

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

WINNER OF ARIZONA'S 1997 VOICE OF DEMOCRACY CONTEST

HON. BOB STUMP

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 13, 1997

Mr. STUMP. Mr. Speaker, the Veterans of Foreign Wars and its Ladies Auxiliary are very active in promoting patriotism and an understanding of the values which underlie this great country of ours through its Voice of Democracy essay contest. During this past year, over 109,000 secondary school students participated in the contest, and each one of those students has a clearer understanding of the meaning of democracy as a result of their participation. The winner of this contest in my State of Arizona was David C. Pickett from Prescott Valley, AZ. David is an outstanding senior at Bradshaw Mountain High School, and his entry was sponsored by VFW Post 10227 and its ladies auxiliary. His father is a retired marine. I'm sure David's parents, as well as all of David's teachers are very proud of this young man. I'd like to share with my colleagues his winning essay.

DEMOCRACY—ABOVE AND BEYOND

1996-97 VFW VOICE OF DEMOCRACY SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM—ARIZONA WINNER, DAVID PICKETT

Famine, poverty, unemployment, disease, death . . . All of these words that we'd rather not hear or even think about for an instant if we don't have to, because they all lead to mental pictures we can't bear to create or drag up from the little cobwebbed corner in the back of our minds where we try to bury all the parts of reality that frighten us most. Yet every day in dozens of countries throughout the world, people just like you and I have to deal with these dark aspects of life through any means necessary. Honest people having to steal just so their families might see the light of another day. Top of the line modern cardboard and garbage bag mansions littering the decadent alleyways of a crumbling city, and parents who'd rather take the risk of a condemned building collapsing on them than see their children die of exposure before their very eyes. Peaceful protesters are massacred or imprisoned where they die from any number of ailments while awaiting a trial that will never come. Each of these chaotic realities can be found thriving under the bannerhead of a failed system of government, whether it be fascism or socialism in any of its deceptive forms; and each of those horrific realities are precisely the reasons why those governments failed, as well as the reasons as to why democracy has risen far above and beyond them to its honored position in the world today.

When one thinks of democracy and its great leaders, pictures of great men such as George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Ben Franklin, John F. Kennedy, and Martin Luther King, Jr. all come to mind. Yet when one thinks of the great leaders of communism and fascism, one can only think of people like Joseph Stalin who created a famine in the Ukraine in 1932 and '33 which resulted in the death of three-million kulaks by starvation; or even greater still was Ad-

olph Hitler who nearly brought about the complete extinction of the entire Jewish race by destroying over six-million of them through various and sundry methods of torturous execution. Or how about Benito Mussolini of Italy who came up with the term "totalitario", to describe the goals of his fascist government, as saying that his aim was "All within the state, none outside the state, and none against the state."

No other government in existence cares as much for the natural human rights of the individual, than democracy in its purest form. In America we have a Constitution and a Bill of Rights that hold the same value, if not more so, today as they did over two hundred years ago when they were first inscribed. The only thing these other governments have to show for all of their efforts is revolution after revolution after bloody revolution, and a never-ending state of misery for their people. There is no limit to democracy in America, everyone is entitled to the same share, an no one is excluded for any reason whether it be on the basis of social standing, political power, skin color, gender, or religious beliefs. Whereas in places such as South Africa during apartheid, its white citizens saw its government as a Constitutional democracy, but for its twenty two-million blacks, it was an iron-fisted dictatorship that verged on totalitarian control. Our democracy has a system of checks and balances to make sure no one person or group of people has too much control; in a totalitarian government, no such system exists, for the leader currently in power is the constitution, the law, and the government embodied in one person and one person alone. So, it you were to place all of these contrasting viewpoints on a scale weighing positives vs. negatives, freedom vs. imprisonment, and honesty vs. hypocrisy; which side would result in a better government? The answer by now should be quite obvious; the first, second, and third place medals for excellency in government go to democracy, democracy, and last but not most certainly not least: democracy.

I hope I have given you something to ponder and realize, as well as something to rekindle those possibly dwindling feelings of pride in your country's government, no make that your government. The government our ancestors started has spread like wildfire throughout the world because it is the only one that has proven itself time and time again as the greatest form of government on Earth. Three years ago in 1993, something miraculous occurred, for the first time in the history of the planet, the total number of democracies in existence outnumbered the total number of dictatorships; and I'm sure with the continuation of this trend in world thought, democracy will soon be the only government in existence, truly showing the world that it has risen above and beyond.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION TO MSGR. DANIEL J. BOURKE, GRAND MARSHAL OF THE 173D ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARADE IN SAVANNAH, GA

HON. JACK KINGSTON

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 13, 1997

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, in honor of his dedication to preserving Irish culture, tradition, and history, Monsignor Bourke has been named grand marshal of the 173d St. Patrick's Day Parade in Savannah, GA. The parade is the cornerstone of one of the largest St. Patrick's Day celebrations in the Nation and is a fitting tribute for a man who has given so much to preserve the heritage of his native land and equally as much to the advancement of the country and city he now calls home.

