

In light of the increasing pressures we place on our educators to not only teach our children reading, writing, and arithmetic, but to discipline and provide guidance to them outside the classroom, Mrs. Owings' unwavering commitment to her student make her a model of excellence in the teaching profession. She promoted a positive classroom and school environment by encouraging her students to build personal relationships with peers, staff, and the community. With her professional and caring attitude, Mrs. Owings has inspired the many achievements of her students as well as the commendations of their parents and her colleagues.

Mr. Speaker, I know my colleagues would like to join me in applauding Mrs. Owings for her invaluable contributions to our community and to wish her and her husband much success in their future endeavors.

AMADOR HIGH SCHOOL
RECOGNITION

HON. BILL BAKER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 30, 1996

Mr. BAKER of California. Mr. Speaker, they did it again. A remarkable group of students from Amador Valley High School in Pleasanton, CA once again made it to the final round of the national "We the People * * * the Citizen and the Constitution" competition after winning the California State championship earlier this year.

Unlike last year, the Amador bunch did not win the national championship. Yet their achievement is no less formidable than it was in 1995. The top three schools were separated by only five points. And the calibre of the East Bay students' knowledge and obvious expertise was beyond question.

Praise for the Amador Team went beyond appreciation for their scholarship. As one competition judge put it, "I've been working with kids a long time, and I've never seen such an energetic, lovable group of kids."

The "We the People" Program encourages analysis and discussion among high school students as they evaluate how the Constitution is best understood within its own historical context and how it applies to current issues. The competition, established by the U.S. Congress and the Department of Education, is an effective way of encouraging young men and women to consider the ongoing importance of the Constitution to our daily lives.

The members of the Amador Valley team and their remarkable coach, civics teacher Skip Mohatt, merit high praise for their determination, dedication to excellence, and commitment to understanding those principles which embody our national life. In taking second place in the national competition, they did not lose. They simply demonstrated that a commitment to knowledge cannot be measured strictly in terms of an award. It is manifested in the way we live our lives, make decisions, and participate in society as members of a free Republic. In such an effort, there can be no true loss.

HONORING THE PUTNAM COUNTY
VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 30, 1996

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I am taking this opportunity to applaud the invaluable services provided by the Putnam County Volunteer Fire Department. These brave, civic-minded people give freely of their time so that we may all feel safer at night.

Few realize the depth of training and hard work that goes into being a volunteer firefighter. To quote one of my local volunteers, "These fireman must have an overwhelming desire to do for others while expecting nothing in return."

Preparation includes twice monthly training programs in which they have live drills, study the latest videos featuring the latest in firefighting tactics, as well as attend seminars where they can obtain the knowledge they need to save lives. Within a year of becoming a volunteer firefighter, most attend the Tennessee Fire Training School in Murfreesboro where they undergo further, intensified training.

When the residents of my district go to bed at night, they know that should disaster strike and their home catch fire, well trained and qualified volunteer fire departments are ready and willing to give so graciously and generously of themselves. This peace of mind should not be taken for granted.

By selflessly giving of themselves, they ensure a safer future for us all. We owe these volunteer fire departments a debt of gratitude for their service and sacrifice.

TRIBUTE TO MARY MANLEY
HOWARD

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 30, 1996

Mr. PAYNE of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, on Thursday, May 2, a retirement dinner is being held in honor of Mary Manley Howard. Mrs. Howard is "a woman for all seasons." She has spent all of her life achieving. And through those achievements she has been better prepared to help others.

Mary Manley was born to Susie Manley in Louisburg, NC. Her family had very limited resources yet she was instilled with a sense of pride and accomplishment and was taught that she could be anything she wanted to be if she worked for it.

She knew the value of education and diligently worked to complete hers. During the summer months she would come to Jersey City, NJ, a city in my district, to work in different factories in order to save for a college education. During those summer trips she met and later married Donald Howard. Still committed to obtaining her degree, she returned to North Carolina with her husband and continued her education. She graduated from North Carolina Central University with a bachelor of arts in social studies and library science. Her studies didn't end there. She earned certificates in seven different education areas. She

attended graduate school and graduated from Jersey City State College with a master of arts in reading.

Upon her return to Jersey City, she was employed by the Jersey City Board of Education. Her career in the Jersey City school system has spanned more than 36 years. She has worked as a librarian, a classroom teacher, a reading specialist, and as a title I reading coordinator.

The saying goes, "to get something done ask a busy person." That is certainly true in Mary's case. Not only has she taken care of a family but she has also lent herself to her community. She has been active, very often in leadership roles, with the College Women of Jersey City, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Phi Delta Kappa, the International Reading Association, the New Jersey Reading Association, the National Council of Negro Women, the New Jersey Education Association, the Jersey City Education Association, the Hudson County Supervision and Curriculum Development, the Pavonia Girl Scouts of American, Monumental Baptist Church, and she served as a head teacher at summer school and as a volunteer probation officer.

Mr. Speaker, I am sure my colleagues will join me as I offer congratulations to Mary Manley Howard. I would also like to extend my best wishes to her and her family—her husband, Donald; and her three children, Deborah, Deirdre, and Donald, Junior.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 3019,
BALANCED BUDGET DOWN PAYMENT ACT, II

SPEECH OF

HON. CARDISS COLLINS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 25, 1996

Mrs. COLLINS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this legislation, pleased that we finally have something a bit more palatable to the American people in terms of fiscal year 1996 funding levels for education, health, job training, and environmental protection but disappointed that it has taken months, two Government shutdowns, and undue hardship for the citizens of this Nation in order for the Republican leadership in this body to realize that their extreme ideological fervor and authoritarian agenda is not shared by the majority of the population across this country.

Almost 6 months after the fiscal year 1996 appropriations process was to have been completed, the GOP is just now finishing their work. What the heck have the Republicans been doing all this time? Not a whole lot it seems.

Mr. Speaker, the American people have resoundingly said "no" to the Gingrich gang's bloodthirsty budget axe, said "no" to drastic cuts in Federal support or elementary and secondary schools, college loans, summer youth jobs, Head Start, low-income energy assistance, and community policing, and said "no" to protecting polluters who violate our environmental.

Because of these loud voices, the bill before us today restores \$2.8 billion in funding, up to the fiscal year 1995 level, for title I educational