educated at the University of Massachusetts and at the University of Connecticut, where he received his Ph.D. in 1969. After serving in the army, he began teaching history and social studies in Connecticut in the early 1960's. He then helped shape Federal education policy as a program specialist at the U.S. Department of Education in Washington for 2 years before returning to the classroom.

In 1972, Dr. Zanini became the assistant superintendent of schools in Hebron, Andover, and Marlborough. He served in a similar role in the Wethersfield school system for 5 years before becoming the superintendent in 1982.

During Dr. Zanini's tenure in Wethersfield, several schools have been recognized for excellence. Wethersfield High School became a 4-year high school and won statewide recognition in 1983 and again in 1994. Silas Deane Junior High School received wide acclaim, including designation as an exemplary school by the U.S. Department of Education in 1991 and the kindergarten center received national accreditation in 1993.

Despite difficult economic times, Dr. Zanini hired outstanding administrators, teachers, and support staff, and ensured buildings were repaired in a timely manner. He always treated colleagues, parents, and students with respect and professionalism. We will all miss this respected leader who has worked so hard on behalf of students for so long.

Dr. Zanini's leadership, attention to detail, thorough knowledge of State and Federal regulations, and his vision have served the Wethersfield district—and all his previous districts and schools—well. We thank him for his dedicated service and wish him the best upon his retirement.

SOUTH DAKOTA VOICE OF
DEMOCRACY WINNER**HON. TIM JOHNSON**

OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 17, 1995

Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Mr. Speaker, Ms. Becky Fischer of Eureka, SD, was recently selected as a State winner in the Voice of Democracy broadcast script writing contest conducted each year by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States and its ladies auxiliary. The contest theme for this year was "My Vision for America," and of the more than 126,000 secondary school students who participated in this year's contest, Becky was also named a winner at the national level. Mr. Speaker, I'm inserting Becky's winning script in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. She deserves to be commended for her exceptional efforts in writing this script and participating in this contest. Becky's insights and enthusiasm will serve as a model to others her age:

MY VISION FOR AMERICA

Picture a small child, and in his busy little hands, a fragile, crystal antique vase. Unless this child has been properly educated in the handling, care, and value of this vase, the owner of this treasure would be extremely nervous. Americans are permitting every child in the United States to grasp a vase—this "vase" is our future. These children must be prepared today to meet and conquer the challenges of tomorrow. The future of America is held in the hands of the children; therefore, my vision for America includes a brighter, bolder, well-educated society achieved by what the children are experiencing today.

In order to fulfill my vision for America, we must take care of the children. Teaching children to take care of their bodies by following wise health habits will build their strength and endurance. If a child is not physically strong enough to hold the vase, it could drop and shatter. If the children of America are not physically sound, dreams for America's future could be crushed.

We must also take care of America's children emotionally. A child must possess a strong sense of self-confidence, believing in himself and his ability to contribute to society. Henry Ford said, "Don't find fault—Find a remedy." We must build a child's self-esteem. Consider 1 Thessalonians 5:11, "Therefore encourage one another and build each other up * * *". If a child believes he can accomplish his goals, whether it be carrying a priceless antique or creating a better future for America, he will be prepared to meet these goals.

A strong education in our schools and homes is also necessary for every American

child to secure my vision for America. Teachers and schools play a vital role in the education of a child. With continued excellence in our nation's schools, opportunities are unlimited for a child to learn, adjust to change, and meet new challenges. By nature, a child has an open mind and a willingness to ask questions. A child will develop his own vision for America through a solid education.

Parents and family have the chief responsibility for educating our children though. Children model themselves largely on their parents. A parent must act like the type of person they want their child to become since things parents do and say strongly influence a child. If parents teach a child how to support the vase by their own example, that child will be able to hold the vase with confidence. If a parent instills a positive attitude in a child regarding the American spirit, that child will look to this country's future with energy and enthusiasm.

My vision for America can be achieved in various ways. By setting a good example, children will have footsteps to follow. Along with their own experiences, future decisions these children make will be determined by what they have learned from our examples in their past. To preserve the safety of the "vase," we have the opportunity and the responsibility to set a good example.

Every American citizen must participate in preparing the children for a successful future. Henry Wadsworth Longfellow said, "Give what you have, to someone it may be better than you dare think." Our nation is composed of unique individuals, each with their own talents. We need to focus these varied talents on the children; they need each and every one of us. All of us together will help prepare these children for the future.

In conclusion, we are all now holding the "vase," but we must pass it on to the children of America. If we continue to take care of the children, physically and emotionally, provide a superior education for them in the schools and in our homes, and set good examples, we are contributing together to prepare our children for tomorrow. The future of America is held in the hands of the children; therefore, my vision for America includes a brighter, bolder, well-educated society achieved by what the children are experiencing today.

TRIBUTE TO DR. RICHARD ALAN
YANIKOSKI**HON. WILLIAM O. LIPINSKI**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 17, 1995

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Dr. Richard Alan Yanikoski who will be inaugurated on May 19, 1995, as president of Xavier University located in the Third Congressional District of Illinois. Dr. Yanikoski was selected after a nationwide search conducted by the university's board of Trustees attracted distinguished candidates from all regions of the country. Dr. Yanikoski is the 12th president of the 148-year-old college, the oldest higher education institution in the city of Chicago.

Dr. Richard Yanikoski has served in the field of higher education for over 19 years. Previously, Dr. Yanikoski held the position of director of the Harry F. and Elaine M. Chaddick Institute and served as associate professor and director of DePaul University's Public