

In 1985, Albert Boscov, the owner of Boscov's Department in downtown Wilkes-Barre became interested in renovating the theater. Mr. Boscov had a dream of turning the theater into a centerpiece performing arts center which would host local and national talent. He began a fund-raising campaign which in a little over a year and half raised \$4.3 million from thousands of members of the community, in large and small contributions. A major benefactor of the project was F.M. Kirby II, the son of the cofounder of the Woolworth's Department Store chain. In March of 1986 work was underway on what was to become the F.M. Kirby Center for the Performing Arts. In September 1986, the theater hosted opening night with a gala performance attended by local dignitaries and community leaders.

Mr. Speaker, the 10 years since that opening night have had many high and low points. Like most artistic institutions in our country, the members of the Kirby Center board have endured some economic hardship. In response to diminishing funding for the arts, patron memberships were established and the board of directors forged a profitable alliance with local business leaders to make the center a vibrant and active facility.

Demonstrating its commitment to the Wyoming Valley community, the center provides quality entertainment to over 15,000 school children a year. The center underwrites ticket costs to children's social service agencies and each year introduces a new class of children to the wonders of the arts through its International Children's Theater Festival which draws thousands of children to experience this spectacular event.

As the home of the Northeast Philharmonic Orchestra to its hosting of ballet, Broadway and Sesame Street Live, the Kirby Center has become the center for cultural activity in northeastern Pennsylvania.

Mr. Speaker, the entire community of the Wyoming Valley owes a debt to Mr. Al Boscov and Mr. Fred Kirby for their financial generosity and visionary thinking. They are responsible for taking a forlorn theater and converting it into the vibrant arts center it is today. They believed in the promise of downtown Wilkes-Barre and its long-term economic growth. I am proud to join in the tribute to these outstanding community leaders and to be part of this anniversary celebration.

#### CAMDEN CITY POLICE

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 24, 1996*

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, I invite my colleagues to join me in honoring a group of citizens that glorify the State of New Jersey. On May 14 of this year the city of Camden held its' police awards banquet. The event recognized citizens and police officers that went beyond the call of duty in their particular areas of service. While I have formerly acknowledged some of these individuals, due to a clerical error certain police officers were not mentioned by name. Therefore, I would like to highlight these officers who protect our communities and place our lives before their own. Their dedication and service to the people enables us to live in safety. Moreover, their example serves as a model for all citizens.

The following Rutgers University Police should be recognized for their meritorious service: Capt. Guy Still; Lt. Edmund Johnson; Sgt. Michael Amorim; Sgt. Louis Capelli; Officer John Denmark; Officer William Singleton; Officer Lynn Vrooman; Officer Tracy McGriff; and Officer William Princiotta.

The following officers were killed in the line of duty: Officer George F. Jefferis (1951); Sgt. Carmin Fuscillaro (1961); Officer George Schultz (1969); Officer Charles Sutman (1969); Officer Rand Chandler (1969); Officer Elwood Ridge (1973); and Officer Stuart Roberts (1975).

#### INTRODUCTION OF THE NATIONAL INDIAN EDUCATION BONDING AUTHORITY PILOT PROJECT ACT OF 1996

HON. TIM JOHNSON

OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 24, 1996*

Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Mr. Speaker, today, I am introducing legislation to establish an innovative funding mechanism to enhance the ability of Indian tribes to construct, repair, and maintain quality educational facilities. Representatives from tribal schools in my State of South Dakota have been working with tribes nationwide to develop an initiative which I believe will be a positive first step toward addressing the serious crisis we are facing in Indian education. The National Indian Education Bonding Authority Pilot Project Act is currently in draft form. I am introducing this legislation at this stage to begin dialog and debate among my colleagues on this important funding initiative.

Mr. Speaker, 56 percent of the American Indian population in this country is age 24 or younger. Consequently, the need for improved educational programs and facilities, and for training the American Indian workforce is pressing. American Indians have been, and continue to be, disproportionately affected by both poverty and low educational achievement. The high school completion rate for Indian people aged 20 to 24 was 12.5 percent below the national average. American Indian students, on average, have scored far lower on the National Assessment for Education Progress indicators than all other students. In 1994, the combined average score for Indian students on the Scholastic Achievement Test was 65 points lower than the average for all students. These statistics reflect the continued neglect of America's underserved Indian student population and are unacceptable.

By ignoring the most fundamental aspect of education; that is, safe, quality educational facilities, there is little hope of breaking the cycle of low educational achievement, and the unemployment and poverty that result from neglected academic potential.

The National Indian Education Bonding Authority Pilot Project Act establishes a bonding authority to use existing tribal education funds for bonds in the municipal finance market which currently serves local governments across the Nation. Instead of funding construction projects directly, these existing funds will be leveraged through bonds to fund substantially more tribal school construction, maintenance and repair projects.

The Bureau of Indian Affairs estimates the tribal school construction and repair backlog at \$850 million. Confounding this backlog, inflation and facility deterioration increases this amount by an estimated \$80 million per year. The administration's school construction request for fiscal year 1997 was \$23 million, and the House-passed level was a mere \$21 million. In this budgetary climate, I believe every avenue for efficiently stretching the Federal dollar should be explored.

Tribal schools in my State and around the country address the unique learning needs and styles of Indian students, with sensitivity to Native cultures, ultimately promoting higher academic achievement. There are strong historical and moral reasons for continued support of tribal schools. In keeping with our special trust responsibility to sovereign Indian nations, we need to promote the self-determination and self-sufficiency of Indian communities. Education is absolutely vital to this effort. Allowing the continued deterioration and decay of tribal schools through lack of funding would violate the Government's commitment and responsibility to Indian nations and only slow the progress of self-sufficiency.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to closely examine the National Indian Education Bonding Authority Pilot Project Act and join me in working to make this innovative funding mechanism a reality.

#### CONGRATULATING THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA ON ITS 85TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ENI F.H. FALCOMAVAEGA

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 24, 1996*

Mr. FALCOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, on the eve of the Republic of China's 85th anniversary—this October 10, 1996—I wish to congratulate Taiwan for the outstanding accomplishments of this thriving and vibrant democracy of 21 million people.

Taiwan is one of the world's most compelling economic success stories, rising from World War II's destructiveness to become a global trading power with foreign exchange reserves today second only to Japan. Taiwan must also be commended for its significant progress toward democratization, which came to full bloom this year with Taiwan's first Presidential elections. These historic elections were conducted democratically and peacefully, despite the threats and provocations issued by the People's Republic of China.

In light of these achievements, Taiwan deserves not only our admiration, but support for Taiwan's drive for greater participation in the affairs of the international community. Taiwan's aspirations to be an active member of international organizations of the world community are well-founded. It has all the necessary qualifications: a sound political system, a much-admired world-class economy, and a genuine desire to maintain peace and stability in East Asia, and around the globe.

As noted recently by Taiwan's chief representative to Washington, Dr. Jason Hu, Taiwan's people only seek to receive fair treatment with dignity in the international community. The goal of participation within the global community of governments is, in my opinion, not the same as seeking independence.