

met their country's call. But what if these calls had been left unanswered or put on hold? What would become of them? And more importantly, what would become of our country? We cannot be half-hearted and we haven't been. We confront situations like a raging bull who has his eyes fixed only on the matador. And that's how things get done—full force? America answers the call because of patriotic citizens and leaders who see a light at the end of the tunnel. America will continue to answer the call because of compassion, pride, and love of country.

I am a youth of today, but a leader of tomorrow. I face certain responsibilities: the responsibility of speaking up for what's right, setting an example, and a willingness to fight for my country.

But currently, America's call is for the future. A call that is widespread and impossible to ignore. It's a call to return to basic values and truths that have always made America so great. The call is for safer streets, moral integrity, and family values. Former president Dwight Eisenhower said that "the problems of America are the family problems multiplied a million fold." And isn't that evident in today's society? As tomorrow's leaders, my generation must answer the call to become responsible, moral, intelligent, and patriotic citizens. The ideals of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness are not just empty words and must be stressed for all citizens. We cannot accept the attitude "It doesn't matter how I act; I'm just one person." Instead, we must share the feelings of so many Americans who say "I love my country; I sincerely care about its future." That attitude must now direct all of us. There's an African proverb that says "it takes an entire village to raise a child." The time has come for all of us in the village to accept responsibilities. You see, we can determine needs and become catalysts for change. America's future demands the commitment of everyone to not only hear, but also answer America's call. Whether it be a call to arms or a call to peace.

Today's call is not an emergency 911 situation because America maintains her greatness at home and abroad. Our commitment must be to maintain that greatness and preserve our freedoms and liberties for future generations. I want to make sure that America is never like the woman making the 911 call, who despite her efforts to get help, is ignored. When my generation answers the call to become responsible citizens, we will be there to be counted. I promise my contributions by pursuing higher education, voting, and maintaining my morals and integrity. When everyone in my generation follows this lead, we will truly be answering America's call.

ANSWERING AMERICA'S CALL

HON. ROBERT E. WISE, JR.

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 27, 1996

Mr. WISE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to introduce for the RECORD a script written by John Shirley, a constituent from Berkeley Springs, WV. This script was West Virginia's winning entry into the Veterans of Foreign Wars—Voice of Democracy broadcast scriptwriting contest.

John's script stresses the importance of both cooperating and making unselfish, individual contributions in determining how well the ideals that make America will work for all of us. I encourage my colleagues to keep

John's script in mind as we work to find effective solutions to the problems that currently face our Nation.

ANSWERING AMERICA'S CALL

Lost in the maddening crowd of passersby, I walked along the city street. Above the automobile horns and screaming car stereos, I heard a woman's sobs. I made my way through the wall of pedestrians and found her crying as she sat alone on a broken park bench. I sat down beside her and asked her what was wrong.

She gently took my hand and spoke. "Nobody cares about me anymore." I asked her what she meant.

She wiped her tears and struggled to speak again. "There is so much. I see hungry, homeless children shivering on the street. Drug deals take place beside them, and too often they get sucked in. I hear screams at night; men and women beat each other and their children. Gang wars take place on the streets, killing kids and innocent bystanders.

Students drop out of school and depend upon welfare to survive. They never strive to be their best; they settle for second or third place and I have to do the same.

Every day I wear the same white blouse and the same black slacks to make a statement. They are like two races with no connection, no relation and no understanding—just like me.

And worst of all, nobody cares about any of this. They won't use their rights. They don't speak out; they refuse to write it down; they refuse to force the politicians that fight over my body to think rationally and fairly; they refuse to realize the danger."

She buried her head in her hands and I tenderly placed my hand on her shoulder. The sun was setting and I knew that I had to leave. As I walked away I asked her name.

She quietly responded, "My name is America."

I tried to go home but something drew me back. I went to the bench to find her, but she was gone.

America cries out for help, how do we answer her call? A nation is comprised of individuals; in order to change our nation we must change ourselves. We must recognize the problems of America and more importantly, search for the ways to solve them. We need to get involved in our schools, communities and governments whether it be local, state or national.

Education is the key to awareness and understanding. Unfortunately, our current educational system leaves many students behind. Little regard is given to students' individual needs and learning styles. They want and need to know why in addition to how. If education is related to the real world, students will understand its real value.

In addition to formal education, America's youth must be given a basic system of values and beliefs both at home and in the community. We must make them aware that all people are equal despite differences in race, color or creed.

Community is the crucial link between individuals. Civic groups can and have successfully engineered and implemented programs for public education and support. Halfway houses and shelters for women and runaways provide many people with refuge from the streets and a second chance for success. Literacy classes and G.E.D. programs give hundreds of individuals the skills they need for employment. Communities can also come together to combat the growing problem of crime in America. Community watch groups and volunteer patrols have been effective in many American neighborhoods.

Government, the most integral part of America as we know it, has also been ne-

glected. We are not controlled by the government; we are the government and must take an active role in its function. We can do this not only by running for a political office but also through such simple acts as signing a petition, participating in a campaign or rally, writing letters to public officials, voicing our opinions in the news media or by making informed choices at the next election.

These are all things that we can do but what will we do? We must choose our role and get involved. Our greatest victories are not achieved in armed conflict on foreign soil; they are achieved in our everyday lives as active American citizens. If we all take part, then we can ensure that America will not sit crying alone on a broken park bench. Instead, she will continue to hold and protect us and will forever remain in the greatest nation on earth.

A TRIBUTE TO ASSISTANT SHERIFF JIM BRADFORD

HON. JERRY LEWIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 27, 1996

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I would like to bring to your attention the fine work and outstanding public service of San Bernardino County Assistant Sheriff Jim Bradford, Jim will be honored today upon his retirement after nearly 27 years of service to the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department.

Jim grew up in California, graduated from Colton High School, and obtained an associate of arts degree in business administration from San Bernardino Valley College and a bachelor of science degree in public management from Pepperdine University.

Jim began his career with the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department as a line reserve deputy sheriff at the Yucaipa station in 1967. After serving as a volunteer for 2 years, Jim sold his business and became a full-time deputy sheriff in 1969 and was assigned to the Glen Helen Rehabilitation Center. He remained there until 1971 when he was reassigned to the Yucaipa station where he served as a patrol deputy and a reserve deputy coordinator. In 1973, he was promoted to detective and was assigned to the central detective division in San Bernardino.

Jim was promoted to sergeant in 1975 and returned to the Glen Helen Rehabilitation Center until his reassignment in 1977 as detective sergeant to the central detective division. Three years later, he was promoted to lieutenant where he served as unit commander in the crimes against property and homicide details. Jim was promoted to captain by Sheriff Floyd Tidwell in 1983 and was assigned to central station where he also served as chief of police for the cities of Loma Linda and Grand Terrace. Jim took command of the sheriff's bureau of administration with his promotion to deputy chief in 1987. Four years later, he was promoted once again to the position of assistant chief in charge of criminal operations by Sheriff Dick Williams.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join me, our colleagues, as well as Jim Bradford's family and many friends, in recognizing his many outstanding achievements. Jim has devoted his professional life to the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department and has served the citizens of San Bernardino County well for nearly