

RESIGNATION AS MEMBER OF
COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT
REFORM AND OVERSIGHT

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following resignation as a member of the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight:

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, February 5, 1997.

Hon. NEWT GINGRICH,
Speaker of the House, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to my appointment to the Science, International Relations and Resources Committees I wish to tender my resignation for the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

Sincerely,

KEVIN BRADY,
Member of Congress.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the resignation is accepted. There was no objection.

TRIBUTE TO CONGRESSMAN
FRANK TEJEDA

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to an extraordinary colleague whom we lost to cancer, Congressman Frank Tejada. Congressman Tejada's life is an inspiration to all Americans for his was a story of hard work, dedication and perseverance, and those qualities symbolize the American dream that all of our citizens can reach.

After dropping out from high school at the age of 17, Congressman Tejada joined the Marines, where he bravely served our Nation in Vietnam, earning a Purple Heart and a Bronze Star.

After his incredible military career he returned to his academic studies, where he demonstrated that dedication and perseverance he showed on the battlefield, earning degrees from the University of California, from Yale and from Harvard.

In Congress he was a tireless warrior for the less fortunate of our Nation, as well as for the constituents of his beloved city of San Antonio, and he was committed to maintaining excellence in the military that he so honorably served. This great institution was honored to have Congressman Tejada among its Members.

His life should be a source of inspiration to all, but especially to the thousand of young Hispanics who look for role models in their daily lives. Frank will be truly missed by all of us in this institution.

EDUCATION INFRASTRUCTURE
INITIATIVE

(Mr. HASTINGS of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague from

Florida for her remembering our colleague, Frank Tejada.

Mr. Speaker, as we all know, a high quality learning environment is essential to educating our Nation's children. Many may wonder why the President last night spent so much time on the issue usually discussed by State and local government.

Well, I believe his concern is warranted. Take Palm Beach and Broward Counties, parts of which I represent, for example. These school systems educate more students from prekindergarten through grade 12 than they can handle. Our schools are pushed to the limit, a limit that some consider to be critically overcrowded.

Mr. Speaker, the school doors are bursting at the seams in south Florida and around the Nation. Our schools need our help. Thus, America's leaders need to be partners in education. This partnership among Federal, State, and local governments should be based on a balance between leadership and local flexibility. The goal is to direct resources to the local level to help our communities build much needed schools to alleviate overcrowding.

It is crucial, Mr. Speaker, that we work together to find the necessary funds for our schools.

PREPARING AMERICA FOR THE
21ST CENTURY

(Ms. DELAURO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, last night President Clinton laid out an action plan to prepare America for the 21st century. We too need to dedicate ourselves to meeting the challenges that lie ahead, and among those challenges none is more crucial than that of providing all of our people with the opportunity to get the best education in the world. Our goal must be to ensure that a quality education is available and affordable to every American.

Making education available to all of our kids means setting rigorous national standards that stress the basics: reading, writing, and arithmetic. Making education affordable to all our people means passing a new college tuition tax deduction and creating new scholarships to help our families send their kids to college.

We all know that an educated work force is the key to our economic future. We have to invest in education, not only because it is the right thing to do, but because it is the one thing that we must do if we are to continue to be a world economic power in the next century. Public education has been the great equalizer in this country. Let us continue to make it so to achieve economic opportunity.

PROVIDING PORTABILITY FOR
MEDIGAP ENROLLEES

(Mrs. JOHNSON of Connecticut asked and was given permission to address

the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. JOHNSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, in the last session of Congress we passed important legislation giving Americans access to portable insurance coverage regardless of their health status, but we did not extend these same protections to our senior and disabled constituents who are on Medicare. Yet no senior should be required to live in fear that unexpected medical bills will deprive them of financial independence.

That is why today I am introducing, along with 30 of my colleagues and with the gentleman from Michigan [Mr. DINGELL] of the Energy and Commerce Committee, a portability bill for the millions of senior citizens who supplement their Medicare coverage with private insurance.

I am pleased to say that a bill is being introduced in the Senate, sponsored by Senators ROCKEFELLER and CHAFEE, that is identical to this bill to speed the action of Congress to provide these critical protections to our seniors.

An estimated 10 million senior citizens, one-third of the total number of seniors on Medicare, rely on Medigap coverage to meet important health needs. Medigap insurance typically paid for prescription drugs and skilled nursing care. These are protections that our seniors deserve, and I ask your cosponsorship of my legislation.

SEXUAL HARASSMENT AND THE
ARMY

(Ms. NORTON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, after the Aberdeen revelations concerning sexual harassment, the Army brass came to the Women's Caucus and unequivocally pledged that they would never go back to discriminatory training of men and women. Yesterday, however, in the other body, the Army Chief of Staff, Dennis Reimer, suggested that they might be open to a reexamination of sex-integrated training.

Following recent revelations, one can understand their frustration, but, Mr. Speaker, it is totally unacceptable to move back to the dark ages when there were two armies, one for men and one for women. The Army itself has field tested single-sex training and found that it improves the performance and morale of women with no negative effect on unit cohesion.

Look, if I get mugged outside of the Capitol, do not tell me not to walk down that street anymore. Make it safe. To the Army brass I say: Don't throw in the towel. Above all, don't throw the towel at women. They can die together, they can train together.

ON THE STATE OF THE UNION

(Mr. MCINNIS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)