HIBERNIAN SOCIETY OF SAVANNAH, GA

"Irishmen, inclined as they are by nature to good fellowship and charity, should not forget, in a foreign land, the duties they owe to themselves, their national character, and their distressed countrymen. These obligations are the more important to Irishmen, because, during the long period of their oppression, Irishmen have been useful to themselves, their country, and their brethren, only in proportion to their exercise of those generous, charitable and sterling traits with which it has pleased God to distinguish them among the people of the earth. Every motive, too, presses itself upon the heart of each true Irishman to foster more particularly unfortunate because her destiny has been unmerited, and therefore the more entitled to the tender consideration of her own sons, and of the good, the generous and the enlightened of other nationalities."

"Driven from unhappy Erin by unrelenting tyranny, afflicted and persecuted Irishmen seek an asylum in this favored republic, endeavoring to find, under the auspices of its liberal institutions, the only consolations that can remain to exiles thrust out of a beloved home by want and oppression. To these it becomes the duty of their more fortunate brethren settled in this free country, and enjoying the benefits of its hospitality, to reach out the hand of friendship, to tender the aid of a delicate charity, and to offer any other assistance which fraternal, manly and kindly feelings may inspire."

The above two paragraphs comprise the Preamble of the Hibernian Society of Savannah which was adopted at a meeting held on March 17, 1812.

The Hibernian Society of Savannah, celebrating its 185th Anniversary on March 17, 1997, would like to give special recognition to Monsignor Daniel J. Bourke who is the Grand Marshal of the 173rd St. Patrick's Day Parade in Savannah. Monsignor Bourke was born in Birr, Offaly County, Ireland on September 28, 1909. He was ordained to the priesthood at All Hallows Missionary Seminary in Dublin on June 23, 1934, for the Diocese of Savannah. He has given 63 years of dedicated service to the area of South Georgia and continues to service the needs of the people in Savannah even though he is retired and resides at Blessed Sacrament Church.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

Monsignor Bourke has held numerous positions within the Diocese of Savannah during his tenure of service. He was named a Domestic Prelate on March 20, 1959 and Prothonotary Apostolic on October 11, 1966. He has been associated with the Diocesan Council of Catholic Women since its introduction to the diocese in 1938, serving as parish, deanery and diocesan moderator. At present he is the Honorary Diocesan Moderator. From the time of his arrival in Savannah in September, 1936, he has been closely identified with the Irish element. While Irish to the backbone, he is proud to have been for fifty years a citizen of the United States of America. He has lived in Georgia since 1934, and over thirty-three of those years in Savannah. He has participated in nearly every parade since his return to Savannah in 1970. He thanks God that he is a Savannahian and in his letter to the citizens of Savannah upon his selection as Grand Marshal he wrote the following words:

"We of Irish birth or lineage honor this day in the memory of St. Patrick who brought the Catholic faith to Ireland so long ago." We honor our forebears who have, in spite of centuries long persecutions, remained faithful to the teachings of St. Patrick. We renew our allegiance to these United States of America, where our people sought and found a harbor of refuge, a land, "Where rich and poor stand equal in the light of freedom's day."

TRIBUTE TO ANTHONY TODD
WILLIAMS

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY
OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 13, 1997

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate a distinguished young man, Anthony Todd Williams, for attaining the rank of Eagle Scout in the Boy Scouts of America. Anthony is a member of the Boy Scout Troop 550. He will receive this award at an Eagle Scout court of honor on Sunday, March 16 at St. Maria Goretti Church Hall, located in Dyer, IN.

An elite group, comprising only 2.5 percent of all Boy Scouts, attains the Eagle Scout ranking, which is the highest of seven rankings in the Boy Scouts organization. In order to become an Eagle Scout, a Scout must complete the following three tasks: earn 21 merit badges; complete a service project; and demonstrate strong leadership skills within the troop.

Anthony, a student at Lake Central High School, made a turtle island in a community pond for his service project. Anthony has also helped to coordinate various troop outings, and he attended Boy Scout camp for 4 years. In addition Anthony attended the National Scout Preserve in Philmont, NM, which is a high adventure camp with a rugged terrain. Anthony currently has plans to attend the Sea Base Scuba High Adventure Camp in August of this year.

The rank of Eagle Scout always has carried with it special significance—and not only within Scouting. Eagle Scouts are recognized as individuals with great talent and promise as they enter institutions of higher education, the work force, or engage in community service.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my other distinguished colleagues to join me in congratulating Anthony Todd Williams for his commend-

able achievement. His parents, Kim and Richard Williams, can be proud of their son because it takes a great deal of tenacity and devotion to achieve such an illustrious ranking. This young man has a promising future ahead of him, which will undoubtedly include improving the quality of life in Indiana's First Congressional District.

