

school helps all students achieve high standards, and a commitment to share best practices with other schools. These schools clearly display the quality of excellence necessary to prepare our young people for the challenges of the next century.

With 750 students, River Dell has been a four-year high school since 1994. It serves the communities of Oradell and River Edge, hence the name River Dell.

River Dell offers its students a variety of rigorous academic courses which emphasize writing, computer and research skills in all disciplines. All students are required to take four years of English and 25 percent take advanced placement English. Innovative courses such as 10th-grade American Studies—combining American history and literature—supplement more-traditional World Cultures and U.S. History. Chemistry, physics, biology, calculus, statistics, business and economics courses are all offered, most of them at the advanced placement level. The Fine Arts Department requires a professional portfolio of students participating in its advanced placement program. Musical opportunities include band/orchestra, strings, chorus, musicianship and ensemble groups. The Business Department operates a real company, the Sweet Tooth Corp. All students are required to take at least two computer courses.

River Dell teachers are exceptionally well-educated, with 7.4 percent holding doctorates and 90 percent holding a master's degree.

The excellence of River Dell's academic program has been repeatedly recognized. The school has won a series of Best Practices Awards from the state Department of Education, recognizing its programs for the gifted and talented, special students, business and history. The success of the academic programs is also proven by students' success—92 percent of the members of the Class of 1997 went on to college.

River Dell students are well prepared by their teachers, parents and role models in the community. They can rest assured they will be able to handle whatever challenges they choose in life. Once again, congratulations to everyone involved in this impressive achievement!

REMARKS OF ANDREW J. MAIR

**HON. BOB SCHAFFER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 4, 1998

Mr. BOB SCHAFFER of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the remarks of my friend and constituent, Andrew J. Mair. Even in retirement, Andy continues his long tradition of public service by speaking and writing on important issues of domestic and foreign policy. His insightful commentary on social security and the federal budget was published in the Ft. Collins "Coloradoan" on Sunday, May 31, 1998.

As Andy points out, current surpluses generated by the Social Security tax are being used to finance other functions of the federal government. Of the \$5.5 trillion gross national debt, \$1.7 trillion is held by government accounts. This portion of the debt represents obligations of one government agency, in this case the Treasury Department, to various fed-

eral trust funds. The Social Security trust fund is a good example. I hereby submit for the RECORD, Andy Mair's report.

May 14, 1998.

TO THE EDITOR: We are in a period of record prosperity and a booming economy. Unemployment is at a 28-year low. This prosperity has resulted in a record amount of money collected by Social Security in payroll taxes. The surplus goes into the Social Security trust fund.

For decades the federal government has been borrowing the surplus of Social Security and spending it on other federal programs. Therefore, the money owed to Social Security becomes part of the federal public debt.

The current push to reform Social Security and the discussions on what to do with money accumulated by balancing the budget caused me to search out data on the 1998 federal budget.

The White House Office of Management and Budget collects and maintains financial data for the federal government. The data in the attached chart is taken from their report. Copies are available to the public.

The chart shows a rapid expansion in the money collected and the money spent by the federal government. It shows the increase that started in the 1980s has continued through the 1990s.

It shows total receipts, "all money collected" by the federal government; total outlays, all money spent; and the increase in federal debt by fiscal year.

Using three six-year periods in the chart provides the opportunity to evaluate the last six years.

TABLE 1.3.—SUMMARY OF RECEIPTS, OUTLAYS, AND FEDERAL DEBT  
[In billions of dollars]

	Receipts	Outlays	Federal debt
1980 .....	\$517.1	\$590.9	\$909,050
1986 .....	769.3	990.5	2,120,627
1992 .....	1,091.1	1,381.7	4,002,453
1998 .....	1,566.8	1,687.5	5,465,000

Total money collected in 1980 was \$517.1 billion and in 1998 was \$1,566.8 trillion, an increase of over 300% in 18 years. The "outlays," total money spent, went from \$590.9 in 1980 to \$1,687.5 trillion in 1998, and the public debt increased from \$909,050 billion in 1980 to \$5,465,000 trillion as of April 15, 1998.

The annual report from the office of Social Security shows total income for retirement, survivor payments, and disability insurance for 1997 was \$449.9 billion, and total outgo's were \$367.5 billion. This increased the Social Security trust fund by \$75.4 billion.

Projections for fiscal year 1998 show income to Social Security will exceed \$500 billion, and \$100 billion will be added to the trust fund. This will bring the total value of the Social Security trust fund to over \$700 billion.

By the year 2012 projections are that money paid out to retirees will exceed money received, unless drastic changes are made in Social Security. Money to pay Social Security benefits will have to be borrowed by increasing the federal debt, or dramatically raising taxes. Will either of these choices be available?

If a thirty-year-old worker looks at the record of the last 18 years, or the last six years. He cannot be optimistic there will be any Social Security for him.

