

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING ANGELA LOIS GREEN
AND ALEXANDER TODD HEWLETT

HON. CHET EDWARDS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 5, 1999

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer my best wishes to Angela Lois Green and Alexander Todd Hewlett on their upcoming wedding. Miss Green and Mr. Hewlett will be united in holy matrimony on May 8, 1999 at seven o'clock in the evening at St. Paul's United Methodist Church in Houston. Reverend L. James Bankston will officiate the candlelight double-ring ceremony.

The bride is the daughter of Congressman and Mrs. GENE GREEN of Houston. She is the granddaughter of Mrs. Mildred Albers and the late Leon Albers of Houston, and Mr. and Mrs. Garland Green of Bedford, Pennsylvania. The groom is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Hewlett of Tucson, Arizona. He is the grandson of the late Mr. and Mrs. Frank Watkins, and of the late Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Hewlett, both of Tucson, Arizona.

Serving as Matron on Honor will be Sarah Goggans. Melissa Murray will serve as Maid of Honor. Bridesmaids will include Marina Monteforte, Erin Mireur, and Karen Zientek. Members of the House Party will be Karen Rudich, Amy White, and Nichole Sepulvado.

Serving his brother as Best Man will be Andrew Hewlett. Groomsmen will be Scott Davis, Brian Somers, Babak Mokari, and Chris Green, brother of the bride. Tony Chacon, Brian Ledden, and Matt Thompson will serve as ushers.

Angela is a 1993 Honor graduate of Aldine High School in Houston. She was a member and section leader of the Aldine Band, a member of the Honor Society, and served as President of the Student Council. In 1998, she earned a Bachelor of Arts in Biology from the University of Texas at Austin, where she was a member and President of Alpha Xi Delta, and was a Robert C. Byrd Honor Scholar. She also served as Executive Vice President of the Panhellenic Council in 1996-97. She was recently elected President of the American Medical Students Association at the University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston, where she is currently a second-year medical student.

Alex is a 1992 graduate of Sabino High School in Tucson, Arizona, where he was a member of the state champion Sabino Sabercats football team. In 1996, he earned a Bachelor of Arts in Chemistry from Pomona College in Claremont, California, where he was a member of Sigma Tau fraternity, and played football for the Pomona College Sagehens. Alex is a fourth-year medical student at Ohio University College of Osteopathic Medicine in Athens, Ohio. He received the Tucson Osteopathic Foundation Scholars Award in 1997. He did clinical research at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center in New York City during the summer of 1997. He is

currently doing clinical rotations at St. John West Shore Hospital in Cleveland, Ohio, where he is the CORE Site Representative.

As Angela and Alex begin their new life together, may they always remember I Corinthians, which states: Love is patient and kind, love is not jealous or boastful; it is not arrogant or rude. Love does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrong, but rejoices in the right. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends.

I would like to express my congratulations to Congressman GREEN and his wife Helen. I also ask that the House join me in wishing Angela and Alex a long and fruitful marriage. May their love continue to grow.

MEETING OUR COMMITMENT TO FUNDING SPECIAL EDUCATION

HON. DAVID E. BONIOR

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 5, 1999

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, as I meet with teachers, school administrators and school board members in Michigan's 10th Congressional District, one thing becomes clear—paying for the costs of teaching children with special needs is expensive.

Families with special needs children face unique challenges. I believe their children should be able to learn in the least restrictive environment. But that also means we have an obligation to help provide our schools with the tools they need to do the job. When it comes to educating our children—particularly for those who have special needs—we all have a role to play.

When the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) was first enacted in 1975, Congress committed to funding 40 percent of the cost. Unfortunately, the federal government has consistently fallen short of this goal. As special education costs continue to rise, we fall further behind. Currently, federal support for special needs education is at 12 percent. During such a prosperous moment in our history, surely we can do more to help our local communities and educators provide a thriving learning environment for our children who face the most challenges.

We need to step up to the plate and fulfill our commitment to our local schools. That is why I have joined a number of my colleagues in writing the President asking him to support a substantial increase in federal funding for special education, and it is why I believe we should fully fund the IDEA Act.

As we debate our budget priorities, I will continue to work with our families and local schools to provide support for improving education for all our children. I am committed to ensuring that public education is among our highest budget priorities.

TRIBUTE TO THE WOMEN OF
LAWTON

HON. J.C. WATTS, JR.

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 5, 1999

Mr. WATTS of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize the efforts of the women of Lawton who are organizing "Lawton Women Unity '99," a day to recognize the accomplishments, the strengths, and the very being of womanhood. Hosted by "Created in His Image Ministries," on Saturday, May 8, 1999, the women of Lawton are invited to meet at the Lawton City Hall and encircle the building with a human prayer chain. They will pray for the women in Littleton, Colorado who have lost their children, as well as for others who have lost their children to violence. They will lift up the women in Kosovo and the leaders of the United States and the Lawton locality. They will pray for the needs of Lawton and Fort Sill.

The women of Lawton celebrate womanhood in the name of God and offer this open invitation to all women. It is the compassion of a woman, the deep love of a woman, and the tears of a woman that God calls for to affect change in the land. The Lawton women would like to encourage other groups with common interests in the name of women and God to organize similar events. It is the hope of the women of Lawton that the "Lawton Women Unity '99" will set a precedent in the celebration of the unity of womanhood and that the event will blossom to include statewide and nationwide participation in like events.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I recognize the efforts of the women of Lawton. These women set an example for women, and men, across the nation to follow at a time when our nation cries for restoration and unity of our people is of utmost importance.

STOP THE INHUMANE TREATMENT OF DOGS AND CATS

HON. GERALD D. KLECZKA

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 5, 1999

Mr. KLECZKA. Mr. Speaker, on April 29, 1999 I introduced the Dog and Cat Protection Act. I was appalled to learn about the use of dog and cat fur on coats, toys, and other merchandise as profiled in a recent segment of "Dateline NBC". Immediately thereafter, I began drafting legislation to end this abusive practice. While crafting this measure, I contacted the Humane Society of the United States for their input. As a result of these efforts, I introduced H.R. 1622, the Dog and Cat Protection Act.

An estimated 2,000,000 dogs and cats are slaughtered and sold annually as part of the international fur trade. Many of these animals

• 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.

are raised in deplorable conditions. Unfortunately, there are no federal laws to prohibit the importation, manufacture, transport or sale of any product made with dog and cat fur. The only provision in law to regulate the importation of products made with cat and dog fur is the Fur Products Labeling Act (FPLA). The FPLA and its regulations simply require that any product with a value of more than \$150 contain a label informing a consumer that it contains animal fur. Any product worth less than \$150 is exempted from the labeling requirement.

My legislation would impose a ban on all products entering the United States made with cat and dog fur. In order to prevent a foreign importer from establishing operations in the United States, H.R. 1622 would also prevent the sale, manufacture, transport, or advertisement of any product made domestically with cat and dog fur.

Furthermore, H.R. 1622 would give additional authority to the Customs Service to inspect products entering the United States to ensure they do not contain cat and dog fur. Violators of the ban would be subject to both civil and criminal penalties. Furthermore, persons found to be in violation of the ban would face the prospect of being permanently prohibited from selling any fur product in the United States.

The Dog and Cat Protection Act also amends the Fur Products Labeling Act to require all fur products entering the United States—regardless of their value—to contain a label showing their true content. This means those persons who try to mislabel products in order to get around the ban contained in my legislation would face additional penalties under the Fur Products Labeling Act. The additional labeling requirements will also help the Customs Service in their enforcement efforts.

Mr. Speaker, it is time to put an end to the inhumane treatment of dogs and cats once and for all. I urge my colleagues to become cosponsors of H.R. 1622.

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION TO SUSPEND DUTIES ON IM- PORTED RAW MATERIAL

HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 5, 1999

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation which supports important regional and national interests.

My home, the 7th Congressional District of Washington, is also the home of the K2 Corp., the last remaining major U.S. manufacturer of skis and one of three major makers of snowboards in the United States. K2 conducts all significant manufacturing operations for skis and snowboards at its Vashon Island, Washington facility. In fact, all K2 snowboards and virtually all K2 and Olin-brand skis sold throughout the world are individually crafted by technicians on Vashon Island. Moreover, K2 sources almost all of the components for its skis and snowboards in the U.S. stimulating the U.S. economy through its purchases of raw materials from U.S. suppliers, especially in the Pacific Northwest region of the country. However, for a key ski and snowboard component—polyethylene base materials—K2 has

been unable to find a supplier of these products in the U.S. that can meet its needs. Therefore, K2 has been forced to import this product, which is subject to U.S. customs duties upon importation. This legislation provides for a temporary suspension of customs duty on the raw material which is vital to the U.S. production of skis and snowboards and which are unavailable from domestic producers.

K2 is working hard to remain viable in the highly competitive international market for skis and snowboards. In fact, K2 has endured as a U.S. ski manufacturer in the face of fierce price competition, while several other major ski companies no longer manufacture skis in the U.S. This temporary duty suspension legislation would support jobs in the region, as well as K2's ability to continue developing innovative, fine quality products. Equally important, a temporary duty suspension would help K2 preserve and increase its competitiveness in the global marketplace.

K2 is the only major exporter of skis made in the U.S. In addition, K2 is one of three principal exporters of U.S. made snowboards. Thus, K2's exports of U.S. manufactured skis and snowboards represent a substantial percentage of U.S. skis and snowboards sold worldwide. If K2 is unable to remain competitive in global and domestic markets, skis manufactured in the U.S. may disappear from the global marketplace. The temporary duty suspension proposed by this legislation would help prevent the shutdown of the only remaining U.S. producer of skis.

OPPOSING NATIONAL TEACHER CERTIFICATION OR NATIONAL TEACHER TESTING

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 5, 1999

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce legislation to forbid the use of federal funds to develop or implement a national system of teacher certification or a national teacher test. My bill also forbids the Department of Education from denying funds to any state or local education agency because that state or local educational agency has refused to adopt a federally-approved method of teacher certification or testing. This legislation in no way interferes with a state's ability to use federal funds to support their chosen method of teacher certification or testing.

Having failed to implement a national curriculum through the front door with national student testing (thanks to the efforts of members of the Education Committee under the leadership of Chairman GOODLING), the administration is now trying to implement a national curriculum through the backdoor with national teacher testing and certification. National teacher certification will allow the federal government to determine what would-be teachers need to know in order to practice their chosen profession. Teacher education will revolve around preparing teachers to pass the national test or to receive a national certificate. New teachers will then base their lesson plans on what they needed to know in order to receive their Education Department-approved teaching certificate. Therefore, I call on those of my colleagues who oppose a national curriculum to

join me in opposing national teacher testing and certification with the same vigor with which you opposed national student testing.

Many educators are already voicing opposition to national teacher certification and testing. The Coalition of Independent Education Associations (CIEA), which represents the majority of the over 300,000 teachers who are members of independent educators associations, has passed a resolution opposing the nationalization of teacher certification and testing; I have attached a copy of this resolution for insertion into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. As more and more teachers realize the impact of this proposal, I expect opposition from the education community to grow. Teachers want to be treated as professionals, not as minions of the federal government.

Legislation has already been introduced in the Texas State Legislature prohibiting the use of any national certification or national examination to determine if someone is qualified to teach in Texas. While I applaud this legislation, I wonder if Texas would change its policies if the Department of Education threatened to deny Texas federal funds if Texas failed to adopt the Department's chosen method of teacher certification and testing. It is up to Congress to see that the Department of Education does not bully the states into adopting the method of teacher certification and testing favored by DC-based bureaucrats.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, I once again urge my colleagues to join me in opposing national teacher certification or national teacher testing. Training and certification of classroom teachers is the job of state governments, local school districts, educators, and parents; this vital function should not be usurped by federal bureaucrats and/or politicians. Please stand up for America's teachers and students by signing on as a cosponsor of my legislation to ensure taxpayer dollars do not support national teacher certification or national teacher testing.

COALITION OF INDEPENDENT EDUCATION ASSOCIATIONS—STATEMENT ON NATIONAL TEACHER LICENSURE, FEBRUARY 26, 1999

The licensure of teachers should remain the responsibility of each state's Board of Education and any attempt to authorize the federal government to govern this process should be opposed.

Secretary of Education Richard Riley's proposal (February 16, 1999) to empower a teacher panel to grant licenses for teaching would remove the separate state's authority to protect the welfare of the general public.

Teaching is a public enterprise and not a private profession.

Such high stakes licensure decisions must be controlled by a body that is responsible to the public and has accountability for the quality of the decision.

The current education reform movement has compelled states' Boards of Education to revamp and improve teacher licensure programs. This right should be left to the states to best determine how they license state teachers.

Congress should oppose any movement toward federalizing educator licensure, teacher appraisal, and employment contracts.

The undersigned representatives of the Coalition of Independent Education Associations strongly urge our members of the Congress and the Senate to vigorously defend the rights of states to control their educational destiny.

Arizona Professional Educators, Association of American Educators, Association of Professional Educators of Louisiana, Association of Professional

Oklahoma Educators, Association of Texas Professional Educators, Kentucky Association of Professional Educators, Keystone Teachers Association, West Virginia Professional Educators, Mississippi Professional Educators, National Association of Professional Educators, Palmetto State Teachers Association, Professional Educators Network of Florida, Professional Educators of Iowa, Professional Educators of North Carolina, Professional Educators of Tennessee.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JULIA CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 5, 1999

Ms. CARSON. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent on Tuesday, May 4, 1999, and early today, Wednesday, May 5, 1999, and as a result, missed rollcall votes 105 through 109. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on rollcall vote 105, "yes" on rollcall vote 106, "yes" on rollcall vote 107, "present" on rollcall vote 108, and "no" on rollcall vote 109.

EXPRESSING SENSE OF HOUSE IN SUPPORT OF AMERICA'S TEACHERS

SPEECH OF

HON. BOB CLEMENT

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 4, 1999

Mr. CLEMENT. Mr. Speaker, as the co-chair of the House Education Caucus and as a parent, I rise today to honor the outstanding work our teachers do every day. Their dedication and expertise form the cornerstone of our nation's education system. They are there for our children, often under trying circumstances and with less than adequate resources and support. They perform daily miracles in their classrooms.

Few other professionals touch as many in as many different ways as teachers do. Teaching children math, English, science and history is only the beginning of what teachers do. They are listeners, advocates, support people, role models, mentors and motivators. They encourage children to reach farther than they ever thought possible and they are there to catch their students if they should slip.

Teachers often put countless extra hours outside of the classroom preparing lessons, reading and correcting papers, and working with students who need just a little extra help. They do this because they love their job, care about their students and are committed to ensuring that our children have the best chance at success.

I believe that we can go a long way in improving our country's education system by exhibiting respect for our teachers and by letting them know how much we value their contributions. I urge my colleagues to recognize teachers for the significant role they play in our lives and in the well-being of our nation. As a Member of this House, as the co-chair of the Education Caucus and as a parent of two high school daughters, I thank the thousands

of teachers who have dedicated themselves to educating and believing in our children.

IN COMMEMORATION OF THE FOURTH ANNUAL BLUE MASS

HON. JAMES P. MCGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 5, 1999

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in order to recognize the celebration of the Fourth Annual Blue Mass in Worcester County. The Diocese of Worcester will host this event on Sunday, May 2, 1999, in tribute to all law enforcement personnel who honorably serve our local communities.

A special memorial service will be held prior to the Mass to honor those who have died since last year's Blue Mass. Those being remembered are Lieutenant Joseph R. Ripel of the Massachusetts State Police, Sergeant John J. Lesczynski of Worcester Police Department, and Patrolman Mark McEachern of the Boylston Police Department. They served with pride and are true role models for our youth.

Four new awards are being instituted this year in dedication to law enforcement.

The Distinguished Law Enforcement Award will be presented jointly to Sergeant Vincent Gorgoglione, Supervisor of the Worcester Police Department Domestic Violence Unit and Christine Kelly, Program Coordinator for the Worcester Intervention Network.

The Award for Excellence in Law Enforcement Education will be bestowed upon former Attorney General Robert Quinn in recognition of the establishment of the Quinn Law.

The Outstanding Community Service Award is being presented to the entire Holden Police Department. The Holden police officers have committed themselves to serving the students of Holden, MA. Through such programs as the Adopt-A-School Officer for every grade school, Thursday night basketball, and public safety days, these officers have made outstanding contributions to their town, paying special attention to the needs of the student population.

Finally, the Interfaith Award is being awarded to Lieutenant Paul Bozicas of the Fitchburg Police Department, who is active in a variety of civic and charitable activities, including the Charity Five Road Race, Citizen's Police Academy, and the Department's Employee Assistance Unit.

Mr. Speaker, it is with pride that I rise today to acknowledge the Fourth Annual Blue Mass and the law officials being honored. It is a befitting celebration to remember and acknowledge those who do so much.