BIPARTISAN CONGRESSIONAL
RETREAT

HON. NEWT GINGRICH

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 13, 1997

Mr. GRINGRICH. Mr. Speaker, at our bipartisan congressional retreat this past weekend, historian David McCullough shared a view of the legislative process which was idealistic, practical, and filled with historic insights. He reminded us that this country was founded by practical idealists who understood both the frustrations of traditional political and legislative life and yet who were able to focus again and again on the idealistic long-term needs of America. I believe every citizen would profit from reading Mr. McCullough's speech. I submit it into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

BIPARTISAN CONGRESSIONAL RETREAT

(By David McCullough)

Well, Amo, you've taken my breath away and your invitation to speak here is as high a tribute as I've ever received. I feel greatly honored but also a strong sense of humility. And I hope it won't seem presumptuous if I—in what I say today—appear to know your job. I don't. If I can help you in what I say, if I can help the country, then I will be very deeply appreciative of the chance to be here.

Your speaker welcomed you to Pennsylvania. I do so too as a Pennsylvanian, by birth and by education and as one who loves this state. There is more history here than almost anywhere else in our country. Our most important, our most sacred historic site—Independence Hall—is less than 100 miles from where we sit, as the crow flies. And if you come to Pennsylvania, you can always learn something, at whatever stage in life.

Last year, Rosalee and I came back to Philadelphia. We pulled up in front of the hotel in a big, shiny, rented car and the doorman, a handsome fellow in full regalia, opened the door for Rosalee. I popped the button for the trunk and I could see him getting the luggage out. I got out and walked around the back of the car and he looked up and said: "Well, Mr. McCullough, welcome to Philadelphia; it is wonderful to have you here." And I thought, "I wonder if he knows me because of my books or because of the work I do on public television?" And so I said, "If you don't mind, I'd like to know how you know who I am?" And he said, "the tag on your suitcase."

You can't but help learn a great deal in this session and as Speaker Gingrich said, this event is unprecedented in the long history of the U.S. Congress. A gathering like this never happened before. And how wonderful that your children are here—the next generation—some of whom may also be serving in Congress. We have the future with us too. And we have the past.

Now many people think of the past as something far behind, in back of us. It is also possible to think of it as in front of us, in the sense that we're going down a path that others have trod before, and some very great people; we are in their footsteps. And it is in

that spirit that much of what I have to say will be said. I want to talk about history; I want to talk about purpose, and because there's an old writer's adage, "Don't tell me, show me." I want to conclude by showing you.

"We live my dear soul in an age of trial," he wrote, in a letter to his wife. In the seclusion of his diary he wrote, "I wander alone and ponder. I muse, I mope, I ruminate." He was a new Congressman and he was about to set off for his first session in Congress. John Adams, heading for his very first Congress—the Continental Congress in Philadelphia in 1774—and he was very disturbed, very worried.

"We have not men fit for the times," he wrote, "we are deficient in genius, education, in travel, fortune, in everything. I feel unutterable anxiety." The next year when he returned for the second Continental Congress he found that the whole atmosphere had changed. This was after Lexington, Concord, and Bunker Hill. This was a time of pressing need and America, he decided, was a great, "unwieldy body."

"Its progress must be slow, it is like a large fleet sailing under convoy, the fleetest of sailors must wait for the dullest and the lowest. Every man in the Congress is a great man," he wrote, "and therein is the problem—an orator, a critic, a statesman, and therefore every man upon every question must show his oratory, his criticism, and his political abilities." In 1776, in the winter—in the dead of winter—with the temperature down in the 20s, John Adams set off again from Braintree on horseback to ride 300 miles. Nothing unusual then; we think of communications and transportation as two different subjects. In the 18th century, transportation and communication were the same. Nothing could be communicated any faster than somebody on a horse.

He arrived back in Philadelphia—this is early in 1776, and bear in mind this was the year of the Declaration of Independence—and he wrote: "There are deep jealousies. Ill-natured observations and incriminations take the place of reason and argument." Inadequate people, contention, sour moods, and from his wife, Abigail, John Adams received a letter in which she said: "You cannot be I know, nor do I wish to see you, an inactive spectator." She wants him to be there for all it is costing her, for all the difficulties she is having, caring for the family and running the farm. And then she adds, "We have too many high-sounding words and too few actions that correspond with them."

1776—History. History is a source of strength. History teaches us that there is no such thing as a self-made man or woman. We all know that. We all know the people who helped. Teachers, parents, those who set us on the right track, those who gave us a pat on the back, and when need be, those who have rapped our knuckles.

History teaches us that sooner is not necessarily better; that the whole is often equal to much more than the parts; and what we don't know can often hurt us deeply. If you want to build for the future, you must have a sense of past. We can't know where we're going if we don't know where we've been and where we've come from and how we got to be where we are. A very wise historian, who was also the Librarian of Congress—Daniel Boorstin—said that to try to create the future without some knowledge of the past is like trying to plant cut flowers.

History is an aid to navigation in troubled times; history is an antidote to self-pity and to self-importance. And history teaches that when we unite in a grand purpose there is almost nothing we cannot do.

Don't ever forget the great history of your institution—your all-important institution.