

on Ethnic Minorities of the International Conference on the Former Yugoslavia, to offer guidance and mediation to the Government of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and representatives of the Albanian minority in resolving the issue of higher education in the Albanian language, are commendable;

(5) the President should express to the Government of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia the strong support of the Government of the United States for measures that will contribute to democracy and stability in the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, including efforts to ensure access to higher education in the Albanian language;

(6) the President should offer appropriate support for the efforts of the High Commissioner on National Minorities of the Organization on Security and Cooperation in Europe to resolve the issue of access to higher education in the Albanian language; and

(7) the President should offer appropriate support for efforts by the Government of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia to ensure access to higher education in the Albanian language, including assistance for the establishment of necessary curricula and the provision of textbooks and related course materials.

CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING TEAM
AT OAK GROVE HIGH SCHOOL

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 5, 1997

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, today, I wish to recognize the members of the Oak Grove High School wrestling team and their coach, Bob Glasgow, for their outstanding achievements and continued excellence in the sport of wrestling.

During Coach Glasgow's career at Oak Grove High School, he has developed a wrestling program that is known for excellence and success. Last season, the Oak Grove wrestling team won numerous tournament championships as well as the district 6 championship for the eighth consecutive year. Under the direction of Coach Glasgow, ten exceptional wrestlers qualified for the State tournament.

This kind of outstanding achievement has been a tradition for Coach Glasgow and his wrestling team during his 14 years at Oak Grove High School. During Coach Glasgow's tenure as the wrestling coach, the Oak Grove wrestling team has won 8 State championships and has had 39 individual State champions. In addition, nine Oak Grove wrestlers have signed division 1 scholarships during this time period.

I wish to extend my congratulations to the Oak Grove High School wrestling team for their continued tradition of excellence.

MARCH 1997—NATIONAL EYE
DONOR MONTH PROCLAMATION

HON. MICHAEL BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 5, 1997

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, March is National Eye Donor Month. All throughout the

country, the miracle of transplantation surgery is allowing people's lives to be enhanced or saved. Nationwide thousands of people are benefited every year through organ and tissue transplantation surgery. Today, I rise to request that we take a moment to focus on eye donation and on the importance of preserving and restoring sight through corneal transplantation.

The benefits of sight-restoring transplant surgeries extend well beyond the people who receive the transplants; they also extend to their families, friends, and communities. In recent years, the efforts of Congress, educators, and the media have had an enormous impact on the success of eye donation programs.

Corneal transplants have been performed since 1905, and eye banks have existed in this country for over 50 years. Since 1961, when the Eye Bank Association of America was founded, member eye banks have helped make possible over one-half million corneal transplants, with a success rate over 95 percent.

Every year, thousands of corneal transplants are performed across the country restoring precious sight to both the young and the old. The Eye Bank Association of America is the Nation's oldest transplant association and is dedicated to the restoration of sight through the promotion and advancement of eye banking. In 1995, over 44,000 corneas were made available by our Nation's eye banks for use in transplantation procedures. Additional eye donations were used for research, training, and other surgical procedures. While figures for 1996 are still being tallied, even greater totals are expected.

In fact, just outside my district, the Lions Club of Tampa, FL runs one of the largest eye banks in the world. The Central Florida Lions Eye and Tissue Bank restores sight to over 2,000 people each year. Nevertheless, the need for corneal transplants continues.

Many Americans do not realize that they have it in their power to give someone else the gift of sight. If you declare now that after your death, you want your eyes to be donated to an eye bank, your eyes can become someone's miracle—a gift of sight. This is a great opportunity and a great responsibility that all Americans should take very seriously.

Anyone can be a donor. Neither cataracts, poor eyesight, nor age prohibit one from donating. However, it is important for individuals who want to be donors to inform family members of their wishes.

We, in Congress, can lead the effort to educate the public about the need and importance of eye donation and encourage more Americans to become donors. We have joined the Eye Bank Association of America every year since 1983 in proclaiming a "National Eye Donor Month." The purpose of National Eye Donor Month is to remind all Americans that they have the power to make the miracle happen for someone and that we can make the tissue available. By making this proclamation, we call on all Americans to support us in promoting eye donation in order to enhance the lives of our fellow citizens through the restoration of sight.

INTRODUCTION OF MARKEY-BURTON
BILL TO ENCOURAGE CONTENT-BASED TV RATINGS

HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 5, 1997

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, the v-chip provision in the Telecommunications Act of 1996, which became law last year, was intended to help parents take control of what comes into their homes and their children's minds via the television set by allowing them to block out programs that they believe contain too much violence, sex, or adult language.

Under the 1996 act, the broadcast industry was encouraged to establish rules for rating violence, sex, and other indecent material so that parents would be able to make informed decisions on what programs their children could or could not watch.

However, rather than devising a system that truly informs parents about the content of the television programs, the entertainment industry has proposed an age-based rating system. This type of rating system fails our children because it does not provide parents with comprehensive information to make informed choices about what their children watch.

This age-based system is too broad and vague for parents. Parents have said over and over that they want a television rating system to tell them what's in a program, not who should view it. According to a nationwide survey conducted by the National Parent and Teachers Association, 80 percent of parents stated that they want separate ratings for sex, violence, and language content to help them make informed and educated evaluations of television shows.

The National PTA, the American Medical Association, the American Academy of Pediatrics, the Children's Defense Fund, the Family Research Council, and numerous other organizations have all criticized the age-based ratings system. Instead they advocated ratings based on program content to help parents with the ability to block out objectionable, content-specific programming.

Today, I am joining my colleague from Massachusetts, Congressman EDWARD J. MARKEY, and 11 other cosponsors, to introduce legislation that seeks to ensure that parents will be able to keep their children from watching violent programs. I would like to commend my colleague from Massachusetts for all the hard work he has done over the past few years to provide parents with a tool to make informed choices on what their children watch on television. This legislation encourages the broadcast industry to adopt a content-specific ratings system that would allow parents to block out violent programming. If the industry prefers, it can choose not to label those shows that are violent and can keep the age-based system. However, the broadcaster would not be allowed to televise programs that contain violent content during the hours of the day when children are most likely to comprise a substantial portion of the audience. Broadcasters have a choice—either adopt a content-specific programming system that allows parents to block out violent programs, or only air those shows during the times when the majority of children aren't watching television.

Parents want a content-based rating system to help them protect their children from being