DEMOCRACY AS A UNIVERSAL VALUE

HON. DAVID E. PRICE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 5, 1999

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I wish to call to the attention of my colleagues a piece by Stephen Rosenfeld from the Washington Post of March 12, 1999. It highlights the eloquent words spoken by India's Nobel

laureate economist Amartya Sen at the "World Movement for Democracy" conference recently held in New Delhi, India.

I attended the conference and served on an opening panel with my colleagues Representative GARY ACKERMAN, Representative JIM McDERMOTT, and Representative LLOYD DOGGETT. The international event was cosponsored by the National Endowment for Democracy (NED), as well as two Indian partner organizations. I was impressed by the extraordinary commitment of the participants, representing over 80 countries from all parts of the world, to the shared values of freedom, rule of law, and human rights. The conference adopted a founding document establishing a "Worldwide Movement for Democracy," the purpose of which is to develop new forms of cooperation to promote and strengthen democracy.

NED deserves commendation for organizing this conference. NED grants have supported nongovernmental, pro-democratic programs in dozens of countries around the world. The "World Movement for Democracy" is yet another example of NED's outstanding work to advance the cause of democracy worldwide.

[From the Washington Post, Mar. 12, 1999]

THE ECONOMIC USES OF DEMOCRACY

(By Stephen S. Rosenfeld)

The political blessings of democracy are manifest, but that leaves many poor countries still worrying whether democracy is a burden or a benefit to their economic development. This nagging question was tackled in New Delhi last month by a leading student of the affairs of the poor, India's Nobel economist Amartya Sen. There for the founding of a "World Movement for Democracy" by the U.S. National Endowment for Democracy, he took up the congenial theme of "democracy as a universal value."

Sen acknowledged the high growth delivered in Singapore by the authoritarian approach identified with former president Lee Kuan Yew. But a view of "all the comparative studies together," he said, suggests there may be no relation between economic growth and democracy in either direction. Still, none of the policies proven helpful to development—openness to competition, use of international markets and so on—is inconsistent with greater democracy. "Overwhelming evidence" indicates that what generates growth is a friendlier economic climate, not a harsher political system.

Democracy has further economic uses. Sen noted "the remarkable fact" that in the terrible history of famines in the world, no substantial famine has ever occurred in any independent and democratic country with a relatively free press. Immense famines have afflicted countries with dictatorial or alien regimes. Dictatorial: the Soviet Union in the 1930s, China in 1958-61 (30 million dead) and the two current cases of North Korea and Sudan. Alien: British-ruled Ireland and India.

Meanwhile, even the poorest democratic countries have avoided threatened famine. The difference is that the democratic places have a responsive government able to intervene to alleviate hunger. India had famines under British rule right up to independence. With the establishment of a multiparty democracy and a free press, they disappeared. What Sen calls the "protective power of democracy" has spared many countries a "penalty of undemocratic governance."

The pattern extends to Asia's current travails. Sen believes that financial crisis in South Korea, Thailand and Indonesia is closely linked to a lack of transparency, to

the lack of public participation in reviewing financial arrangements. And once the crisis degenerated into recession, "the protective power of democracy" was simply not available to ensure spreading the burden of a cruel economic contraction.

Such a protective power, Sen argues, is of particular importance for the poor, for potential famine victims, for the destitute thrown off the economic ladder in a financial earthquake: "People in economic need also need a political voice." With evident pride he notes that in the mid-1970s, the Indian electorate—"one of the poorest of the world"—affirmed its democratic disposition by voting out a government that had proclaimed emergency rule and abridged the people's rights.

As for cultural differences, a common claim is that Asians traditionally value discipline over political freedom. Sen finds that hard to accept. He is in a position, as few of us are, to range over the texts of diverse Asian cultures and to contend with assorted practitioners and scholars in the field.

His conclusion: "The monolithic interpretation of Asian values as hostile to democracy and political rights does not bear critical scrutiny." Such an interpretation comes from politicians, not scholars: "to dismiss the plausibility of democracy as a universal value on the ground of the presence of some Asian writings on discipline and order would be similar to rejecting the plausibility of democracy . . . on the basis of the writings of Aquinas or Plato."

The many merits of democracy, Sen concludes, "are not regional in character. Nor is the advocacy of discipline or order in contrast with freedom and democracy. Heterogeneity of values seems to characterize most, perhaps all, major cultures. The cultural argument does not foreclose, nor indeed deeply constrain, the choices we can make today."

It was a felicitous stroke for the National Endowment for Democracy to recruit Amartya Sen as the herald of its attempt to put achieved and aspiring democrats in closer touch with one another. The Internet makes the mechanics of it easy. The wisdom of the man illuminates the core idea: Democracy is universal.

IMPROVING MEDICARE QUALITY THROUGH PURCHASING: THE OHIO EXPERIENCE

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 5, 1999

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, three weeks ago, I introduced H.R. 1392, the "Centers of Excellence" bill. H.R. 1392 would allow Medicare to provide incentives for beneficiaries to use certain high-volume, high-quality facilities. This initiative would both save lives, and save money for Medicare.

It is a widely acknowledged fact that facilities that perform large numbers of complex procedures have lower mortality rates and fewer adverse outcomes. These facilities, known as "Centers of Excellence," have become an important private sector tool for quality improvement and cost containment.

An April 22 article in the Wall Street Journal highlighted an Ohio HMO with a Centers of Excellence program for heart procedures. After automatically removing facilities that performed fewer than 250 heart procedures per year from their list of preferred providers, the HMO conducted an extensive quality survey to

determine the rating of the remaining facilities. This resulted in several more facilities being removed from the list, including some very reputable hospitals in the area. The Ohio experience showed that facilities with the best reputations for excellence did not necessarily have the best outcomes.

Being removed from the Ohio HMO's preferred provider list was a strong competitive incentive for lower-quality facilities to improve their procedures. For one facility, the rate of heart attack following bypass surgery dropped from 2.8 percent in 1993 to 0.9 percent in 1997. A national "Centers of Excellence" program would likely have the same result, spurring facilities with a lower quality rating to improve their services and raising quality standards overall.

Not only will H.R. 1392 improve quality, it will also lower costs for Medicare. Fewer complications after surgery mean less follow up care and fewer medical expenses. Targeting patient volume to certain facilities can also result in discounted prices.

Although "Centers of Excellence" passed the House in 1997, political motivations have kept it from becoming law. Quality health care should not be a pawn in the political chess game. We have a second chance to implement this important change for Medicare. I strongly urge my colleagues' support for H.R. 1392.

CAN PARENTS UTTER HARDEST WORD OF ALL?

HON. ROB PORTMAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 5, 1999

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, the recent shootings at Columbine High School in Littleton, CO, have shocked the entire Nation.

As a legislator and as a parent of three young children, I am concerned about the overall environment in which today's kids are being raised. Today's fast-paced world of the Internet, video games, and increasingly violent pop culture bears little resemblance to the America in which so many parents from my generation were raised. The increase of the incidences and ferocity of school violence are a cause for deep concern—and a call to action.

During the coming weeks and months, here in the Halls of Congress—and in school board meeting rooms, city council chambers, and in state legislatures around the country—our Nation will discuss what we can do to prevent another tragedy like Littleton. Some of the ideas we will discuss will be helpful and should be adopted. Other proposals will make us feel as though we're doing something, but will do nothing to prevent the root causes of school violence.

Throughout this national dialog, I hope we do not overlook the one obvious and essential ingredient to preventing these senseless acts of violence. There is nothing more powerful than an active, concerned, and caring parent. I've seen it personally in my work on the problem of reducing teenage substance abuse and have read it in countless studies on reshaping adolescent behavior.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to enter a thoughtful and insightful piece by author and col-

umnist Laura Pulfer from yesterday's Cincinnati Enquirer into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD which addresses the urgent need for new parenting.

[From the Cincinnati Enquirer, May 4, 1999]
CAN PARENTS UTTER HARDEST WORD OF ALL?

(By Laura Pulfer)

Some hard things must be said if we are to be honest about this thing that happened in Littleton. If we are to learn anything, if we are to let it be important.

The first thing is that the young men who killed the children at the high school do not belong among the victims' names—even if the in-crowd made their lives a living hell. At the memorial site near Columbine High School, an Illinois carpenter erected a set of 8-foot-high wooden crosses, 15 of them, including two memorializing the killers.

FEELING GUILTY?

An angry father of one of the victims took down the crosses for Dylan Klebold and Eric Harris, saying it wasn't appropriate to honor the shooters in the same spot. Well, of course not. What the killers did at this high school is monstrous. We might forgive them, but we will not award them martyrdom.

And however, nervous—however guilty—we suburban people of means are prepared to be about our skills as parents, about our two-paycheck homes, we can say so aloud. Monstrous. The murderers took guns of incredible destruction—weapons built to perform exactly as they did—and moved from classmate to classmate, blowing them away, surely with bits of bone and brain and blood clinging to their celebrated black trench coats.

This is something evil. And we need to say so. This is not the time to be our famously flexible selves with our flexible time, flexible mortgages, flexible morals.

Right and wrong. Good and bad. Yes and no.

We can say these words, especially to our children. In fact, it is our duty. There is a reason human offspring are sent home from the hospital with a couple of parents instead of a Visa card and the keys to an apartment. They are unformed. And uninformed. We're supposed to fill them in.

KEEPING TABS

They don't need us to be their buddies. They have younger, cooler people willing to do that. They need snooty, pushy, loving, know-it-all parents.

A study presented Monday to the Pediatric Academic Societies convention reports that children of parents who keep close tabs on them are less likely to get in trouble. Do you suspect our parents already knew this? You know, the generation who set curfews, made us work for our spending money, made us answer a lot of annoying questions before they would allow us out of the house, nagged us about our hair and clothes.

Dr. Susan Feigelman, a University of Maryland researcher who led the study, advised parents to check up on their children's friends. This is a shocking notion for many enlightened former flower children.

Researchers surveyed children ages 9-15 over a four-year period. The group was asked whether their parents knew where they were after school, whether they were expected to call and say where they were going and with whom, whether their parents knew where they were at night.

Children monitored by their parents were less likely to sell drugs or use them. They were less likely to drink alcohol or have unprotected sex. Dr. Feigelman said the study showed that peer groups became more influential as children get older.

Probably peer groups and everything else. So it only makes sense for parents to monitor that, too. That's not repressive. That's not illegal. That is our job.

If a Marilyn Manson concert is unsuitable for viewing now, why not next month? If a gun show is inappropriate in the wake of the terrible crime committed with them in Littleton, why not forever? If a violent television show is too graphic today, how about tomorrow?

And when it becomes apparent that children are tormenting each other, adults need to intervene. Stop it. Even if the tormentors are popular athletes.

We have to start saying some hard things. To each other. But especially to our children.

Beginning with "no."

RECOGNIZING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE WIC PROGRAM

HON. PATSY T. MINK

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 5, 1999

Mrs. MINK of Hawaii. Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to note that today marks the 25th anniversary of the Special Supplemental Program for Women, Infants, and Children—better known as WIC.

I was a member of Congress when the WIC program was created and am very proud of what it has accomplished. The hopes we had for the program have been achieved. WIC assists millions of lower-income pregnant, postpartum, and nursing women, infants, and children who are at risk of poor nutrition and health problems. The WIC program results in healthier babies and prevents health problems that would cost far more in dollars and human suffering than WIC's preventive nutrition services.

I am especially proud of Hawaii's WIC program, which has increased its caseload by some 34 percent while absorbing a budget cut of 30 percent over the past two years. This remarkable accomplishment resulted in Faye Nakamoto, director of Hawaii's WIC program, being named 1998 Hawaii State Manager of the Year.

As we celebrate the 25th anniversary of WIC, I urge all my colleagues to support the president's funding request of \$4.1 billion—an increase of \$181.5 million from the funding levels of FY 1999 and 1998—so that this valuable program will be able to serve more women and children in need.

A TRIBUTE TO DR. WILLIAM R. MAGILL

HON. CURT WELDON

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 5, 1999

Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a longtime educator, Dr. William R. Magill. This evening, friends and family will gather to pay tribute to Dr. Magill's long and distinguished career as he retires after 46 years of service.

A retired Army officer, Dr. Magill has always shown a great willingness to serve his community. Even after he put away his military uniform, Dr. Magill continued his service to the people of Pennsylvania as an assistant principal and Director of Federal programs at

Steelton-Highspire School District in Steelton, PA and as principal of Annville Cleona Jr. and Sr. High Schools in Cleona, PA.

Dr. Magill then joined the faculty of Cheyney University where he has played a vital role in expanding the minds of his students and introducing them to other cultures. As part of his role as Chair of the graduate school's Educational Administration and Foundation Department, Dr. Magill has hosted graduate students from China and led study groups to England to study at Cambridge University.

Beyond his career in education, Dr. Magill also worked for a variety of community organizations. He serves as a board member of the Fellowship for Christian Athletes in Delaware and Chester Counties and as a precinct committeeman in West Goshen, PA.

Dr. Magill has served his country as a military officer, a teacher, and a volunteer in his local community. Over his 46 year career as an educator, he has influenced and made an impact on the lives of the countless young people.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in today recognizing the accomplishments of Dr. Magill. He is a true American patriot.

TRIBUTE TO SYLVAN RODRIGUEZ

HON. TOM DeLAY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 5, 1999

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, hypothetical quandaries always elicit interesting answers. Over two hundred years ago, Thomas Jefferson wrote that if he had to choose to have a government without the press or the press without a government, he would without hesitation prefer the latter situation. This position reflects that great founder's understanding of the important role of journalism in the American experiment. Sylvan Rodriguez also understands this role and has dedicated his life to making both journalism and the country better together.

Sylvan Rodriguez is a giant in the world of Houston broadcasting. Since 1977, he has graced the city's airwaves with crack reporting on politics and a special focus on space operations. His coverage of the space shuttle program and the exposure from the tragic Challenger explosion opened up many doors for him, including a stint as a Los Angeles correspondent for ABC News. His expertise has been sought by David Brinkley for the This Week program, by Ted Koppel for Nightline, by Peter Jennings for ABC World News Tonight and for Good Morning America.

Such a lion of the press did not start at the top however. Rather, Sylvan Rodriguez is an American success story whose love for journalism struck in early age and was nurtured over time. This boyhood love for the industry matured and was honed while attending the University of Texas at Austin where he tirelessly scribed for several newspapers and a wire service. At this time, his appetite for big news was wetted by covering the powers that were in Washington as an intern for the United States Information Agency where he learned the ins-and-outs of the White House, the Pentagon, the State Department and Capitol Hill. This foundation was bolstered by experience as a reporter and photographer covering state

and national politics in San Antonio and Houston.

But the passion for reporting was not all consuming for Sylvan Rodriguez. Throughout his life, he has understood that a balance must be made between giving and taking. He has given much to the community and to his profession to match all the opportunities he earned for himself. While his list of philanthropic activities is a book long, he has given particular attention to foundations that give opportunities to children and fight cancer, diabetes, arthritis, Tourette Syndrome and Cerebral Palsy. A great example to any budding journalist, he is a founding member of the Houston Association of Hispanic Media Professionals.

Journalism has been described as an ability to meet the challenge of filling space. This definition does not only apply to column inches or airtime. It also touches on the space within ourselves where our heart and love of country should rest. Through his dedication to his profession and to others, Sylvan Rodriguez has filled all of these spaces for many years. Today, it is my honor to ask Congress to pay tribute to Sylvan Rodriguez for being such a hero to journalism and to the community.

IN HONOR OF CHILDREN'S FRIEND

HON. JAMES P. McGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 5, 1999

Mr. McGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the 150th anniversary of Children's Friend, a proud institution of my district which promotes the emotional, social, and physical health of a needy and diverse population of children and advocates for their rights.

Few organizations serving children are as enduring as Children's Friend or have sustained such a record of initiating new solutions as the needs and problems facing children have changed. Whether it is helping to create the first modern adoption legislation passed by Massachusetts in 1851, pioneering placing children in foster care, preventing the dropout of pregnant and parenting teens from school, counseling children with attachment disorders or providing specialized psychological services to infants and toddlers, Children's Friend has been at the forefront of innovations in child welfare services.

Children's Friend restores hope and opportunity to children and families whose lives are challenged by emotional abuse and neglect, domestic violence, family instability, economic hardship and the stresses of modern living. One cannot overlook the critical societal needs child welfare institutions—like Children's Friend—fulfill.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, it is with pride that I rise today to acknowledge the 150th anniversary of Children's Friend and to wish them continued success in the years ahead with their valuable community and child-oriented work for the people of Worcester and Central Massachusetts.

APRIL 28—WORKERS' MEMORIAL
DAY UNDERLINES IMPORTANCE
OF OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY

HON. JAMES T. WALSH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 5, 1999

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Speaker, today I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing April 28 as Workers' Memorial Day in the State of New York. This is a wonderful opportunity for us to remember an important issue in today's workplace, occupational safety.

