

## RECOGNITION OF BARBARA SMITH

**HON. ROBERT A. WEYGAND**

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 12, 1998*

Mr. WEYGAND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Barbara Smith of Providence, Rhode Island. Mrs. Smith is employed at the Rhode Island Meals on Wheels and has been awarded a Prime Time Award. Prime Time Award recipients are selected by Green Thumb, Inc to honor the important contributions of America's Oldest Workers. Green Thumb, Inc is the nation's oldest and largest nonprofit provider of job training and employment for older Americans.

Mrs. Smith was born and raised in Providence, Rhode Island. Throughout her marriage and raising her four children, she maintained a career outside of the home. At first she worked in a factory, then she attended college and completed an Advanced Clerical degree. Using her degree, Mrs. Smith worked for fifteen years at Prudential Insurance, and later at a bank. Eventually she made her way to Meals on Wheels and has been making a difference in the lives of the older members of her community ever since.

In addition to her time at Meals on Wheels, Mrs. Smith gives back to her neighborhood by donating her time to charity work. She is also involved in the Eastern Star and the Daughters of Isis. She has served in leadership positions in both of these worthwhile organizations.

Barbara Smith has been a spectacular role model to both those young and old in Warwick. I am proud to represent such an asset to our great nation. I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating Mrs. Smith on her award and in thanking her for her many years of service and hard work.

U.S. SERVICE ACADEMY  
NOMINATIONS**HON. FRANK A. LOBIONDO**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 12, 1998*

Mr. LOBIONDO. Mr. Speaker, duty, honor, valor, these are principles that will take on a new meaning for many students in the Second Congressional District of New Jersey as they seek to attend one of our U.S. Service Academies. Every year, high school seniors work diligently on essays and applications in their effort to secure a bid to one of our nation's military academies. One of the prerequisites to attend a U.S. Service Academy is receiving a nomination from the student's Representative in Congress, U.S. Senator, or the Vice President. The process for this year has been completed, and I was very impressed with the caliber of candidates I had the privilege of nominating to the academies.

I would like to recognize all of the students who received nominations from my office. The list of nominated students includes: Liznelia Alicea of Woodbine, Rebecca Baldwin of Pittsgrove, Brion Bennett of Marmora, Andrew Berenato of Ocean City, Christopher Broome of Linwood, Charles Bylone of Vineland, John R. Clark III of Monroeville, Andrew

Clemmensen of Mays Landing, Christy Cohen of Port Republic, Steven Datz of Pitman, Dana Andrew Denny of Pilesgrove, Geoffrey Dull of Marmora, Caroline Farnoly of Vineland, George Eric Fleming of Egg Harbor Township, Tyler Forrest of Linwood, Brian Forster of Minotola, Colin Gold of Estell Manor, Heidi Gomeringer of Salem, Jennifer Janezic of Cape May, Jill Kozakowski of Ocean City, Matthew McCoach of Cape May Court House, George McConnell of Port Norris, Corey Meeks of Glassboro, Stacey Miller of Bridgeton, James Nicolosi of Pitman, Melanie Peter of Millville, Benjamin Pitts of Monroeville, Jonathan Pograncy of Port Republic, Christopher Poponak of Cape May Court House, Melissa Reichenbach of Egg Harbor City, Dylan Rogers of Wildwood Crest, Edison C. Rush III of Pennsville, Christopher Ryckebusch of Mays Landing, Angelina Schulz of Fortescue, Michael Skey of Linwood, Larry Smashey of Monroeville, Joel Sofia of Pitman, Adam Sparks of Carneys Point, Juan Carlos Villar of Vineland, Robert Ward of Cape May Court House, and Joseph Welsh of Northfield.

To demonstrate the dedication of students who received nominations, let me provide a synopsis of the application process. High school seniors mail personal information directly to the Military Academy, the Naval Academy, the Air Force Academy, and the Merchant Marine Academy once they become interested in attending. Information includes academic achievement, college entry test scores, and other activities. At this time, they also inform their Representative of their desire to be nominated. The academies then assess the applicants, rank them based on the data supplied, and furnish my office with their evaluations of each student.

Students are then interviewed by an Academy Screening Board made up of local citizens who volunteer their time to conduct interviews for my office. Given the caliber of each of this year's applicants, I know the Board's job was particularly difficult. I would like to recognize these men and women who served on the Academy Screening Board and to thank them for giving up their time and for all of their hard work. These individuals have contributed to their communities in a variety of ways and are characterized by a strong commitment to public service and their country.

The students who have made it through the nomination process are to be commended. They have worked hard and their families, schools and communities should be proud of their efforts. I wish all of them the best of luck in their quest to receive an invitation to one of our Country's prestigious academies.

## CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM

**HON. RON KIND**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 12, 1998*

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, last week Senator FRED THOMPSON's committee which is investigating campaign finance abuses in the 1966 elections issued its final report. The news from the report was not new, or startling. The committee concluded that our political system has been undermined by the influence of big money, specifically soft money.

The current soft money loophole allows wealthy donors to donate unlimited amounts of

money to influence federal elections. The threat of massive spending in a Congressional campaign forces special interest groups to weigh in with their own money, and candidates to raise increasingly large personal war chests. This cycle has to end. We need to bring the out-of-control spending in federal elections to an end.

In two weeks we will finally have our chance to do something about campaign finance reform. I hope we don't miss this golden opportunity to restore the public's faith in our democratic system. The people of my district will not accept "no" for an answer.

MILITARY RETIREES FAIRNESS  
ACT OF 1998, H.R. 3434**HON. LANE EVANS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 12, 1998*

Mr. EVANS. Mr. Speaker, on March 11, 1998, I introduced H.R. 3434, the Military Retirees Fairness Act of 1998. I am very pleased my colleague from Florida, Mr. BILIRAKIS, a strong and committed advocate for veterans and military retirees, has joined me as an original sponsor of this legislation. We encourage Congress to enact legislation this year to resolve the long-standing problem addressed by H.R. 3434.

Under current law, men and women who served in our Nation's Armed Forces are barred from the concurrent receipt of full military retirement pay and the full amount of compensation granted for a service-connected disability incurred or aggravated during their military service. The Military Retiree Fairness Act will allow military retirees to concurrently receive military retirement pay and service-connected disability benefits.

Service-connected benefits are paid to compensate a veteran for disabilities incurred or aggravated during military service. In contrast, military retirement is paid to provide an income to military retirees who spent at least 20 years of their lives working for, and serving, our country as members of the Armed Forces. The purpose and intent of these two programs are distinctively different and should not be confused or considered duplicative. Retired military personnel who were fortunate enough to have emerged from military service unscathed receive the full amount of military retirement pay which they have earned by their military service and do not qualify for service-connected disability benefits. In many cases, these retirees are able to earn additional income through post-military employment and thereby accrue Social Security or other retirement income benefits.

Those military retirees who were not so fortunate, are required to forfeit all or a portion of their military retirement pay in order to receive service-connected compensation which has been granted as a result of disability or disease incurred or aggravated during their military careers. These veterans, as a result of their service-connected medical conditions, face diminished post-military service employment possibilities and, therefore, a reduced ability to earn additional income through non-military employment, thereby losing the opportunity to accrue Social Security or other retirement income benefits.