In prosperous times, with everybody working, why have we increased total federal debt by over \$1 trillion during the last six years? Why have we increased federal spending by over \$300 billion?

No, the day of big government is not over. We are not putting Social Security first. We

have the best government in the world. Social Security is a good program. It can be saved if the government will put its financial house in order and stop the rapid expansion in federal spending.

ANDREW J. MAIR,  
Retired, U.S. Government.

By current estimates, the Social Security trust fund will continue to run a surplus until 2012, when the first of the Baby Boom generation begins to retire. After that time, general federal tax revenues will be required to cover the ever-increasing difference between Social Security expenditures, and the revenue from Social Security taxes. Unless changes are made, this situation will place an ever-increasing squeeze on the federal budget, forcing either massive cuts in other programs or cutting Social Security benefits bloating the debt or eventually, a combination of these responses. The arithmetic which makes this a certainty is clear: As recently as 1950, there were 16 workers for every Social Security beneficiary. Today there are only 3.3. By 2025, there will be fewer than two.

What is needed is a fundamental reassessment of how the federal government spends the taxes it collects. Though the budget is technically near-balance, we must continue to reduce spending and real reforms must be instituted to sustain Social Security.

The National Debt Repayment Act (H.R. 2191) offers responsible management for any future budget surpluses. As an original co-sponsor of this legislation, I am working hard to see it become law. The proposal will require an annual surplus of one percent. The proceeds from that surplus will then be used to pay for the various trust funds, tax cuts and debt repayment. This planned, systematic approach to the budget will assure continued progress toward a rational fiscal policy. This will enable us to further decrease interest rates, ensure the integrity of the Social Security and highway trust funds, and eliminate the burden our children and grandchildren would otherwise have to bear. Reforms such as H.R. 2191 are a good first step, but we must act now to assure the government fulfills its obligations to today's retirees, as well as tomorrow's. Clearly, spending the "surplus" on new programs is unacceptable. I thank Andy Mair for his continuing involvement on this and other issues of importance to my constituents and all Americans.

HONORING HENDERSONVILLE HIGH SCHOOL STATE SOCCER CHAMPIONS FOR AN OUTSTANDING SEASON

**HON. BART GORDON**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 4, 1998

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I would like to express my congratulations to the Commandos of Hendersonville High School in Hendersonville, Tennessee as they celebrate their victory in the 1998 TSSAA Class AAA State Soccer Championship.

This is a tremendous achievement for the Commandos as it is their first State Championship since 1989. In a remarkable show of school and community spirit, senior team members aspired to win not only for themselves, but also for alumni who had played before them.

The championship game was won 2 to 1 by the Commandos under the leadership of Head Coach Russ Plummer and Assistant Coach Darren Frank. Goals were made by seniors Jeff Cundiff and Dylan Brown. Other team members include seniors Ryan Brody, David Kopko, Ryan McComas, Leif Sherry, Clark Hastings, Ian Cummings, and Ben Meyer; juniors Danny O'Keefe, Doug Ziegler, and Michael Rose; and sophomores Joe Carmack, Ryan Alexander, Travis Pulley, Jeremy Willis, Hank Stanfill, Andy Duensing, Corey DeGuira, and Zach Glaser. I congratulate these players and others who have made significant contributions to their success, including Hendersonville High School Principal Paul Decker, Athletic Trainer Robb Williams, Athletic Director Charlie Lewis, and Team Managers Kathy Calderala and Megan McMullen.

However, the greatest honor goes to the parents who, I am sure, are very proud of their sons' accomplishments. I give my highest congratulations to these young men on their great achievement. I am certain the Hendersonville community is very proud of these young men for their hard work and dedication.

IN HONOR OF COLONEL DAVID  
(MICKEY) MARKUS

**HON. CHARLES E. SCHUMER**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 4, 1998*

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. Speaker, I stand here today to honor the memory of a truly exceptional citizen on the 50th anniversary of his tragic death.

Colonel David (Mickey) Markus was a hero. Brooklyn born and bred, Colonel Marcus graduated from West Point in 1924 before returning to Brooklyn to attend Brooklyn Law School. After graduation, Colonel Marcus served our country as an Assistant United States Attorney and then as an officer in the Army during World War II.

In 1948, Colonel Markus travelled to the Middle East to fight for the creation of a Jewish state in the War of Independence. While serving as an officer in the Israeli army, Colonel Markus was killed in battle.

Even though he was serving in a foreign army, Colonel Markus was buried at West Point under special permission by President Truman. His contribution to the fight for an independent Israel were recognized by Prime Minister Ben Curion, who issued a special statement in his honor. Colonel Marcus's gave is honored with pebbles left by visitors in the Jewish tradition.

Colonel Marcus made our neighborhood and our country proud. We recognize his achievements on this solemn day and honor his memory.