Every city, town and village in this country was built by the proud efforts of working people. They have contributed to our Nation's wealth and reputation, our national defense and quality of life.

In some instances in the past, they have endured harsh and even perilous conditions in pursuit of excellence and their livelihood.

Today, we must continue the fight to ensure the safety of all workers. The sacrifices of the past will not be forgotten as we strive to eliminate dangers at the workplace.

I want to thank the working men and women of Central New York in particular for their invaluable contributions to our community.

CONSTRUCTIVE OWNERSHIP
TRANSACTIONS

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 5, 1999

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation to prevent a transaction the goal of which is tax avoidance by means of converting ordinary income or short-term capital gains into income eligible for long-term capital gains rates.

Since Congress enacted legislation to lower the capital gains tax below that of ordinary income, the press has written about a number of transactions that have been developed to recharacterize income primarily for the avoidance of tax. Congress closed one loophole in 1997 involving constructive sales or so-called "short-against-the-box" transactions. In those transactions investors were effectively selling an asset and receiving the benefits of a sale without calling it a sale for tax purposes. The Taxpayer Relief Act of 1997 termed these transactions constructive sales and restored the appropriate tax treatment, determining that if it looks like a sale and acts like a sale, it should be treated as a sale for tax purposes.

Consistent with that approach, our former colleague Barbara Kennelly developed additional legislation in 1998 that could be termed "constructive ownership" legislation. In this case, an investor effectively purchases an asset and has the benefit of ownership, but does not pay taxes on income from the asset in the same way as if the investor owned it directly. The solution that was proposed was to treat that investment no more favorably than the treatment ownership in the underlying asset would have received. In addition, while this treatment would assure appropriate capital gains treatment, these transactions could still be attractive for deferring the recognition of ordinary income—in contrast to direct owners

who pay taxes annually on ordinary income. To correct this, the bill imposes a deferred interest charge to recapture the benefits of deferral.

As many in the industry will recognize, the legislation I am introducing today is based on the Kennelly bill, but makes several technical improvements which were suggested last year, primarily by the New York State Bar Association. Additional comments, of course, are certainly in order.

Investors in a hedge fund (and other pass through entities) are required to pay taxes annually on their share of the income from the fund regardless of whether they receive a distribution. In the transaction covered by the bill, investors indirectly invest in the fund through a derivative that is economically equivalent to a direct investment. However, the derivative allows the investor to defer his tax liability. Invest in a hedge fund, and you pay taxes every year, and those profits are taxed at the higher short-term capital gains rate. Place that same money in a derivative wrapped around a hedge fund, and you pay taxes only at the end of the contract, and the profit is taxed at the lower long-term capital gains rate. The bill I am introducing today states that if an investor indirectly owns a financial asset like a hedge fund through a derivative, they cannot get more long-term capital gain than if they owned the investment directly. In addition, there is an interest charge to offset the additional benefit of the deferral.

The effective date for this legislation is for gains realized after date of enactment. This is a more generous effective date than that contained in the Administration's budget. Still, some would argue that this is retroactive, because they signed contracts prior to the date of introduction of the Kennelly Bill and therefore were not on notice that a change in the law might occur.

Since I announced my intention to reintroduce the Kennelly bill, it is my understanding that a number of contracts have been, and continue to be, signed under the theory that the legislation may not pass Congress, and if it did the transaction could simply be unwound. This may explain the recent comments of Robert Gordon, President of 21st Securities, as reported in this month's edition of MAR/Hedge, which states: "Gordon says that the penalty is so low (in my legislation) that he would advise clients thinking about *synthetic hedges* (italics are mine) to go ahead. "There is not a lot of cost if the bill does become retroactive, you just unwind the swap." The penalty is the difference between the two interest rates—the one charged in the swap by the dealer and the interest rate earned by money in the investor's hands. Because the interest today and the interest rate when the law changes, say several months from now, will be relatively small, it is a small penalty to pay."

It is hard to be sympathetic to an investor who enters into a particular so-called "synthetic" transaction purely for purposes of tax avoidance. It is even harder to be sympathetic when the investor signs a contract after he was on notice that there was a legislative change under consideration. It is hardest of all to be sympathetic to an investor who deliberately signs a contract betting that the potential for tax avoidance far outweighs a potential loss attributed to unwinding a contract if the law does change, and then claims "retro-

activity" in a last attempt to secure the benefits of tax avoidance.

Nonetheless, the fact remains that some contracts were signed prior to the date of introduction of the Kennelly bill. I have therefore added a grandfather clause to this legislation that exempts all contracts from changes in this bill if the contracts were signed prior to the date of introduction of her bill on February 5, 1998. The grandfather clause would cease to exist if the contract was extended or modified.

Mr. Speaker, all capital gains differentials invite attempts to recharacterize ordinary income or short-term capital gains into long-term capital gains. The transactions I am talking about are, of course, not available to the ordinary investor who must pay his fair share of taxes, but only to a small number of sophisticated wealthy investors. Any perception that being sophisticated and wealthy enough allows some to avoid paying their fair share of tax undermines the entire tax system, as well as the capital gains differential. I believe it is important to shut down tax shelters as we uncover them, and if we in Congress do not have the courage to do that, then maybe allowing the Department of the Treasury to have broader power to characterize tax shelters and shut them down through the regulatory process needs to be seriously considered.

RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE
OF SMALL BUSINESS AND PAYING
TRIBUTE TO THIS YEAR'S
SMALL BUSINESS AWARD RECIPIENTS
IN NEW HAMPSHIRE

HON. CHARLES F. BASS

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 5, 1999

Mr. BASS. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to have this opportunity to recognize several small business leaders from my home state of New Hampshire. As we all know, small businesses in the United States serve as the backbone of our economy, accounting for more than ninety-nine percent of America's employers and employing fifty-three percent of America's workforce. The role of small businesses, especially in New Hampshire, is essential in strengthening our economy, expanding opportunities for employers and employees, and providing goods and services that are second to none.

This year, five individuals from New Hampshire have been recognized by the U.S. Small Business Administration for their exemplary contributions to small business in New Hampshire. In addition, 1999 marks the thirty-fifth anniversary of the Service Corps of Retired Executives (SCORE) and the fifteenth anniversary of the New Hampshire Small Business Development Center. At the annual "New Hampshire's Salute to Small Business" dinner and awards ceremony, these two groups and the following individuals will be honored for their overall promotion of small business and for their individual successes during the past year:

Frederic A. "Rick" Loeffler, CEO of Shorty's Mexican Roadhouse in Manchester, will be presented with the New Hampshire Small Business Person of the Year Award;

Christine Gillette, business and economic development editor of the Portsmouth Herald,

will be presented with the Media Advocate of the Year Award;

Jeffrey M. Pollock, president of the New Hampshire Business Development Corporation in Manchester, will be presented with the Financial Services Advocate of the Year Award;

Arlene Magoon, owner of American Nanny & Family Care Services in Amherst, will be presented with the Woman in Business Advocate of the Year Award; and

William T. Frain, Jr., president and chief operating officer of the Public Service Company of New Hampshire, will be presented with the Special New Hampshire District Advocacy Award.

Mr. Speaker, I am extremely pleased that Rick, Christine, Jeff, Arlene, and Bill have been recognized for their contributions to small business in New Hampshire. As a small business owner myself, I clearly understand how necessary small business is to our economy, our community, and, most important, to our way of life. New Hampshire is indeed fortunate to have individuals of this exceptional caliber as members of the small business community. I hope that the House will join me in extending our congratulations to this year's small business award recipients.

HIGH ODYSSEY II: THE SIERRA IN THE WINTER OF 1999

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 5, 1999

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, seventy years ago, while Californians were experiencing the security and success of the roaring twenties, a lone mountaineer was skiing his way up the 300 mile crest of the Sierra Nevada from south of Mount Whitney toward Yosemite Valley. This little known feat in the annals of American Mountaineering was accomplished prior to the existence of the John Muir Trail, the advent of organized search and rescue teams, or cell phones.

Orland Bartholomew carried a 70-pound pack, a folding bellows camera and a double bit ax. He skied on custom made wooden skis without metal edges with only a crude wax system for climbing. He slept in a down robe with a half-tent and no stove. Fortunately, Orland wrote extensive journal entries and shot over 320 photographs of his adventure. Thanks to his son, Phil, these documents have been preserved.

This spring, to celebrate this historic trip, a team of four skiers recreated this great adventure. In completing this trip they were successful in drawing attention to the legacy of this lone skier's accomplishment and its proper place in the history of mountaineering. Their stated goal was to encourage the U.S. Geological Survey to name a peak for Orland. By taking over 2,000 photographs and keeping detailed journals they also documented the state of the High Sierra during the last winter of the 1900's.

The Fresno Bee has established a website to provide information on both of the trips and to report on the findings from their research. (www.fresnobee.com/man/trek)

The High Odyssey II team followed as accurately as possible the original route of Orland Bartholomew based upon his original journals

and photographs. They were assisted in their research by Phil Bartholomew and Sierra historian Gene Rose. The Team left Cottonwood Creek on April 2, 1999 and arrived in Yosemite Valley on April 28 after skiing 290 miles and crossing 20 passes over 10,000 feet.

The four members of the Team are accomplished ski mountaineers and climbers with extensive winter experience in the areas in which Orland Bartholomew skied. They crossed high passes, did winter ascents of peaks en route, including Mt. Whitney, and forded rushing streams.

At 17, Fritz Baggett represents the next generation of mountain adventurers. He has grown up in El Portal, the gateway to Yosemite, where he has climbed and skied since a babe in the backpack. He recently earned his Eagle Scout badge as a member of Yosemite Troop 50. As a musician and writer in the punk/shredder genera his contributions, like his skiing, are full of the zest and drive of true youth.

Tim Messick has spent his adult life teaching others the joys of skiing the Sierra backcountry. As a guide for the Yosemite Mountaineering School and Yosemite Cross-County School since 1980, Tim has skied and guided extensively in the Sierra. He skied one of the first three-pin descents of LeConte Gully at Glacier Point and the Y notch on Mount Conness. His classic book, "Cross-Country Skiing in Yosemite" (now in its second printing), is a tribute to his skills as writer, teacher, and skier.

Art Baggett has spent the past 25 years living in the Yosemite community. His mountain adventures include hiking the 2,040-mile Appalachian Trail from Georgia to Maine in 1973, a 21 day ski of the Sierra Crest on wooden Bonna 2000 skis with a makeshift three pin set up, and numerous big wall climbing ascents. Art's background as a teacher-naturalist, field biologist, small town attorney and former Mariposa County Supervisor provides another unique perspective from which to view the terrain. Art's published works include papers and lectures on the public policy and legal conflicts between the practice of prescribed burning and the Clean Air Act.

The team would not be complete without a true historian and mountain sage. Howard Weamer brings not only the wisdom of a lifetime spent traversing the Range of Light on skis and on foot, but the keen eye of one of the best known Sierran photographers. His book, "The Perfect Art," the history of the Ostrander Ski Hut and skiing in Yosemite is a tribute to those that have gone before and the 25 years he has spent as the hutkeeper of this Yosemite institution.

I commend the courage and resolve of these present-day mountaineers to help us to learn more of those that came before and that are part of the heritage of the great state of California and the United States frontier. Further, based upon their efforts, I will renew my efforts to ensure that the United States Geological Survey name a Sierra peak in honor of Orland "Bart" Bartholomew, a Sierra High Adventurer.

MS. KINYA EFURD WINS THE VOICE OF DEMOCRACY SCRIPT-WRITING CONTEST

HON. TOM A. COBURN

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 5, 1999

Mr. COBURN. Mr. Speaker, each year the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States and its Ladies Auxiliary conduct the Voice of Democracy script-writing contest. This year more than 80,000 secondary school students across the nation competed for fifty-six national scholarships by writing about the theme "My Service to America." It is with great pleasure that I announce that the winner from the State of Oklahoma is Ms. Kinya Efurd, a Junior at Eufaula High School in Eufaula, Oklahoma. Kinya, the daughter of Jerry and Vicki Efurd, is active in the Honor Society, Student Council, Band, and Future Farmers of America. Kinya's description of how her uncle, a veteran of World War II and the Normandy Invasion, served our country and her vision of personal service to America is both a reminder of those who have sacrificed so much and a call to all Americans to strive to continually serve our great nation. I am submitting Ms. Efurd's essay for the RECORD, so that my colleagues may have the opportunity to review and reflect upon her inspirational comments.

"MY SERVICE TO AMERICA"

Like many other Saturday nights, I was on my way to the theater and decided to see the new hit movie "Saving Private Ryan." My parents stopped me before I went in and warned me that what I was about to see was extremely graphic and violent. Evidently, they were visibly shaken by what they had just viewed. My parents were unsure if they wanted me to see what some say is the most accurate portrayal of war ever filmed. I told them I would be fine because I had seen those other bloody movies before, so in fact, I thought I had seen it all.

From the very beginning this became more than just a movie to me. I immediately remembered the story of my great-uncle being part of the Normandy Invasion. I have been told that he was awarded the bronze star, for an act of bravery, during that battle. No one knows what he did to gain that district honor. He has never told anyone about the horror that he experienced. After seeing this movie I feel I have a stronger appreciation of not only what my uncle did, but also the thousands of others who have served America.

Perhaps, I may never serve my country in headed battle. However, I know other ways to serve with honor and dignity. I strongly believe that as an American citizen I can and must serve my country in my own way to benefit future generations.

As a teenager what can I do now to serve my country? The answer to this question is as simple as getting an education. This means going, participating, and believing that this is not a right, but a privilege. Attending school and filling my head with knowledge that will prepare me for the real world is critical. Undoubtedly, school and education will give me the values and knowledge I need to reach my goals. Also, education has given me the power to believe that I can become whatever my heart leads me to be. I may want to be a doctor, a teacher, or even a social worker. I might even become the best stay-at-home mom there is. My parents have always told me that education is the key to success.

How can I serve America? Exercising my right to vote is a responsibility of being an American citizen. When electing politicians, people should expect that their voice will be represented with honor and dignity. My one vote is just one step in the stairway to better America.

How else can I serve America? Personally, I would love to become a politician. A great honor for me would be standing up and speaking out for what I believe in. I might become the first woman President of the United States of America or maybe just the president of the PTA. No matter what I become, I know that I will carry with me the same honor, loyalty, and respect portrayed by my forefathers for their country.

I may never understand how my uncle felt that dreadful day and I probably never will. I do know that sitting through a movie that portrays war that real has changed the way I feel for him, and the many other veterans. The respect I feel for my flag has also been enhanced. It was increased when I attended an FFA camp. I had the honor of being selected as a speaker for the flag lowering ceremony.

The small part I said made me realize what our flag really means. It stands for the freedom, the happiness, and the sadness for which our country stands. I realized that putting my hand over my heart and saying the Pledge of Allegiance is not a chore, but an honor. Our flag is a precious symbol for America, and it is my duty always to be proud of it.

I hope one day I can stand up and speak to thousands of people all over the world. I know that I cannot help everyone, but if I can help at least one person my dream will be fulfilled. I would also love to speak with teenagers and let them know that our nation does care for them and believe in them. People may think that this is a big dream for such a young woman, but I say dreams are limitless. I also believe with the Lord's power and his will behind me, and the encouragement of my church and family members, the sky is the limit.

I may never stand on the field of honor as my uncle did and receive a bronze star, but if my service to America or my community can make a difference in one persons' life, then my responsibility for serving my country will have begun.

TRIBUTE TO KEN STRAIN

HON. ROBIN HAYES

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 5, 1999

Mr. HAYES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Ken Strain, a man dedicated to serve his community.

Mr. Strain passed away this week while serving the community of Hemby Bridge, North Carolina as a volunteer fireman. His fire truck flipped while Mr. Strain was returning from a rescue call.

Mr. Strain comes from a long line of firefighters. His father Bill and his youngest brother Darren both have served as firefighters in North Carolina.

Mr. Strain is survived by his wife, Sharon and their 18-month-old son Kristopher. Mr. Strain kept a picture of his son in his tool box and often visited the fire station with Kristopher.

Mr. Strain will be deeply missed as a member of the Hemby Bridge business community. He along with his colleague, close friend and

fellow firefighter, Paul Ramsey, were partners at their business, Neighborhood Automotive.

While Ken's death is tragic, I must commend his partners at the Union County Volunteer Fire Department for their exemplary record of safety and reliability. This is the first death the department has suffered in 30 years.

Mr. Speaker, I want to express my deep remorse to the family and friends of Mr. Ken Strain, but also honor him for his selfless service to his community. Mr. Strain was dedicated to his family, his job and his community and will be missed by all.

