

professional achievement. I commend the SIF for the encouragement it provides to some of our Nation's most outstanding young scholars and future leaders.

At this year's event, the SIF presented scholarships to the winners of the 1995 National Leadership Grant Competition, the SIF's annual merit-based national scholarship competition. In addition, the SIF presented the 1995 NELA to businessman and philanthropist Joseph E. Antonini. Mr. Antonini's achievements in leading one of our Nation's largest retailers, Kmart Corp., and his strong support of charitable and educational institutions in Michigan and in his native State of West Virginia speak volumes for his character, perseverance, and leadership. In selecting Mr. Antonini for this honor and in awarding a merit-based academic scholarship in his name, the SIF has recognized one of the Italian-American community's most outstanding role models.

Mr. Antonini's rise from management trainee to corporate chief executive is an inspiring example of the American dream. The career of this son of Italian immigrants serves as a reminder of why our parents and grandparents traveled to this country and why today's immigrants are so eager to make their homes in our great country. Most appropriately, the scholarship that the SIF awarded in Mr. Antonini's name can now help the dreams and aspirations of an outstanding young student come true. There is no more important work for us to perform, no greater gift we can give.

The Order of the Sons of Italy of America's long and distinguished record of generous support for education should be recognized and praised. During the past three decades, OSIA and the SIF have distributed more than \$20 million for academic scholarships. The leaders of OSIA and the SIF have set a worthy example for other nonprofit organizations in their unselfish support of the young of our Nation.

I commend Ms. Joanne L. Strollo, national president of OSIA and chairwoman of the SIF; Mr. Valentino Ciullo, president of the SIF; Mr. Joseph Sciame, chairman of OSIA's National Education Committee; Ambassador Peter F. Secchia, NELA dinner chairman; and Dr. Philip R. Piccigallo, national executive director of the OSIA and the SIF, for their leadership roles in the 1995 NELA ceremony and the National Leadership Grant Competition.

Listed below are the names of the 10 winners of the National Leadership Grant Competition. These young men and women represent our Nation's highest level of academic achievement and leadership potential. I offer congratulations and heartfelt wishes for future success to:

Dominic A. Ricci, Joseph E. Antonini scholarship.

Brett Vasconcellos, Henry Salvatori scholarship.

Joseph H. Casola Jr., Louis J. Free-Michael Cappellotti-Daniel A. D'Amico scholarship.

Natalie A. DiPietro, The Hon. Frank J. Montemuro scholarship.

Danielle M. Dorsaneo, Pearl Tubiolo scholarship.

Morgan Lazzaro-Smith, Joanne L. Strollo scholarship.

Matthew J. Lazzara, Dr. Anthony S. Fauci scholarship.

William Lentz, The Hon. Silvio O. Conte scholarship.

Gary W. Caliendo, Lou Carnesecca scholarship.

Stacy Deanne Cerrutti, Giovanni Glessi scholarship.

#### RESCUE OF CAPT. SCOTT O'GRADY

### HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 8, 1995

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, this morning the Nation awoke to some great news, for once, coming out of Bosnia. The young pilot, Scott O'Grady, of our F-16 that was downed last week over Bosnia was well back in our hands. Captain O'Grady's rescue culminated 5½ days of riding an emotional rollercoaster for his family, his comrades at Aviano and for the entire Nation. We join with his family in our heartfelt thanks to all those who participated in his outstanding rescue, and our appreciation for this one chapter with a happy ending in the on-going Bosnian tragedy.

Recently, along with some of my colleagues, we had the opportunity to visit our airmen at the Aviano airbase in Italy from which Captain O'Grady flies. We were impressed at that time with the dedication and the high professionalism of all our personnel who serve with the NATO operation assisting the United Nations in Bosnia. This morning's dramatic operation only adds to our sense of admiration for the skill and training of these courageous young people serving in our military.

I would first of all congratulate Captain O'Grady for his skill and perserverance in surviving and evading capture behind enemy lines. I am confident that the Bosnian Serbs expended a great deal of effort in trying to locate him to use as another pawn in their cruel exploitation of U.N. peacekeepers in Bosnia. Captain O'Grady did everything possible to avoid providing the Serbs with a possible asset to use to hamstring this government. The fact that Captain O'Grady was found in relatively good health is a tribute to the superb services training our pilots receive.

Secondly, I congratulate the personnel aboard the USS *Keats* and all those who have undertaken the painstaking search and rescue operation that has been ongoing since the moment that SAM 6 struck Captain O'Grady's plane. The rescuers never gave up hope, and their confidence finally paid off. I particularly offer my praise for a job superbly done to the marines of the 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit that executed this daring rescue. They are a credit to all our men and women who serve this country in our Armed Forces. The Air Force and Naval personnel who supported the 24th MEU in this operation are also to be credit with the professionalism and persistence that made today's rescue possible. I know my colleagues join with me in extending our Nation's praise and gratitude.

#### HONORING PROJECT SANDOVAL COUNTY

### HON. BILL RICHARDSON

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 8, 1995

Mr. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, at a time when we are considering significant reductions in Federal funding for a wide array of domestic programs, it is important that we do our best in helping recipients find alternative resources. We can learn a great deal from groups and organizations which are succeeding with little or no Federal assistance and try to apply these success stories to other needy groups.

I call my colleagues attention to one such group in my congressional district, Project Sandoval County, Inc., which is run by two remarkable and dedicated women, Marty Sena and Yolanda Hall.

Project Sandoval County, Inc. is a New Mexico non-profit corporation dedicated to providing support services to victims of domestic violence, offender education and community education. Marty and Yolanda started the project out of their homes almost a year ago. Services are provided at no cost to the victims.

Domestic violence is a serious problem that crosses economic lines. Abusers and victims come from every social, racial and educational background. What Ms. Sena and Ms. Hall do, with their own money and with money they raise in the community, is provide victims of domestic violence with support groups, legal advocacy, 24-hour crisis intervention, children's assistance, and community education. They are also providing offenders with anger management counseling.

At a time when Federal funds for programs that combat domestic violence are threatened, it is important that we pay tribute to women like Ms. Sena and Ms. Hall who are making their life's work helping victims of domestic violence. I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring these women and suggest we and others can learn from their successes.

#### H.R. 1501, THE STUDENT LOAN PRIVATIZATION ACT

### HON. ERNEST J. ISTOOK, JR.

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 8, 1995

Mr. ISTOOK. Mr. Speaker, please include the following remarks in the RECORD regarding H.R. 1501, The Student Loan Privatization Act.

#### STATEMENT OF THE HONORABLE ERNEST ISTOOK

Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to speak with you today regarding the federal student loan programs. I congratulate you on holding this hearing on an area of federal policy so important to America's future.

I am one of over four dozen members of the House of Representatives who have come to the conclusion that the Federal Direct Student Loan Program enacted two years ago is a mistake and that corrective action needs to be taken. The direct government loan is being implemented too quickly. Federal funds and the educational opportunities of students are being placed in jeopardy.