CONGRATULATING BENJAMIN  
FRANKLIN MIDDLE SCHOOL

**HON. MARGE ROUKEMA**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 4, 1998*

Mrs. ROUKEMA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Benjamin Franklin Middle School in

Ridgewood, New Jersey, on receiving the U.S. Department of Education's prestigious Blue Ribbon Schools Award.

This award recognizes that Benjamin Franklin Middle School is one of the finest schools in our entire nation. This proves that public education works and that our young people in Bergen County are among the best and brightest. This accomplishment is the result of hard work on the part of students, their parents, teachers and the Board of Education. Special congratulations go to Principal Paul Folkemer, and Superintendent of Schools Frederick J. Stokley. As a former teacher and school board member, I am proud of everyone associated with this accomplishment.

Of the thousands of middle schools and high schools across the United States, only 166 this year were found to be outstanding enough to receive this high honor. Recipients of the Blue Ribbon Schools Award have been judged particularly effective at meeting local, state and national goals. The award is presented to schools that have shown strong leadership, a clear vision and sense of mission, high quality teaching, challenging curriculum, a safe environment for learning, solid evidence of family involvement, evidence that the school helps all students achieve high standards, and a commitment to share best practices with other schools. These schools clearly display the quality of excellence necessary to prepare our young people for the challenges of the next century.

With 600 students, Benjamin Franklin has served students in the sixth, seventh and eighth grades as a middle school since 1985, when it reorganized from a junior high serving seventh, eighth and ninth grades. The mission of the school is to "help children grow up"—intellectually, emotionally, socially and physically—and its organization, instructional program and support system are focused on that goal. The school is divided into two "houses," each with an administrator, guidance counselor, learning disabilities consultant and 12 teachers divided into three teams of four each. Each team meets daily to discuss curriculum, review individual student progress and coordinate activities.

The school's curriculum is comprehensive and challenging. All sixth-grade students are required to take classes in English, math, science, social studies, a foreign language, physical education, art, technology, health and music. Seventh- and eighth-graders take courses in the same categories plus a selection of electives. The focus of the curriculum is on mastery of the language, problem solving, creativity, critical thinking and basic skill development.

Modern technology is a part of all courses. The school has a three-room technology center, a television studio, an automated information retrieval system, and televisions, telephones and computers in every classroom. Students word process all English assignments.

Since 1990, Benjamin Franklin has emphasized a "reality-based" curriculum that links academic topics to real-life situations. Students have explored how race relations played a role in the Yankees' decision to stay in the Bronx, the arson of African-American churches and the World War II Holocaust.

The excellence of Benjamin Franklin's academic program has been repeatedly recognized. In 1996, the school was selected as

one of the top 10 schools in New Jersey and was recognized for its reality-based curriculum. In the past four years, the school has received nine Best Practices Awards from the state Department of Education, recognizing its courses in citizenship (twice), career education, English (twice), art, special education, foreign language and physical education. No other school in New Jersey has received that many awards during the four-year history of the Best Practices program.

Benjamin Franklin students are well prepared by their teachers, parents and role models in the community. They can rest assured they will be able to handle whatever challenges they choose in life. Once again, congratulations to everyone involved in this impressive achievement.

SPEAKER GINGRICH ADDRESSES  
ISRAEL'S PARLIAMENT

**HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 4, 1998*

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I want to take this opportunity to share with our colleagues the address the Speaker delivered at Israel's parliament during our visit last week in commemoration of Israel's jubilee anniversary. The Speaker's appearance at the Knesset podium was the first by any Speaker of the House of Representatives. Such a historic event reaffirms and underscores the bonds of friendship and cooperation between the United States and Israel, and especially between Israel and the Congress of the United States. Accordingly, while many of our colleagues were privileged to hear the Speaker deliver these moving remarks, I am certain that the remainder of our colleagues would appreciate having the opportunity to review these remarks as well.

This congressional visit to Israel—to celebrate the miraculous rebirth of the modern State of Israel—was the largest visit of Members of the House and Senate to Israel in its fifty-year history. Under the Speaker's leadership, Members participated in valuable meetings with Prime Minister Netanyahu, and with Speaker Dan Tichon, with colleagues of ours in the Knesset. In what was a precedent-setting meeting, it was agreed that a US-Israel parliamentary group would be established, with the first bilateral focus to be on missile defense systems.

We were also privileged to spend several hours with Minister of National Infrastructure Ariel Sharon, who took us to two settlements across the green line in the West Bank. At one site, known as Paduel, we saw across the entire coastal plain to Ben Gurion airport and the skyline of Tel Aviv. It was clear that Israel's security concerns are deep and real.

In his remarks to the Knesset, Speaker GINGRICH eloquently relayed the affection and respect we have for the people and State of Israel. It was a memorable and historic day for the Knesset, the Congress of the United States, and for the citizens our two great democratic institutions represent.

Accordingly, I submit the Speaker's speech for the Knesset to be printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.