WOMEN, INFANTS, AND CHILDREN (WIC) PROGRAM CONTINUES TO IMPROVE THE HEALTH CARE OF MILLIONS

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 5, 1999

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, as a cochair of the Congressional Prevention Coalition, I stand in strong support today of a program that makes a tremendous contribution to disease prevention and health promotion. The Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) program has been educating woman and children about basic nutrition that can help them lead healthier, and therefore happier lives. Chronic disease is the cause of 70 percent of deaths in the United States and nutrition is a primary form of prevention for chronic disease.

Nutrition education can start very early in life. WIC educators help expectant mothers to give their babies good nutrition, even before they are born, through prenatal counseling and care. After the baby is born, WIC educators continue to serve low income women, infants and children with pediatric health care services and nutrition education. WIC educators help babies get a healthy start on life through breastfeeding education and support. The first food a baby gets could be the most important. Breastfeeding is almost always the best form of nutrition for a baby and WIC educators help mothers to learn the wide benefits of breastfeeding including its nutrition and excellent source of antibodies that protect against infection.

The preventive care that WIC provides saves us money in the long run. The National Association of WIC Directors estimates that for every dollar spent on pregnant women in the WIC program, we save \$1.92 to \$4.21 in Medicaid costs. For every low birth weight prevented as a result of WIC's prenatal program, Medicaid costs are reduced \$12,000 to \$15,000 per infant.

More importantly, WIC works in helping low-income mothers and children to live healthy lives. For example, according to CDC, WIC children showed a 16-percent decrease in the anemia rate at their 6-month recertification screening than in their initial screening. WIC babies have fewer low birth weight babies and fewer fetal and infant deaths. WIC also helps spur normal childhood growth, increases immunization rates, improves access to pediatric health care and readies children to learn with proven higher test scores.

I want to thank the National Association of WIC directors and all of those at WIC who do

so much in improving the health care needs of the millions of women, infants, and children who participate in this lifesaving program. Thank you for 25 years of vital work and service.

WHY WE NEED CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM

HON. JAY INSLEE

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 5, 1999

Mr. INSLEE. Mr. Speaker, the faith of the American people in their elected government is slowly slipping away. The cause of this malaise is our defective, broken campaign finance system. The astronomical costs of Federal campaigns are having extremely detrimental effects on our democracy; qualified candidates are discouraged from running, and special interest dollars continues to drown out the voice of the average citizen. This outrage is evident to everyone, except, members of the leadership.

The shortest route between our campaign finance system and reform is the opportunity to vote on the bi-partisan Campaign Finance Reform Act, otherwise known as the Shays-Meehan bill. We have garnered over 188 signatures on our campaign finance discharge petition. We mean it when we say we want reform and we want it soon. If we can't get a scheduled vote from the Republican Leadership, we reform-minded Members will force a vote through this petition.

Mr. Speaker, this is a truly modest proposal, but its impact could be nothing short of extraordinary. First, this legislation will finally ban "soft money." With this past election cycle, we saw "soft money" contributions more than double since the last off-year election, totaling over \$220 million.

Second, this legislation also includes the Campaign Ad Fairness Provision, reigning in the unregulated "issue campaigns" to require them to play by the same finance laws as federal campaigns.

Third, this legislation gives teeth to the FEC and provides greater, timelier public disclosure of individuals contributing to campaigns.

Mr. Speaker, this bill is not an infringement of free speech, but a restoration of the public trust. American people are tired of watching Congress sit back and do nothing as the amount spent in elections grows higher and higher, and trust in the system sinks lower and lower. We need to get big money out of the electoral process, and give power back to the people.

I know that the people of the 1st congressional district of Washington want real, meaningful reform, and I urge you to support the Bi-partisan Campaign Finance Reform Act.

STAMP OUT HUNGER

HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 5, 1999

Ms. SANCHEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the National Association of Letter Carriers and Anthony B. Morell Branch 737 in

Santa Ana as they prepare for their "Stamp Out Hunger" food drive. This event will take place on Saturday, May 8. The letter carriers have asked area residents to donate non-perishable food by leaving the donations outside their mailboxes on May 8. Letter carriers will collect the food during their normally scheduled mail routes. The food collected will benefit CDC's Orange County Food Bank and the Second Harvest Food Bank of Orange County. These two food banks serve over 240,000 people each month.

"Stamp Out Hunger" is the largest one day food drive in the nation. This is the seventh year of participation by Branch 737 of the Santa Ana letter carriers. Last year letter carriers around the nation collected more than 52 million pounds of food. All went to local food banks in their communities. In the Santa Ana district alone, 69,000 pounds of food was collected for the Second Harvest Food Bank and the Community Development Council, the two food banks in our region.

Unfortunately, hunger continues to be a problem in Orange County. There are still over 30,000 men, women, children and senior citizens who go hungry every night. We are hoping to reduce that number as much as possible, by getting every citizen involved in the food drive.

I commend Branch 737 of the National Association of Letter Carriers for their valiant efforts to make a difference in our community and to stamp out hunger.

LUBBOCK LETTER CARRIERS PARTICIPATE IN FOOD DRIVE FOR NATION'S NEEDY

HON. LARRY COMBEST

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 5, 1999

Mr. COMBEST. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the National Association of Letter Carriers for their tremendous efforts to help the hungry in communities across the nation. On May 8th, 1999, local branches of the Letter Carriers, in conjunction with the United Way and the United States Postal Service, will participate in a drive to collect non-perishable food and other needed items to stock the shelves of local food pantries. This endeavor will fill pantry shelves for the coming summer months in more than 10,000 hometowns in every corner of the United States.

This worthwhile event has taken place for countless years in the past, and this year's drive promises to be one of the most successful. The Lubbock, Texas branch of the Letter Carriers is rolling up its sleeves and preparing for a first-class turnout on May 8th. I am confident that the good citizens of Lubbock will rise to the challenge to ensure that this year's drive is an overwhelming success.

The Lubbock branch of the National Association of Letter Carriers is deserving of our full support and praise for their work in the fight against hunger in the 19th District of Texas. Their efforts truly exemplify the spirit of service and giving that draws our community together. With a little help from us all, the May 8th food drive can touch the lives of the many West Texans who are in need.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TODD TIAHRT

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 5, 1999

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, on May 4, I was unavoidably detained back in my congressional district due to the devastating tornado storm and missed roll call vote numbers 105 (H. Con. Res 84), 106 (H. Con. Res. 88) and 107 (H. Res. 157). Had I been present I would have voted yes on passage on each of the three bills.

TRIBUTE TO THE CONABLE FAMILY

HON. THOMAS M. REYNOLDS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 5, 1999

Mr. REYNOLDS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on the occasion of the dedication of the Wyoming County Courthouse in Warsaw, New York, in the name of the Conable family, whose members have a long and proud history of dedication to public service.

Family patriarch Barber Conable served as Wyoming County judge from 1924–1951. Following his retirement, his son, John Conable assumed the judgeship from 1952–1983. John's brother, Barber Conable, Jr., went from practicing law in nearby Batavia to this House of Representatives, where he served for 20 years as a Member of Congress. Following his service in the House of Representatives, Barber Conable, Jr. served as President of the World Bank, from which he retired several years ago.

As we noted at the building's dedication ceremony on April 27th, no other family in Wyoming County's history has come close to the level and commitment of public service as the Conables.

Mr. Chairman, I ask that this House of Representatives join me in saluting the Conable family for their tremendous dedication to public service, and to salute all the residents of Wyoming County on the occasion of the dedication of the Wyoming County Courthouse.

TRIBUTE TO MRS. MARY JANE RODGES

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 5, 1999

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a life long resident of Cleveland, Mississippi and my constituent, Mrs. Mary Jane Rodges. Mrs. Rodges will celebrate her 85th birthday on May 22, 1999. Mrs. Rodges, a devoted mother, dedicated church woman, and retired educator of local acclaim has much to be thankful for and is well deserving of our high praise. She taught in the Mississippi public school system for 40 years, helping to prepare thousands of young people for a brighter future. Mrs. Rodges was just as devoted to her church as she was to building the minds of others. She shared her

talents and uplifted the congregation of St. Paul Baptist Church in Shaw, Mississippi, as its musician, for more than 50 years.

Mrs. Rodges' greatest accomplishment though has to be the five children she raised—who all became valuable and productive citizens of our country. One of her daughters, Mrs. Bobbie L. Steele, who is a Commissioner for Cook County in Chicago, Illinois, is planning a grand celebration for her mother. This is a well-deserved event for an exceptional woman and I stand here on the floor of the House of Representatives today and ask all to join me in wishing Mrs. Mary Jane Rodges "Happy 85th birthday".

WIC: 25 YEARS OF BUILDING A HEALTHIER AMERICA

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 5, 1999

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my support for WIC, the special supplemental nutrition program for women, infants, and children. It is vital that, in order to ensure that people grow up and live healthy lives, they receive proper nutrition.

WIC is an indispensable organization that serves over 7.4 million pregnant women, new mothers, infants, and preschool children in over 10,000 clinics nationwide. Thankfully, WIC is designed to aid those who regrettably have an income level of 185 percent of poverty or less, are enrolled in Medicaid or have been recommended by a health professional. It is essential that we ensure healthy children and adults by making sure that mothers receive proper nutrition long before their children are born and during their early years of development. Children will perform better in school and lead more productive lives when they receive the proper nutrition from the very beginning.

A common theme in all branches of government today is that of the importance of the family. WIC strengthens families by providing low-cost services to families who are at risk due to low income and nutritionally related health conditions. Because two-thirds of all WIC families live below the poverty level, the services they provide are essential in making sure that these families stay together.

The strength of any nation comes from the strength of its people. In order for us to assure that the United States remains strong we must be sure that all of our citizens are healthy, starting from the time when they are very young. WIC is a program that ensures just that. Accordingly, I urge all of my colleagues to support it.

EXPOSING RACISM

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 5, 1999

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, in my continuing efforts to document and expose racism in America, I submit the following articles into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

MISSING POINT OF AFFIRMATIVE ACTION;
BLACK HENS SHOULDN'T CATER TO WHITE
FOXES

(By Leonard Pitts, Jr.)

As if Florida didn't already have problems, here comes Ward Connerly to pick a fight over affirmative action.

The thing that makes you sit up and take notice, of course, is that Connerly is black. Who isn't fascinated at the sight of a hen campaigning for the foxes?

This particular hen is pretty good at what he does. The Sacramento businessman has spearheaded ballot measures that overturned affirmative action in Washington state and his native California. Monday, Connerly announced a petition drive aimed at doing the same thing in Florida. God must hate the Sunshine State.

Don't get me wrong. I think there's good reason to question affirmative action, if not to oppose it outright. It seems fair to ask if, by setting aside contracts and classroom seats for minorities and women, government does not inadvertently reinforce in them a victim's mentality—an insidious sense that they lack the stuff to earn those things on their own merits.

That observation, however, must be balanced by the observation that white men have long enjoyed a kind of de facto affirmative action. After all, for generations, the nation used every legal and extralegal means to deny women and racial minorities—blacks in particular—access to education and entrepreneurship. It retarded the progress of those groups while offering white men set-asides and preferences that allowed them to move ahead by prodigious leaps.

It's not too much to ask the country to make right what it made wrong. Especially considering that the hostility toward blacks and women has hardly ended, but only become more subtle. If we don't redress the inequity through affirmative action, fine. But how do we do it? Because it's crucial that we do.

It'd be good if Connerly showed any grasp of this. Instead, his stated reason for opposing affirmative action is that it's racially divisive.

Which is such an asinine assessment that you hardly know where to begin responding to it. Perhaps it's enough to simply ask which campaign to open closed doors was ever anything but divisive. The Civil Rights Movement? That was divisive. Feminism? Yep, divisive, too. The United Farm Workers boycott? Pretty darn divisive. The Civil War? Golly gosh, that was about as divisive as it gets.

Hell, division is predictable. Those who enjoy privileges seldom surrender them easily or willingly.

But it's not simply the abject stupidity of Connerly's reasoning that offends. Rather, it's the way that reasoning offers aid and comfort to the new breed of white bigotry. The one which tells us that white people are the true victims of racism.

You know the rhetoric . . . victimized by preferences, victimized by employers, victimized by political correctness that accepts a Miss Black America pageant or an Ebony magazine but, darn it, would have hissy fits over Miss White America or a magazine called "Ivory." The most virulent of modern white bigots will tell you with a straight face and evident sincerity that he is only fighting for equality. And never mind that by virtually every relevant measure, white men—still!—enjoy advantages that go well beyond simple parity.

Most people—black, white and otherwise—understand this and recognize cries of white victimization for what they are: only the latest effort to turn the language of the civil

rights movement to the cause of intolerance. Only the most creative attempt to dress racism up as reason.

There are valid reasons for disliking affirmative action. That it's divisive is not one of them. And while it's troubling that some white guys won't understand this, disconcerting that they would embrace an image of themselves as powerless and put-upon, it's downright galling to see that ignorance validated by a black man.

Some would call Ward Connerly an Uncle Tom. It is, to my mind, an unfortunate term that's been too often used to discourage black intellectual independence. I won't call Connerly that.

I will, however, suggest that he is a confused Negro who should know better than to allow his skin color to be used as moral cover by those whose truest goals have little to do with liberty and justice for all.

If this hen has any sense, he might wonder at the motive of the foxes at his back.

CHILDREN GROW EMOTIONALLY AS THEY ENACT HISTORY'S STRUGGLES

(By Naomi Barko)

NEW YORK.—An argument erupted in a New York middle school recently over a subject that in most classes would have elicited only a yawn: the Treaty of Versailles that ended World War I. The class had been divided in half, with one side asked to look at 10 specific points of the treaty through German eyes, the other through the eyes of the Allies.

An immediate murmur ran through the room: "It isn't fair!" could be heard from many corners—and not only from the "Germans."

Besides losing most of their army and navy, substantial territory and all their colonies, the Germans had been forced to accept both the responsibility and the expense for all the loss and damage suffered by the Allied governments and their civilian populations.

But were the Allies really only after revenge, teacher Veronica Casado asked her students. "No," argued one of the Allies. "We wanted to make sure that Germany would never again be strong enough to start a war, and we wanted to safeguard all the new little countries that had been created—Austria and Poland and Czechoslovakia!"

In this class, called Facing History and Ourselves, the emotions these seventh and eighth graders were feeling were as important as the facts they had learned, said Casado, who teaches at the Dual Language Middle School, an alternative public school in Manhattan. They were beginning to understand the German anger and resentment that helped to seed the rise of Nazism and the onset of World War II.

Cited by both the U.S. Justice Department and the Department of Education as an exemplary program, Facing History and Ourselves was founded in 1976 in Brookline, Mass., to help middle and high school teachers throughout the country learn to teach not only the facts, but the "why's" of history. "The goal is to help people understand that history is not inevitable, that individual decisions and actions matter," said the program's executive director, Margot Stern Strom.

"Facing History concentrates on prevention, not memorializing history," she says. "It helps students to engage with it. We learn that it is hard work to keep democracy alive and what happens when it fails. We learn that myth and misinformation tend to distort judgment, that sometimes people respond to complex issues by simply dividing the world into 'Us' and 'Them.'"

"It is the students themselves who continually raise the questions of responsibility

and whether one person can make a difference," she emphasizes. "When the students stop playing the game of education—just raising their hands or filling in the blanks—and see their teachers struggling with difficult and complex material, they see that these issues aren't easy, and that they don't go away."

Using not only texts but novels, drama, art and personal reminiscences, the program begins by exploring how people develop a sense of identity, both personal and national, and how they come to the sense of the "other," the "different." Then using the history of Germany in the '20s and '30s as a case study, it shows how the Nazis came to power, how peer pressure was used to make people conform, how other nations responded or failed to respond, how the Holocaust developed, and how individuals made choices to go along, to resist or simply to do nothing.

Just how immediate these lessons can become was illustrated in another middle school here a few days later by a discussion of stereotyping and the role it had played in an explosive case reported that day in the New York City press. Four white undercover policemen had fired 41 shots, killing an innocent and unarmed West African immigrant who they thought might have been a criminal with a gun. The class composed of black, brown, white and Asian preteens agreed unanimously that racial stereotyping had played a large part in the killing.

"I never heard of a white person being shot so many times!" exclaimed a white boy during a class session in February at the Center School, a performing arts magnet school in Manhattan.

"Well, I think it was racially motivated, but the guy should have frozen," objected a white girl.

"They always say they thought there was a gun!" argued a black girl. "How come they always say that?"

"What are we saying about the prejudices of our society?" observed teacher Rhonda Wilkins. "A policeman may not be a racist, but in this kind of a situation he may tend to prejudice because of color."

"And is it only black people who are stereotyped?" she asked. "What about a man you see walking down the street with a yarmulke and a beard? Do you immediately think he must have money and be sharp in business?"

"It happens to me too," called out a girl in a wheelchair—one of three such in the classroom. "People always stare at me as if I'm different. Why do I have to be the different one? Maybe they're different."

"What's normal?" mused a classmate. "Maybe normal doesn't exist."

