

programs serving the needs of our most underserved and disadvantaged children. In addition, the conference report contains vital resources to combat drugs and violence in our schools through the safe and drug free schools initiative. This is another program the GOP sought to decimate.

Also added back due to the pressure of the American public, the White House, and the Democratic leadership is \$625 million to provide for positive job alternatives for our youth with the Summer Jobs Program. Again, the Republicans would have rather left these kids standing on a street corner with nothing to do than give them a chance to gain the skills, confidence, and guidance necessary to succeed and build a brighter future for themselves.

From a \$1.3 billion restoration of LIHEAP dollars for heating and cooling assistance for low-income families and seniors to \$1.4 billion injection of funds to fully phase in President Clinton's important 100,000 cops on the beat in our local communities, this bill mirrors the foremost needs, and desires spoken by my hard-working constituents in the Chicago metropolitan area and not those of the monied interests so familiar to my friends on the other side of the aisle.

Mr. Speaker, I will vote for this legislation because it protects the Democratic Party's principles and priorities and reflects a more rational and humanistic approach to bringing our Federal fiscal situation under control. I hope, with the final version of this bill serving as a prime example, the GOP finally takes notice of the fact that their so-called Contract With America has been declared null and void by the American people and the court of public opinion.

#### THE 1996 NATIONAL FINALS

#### HON. ED PASTOR

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 30, 1996*

Mr. PASTOR. Mr. Speaker, from April 27 to April 29, 1996, more than 1,300 students from 50 States and the District of Columbia competed in the national finals of the We the People \* \* \* The Citizen and the Constitution Program. I am proud to announce that a class from Nogales High School represented Arizona's Second Congressional District. These young scholars worked diligently to reach the national finals by winning the State competition in Arizona.

The distinguished members of the team representing Arizona are: Veneranda Aguirre, Victor Ahumada, Gerritt Bake, Melinda Bejarano, Hector Ceballos, Karina Celaya, Chris Chapman, Micheal Cooper, Lily Courtland, Odette Felix, Tadeo Garcia, Carlos Gonzalez, Dino Hainline, Jacob Kory, Aishah Levine, Melissa Leyva, Marco Lopez, Danny Mandel, Hector Martinez, Miguel Montiel, Loren Pruzin, Daniel Rodriguez, Peter South, Isreal Valenzuela, Alberto Vega, Sarah Wright, and Priscilla Yubeta.

I would also like to mention their teacher, Mr. George Thomson, who deserves much of the credit for the success of the team. The State coordinator, Ms. Lynda Rando also contributed a significant amount of time and effort to help Nogales High School reach the national finals.

The We the People \* \* \* The Citizen and the Constitution Program is the most extensive educational program in the country developed specifically to educate young people about the Constitution and the Bill of Rights. The 3-day national competition simulates a congressional hearing in which students' oral presentations are judged on the basis of their knowledge of constitutional principles and their ability to apply them to historical and contemporary issues.

Administered by the Center for Civic Education, the We the People \* \* \* Program now in its ninth academic year, has reached more than 70,400 teachers and 22,600 students nationwide at the upper elementary, middle, and high school levels. Members of Congress and their staff enhance the program by discussing current constitutional issues with students and teachers.

The We the People \* \* \* Program provides an excellent opportunity for students to gain an informed perspective on the significance of the U.S. Constitution and its place in our history and our lives. I am proud that the students from Nogales High School were able to take part in the national finals, and look forward to their continued success in the years ahead.

#### TRIBUTE TO JOSEPH H. POTTER

#### HON. JACK REED

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 30, 1996*

Mr. REED. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the achievements of an accomplished businessman and civic activist. After 38 years of leadership at the Washington Trust Co. of Westerly, RI, Mr. Potter has chosen to retire. I would like to recognize him for his dedicated service and commend him as a model businessman: Dedicated to company, community, and family.

Joe joined the "home-town bank" of South County in 1958 and has presided over the bank's tremendous growth and profitability. While tending to the heavy demands of a successfully growing business, Joe also found the time to become active in both the business community and as a civic leader.

Joe has served as executive vice president and president of The Rhode Island Bankers Association, as well having served as a member of the board of directors of Washington Bancorp, Inc. The Westerly community also benefited greatly from his generous contributions.

In a town proud of its Italian heritage, Joe currently serves as the president of the Permanent Columbus Day Committee, working diligently to make the Columbus Day Parade Westerly's finest procession each year. Additionally, Joe serves as a member of the Board of Governors of Rhode Island Junior Achievement and the Board of Governors for Community Health of Westerly.

From 1968 to 1974 Joe served the community through the State legislature, serving in the Rhode Island House of Representatives. As a public servant, Joe was instrumental in drafting the State Civil Defense Preparedness Act of 1974. He also received the coveted Department of Defense Award, one of the highest awards bestowed upon civilians.

As the Congressman representing Rhode Island's Second District, I am proud to acknowledge an individual who exemplifies true humanitarianism, citizenship, a strong work ethic, and sense of commitment. Joe, your contributions to the State of Rhode Island and the town of Westerly are an inspiration to all residents of the Ocean State.

Congratulations on the culmination of a wonderful career with the Washington Trust Co. Please accept my best wishes for all your future endeavors.

#### HONORING THE ROCKVALE 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 Rockvale 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 firemen 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 fire-fighting 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.

#### ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

SPEECH OF

#### HON. WILLIAM O. LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 24, 1996*

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of the Armenian community in my district to mark the 81st anniversary of an unspeakable tragedy. I am referring to the genocide of 1.5 million of their people by the Ottoman Empire.

On April 24, 1915, 200 Armenian religious, political, and intellectual leaders from Istanbul, taken to the interior of Turkey and summarily murdered. Thus began an 8-year campaign to eradicate or deport all Armenian citizens from Anatolia and western Armenia.

Yet, today, many people are unaware of this vicious crime against humanity. There is little