The course's exploration of identity empowers many "different" children, say teachers in other cities. A particularly poignant story is told by Terry NeSmith, an English teacher at Craigmont High School in Memphis, Tenn. "This youngster came to class always looking worn and troubled," he recalled. "But as we talked about books and the curriculum she began to open up and express herself."

At the beginning of the term, NeSmith asked the class to write an essay about their heroes. The students wrote about people like the singer Whitney Houston and the basketball player Shaquille O'Neal. After that, they studied the Holocaust and also read the book, "A Gathering of Heroes," by Gregory Alan-Williams, who rescued a Japanese-American man at the height of the Rodney King riots in Los Angeles.

In the book, Williams tells of his anger at hearing of the acquittal of the policemen who had beaten King, and how, driving home he began to think of his own troubling experiences as an African American. But his

memories also led him to think of the people who had helped him to get where he was now as a writer: his courageous mother, a neighbor who had acted as a wise surrogate father. These and others were his heroes, and he realized that everyday people like himself could be heroes if they acted justly. He found himself driving toward the center of the riot where he rescued the man who had been beaten by the mob and was being dragged from his car.

"At the end of the term I gave the same assignment," said NeSmith. "And the essays were so amazingly different they wrote about their moms, their dads, ordinary, everyday heroes.

"And this young lady," he said, "wrote such a moving essay that I sent it to Facing History in Brookline, and they published it in a study guide. She mentioned that often the car in which she was driven to school was the place where she had slept at night. This was a biracial child," says NeSmith, "and she confessed that she had always been torn about her own identify. Now she thought it was wonderful to be able to experience both cultures. And she realized that even when she slept in a car she always had a home because her father was there and made it a home. And that was why he was her hero."

Facing History has six regional offices in Boston, New York, Chicago, Los Angeles, Memphis and San Francisco that help teachers with the program. To date it has reached some 22,000 educators from throughout the country and has also held institutes in England, France and Sweden. About a million students have taken part.

The teachers, who are trained in weeklong sessions during summer vacations, come from private as well as public schools and from disciplines other than social studies, since the program can be adapted to many kinds of curricula.

For instance, NeSmith's assignment to write about heroes was connected with a unit on Greek mythology in his English class. At the Center School here, where Wilkins teaches, students made elaborate and moving posters and dioramas about their family history to illustrate their sense of identity. A few blocks away, Casado of the Dual Language School, teachers Facing History as part of the regular social studies curriculum.

The value of Facing History was recently judged independently by an intensive two-year research study on intergroup relations among youth funded by the Carnegie Corporation of New York.

The nonprofit foundation surveyed 246 eighth-graders who had enrolled in Facing History, along with a similar number of whose teachers "cared and taught about social issues, but who didn't use the program," explains Dennis Barr, Ph.D., a Harvard developmental psychologist who headed the research team. The study found that Facing History does affect the way young people relate to their peers and think about social issues and their role as citizens.

"It's a very impressive program," says Barr. "It has an impact on something that is very hard to have an impact on—what you could call character development."

This effect seems to last. Among those quoted in Facing History's last annual report are Derrick Kimbrough of Cambridge, Mass., now 25 years old, who took part in the program when he was only 13. Three summers ago, Kimbrough, who is African American, founded the Survival & Technology Workshop, a nonprofit group that involves teens in improving their local communities. "Our workshop graduates have renovated a local teen center and movie theater, established a local recycling project and created an after-school jobs project," he said.

Kimbrough added, "Facing History taught me the value of teaching kids responsibility and the importance of letting them think of themselves."

Twenty-nine-year-old Seth Miller of Boston remembers that as the only Jewish member of a school hockey team he had played on a Jewish holiday because he'd been embarrassed to tell his teammates that he had to go to services. Since then he has not only faced his own identity but has founded the Rocky Mountain Youth Corps in New Mexico.

"At 13, Facing History was a real breakthrough for me," he said "I was suddenly turned on to academics in a way I hadn't been before. It seems that my whole interest in pursuing a career that was fulfilling to me as a human being and not just for gaining money or status started then."

PROSECUTORS SAY RACIAL HATE WAS MOTIVE FOR MAN INDICTED IN FATAL SHOOTING

FORT LAUDERDALE, FLA. (AP).—A man accused of shooting and killing a black woman as she sat in a car with her white fiance has been indicted on charges of murder and attempted murder.

And while the accused wasn't charged with a hate crime, "We will argue hate as a motive for the murder," said assistant state attorney Tim Donnelly.

Robert Boltuch was indicted Thursday for the slaying of Jody J. Bailey, 20. She was killed Feb. 24 when the driver of another car pulled up and opened fire.

Her fiance, Christian Martin, 20, who wasn't hit, told police the shooter had tailed their car, screaming at the couple before firing seven shots when they stopped at a red light.

Martin and Ms. Bailey were high school sweethearts who had dated for three years. Both were students at Florida Atlantic University.

Boltuch, 23, had been working as a waiter at a restaurant until the shooting. He was arrested March 2 at a friend's house in Plantation.

While the words "hate crime" appear nowhere in the indictment, prosecutors said they intend to tell a jury that hate was a factor.

A hate crime classification upgrades the possible penalties if there are convictions. But since a capital murder case already involves the ultimate punishment, the hate crime statute "really is inapplicable," Donnelly said.

About 25 minutes before the shooting, two men allegedly overheard Boltuch say he was going to go out and kill a black person, police said.

The manager of the restaurant where Boltuch worked called the police the day after the shooting when he saw the composite sketch of the suspect in the newspaper and Boltuch failed to show up to work.

HATE CRIME SENTENCING

CLARKSBURG, W. VA. (AP).—A 20-year-old Harrison County man convicted of pouring gasoline in the shape of a cross on a black family's yard and lighting it on fire has been sentenced to 200 hours of community service.

Michael Vernon Wildman must complete his community service at Mount Zion Baptist Church. He also must take a course on race, class and gender relations at Fairmont State College.

Wildman was convicted Feb. 2 of violating the civil rights of Raymond Parker Jr. and his family and destruction of property.

Harrison County Circuit Judge Thomas Bedell originally sentenced Wildman to spend 10 years in state prison, one year in the county jail and pay \$5,500 in fines.

However, Bedell suspended the sentence saying sending Wildman to prison may "teach him more hate and racism."

"I feel that if we sentence him to the maximum, we may be creating another racist," Bedell said during Wednesday's sentencing hearing.

Bedell said requiring Wildman to work with the church and take the class would be more beneficial.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TODD TIAHRT

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 5, 1999

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, on May 5, I was unavoidably detained and missed roll call votes number 108 (Approval of the May 4 Journal) and 109 (Calling the Previous Question on H. Res. 158). Had I been present I would have voted yes on both votes.

NATIONAL LEAGUE OF FAMILIES OF AMERICAN PRISONERS AND MISSING IN SOUTHEAST ASIA

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 5, 1999

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, after 26 years of working closely with the National League of Families of American Prisoners and Missing in Southeast Asia, it should come as no surprise that I rise today to express my full support for their forthcoming trip to Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia scheduled from May 12–20, 1999.

For more than a quarter of a century, I have witnessed, firsthand, the league's tireless efforts and faithful dedication to those who have selflessly served our country during the war in Southeast Asia. For 30 years, the National League of Families has remained vigilant in its goal of determining the fate of those members of the United States Armed Forces still missing and unaccounted for from the Vietnam War. Like so many Americans across our land, I have come to deeply respect and appreciate all that the League has done for those who have done so much for our Nation.

I have been a strong advocate of obtaining the fullest possible accounting of our POW/MIA's since I first came to the Congress in 1973. As a junior Congressman, my first trip overseas was to Laos to visit the Hmong people who protected our downed airmen during the war. I proudly supported the creation of the Select Committee on Missing Persons in Southeast Asia, the National POW/MIA Recognition Day, and POW/MIA legislation because I believe the families of those who are missing deserve no less.

In my trips to Vietnam over the years, I have shared the League's frustrations with the accounting process. I am aware of the steps the Vietnamese government has recently taken to address the concerns of our POW/MIA families, but I believe further steps—steps the League has long recommended—should be pursued. Regrettably, by normalizing relations with Vietnam, I believe that we have withdrawn our leverage with the Vietnamese Government on this issue. Once again, I

strongly urge the Governments of Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia to engage in serious dialogue to improve the transparency, accountability, effectiveness and efficiency of POW/MIA investigations.

I am thankful to have had the opportunity to have worked with the League on this important issue. It is a pleasure to bring recognition to one of our family groups which has toiled so long and so hard in support of our servicemen and women. I wish Ann Mills Griffith, Dick Childress and their team a safe and productive visit to Southeast Asia and I look forward to their report upon their return.

A TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE
OLIVER OCASEK

HON. TOM SAWYER

OF OHIO

HON. RALPH REGULA

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 5, 1999

Mr. SAWYER. Mr. Speaker, my colleague, Mr. REGULA, and I rise to honor Oliver Ocasek—one of Ohio's most distinguished citizens. On May 20, Oliver Ocasek will receive the YMCA of the USA's Volunteerism Award—the YMCA's highest honor. The YMCA is honoring Ocasek for his more than 50 years of service to youth organizations. We rise today, not only to recognize his deserved selection for this award, but to recognize a lifetime of service to the people of Ohio. Sen. Ocasek's devotion to education extends well beyond his volunteerism with the YMCA. He co-founded the Ohio Hi-Y Youth in Government Model Legislature program with Governor C. William O'Neill in 1952 and supervised it throughout his service on the Ohio-West Virginia Board of the YMCA. He has served on the greater Akron area boards of Goodwill Industries, Shelter Care, and the Salvation Army. He also has been a professional educator in a wide variety of capacities: a teacher, a principal, a school superintendent, and a professor at both the University of Akron and Kent State University. He was instrumental in bringing together our regional institutions of higher learning to create the Northeastern Ohio Universities' College of Medicine. He capped his educational service with three terms on Ohio's State Board of Education.

This breadth of service to youth is impressive by itself. But alone, it does not capture Oliver Ocasek's contribution to the people of Ohio. Oliver Ocasek was one of the most influential legislators in the Statehouse, where he served in the Senate for 28 years from 1958 to 1986. In the 1970's, he became the first Senate President elected by his peers due to a change in the Ohio Constitution. Along with Republican Governor James Rhodes and Democratic House Speaker Vernal Riffe, Sen. Ocasek made many of the decisions to keep state government moving forward. He was an expert on Ohio's complex school funding system and used his knowledge, experience, and position to benefit local students. His enormous influence came from his savvy and from the hard, tedious work of studying, debating, refining, and reaching decisions on difficult and often contentious state issues.

He is astute, well-steeped in history, a gifted orator and a man of heart-felt compassion. Oliver Ocasek's larger-than-life ambitions drove him hard in politics and in civic life in general, not in search of personal gain and glory, but in order to use his talents and positions to care for the least of his brothers and sisters. Last year in the *Akron Beacon Journal*, Sen. Ocasek expressed his philosophy: "Nothing breaks my heart more than for a child to not have parents who care or to not have a chance for a good education. That's been my commitment—my life—to provide a good education for all children." His leadership has inspired tens of thousands of young people touched by his commitment to education and to the YMCA youth programs over the last half-century.

Today, many people disparage public service and doubt that one person can make a difference. Oliver Ocasek would profoundly disagree. And more importantly, his efforts and their recognition by the YMCA are the evidence to the contrary. His service to the people—and particularly the youth—of Ohio shows that, with hard work and commitment, one person can make a difference. And we are grateful for the difference that he has made.

TOP TEACHERS

HON. MARTIN T. MEEHAN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 5, 1999

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I insert the following letters into the RECORD.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, April 15, 1999.

Ms. CAROL SHESTOK,
Norman E. Day Elementary School,
Westford, Massachusetts.

DEAR MS. SHESTOK: Congratulations on being honored as one of the top teachers in Massachusetts. This is a well deserved reward for your special ability to really make a difference in the lives of your students at Norman E. Day Elementary School in Westford.

Too often, talented teachers go unrewarded for the valid work that they do. That is why I am so pleased that you were deservedly honored for all the attention, care and dedication that you have given to your students.

Again, congratulations on your recent honors.

Sincerely,

MARTY MEEHAN,
Member of Congress.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, April 16, 1999.

Mrs. GAIL FITZGERALD DOWNING,
Tewksbury, Massachusetts.

DEAR MRS. DOWNING: Congratulations on being honored as one of the nation's top 40 teachers through USA Today's annual ALL-USA Teachers Team Award. It is a well deserved tribute to your special ability to really make a difference in the lives of your students at Russell Street Elementary School in Littleton.

Too often, talented teachers go unrewarded for the work that they do. That is why I am so pleased that you were deservedly honored for all the attention, care and dedication that you have given to your students.

Again, congratulations on your recent honors.

Sincerely,

MARTY MEEHAN,
Member of Congress.

THE INTRODUCTION OF THE
INTERNET GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 1999

HON. RICK BOUCHER

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 5, 1999

Mr. BOUCHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with my Virginia colleague BOB GOODLATTE, with whom I am privileged to cochair the Congressional Internet Caucus, in the introduction of two bills which taken together will address the major challenges confronting the Internet today.

Heretofore, congressional debates on issues affecting the Internet have been ad hoc and have addressed single issues only. The legislation we are introducing today will provide the first comprehensive framework for debate by the Congress of the major current Internet policy challenges.

The passage of both bills will truly promote the growth and development of the Internet:

First, passage of the legislation will result in greater broadband deployment and an increase in the speed by which people connect to the Internet from their homes and their places of work. Telephone companies will be required to file plans with state public service commissions for the deployment of DSL services in all local exchanges where the deployment is both technologically feasible and economically reasonable. Today, only 50,000 subscribers nationwide have DSL service. Our legislation will result in those numbers increasing dramatically.

We also seek to encourage competition in the provision of DSL services by reducing the regulatory burden on the offering of DSL for telephone companies which agree to make re-conditioned loops for the provision of DSL services available in a timely fashion to competitors.

To ensure an increase in Internet backbone capacity and to stimulate competition in the offering of backbone services, the legislation enables Bell Operating Companies to carry data across LATA boundaries to the extent that the data is not a voice-only service, whether or not the Bell Operating Company has obtained approval to offer inter-LATA services under section 271 of the 1996 Act. This provision will strongly encourage investment in the Internet backbone and the creation of greater competition among Internet backbone providers. That competition is essential to assure the retention of the current peering arrangements which promote low-cost Internet services.

Our legislation gives legal voice to the policies of Internet Service Providers which are designed to protect their facilities from bulk mailings of unsolicited electronic advertisements. Spam can seriously degrade the performance of the Internet and clog the facilities of Internet Access Providers to the disadvantage of all users. In some instances, Internet Service Provider facilities have even crashed due to the onslaught of spam. If service providers have restrictive policies concerning the

use of their facilities by spammers, those policies should be enforced, and our legislation provides the mechanism for the enforcement.

Our legislation also makes it a criminal offense intentionally to falsify Internet domain, header information, date or time stamps, originating e-mail addresses or other e-mail identifiers or intentionally to sell or distribute any computer program which is designed or produced primarily for the purpose of concealing the source of routing information of bulk unsolicited electronic mail. This provision strikes at the practice of bulk e-mailers who through the use of specially designed software change the origination information in e-mail messages as each small cluster of messages is sent. That practice is used to defeat the blocking software of Internet Service Providers which deflects from their facilities large volumes of messages originating from a single source.

The legislation will encourage electronic commerce by giving full authorization to properly authenticated electronic signatures. A variety of laws require a written document with a written signature for the enforceability for certain kinds of contracts. Our legislation will give full legal effect to contracts constructed online and prevent either party from disavowing the contract due to the absence of a physical written signature, if the identity of the contracting parties is properly authenticated and if certainty is created that the text of any document they construct has not been changed. The legislation sets forth specifics for obtaining that authentication.

We propose to create a new right of privacy for Internet users. In response to the growing practice of web site operators of collecting information from web site users either directly through a registration form or indirectly through the implantation of a "cookie" on the user's hard disk, the legislation requires that all web site operators post their information collection and use policies in a conspicuous manner so that web site users will be informed of the information collected and the use to which that information is put and have an opportunity to exit the web site without any information being collected if the visitor objects to that collection and use of information. The provision will be enforced by the Federal Trade Commission.

Finally, we propose to assure that all Americans retain complete freedom to select the Internet access provider of their choice. As the Internet has grown and developed, most Americans have connected to the Internet over telephone lines. While the telephone company has provided the transport, everyone has been free to select the company that will provide the Internet access. Even in instances where telephone companies offer both transport and Internet access services, the law has protected the right of the telephone company's customers to select an Internet access provider other than the telephone company.

Unfortunately, as the cable industry begins the deployment of cable modem services, a different model is being pursued. At the present time, there is no federal law restricting the ability of cable companies to package their transport services and their affiliated Internet access services and require that customers purchasing high-speed transport also purchase the cable company's affiliated Internet access service. The largest cable multiple system operators are, in fact, bundling transport with Internet access and requiring that the af-

filiated Internet access services be purchased by cable modem customers.

There are more than 2,000 Internet access providers nationwide. The vast majority of the ISPs are startup companies who have brought a new level of entrepreneurship to the telecommunications industry. Many of them will become the competitive local exchange carriers who will offer competition not only in the provision of Internet access, but in the offering of local telephone service and other telecommunications services as well. They will be important contributors to the competitive local exchange industry we envisioned when we wrote the Telecommunications Act of 1996.

But these ISPs are severely threatened by the deployment by cable television companies of broadband Internet transport connections which also bundle affiliated Internet access services. The broad bandwidth of these services will surely attract a large clientele, much of which will be the existing customer base of independent ISP's.

If the cable television companies are permitted to force their cable modem customers to purchase their affiliated Internet access services as a condition of subscribing to their high speed transport service, many independent ISP's will be foreclosed from a large portion of their existing customer base and from market growth opportunities. The legislation we are offering today assures that this anticompetitive practice will not occur and that all Internet transport platforms in the future will be open, much as telephone company transport platforms are open today.

I am pleased to be participating on a bipartisan basis with Representative GOODLATTE in offering this legislation, the enactment of which will assure that the Internet more rapidly achieves its potential to be the multimedia platform of choice for the delivery of voice, video and data.

THE INTRODUCTION OF THE
INTERNET FREEDOM ACT OF 1999

HON. BOB GOODLATTE

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 5, 1999

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to announce the introduction of the Internet Freedom Act of 1999. This bipartisan legislative initiative, which I am introducing along with Congressman BOUCHER of Virginia, addresses the challenge that face the Internet by building on the strengths that have made the Internet the major engine of growth and development in the new Information Age. The legislation ensures that the qualities that have provided the explosive growth of the Internet in recent years will continue into the new millennium. The initiative addresses the crucial challenges currently facing the Internet and its future: providing freedom from burdensome government regulation, ensuring consumer choice through open competition, and protecting consumer-friendly open access to the Internet.

The Internet is currently at a crossroads. One path continues to encourage the principles mentioned above: freedom, competition, and consumer choice. The other path, which is looming on the horizon, is characterized by heavy government regulation, limited competition, higher prices and less choice for con-

sumers. Following this path could mean that any company with market power can restrict the ability of businesses to compete on the Internet, and the ability of consumers to access the Internet provider and content of their choice could be subject to the control of a single company. The Internet as we know it—open, competitive, and easily available to consumers—will cease to exist. That path, unfortunately, is the one we are following now.

Congress must act now to ensure that the qualities that made the Internet a revolutionary tool for both business and users—deregulation, competition, and easy consumer access—remain fundamental components of the Internet for future generations. The Internet Freedom Act accomplishes this by achieving three goals.

The first goal of the Internet Freedom Act is deregulation: the bill gets the FCC out of the business of regulating the Internet. It accomplishes this by eliminating existing FCC regulations that are inhibiting the development and rollout of certain types of broadband Internet service in non-urban and rural areas.

Broadband technology is up to twenty times faster than the old modems used for Internet access, and can be compared to the old "T-1" telephone lines offered for \$1,000 a month, but at a fraction of the cost. In some areas, it is now possible to obtain broadband Internet service, in a variety of forms, for as low as \$40 a month. The development of broadband technology has the potential to not only make fast Internet access available to consumers and small businesses, but to make it affordable as well.

The FCC is currently ignoring its responsibility under the Telecommunications Act of 1996 to provide regulatory relief to incumbent phone companies by removing existing regulations on data traffic that were originally intended to encourage competition in voice traffic. The FCC regulations currently prohibit the incumbent phone companies from competing in the Internet backbone market. The "backbone" is the very high speed, high capacity lines that crisscross the country linking major cities. Existing suppliers of Internet backbone are simply unable to keep up with the demand for high speed, high capacity backbone bandwidth. They also have little incentives to invest in many parts of the country that are far away from the main backbone routes. Our legislation would allow local phone companies into the backbone market, increasing competition and lowering prices for businesses and consumers.

In addition, many areas of the country are located far from these backbone pipes (often but not exclusively in rural areas). Traffic from these areas must be hauled to the closest backbone connection point (often miles away) and the connections used for this are of much smaller capacity than those on the backbone. More backbone investment will mean that more facilities will eventually become available in more places than ever before. Local phone companies and others may be able to justify building major connection points to the Internet in more locations, allowing traffic to be aggregated by ISPs and encouraging the build-out of more connections closer to customers. This will make it possible for more customers to be able to access the Internet without being required to make a long distance call.

The second goal the Internet Freedom Act accomplishes is freedom of competition: One

of the main goals of the Telecommunications Act was to open the local phone markets to competition to ensure non-discriminatory access and safeguard against anti-competitive behavior. However, certain networks unaffected by the Act remain closed to competitors and other closed networks could be just around the corner. Under this scenario, a consumer who wants high-speed broadband service, whether by cable, satellite, or copper wire, would be forced to buy it from their access provider's ISP. If they wanted service from AOL or another ISP, they would either not be able to receive it or would essentially have to pay twice.

A closed network also provides undue leverage over Internet content, since one company would possess the ability to give content providers preferential access to their "hostage" customers. This ability to leverage its monopoly vertically can curtail competition and innovation in the content market and raise prices for such information or programs. It could also limit the variety and availability of content that has made the Internet so successful.

This legislation preserves competition among broadband Internet providers without involving the heavy-handed bureaucracy of the FCC. The bill achieves this goal by giving a private right of action to ISPs who have been unable to compete fairly against other ISPs by broadband transport providers. For example, if a company limits the ability of an ISP to offer its services over their facilities on the same terms and conditions that the cable company offers to another ISP, the first ISP would be able to seek relief in the courts.

The section also preserves competition among ISPs by using existing antitrust law. Under this section, evidence in a civil action that a broadband access transport provider with market power has limited the ability of an Internet service provider to compete in the ISP marketplace would be presumed to have violated the Sherman Act. This section recognizes that each type of broadband transport provider technology is unique, whether two-way cable, copper wire, sport-beam satellite or wireless transmission. Each technology is recognized under this bill as a separate type of broadband market, and therefore providers cannot under current antitrust law abuse that power to limit the competitive marketplace of Internet service providers.

The second section would also ensure openness and competition among broadband Internet transport providers by ensuring that the same rules apply to the incumbent phone companies, which are already required to open their networks to ISPs. In return for removing rate and price regulations on data traffic for local phone companies after meeting certain rollout requirements, this section would presume a Sherman Act violation if the phone company failed to make its "local loop" available to other carriers who wanted to compete in the provision of DSL broadband technology.

Finally, the Internet Freedom Act encourages open consumer access for consumers by making the Internet a more user-friendly environment. The third section addresses the problem of illegal mass e-mail, also known as "spamming." This section would make it a federal crime for a person to knowingly use another person's Internet e-mail address, or "domain name," to send unsolicited mass e-mails. The penalty for violating the section would be the actual monetary loss and damages of

\$15,000 per violation or up to \$10 per message, whichever is greater.

The principles of free-market competition, low government regulation, and open consumer access have guided the growth of the Internet. If this growth is to continue, we must ensure that public policy reflects the best interests of the consumer. The environment that has nurtured the early growth of the Internet must be preserved and strengthened to spur continued innovation and ensure that the Internet and information-based economy continue to flourish. But, there are several inefficiencies currently in the marketplace that could stifle the continued development and innovation of the Internet and the growth of our economy. We must fix these problems now, before they require heavy-handed regulations that slow down the Internet, drive up costs, hinder consumer access to information, and cause this engine of potential economic growth and future prosperity to sputter and fail.

CONGRATULATING FRESNO RESCUE MISSION ON THEIR 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 5, 1999

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Fresno Rescue Mission on occasion of its 50th anniversary, and its plans for expansion. The mission has long served the homeless and downtrodden of Fresno.

The Rescue Mission began in 1949 as a non-profit religious organization to be an arm of the churches of Fresno County. Over the past 50 years, the mission has been open 24-hours-a-day 365-days-a-year helping the destitute of Fresno, with three meals a day, shelter, clothing, bedding, appliances and furniture, all free of charge.

Though it began as a "men only" organization, over the years, the mission has progressed to helping families who are in need of emergency shelter. The mission works with the Fresno County Department of Human Social Services in "Rescue the Children/Craycroft Youth" a collaborative effort to service, abused, neglected and abandoned children.

There is also a year-long live-in recovery program for men with various dependency problems. After completion of the program, a transition home provides housing, and employment as staff members of the mission. At the home, men are encouraged to save their money so they can be reunited with their families, or be able to afford their own housing.

Most important to the mission is its primary purpose, to provide love, and bring the Gospel of Jesus Christ to those who have nothing left in this world. In front of the mission building hangs a sign which reads, "If you don't have a friend in the world, you will find one here."

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Fresno Rescue Mission on the occasion of its 50th anniversary. The services provided are a boon to the community, and a blessing to those in most need. I urge all of my colleagues to join me in wishing the Fresno Rescue Mission many years of continued success.

TRIBUTE TO JERRY ZREMSKI

HON. THOMAS M. REYNOLDS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 5, 1999

Mr. REYNOLDS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the achievements of one of Capitol Hill's most hard-working and talented reporters.

As a member of the Washington Bureau of The Buffalo News, Jerry Zremski's Washington dispatches are an important and invaluable source of information for my constituents on the activities of this Congress.

Jerry was recently named a Nieman Fellow at Harvard University, a prestigious honor afforded to only 12 journalists throughout the United States of America. Jerry will begin his fellowship at Harvard in the fall, at the world's oldest mid-career fellowship program for journalists.

A graduate of Syracuse University, where he earned a bachelor's degree in journalism, and American University, where he received his Master's Degree in Political Science, Jerry Zremski has distinguished himself in his profession, and I ask that this House of Representatives join me in honoring Jerry's achievement in earning the Nieman Fellowship at Harvard University.

HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF CARMEL CASABONA AFTER 20 YEARS OF DEDICATED SERVICE

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 5, 1999

Mr. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, tonight we celebrate Carmel Casabona, who retired from Area Cooperative Educational Services (ACES) on January 22, 1999 after 20 years of dedicated service. As a committed vocational education teacher with ACES' Secondary Program and later as a Job Coach with the ACCESS program, she has worked tirelessly to assist adult clients with disabilities, and engage them in their community. It is with tremendous pleasure that I rise today to salute this incredible woman, who has been a dear friend to me and has contributed so much to the Greater New Haven area.

For more than two decades, ACES has been a crucial source of support and assistance for people with a range of disabilities. Many individuals have benefitted from the nurturing, caring environment, and innovative approach that ACES offers. From employment opportunities to residential skills, this institution is an invaluable resource for the disabled. Carmel certainly reflects these goals.

Carm's long career with ACES is characterized by a lifetime of dedication to her adult clients. Although supervising 28-30 clients, Carm carefully assessed each person's abilities, and chose the appropriate work experience. By focusing on each individual's specific needs, she has helped her clients reach their full potential, while providing positive reinforcement. She also offered each participant increased independence, encouragement and dignity.

Aside from her daily work responsibilities, Carm offered her personal time in organizing

the annual Christmas party for her program participants, their families and friends. This event was eagerly anticipated every year as a time to come together to enjoy the holidays. When called upon by Carm to assist with party plans, volunteers could not refuse. Carm, through her volunteer crew, prepared all the food, provided music and hung decorations, all of which were done with tremendous energy and care.

On a personal level, I have witnessed Carm's interaction with her clients. It is easy to notice her genuine affection for them, as well as their fondness for her. She always approached her work with a compassionate heart, a cheerful smile, and a wonderful sense of humor. She will be sorely missed by clients and colleagues alike.

Because of this level of dedication, it is with great pleasure that I commend Carmel Casabona for 20 years of hard work and public service. I join with her daughter Tracy, her three granddaughters, family members, and friends in thanking her for caring so much for her clients, and in wishing her a very enjoyable retirement.

IN HONOR OF BARBARA KIRIE STEWART

HON. HENRY J. HYDE

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 5, 1999

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, education is in crisis today in America. That is why I think it is important to recognize an outstanding teacher. I rise today to recognize Barbara Kirie Stewart, daughter of a colleague and friend of mine, James C. Kirie. Mrs. Stewart teaches at Brentwood Academy in Tennessee where an endowed chair for history has recently been established in her name. This honor could not have been bestowed on a more deserving or dedicated woman, one who truly understands the joy of giving—to her students, her friends and family, and to future generations.

The endowment chair lets the rest of the world know how integral Barbara is to Brentwood Academy. Mrs. Barbara Stewart came to Brentwood Academy in the fall of 1972, in time to see the first class graduate the following spring. She brought with her a B.A. degree from Lindenwood College and the gift of making history come alive through her effective classroom teaching style.

Barbara's work with the Youth in Government program and as the founding sponsor of the R.O. Beauchamp chapter of the National Honor Society are just some of the many community enrichment activities with which she has involved herself. Barbara's devotion to students and education has taken her through 25 years as the History Department Chair at Brentwood Academy. Along the way, she also earned an M.A.T. from Vanderbilt. Those who have known Barbara in the classroom have discovered qualities that cannot be captured: an enthusiasm that stamps her presence into their memories forever.

Mrs. Barbara Stewart's former students say it best * * *.

I became a teacher because of your inspiration. Thank you for all you did for me as a student and all you have inspired me to do as a teacher.

I can still hear your voice and recall the enjoyment of learning history from you.

You taught me to always ask why, not just who and when. That has made all the difference.

Yours is the one class from my high school days that continues to capture my imagination and still sends me to the bookshelves scrambling for more information.

No teacher in high school or college taught me as much as you. No teacher taught me how to learn as well as you. And no teacher was ever as hard as you either!

Every once in a while there is a teacher who, with contagious enthusiasm, is able to impact knowledge and show genuine interest in her students, thus earning their affection and respect in return. Thank you for being one of those rare teachers.

The longer I live, the more I realize that your hard work, dedication, and selfless service has enriched my life in countless ways.

Mr. Speaker, the Barbara Kirie Stewart Endowed Chair for History preserves the legacy of academic achievement lived out at Brentwood Academy through Mrs. Barbara Stewart—an exemplary citizen whose excellence in teaching is unsurpassed.

TRIBUTE TO UNITED BROTHERHOOD OF CARPENTERS AND JOINERS OF AMERICA, LOCAL UNION NO. 433

HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 5, 1999

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America, Local Union Number 433. Local 433 is celebrating their 110th anniversary.

On May 11, 1889, 12 carpenters were granted a charter by the United Brotherhood, forming Local 433. This small group of 12 has grown significantly in membership, to its present total of 435 members.

The impact of Local 433 is highly visible in the Belleville community, as Local 433 has been instrumental in the construction of Belleville Area College, the St. Clair County Courthouse, and Scott Air Force Base, among others. Local 433 is currently working on the expansion of the MetroLink light rail system.

From its inception to today, the men and women of Local 433 have made invaluable contributions to the community, through their contributions to charity and civic events. One of Local 433's greatest achievements is its apprenticeship program. This four year program gives young carpenters the chance to learn from the community's established carpenters. There are currently 44 apprentices in this program, which was established over thirty years ago.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Local Union Number 433 as they celebrate their 110th anniversary.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MARK GREEN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 5, 1999

Mr. GREEN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained this morning, and

missed roll call vote #108. Had I been present I would have voted "Aye."

CONGRATULATING THE RAPE COUNSELING SERVICE OF FRESNO ON THEIR 25TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 5, 1999

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Rape Counseling Service of Fresno, Inc. (RCS), on occasion of its 25th anniversary.

Rape Counseling Service is a victim advocacy agency. Its mission is to alleviate the trauma due to sexual assault and/or child molestation, to educate the public and to raise the level of awareness regarding rape and child abuse prevention.

RCS made its start with a small core of volunteers meeting in a dorm room at California State University Fresno. It now has a staff of 33 members, and 52 volunteers who aid in crisis intervention, prevention education, a 24-hour hot-line, hospital and court advocacy and individual counseling.

For the past seven years, RCS has been ranked the number one rape crisis center in the state of California by the Office of Criminal Justice Planning, and for the past six years, has been the number one funded agency by Fresno County. The U.S. Department of Justice has named the RCS Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) as one of only two programs in the state to be listed in Promising Practices, a report to improve the criminal justice system's response to violence against women.

Over the years RCS has established a strong working relationship with the Fresno Police Department, the Fresno County Sheriff's Office and the District Attorney's office. It also interacts with other community-based organizations: Sanctuary, House of Hope, Human Services Coalition, Fresno County Child Abuse Prevention Council, The Fresno Policy Academy and Comprehensive Youth Services.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Rape Counseling Service of Fresno on the occasion of its 25th anniversary. The services provided are invaluable to the well-being of the community and victims of assault. I urge all of my colleagues to join me in wishing RCS many years of continued success.

THE VOLUNTEERS OF RADIO VISION: 19 YEARS OF DEDICATED SERVICE

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 5, 1999

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to rise today to pay tribute to the volunteers of Radio Vision of Orange County, New York for their 19 years of dedicated service. Radio Vision Volunteer Day this year is Saturday, May 15th. Radio Vision is a closed circuit service for the blind and sight impaired of the Mid-

Hudson region of southeastern New York. Over 600 blind and virtually handicapped listeners are informed of local events, news, sales, and a variety of other information only by volunteers.

Oftentimes, we take the gift of sight for granted. With the convenience of being able to watch the television or read the newspaper to learn about the world around us, we have little reason to think about the world around us in any other way. However, for the blind, the world of television and radio is not an option. For the blind residents of the Mid-Hudson, turning on the radio provides an equal alternative to the paper and the TV.

Over the past 19 years over 105 dedicated volunteers have kept Radio Vision running for the more than 600 who have no other option. These people have given their time, their hearts, and their voices to those in need. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to have been given the opportunity to speak about the commendable deeds of those at Radio Vision and I invite all of my colleagues to join in praising their devoted work in serving the blind.

JOHN WESLEY A.M.E. ZION
CHURCH "THE NATIONAL
CHURCH OF ZION METHODISM"
CELEBRATES 150TH ANNIVER-
SARY

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 5, 1999

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in saluting the John Wesley A.M.E. Zion Church, "The National Church of Zion Methodism," on the occasion of their 150th Anniversary.

Mr. Speaker, the John Wesley A.M.E. Zion Church was established in the nation's capital during a period when free black Americans began and expanded a major effort for self-expression, self-esteem, and freedom. Free blacks established their own churches after they became dissatisfied with their treatment in white-controlled churches, treatment which included their segregation in religious services and disqualification from holding church offices and preaching. Founders of John Wesley experienced this treatment, and were led to leave churches that were discriminating against them.

Led by John Brent and John Ingham, a group called the "Little Society of Nine" withdrew from Asbury Methodist Episcopal Church which was under the ministry of white leaders. They met in the home of John Brent at 1800 L Street, NW and formulated plans, which culminated in the Organization of John Wesley Church in 1849. At that time, John Wesley was a dependent church which selected its own locations and ministers. One member of the group, Martha Pennington, organized a "Woman's Aid Society," and raised \$300.00—the greater part of the down payment of \$349.00 required to purchase the church site at 1120 Connecticut Avenue NW. It took two years to build the church. The congregation, led by Rev. Abraham Cole, the first minister, moved into the new church in 1851. In that same year, the Board of Trustees and the Board of Stewards were created. The church established a relationship with the A.M.E. Zion Church, and was legally confirmed in 1904.

Mr. Speaker, founders and early members of John Wesley, like those of many other black churches, were attracted by the doctrine of Methodism. This doctrine, expressed strongly in the sermons of John Wesley and in the hymns of his brother, Charles, proclaimed that no one was too poor, too humble, or too degraded to share in the privilege of divine grace, have a personal intimacy with God, and have assurance of eternal life. Pioneering black Methodists in New York City, led by James Varick, paved the way for the creation of the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church. From the founders of this church, the organizers and leaders of John Wesley Church in Washington, D.C. were destined to draw their inspiration and guidance. Since 1851, the leadership of the church has been vested in forty ministers.

Mr. Speaker, from 1855 to 1866, John Wesley Church was an important community facility for black education during a time when public schools in Washington were not available to blacks. The church, with the support of philanthropic groups, provided substantial elementary education under instruction from black and white teachers.

The early growth of the church was stimulated by a remarkable group of able ministers. Five of them had been elected bishops of the A.M.E. Zion Church by 1904. Very substantial growth was indicated as early as 1884, when the church expanded its edifice by adding a second story. The architectural expansion was made under the supervision of Calvin Brent, the son of founding member John Brent who was one of Washington's first black architects.

For a dozen years before its move to its present location in 1914, John Wesley Church was located at 1121 18th Street, NW. The relocation to 14th Street provided a beautiful, large edifice that many persons felt was an appropriate place to have a national church of Zion Methodism, just as other denominations had a national church in the nation's capital. At the General Conference of the A.M.E. Zion Church, held at John Wesley in 1940, John Wesley was officially designated the National Church of Zion Methodism.

During the twentieth century, the history of John Wesley Church has been characterized by increasing concern for the social welfare and the general quality of life of its members. The church has shown this concern while maintaining a strong interest in the spiritual well-being of its members and others. The ministerial and lay leadership of the church has been in the vanguard of the civil rights movement and the general effort to make Washington and the nation a better place in which to live. Two former pastors, The Right Reverend Stephen Gills Spottswood and Dr. E. Franklin Jackson, national civil rights leaders, were instrumental in the desegregation of public accommodations in Washington, D.C. The church has held sustained leadership roles in the NAACP, assisted in the coordination of the 1963 March on Washington, hosted President Bush in 1989, and will be hosting the cultural program for the National Trust for Historic Preservation's National Conference later this year. John Wesley Church is a member of the Interfaith Council and Downtown Cluster of Churches. Outreach programs at John Wesley include workshops on domestic violence, care for the senior citizens, feeding the homeless, and awarding scholarships to high school seniors and college students.

Mr. Speaker, I salute the pastor, The Reverend Vernon A. Shannon, the officers and members of the John Wesley A.M.E. Zion Church, "The National Church of Zion Methodism"—a Washington monument beyond the monuments.

HILLSBORO HIGH SCHOOL TEAM
COMPETES IN NATIONAL FINALS
OF WE THE PEOPLE . . . THE
CITIZEN AND THE CONSTITUTION
PROGRAM

HON. BOB CLEMENT

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 5, 1999

Mr. CLEMENT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize my alma mater, Hillsboro High School, for their participation in the We the People—The Citizen and the Constitution program. On May 1–3, 1999 more than 1200 students from across the United States will be in Washington, D.C. to compete in the national finals of the We the People—The Citizen and the Constitution program. I am proud to announce that the class from Hillsboro High School from Nashville will represent the state of Tennessee in this national event. These young scholars have worked diligently to reach the national finals and through their experience have gained a deep knowledge and understanding of the fundamental principles and values of our constitutional democracy.

The We the People—The Citizen and the Constitution program is the most extensive educational program in the country developed specifically to educate young people about the Constitution and the Bill of Rights. The three-day national competition is modeled after hearings in the United States Congress. These hearings consist of oral presentations by high school students before a panel of adult judges. The students testify as constitutional experts before a "congressional committee," that is, the panel of judges representing various regions of the country and a variety of appropriate professional fields. The student testimony is followed by a period of questioning during which the judges probe students for their depth of understanding and ability to apply their constitutional knowledge.

Administered by the Center for Civic Education, the We the People . . . program has provided curricular materials at upper elementary, middle and high school levels for more than 26.5 million students nationwide. Members of Congress and their staff enhance the program by discussing current constitutional issues with students and teachers and by participating in other educational activities. I wish the student team from Hillsboro High School the best of luck at We the People—national finals.

THE CENTER FOR CIVIC EDU-
CATION AND THE "WE THE PEO-
PLE: THE CITIZEN AND THE CON-
STITUTION" PROGRAM

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 5, 1999

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I want to bring an editorial in today's Washington Post about the

recent Center for Civic Education National Competition to the attention of Members. For 12 years, the Center for Civic Education has developed and promoted its "We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution" program to increase student understanding and knowledge of the Constitution and this document's impact on today's society. Over this period, the program has provided instruction to 26.5 million students, distributed more than 89,000 sets of free textbooks, and trained more than 82,000 teachers in 24,000 elementary and secondary schools across the country. In light of the tragic recent events surrounding our Nation's schools, this editorial shows the positive impact that this program is having on our Nation's students and their sense and understanding of citizenship and its responsibilities.

[From The Washington Post]

A CLASS ACTION

(By David S. Broder)

The topic was the constitutional guarantee of freedom of association, and the questions from the Kentucky college teacher, the Virginia judge and the Charleston, S.C., lawyer came thick and fast.

"Given the volatile nature of the atmosphere in Colorado following the Columbine High School tragedy, do you think the Denver City Council would have been justified in saying, 'We do not want the NRA [National Rifle Association] meeting here this weekend?' " "Could it have restricted the number of people at the meeting?" "Could it have asked for the names of those attending?"

The five Hempfield High School students from Landisville, Pa., facing them were not rattled. One by one, they made their points in quick, incisive fashion, referring twice to the controlling Supreme Court cases: Barring the convention would have been justified only if there were a real threat of retaliatory violence. Limiting its size was not sensible—"It should be all or nothing." Asking for names could not be justified by any compelling state interest.

The discussion moved to the issue of youths wearing symbols or clothing that others in school might find intimidating—and once again, the students spoke calmly and clearly about the issues that have agitated the country since the Littleton massacre.

On Sunday, the second day of the annual national competition sponsored by the Center for Civic Education, a downtown Washington hotel was the place to have your faith in the younger generation restored.

For 12 years, the center, funded by a \$5.5 million annual grant from the Department of Education and six times that much in state, local and private support, has promoted semester-long curriculum called "We the People. The Citizen and the Constitution," and trained thousands of teachers to use it in classrooms across the country.

Each class is invited to compete at the congressional district and state level, and last weekend about 1,250 students from all 50 states and the District of Columbia gathered for the national finals. The format is a simulated congressional hearing on an issue requiring application of constitutional principles. Each team has four minutes to present its prepared position and then must answer unscripted questions from a trio of contest judges for another six.

"The whole class comes to Washington," Chuck Quigley, the program director, explained. "This is not like a debate meet, where the best and brightest represent the school. Each class divides into six teams—one for each unit of the course—and each team 'testifies' once in each round. You

can't have cliques or factions. Everyone has to cooperate for the school to do well."

In a 1994 evaluation of the program, Stanford political scientist Richard Brody found it particularly successful in promoting tolerance of dissenting views and active participation in the political system. Carly Celmer, a member of the team representing Florida, said, "It teaches you that people can make mistakes, but our structure of government is really sound."

Elaine Savukas, who teaches the Pennsylvania students I watched, said her husband, the principal of Hempfield High—"a school of exactly the same size as Columbine in the same kind of suburban community"—values the course because "it shows kids there are ways to work through disagreements other than violence."

Mary Catherine Bradshaw, the teacher of the Hillsboro High School entry from Nashville, Tenn., said "Taunting is pervasive in every high school." But her class, on its own initiative, came up with a checklist of actions federal, state and local authorities might take to prevent another Littleton. And then one student said, "There is something we can do as individuals." And the class began circulating a pledge that "as part of the community . . . I will eliminate taunting from my own behavior. I will encourage others to do the same . . . and if others won't become part of the solution, I will."

They put the pledge on their Web site and now are hearing that it's been adopted at high schools all over the United States.

The competition—and the underlying course—have attracted celebrity backers. Henry Hyde has coached classes in his district; Hillary Clinton, Kenneth Starr and several Supreme Court justices met with schools in this year's competition.

Anthony Corrado, a distinguished political scientist at Colby College in Maine, has judged the contest for eight years and has helped train teachers at summer institutes on using the curriculum. He takes the time, he told me, because "the best antidote to cynicism is understanding the basic principles of our system of government and being challenged to apply them to today's problems."

This is a course most of us adults could use.

(The phone numbers of the Center for Civic Education are 818-591-9321 or 202-861-8800.)

IN HONOR OF JOHN PETER, RETIRING PRESIDENT OF KIDSPACE

HON. TIM ROEMER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 5, 1999

Mr. ROEMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to one of our nation's most visionary and dedicated public servants, Mr. John Peter, who will be retiring next month as President and CEO of KidsPeace.

As many of you know, KidsPeace is a 115-year old, not-for-profit organization which helps young people face personal crisis and prepare for life's daily challenges. When John first started working at KidsPeace in 1974, the organization provided a refuge for about 40 troubled kids in northeastern Pennsylvania.

But John had a greater vision for the organization than that. He realized that children everywhere were coming under increasing pressure from broken homes, violence, drugs and other troubling influences in society. He knew

that in order to truly help the children it was serving, KidsPeace had to find a way to get to them before trouble set in, and provide a structure to help them cope with the added burdens in their lives.

Utilizing his skills as a businessman and social worker, and inspired by his training in theology, John set out to expand the KidsPeace mission nationwide. The results have been spectacular. Under John's leadership, KidsPeace has grown from a single facility in Pennsylvania to the nation's leading organization helping kids overcome crisis.

KidsPeace now helps more than 2,000 children a day at 25 centers across the country, and serves millions more each year through public education and outreach programs. Hundreds of business leaders, doctors, entertainers, athletes and civic figures donate their time and support to the KidsPeace mission.

At a time of increasing violence and turmoil in our society, children across the country know they can turn to KidsPeace for help in facing tough situations at home, problems with friends or in school, or for guidance in becoming stronger, wiser and healthier kids.

I have had the privilege of working closely with John and the KidsPeace organization over the years through the Children's Working Group, which I founded to help give voice to America's kids. We hosted two major press conferences at which KidsPeace released the results of its national surveys of American teenagers and pre-teens.

We also joined together to unveil the latest KidsPeace initiative: a Web site for young people called TeenCentral.net. I am pleased to note that since its inception, this site has received more than a million visits by kids, and has been named one of the top Web sites in the country.

Mr. Speaker, Helen Keller once observed that optimism is the faith that leads to achievement. In my view, John Peter is the ultimate optimist. He believes that every child in America deserves a chance to reach his full potential, and that no child should be left behind. He has dedicated his life to this cause and our nation has benefited greatly from his efforts.

I congratulate John on his many accomplishments with KidsPeace and the outstanding work he has done to help children and families overcome crisis. He may be retiring from KidsPeace, but his contributions will endure for decades to come.

CELEBRATING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SANTA BARBARA CARRILLO COMMUNITY RECREATION CENTER AND THE GRAND OPENING OF THE SENIOR INFORMATION AND REFERRAL SERVICE

HON. LOIS CAPPS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 5, 1999

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate Older American's Month and to bring to the attention of my colleagues the 75th Anniversary of the Carrillo Community Recreation Center of Santa Barbara, California.

The City of Santa Barbara has long placed a high priority on providing a safe place for senior citizens to engage in health education

and recreations pursuits. It is due to this commitment that the Senior Information and Referral Service has been established. This project represents a strong partnership between the City of Santa Barbara Parks and Recreation Department, the American Association of Retired Persons, the Area Agency on Aging and the Retired Senior Volunteer program. Now seniors in Santa Barbara will have a "seamless" referral system where their questions will be answered and their needs met.

I am also proud to tell my colleagues that this year represents the 17th Anniversary of the 90+ Club which celebrates all citizens in Santa Barbara who are 90 years of age and older. This Club has been sponsored by the City Parks and Recreation Department, the Valle Verde Retirement Community and the Southern California Gas Company. I commend these fine organizations for their contributions to seniors and our community.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to join the City of Santa Barbara and the senior citizens whom I represent on the Central Coast in celebration of Older American's Month. I wish the Carrillo Community Recreation Center many more years of success and prosperity.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 5, 1999

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to be present for rollcall vote 94 "On Agreeing to the Conference Report on the Education Flexibility Partnership Act."

Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on rollcall vote 94.

IN HONOR OF CHILDCARE PROVIDER APPRECIATION DAY

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 5, 1999

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Nation's childcare providers as nationwide, childcare centers have joined together to declare Friday, May 7, 1999 to be Provider Appreciation Day.

It is estimated that of the 21 million children under the age of six in America, 13 million are in childcare, at least part time. An additional 24 million school age children are in some form of childcare outside of school time.

By calling attention to the importance of high quality child care services for all children and families, the Nation's child care providers hope to improve the quality and availability of such services.

This day of recognition has been celebrated annually, since 1996, on the Friday before Mother's Day. The idea was spearheaded by a group of volunteers from my home state of New Jersey because they saw the need for a day of recognition and appreciation for childcare providers. It takes a special person to work in this field and their contribution to the quality of family life frequently goes unnoticed.

One such place, where many special people have helped improve the lives of children and

parents in my district is "Children on the Green" in Morristown, New Jersey. Children on the Green is a special place. It is a center that provides quality, developmentally appropriate childcare and early education to families living or working in the Morristown community. At the same time, this center offers some of its slots to children from area shelters. Children from the Morris Shelter, Jersey Battered Women's Services, and the Interfaith Council for Homeless Families of Morris County are in attendance each day. This type of child care provides some stability to these children while offering their parents time to pursue opportunities that would help them to improve their living situations.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in honoring the dedicated child care providers at Children on the Green in Morristown, and the child care providers all over New Jersey and across our nation who each day give a little bit of themselves to help a child learn, make friends and feel safe and secure.

SALUTE TO WALTER D. "DEE" DALTON IN COMMEMORATION OF HIS 25 YEARS OF FEDERAL SERVICE

HON. HAROLD ROGERS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 5, 1999

Mr. ROGERS. Mr. Speaker, we in the House of Representatives are in the midst of celebrating the 15th annual Public Service Recognition Week sponsored by the Public Employees Roundtable. This week—in ceremonies on the National Mall here in Washington and in communities all across America—we pay tribute to the inspiring work of countless public servants who give of themselves to make this Nation a better place. I am proud to recognize one such public servant today.

Mr. Walter D. "Dee" Dalton of Somerset, KY, is currently the District Manager of the Social Security Administration office in Somerset. During this 25 years of dedicated service to the agency he has earned the admiration of his coworkers and the gratitude of thousands of his neighbors for his effectiveness. His career with the Social Security Administration is an inspiration to all Americans and is a sterling example of what public service is all about. Mr. Dalton's career has been built around a single idea: that reaching out and helping one's neighbors is still a noble undertaking.

In the Pulaski, Wayne and Clinton County area, thousands of citizens can testify to the fair and efficient service they receive from Mr. Dalton and the staff of the Somerset Social Security Office. This compassion for neighbors, combined with his dedicated and effective leadership, have built a solid reputation for the office that is well known across Kentucky and the entire agency.

Born in nearby Monticello, KY, Walter D. "Dee" Dalton earned a bachelor's degree in business from Campbellsville College in Taylor County, KY. The majority of his career has been in service to the Somerset office of the Social Security Administration. More than 19,000 of the citizens I represent rely upon

Mr. Dalton and his fine staff of 14 for the timely administration of their Social Security benefits. More than 6,300 Kentuckians who rely on Supplemental Security Income (SSI) also depend upon the hard work of the employees of the Somerset Social Security office. This fine tradition of neighbor helping neighbor is why I believe Mr. Dalton is a fine example of the Federal employee we recognize during National Public Service Recognition Week.

Countless citizens join me in saluting Walter D. "Dee" Dalton. We all share the pride of his wife, Clorenda, and their two children, 17-year-old Rachel and 9-year-old Chip. I join his family, friends, coworkers, and neighbors in saluting him for his career of public service. We thank him for his dedication, his hard work, and his commitment to make our region of Kentucky a better place to live.

MORTGAGE CANCELLATION RELIEF ACT OF 1999

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 5, 1999

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, economic conditions in my district have resulted in decreased home values, and in many situations, homeowners find that the value of their home is less than their outstanding mortgage. Generally homeowners who are forced to sell their home for less than the amount of the outstanding mortgage must find additional funds to pay off the lender for the mortgage shortfall. However, in some situations, the lender might forgive the shortfall as an accommodation to the homeowner.

For example, a homeowner who has become unemployed might be forced to sell because there is no income to make the mortgage payments. If the proceeds are insufficient to pay off the mortgage, the lender might forgive the shortfall—particularly if there is no possibility of recovery from the unemployed homeowner. Although the homeowner has lost a home, as well as all equity investment, the income tax laws require that unemployed former homeowner pay taxes on the amount of the mortgage forgiven by the lender. The tax laws treat this forgiven amount as if it had been paid to the former homeowner by the lender. So, even though the former homeowner does not have money to maintain or pay off the mortgage, the tax laws require this unfortunate person to pay tax on the forgiven amount.

This outcome is patently unfair, particularly when we consider that the income tax laws allow better-situated homeowners to exclude up to \$250,000 (\$500,000 for married couple filing jointly) of gain on the sale of a home. It seems ironic that under current income tax laws, the only two classes of homesellers remaining in the tax system are: Taxpayers with capital gains in excess of \$250,000/\$500,000; and Taxpayers whose home values have declined below the outstanding mortgage.

The "Mortgage Cancellation Relief Act of 1999" rectifies this injustice by exempting taxpayers from including in ordinary income any mortgage amount forgiven by a lender, provided the proceeds of the home sale are insufficient to satisfy the qualified outstanding mortgage. This legislation introduces fairness in

the taxation of a home sale, extending equity to those (former) homeowners most in need of tax relief.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTION OF
WIC PROGRAMS

HON. CAROLYN MCCARTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 5, 1999

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of WIC's 25th Anniversary and to commend WIC for their years of sterling health and nutrition service to the nation's low-income women, infants and children.

In the last 25 years, WIC has dramatically improved the nutrition and health of millions of Americans. WIC provides quality education and services to over 7.4 million pregnant women, new mothers, infants and preschool children through 10,000 clinics nationwide. It serves as a short-term intervention program designed to influence lifetime nutrition and health behaviors in a targeted, high-risk population. WIC provides quality education and services to over 7.4 million pregnant women, new mothers, infants and preschool children through 10,000 clinics nationwide.

As a nurse, I understand the importance of preventative care. Whether we are talking about health care, education or crime, services that focus on preventative care save money in the long run. That is why the WIC program is so important—it just makes sense. Studies have shown that pregnant women who participate in WIC have longer pregnancies leading to fewer premature births, have fewer low and very low birth weight babies, experience fewer fetal and infant deaths, and seek prenatal care earlier in pregnancy. WIC helps to assure normal childhood growth, reduces early childhood anemia, increases immunization rates, improves access to pediatric health care, and readies children to learn.

Every dollar spent on pregnant women in WIC produces \$1.92 to \$4.21 in Medicaid savings for newborns and their mothers. Consider the following: it costs \$22,000 per pound to raise a low (less than 5.5 pounds) or very low (less than 3.25 pounds) birth weight infant to normal weight. It costs \$40 per pound to provide WIC prenatal benefits. Furthermore, Medicaid costs were reduced on average \$12,000 to \$15,000 per infant for every very low birth weight birth prevented.

These statistics illustrate that WIC works. By providing short-term preventative services, WIC improves the health and quality of life for millions of low-income women and children while at the same time saving the federal government money. We need to ensure that WIC continues to provide these important services—I know that I will continue to fight for funding for this important program.

Again, I want to congratulate WIC on their 25th anniversary and I urge them to keep up the good work.

HONORING THE DISTINGUISHED
CAREER OF KREDA FRIERSON
YOKLEY

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 5, 1999

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the tremendous contributions Kreda Frierson Yokley has made to the Sixth Congressional District and to her community on this her last day as my field representative.

Since November 1995, Kreda has worked in my Murfreesboro District office. Although my staff and I are sad to see her go, it is comforting to know that she will continue her career in public service as a director for the Mid-Cumberland Community Action Agency.

For the past 13½ years, Kreda has helped those who served our country. Veterans from across the Sixth District relied on her to help get their medals and serve as a liaison in their efforts to receive compensation and medical assistance from the Veterans Administration. She has helped not only those who served, but those just starting a career with the Armed Forces. Kreda has been instrumental in securing the appointments of scores of young men and women in the Sixth District to the academies at West Point, Annapolis and Colorado Springs.

Traveling to Williamson and Marshall counties, Kreda reached out to constituents through my Mobile Congressional Office. I always get my best ideas from home and Kreda served as a constant conduit for peoples' ideas and concerns.

My staff and I will miss Kreda. Constituents, friends, family and staff describe her as professional, a class act and dependable. Most of all, she always seems to have the knack for saying just the right thing, whether to calm a frustrated or hunting constituent or to encourage a friend or co-worker.

Kreda, congratulations on your new job. May you prosper and thrive in your new environment. May you new co-workers and clients value you as much as we do. Thank you for your many years of service, and may God bless you in your future endeavors.

A TRIBUTE TO AMERICAN NURSES
DURING NATIONAL NURSES WEEK

HON. WILLIAM O. LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 5, 1999

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I would like to pay tribute to a remarkable group of dedicated health professional—the 2.6 million registered nurses in the United States.

These outstanding men and women, who work hard to save lives and maintain the health of millions of individuals, will celebrate National Nurses Week, May 6–12, 1999. I believe that all Americans who have ever been cared for or comforted by a nurse should celebrate National Nurses Week.

According to the American Nurses Association, National Nurse Week was first observed October 11–16, 1954, the 100th Anniversary of the founding of modern nursing by Florence Nightingale during the Crimean War. National

Nurses Day and Week was eventually moved to May to incorporate Florence Nightingale's birthday, which is May 12th.

Using this year's theme "Nursing: Healing from the Heart," the American Nurses Association (ANA) and its 53 constituent associations will highlight the diverse ways in which registered nurses, the largest health care profession, are working to improve health care. Studies show that the higher the ratio of nurse-to-patients in a hospital, the lower the patient death rate. In short, registered nurses provide top-quality, cost-effective health care services for their patients.

Mr. Speaker, I salute America's nurses during the week of May 6–12, 1999 and encourage my colleagues to do the same.

THE STATE OF ALABAMA OFFERS
A "GIFT OF HOPE" FOR THE
PEOPLE OF COLORADO IN THE
WAKE OF THE LITTLETON
SHOOTINGS

HON. ROBERT E. (BUD) CRAMER, JR.

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 5, 1999

Mr. CRAMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer my deepest sympathies to the people of Littleton, Colorado, in the wake of the shootings at Columbine High School that left 15 people dead.

This tragedy stands as the worst case of school violence in the history of the United States. The people of Alabama share in the grief of all of those in Colorado who were touched by this horrific event. Our hope and prayers are with them.

Over the course of Alabama's history, our state has developed a rich tradition of music and songwriting that have helped people cope during times of great loss and sadness. Carrying on this tradition are two Alabama songwriters named Eddie Martin and Susan Welborn. The two Shoals-area artists have collaborated on a song called "Listen for the Wings." The song was written as a gift of hope for the people of Littleton as they work to rebuild their community and restore order to their lives.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to enter into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD the lyrics to the song "Listen for the Wings" so that others might have the opportunity to read these words and take solace in the song's message.

LISTEN FOR THE WINGS

(By Eddie Martin and Susan Welborn)

Just a Tuesday morning
At a school in the heartland
"Til they walked in with bombs
And guns in their hands
It was all too familiar
Another horrible mistake
To see their future
Explode in such rage
We need some help to understand
And lead us back to truth again
Do you believe in angels?
Well, I do
I'm praying that the angels
Wrap their arms around you
If you could just believe in angels
Like I do
Then you'd know there's always hope for you
No matter what life may bring
Take time to listen for the wings

If Moses needed angels
What about you and me?
In the middle of the violence
And the crazy lives we lead
Gotta bring some love back
Gotta have a little faith
Find some forgiveness
'Cause it's the only way
So many times we pass right by

The simple answers to our whys
Do you believe in angels
Well, I do
I'm praying that the angels
Wrap their arms around you
If you could just believe in angels
Like I do
Then you'd know there's always
Hope for you

No matter what life may bring
Take time to listen for the wings
When everything goes wrong
Seems all hope is gone
Remember, you're not alone
We're all gonna feel some pain
And walk through the wind and rain
But no matter what life may bring
Take time, and listen for the wings

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate on February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules committee—of the time, place, and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled, and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, May 6, 1999 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

MAY 10

1 p.m.
Judiciary
Administrative Oversight and the Courts Subcommittee
To hold oversight hearings on the investigation of TWA Flight #800.
SD-226

MAY 11

9 a.m.
Environment and Public Works
Business meeting to consider pending calendar business.
SD-406

9:30 a.m.
Energy and Natural Resources
To resume hearings on S.25, to provide Coastal Impact Assistance to State and local governments, to amend the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act Amendments of 1978, the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965, the Urban Park and Recreation Recovery Act, and the Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act (commonly referred to as the Pittman-Robertson Act) to establish a fund to meet the outdoor conservation and recreation needs of the American people; S.532, to provide increased funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund and Urban Parks and Recreation Recovery Programs, to resume the funding of the State grants program of the Land and Water Conservation Fund, and to provide for the acquisition and development of conservation and recreation facilities and programs in urban areas; S.446, to provide for the permanent protection of the resources of the United States in the year 2000 and beyond; S.819, to provide funding for the National Park System from outer Continental Shelf revenues; and the Administration's Lands Legacy Initiative.
SD-366

10 a.m.
Judiciary
To hold hearings on how to promote a responsive and responsible role for the Federal Government on combatting hate crimes.
SD-226

Foreign Relations
East Asian and Pacific Affairs Subcommittee
To hold hearings on the policies between the United States and China, focusing on business and trade.
SD-562

10:30 a.m.
Governmental Affairs
Oversight of Government Management, Restructuring and the District of Columbia Subcommittee
To hold hearings on multiple program coordination in early childhood education. 342
SD-225 Cannon Building

2 p.m.
Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe
To hold hearings to examine the status of the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia.
SD-225 Cannon Building

MAY 12

9:30 a.m.
Indian Affairs
To hold oversight hearings on HUBzones implementation.
SR-485

Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions
To resume hearings on proposed legislation authorizing funds for programs of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, focusing on Title I provisions.
SD-628

Energy and Natural Resources
Business meeting to consider pending calendar business.
SD-366

10 a.m.
Judiciary
Technology, Terrorism, and Government Information Subcommittee
Business meeting to consider S.692, to prohibit Internet gambling.
SD-226

2 p.m.
Judiciary
Immigration Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine workforce needs of American agriculture, farm workers, and the United States Economy.
SD-226

Intelligence
To hold closed hearings on pending intelligence matters.
SH-219

MAY 13

9:30 a.m.
Energy and Natural Resources
To hold hearings on S.698, to review the suitability and feasibility of recovering costs of high altitude rescues at Denali National Park and Preserve in the state of Alaska; S.711, to allow for the investment of joint Federal and State funds from the civil settlement of damages from the Exxon Valdez oil spill; and S.748, to improve Native hiring and contracting by the Federal Government within the State of Alaska.
SD-366

10 a.m.
Environment and Public Works
To hold hearings on issues relating to the Clean Water Action Plan.
SD-406

Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions
To hold hearings on the nomination of Richard M. McGahey, of the District of Columbia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Labor.
SD-628

2 p.m.
Judiciary
Administrative Oversight and the Courts Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine the Department of Justice's refusal to enforce the Law on Voluntary Confessions.
SD-226

2:30 p.m.
Energy and Natural Resources
Forests and Public Land Management Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine fire preparedness on Federal lands.
SD-366

MAY 19

9:30 a.m.
Indian Affairs
To hold hearings on S.614, to provide for regulatory reform in order to encourage investment, business, and economic development with respect to activities conducted on Indian lands; and S.613, to encourage Indian economic development, to provide for the disclosure of Indian tribal sovereign immunity in contracts involving Indian tribes, and for other purposes.
SR-485

2 p.m.
Energy and Natural Resources
National Parks, Historic Preservation, and Recreation Subcommittee
To hold oversight hearings on the status of Youth Conservation Corps and other job programs conducted by the National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management, Forest Service, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.
SD-366

MAY 20

2 p.m.
Energy and Natural Resources
Energy Research and Development, Production and Regulation Subcommittee
To hold hearings on S.348, to authorize and facilitate a program to enhance training, research and development, energy conservation and efficiency, and consumer education in the oilheat industry for the benefit of oilheat consumers and the public.
SD-366

2:30 p.m.
Energy and Natural Resources
Energy Research and Development, Production and Regulation Subcommittee
To hold joint oversight hearings with the House Committee on Government Reform's Subcommittee on National Economic Growth, Natural Resources and Regulatory Affairs, on the Administration's fiscal year 2000 budget request for climate change programs and compliance with various statutory provisions in fiscal year 1999 appropriations acts requiring detailed accounting of climate change spending and performance measures for each requested increase in funding.
SD-366

MAY 25

9:30 a.m.
Energy and Natural Resources
To hold oversight hearings on state progress in retail electricity competition.
SD-366

MAY 26

9:30 a.m.

Indian Affairs

To hold oversight hearings on Native American Youth Activities and Initiatives.

SR-485

MAY 27

2 p.m.

Energy and Natural Resources
Water and Power Subcommittee

To hold hearings on S.244, to authorize the construction of the Lewis and

Clark Rural Water System and to authorize assistance to the Lewis and Clark Rural Water System, Inc., a non-profit corporation, for the planning and construction of the water supply system; S.623, to amend Public Law 89-108 to increase authorization levels for State and Indian tribal, municipal, rural, and industrial water supplies, to meet current and future water quantity and quality needs of the Red River Valley, to deauthorize certain project features and irrigation service areas, to enhance natural resources and fish and wildlife habitat; and S.769, to provide a

final settlement on certain debt owed by the city of Dickinson, North Dakota, for the construction of the bascule gates on the Dickinson Dam.

SD-366

SEPTEMBER 28

9:30 a.m.

Veterans' Affairs

To hold joint hearings with the House Committee on Veterans Affairs to review the legislative recommendations of the American Legion.

345 Cannon Building