

Silver Star, deserves recognition for his valiant bravery on behalf of the American people while a member of our Armed Forces. I am proud to represent Mr. Foy in Congress.

Leon Foy, now 78, served in the 8th Air Force during World War II. On May 29, 1944, during his 15th bombing mission, Mr. Foy and his nine-member crew were raiding a ball-bearing plant near Berlin. German aircraft attacked and a bullet struck Mr. Foy's head. Ever strong and brave, Mr. Foy continued to fly his B-24 until he was in Sweden, a neutral country, where he landed safely on a very short runway.

Mr. Leon Foy is an outstanding and inspirational individual. His bravery and courage during this operation and throughout his service to our country is admirable and should be commended.

SENSE OF CONGRESS THAT  
SCHOOLS SHOULD USE PHONICS

SPEECH OF

**HON. BARON P. HILL**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 4, 1999*

Mr. HILL of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, with all due respect to my colleague from Indiana, I regret that I cannot support this resolution. Phonics is a proven method of reading instruction that has a place alongside other approaches to teaching reading. But I think this resolution goes a bit too far. The Federal Government should not tell professional educators in our States and local school districts how to teach reading to their students. I believe communities know best when it comes to educating their kids and I had thought my colleague, Mr. MCINTOSH, would agree with this sentiment.

I'm concerned about education policy as a representative in Congress, but I have a much greater stake in education as the father of public school kids and the husband of a public school teacher. My wife, Betty, is a middle school math teacher. My two oldest daughters are products of the public schools and my youngest still attends a public school.

I hear every day from them about the successes and challenges in our schools. That's how I know the power to make decisions should be at the local level and the focus should be on how to help our communities better educate our students.

We should always keep in mind that the Federal Government is only a junior partner in our Nation's education process. More than 95 percent of the money our country spends on education comes from the States or from local communities. The ultimate day-to-day responsibility of running our Nation's schools does not belong to the Federal Government, but to the parents, teachers, and administrators who work with our children every day.

The Federal Government plays a limited, but important, role in our education system. Its role is to help States and localities address their toughest challenges. Through programs like Title I and Head Start, the Federal Government helps disadvantaged kids and schools with challenging student populations. It helps millions of kids to go to college through student loan programs. It also provides educators with important research on teaching methods and school performance.

When the Federal Government addresses these important education priorities, it must spend the taxpayers' money responsibly. The Federal Government has a duty to ensure that its resources are actually being spent on the problems we are trying to solve. But beyond targeting federal funds to specific areas where local schools need help. Congress should resist micro-managing and allow local schools to make their own decisions.

We have to maintain the delicate balance between Federal educational priorities and local control of schools. States and localities must have the flexibility to address their problems in ways that make sense for them, but our Federal resources must remain targeted at the people and communities who need them most. While it makes sense to give States and localities discretion, I don't believe we should send money to States without asking for accountability and results.

Governor George W. Bush of Texas was on the right track when he recently said: "The Federal Government must be humble enough to stay out of the day-to-day operation of local schools. It must be wise enough to give States and schools more authority and freedom. And it must be strong enough to require proven performance in return."

This resolution goes too far because it directs schools and teachers to use a specific educational technique. I'm going to vote against this resolution because Congress should not be dictating a school's curriculum from Washington.

The Federal Government's role is to support the people who educate our kids, not to tell them how to teach reading. We should stick to the things that we can do. We must resist the temptation to meddle in places where we have no business. That takes humility and a measure of wisdom, but I am confident that together we can find the strength to do the right things for our students.

TRIBUTE TO KLAMATH COUNTY  
COURTHOUSE

**HON. GREG WALDEN**

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 10, 1999*

Mr. WALDEN of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the dedication of the new Klamath County Courthouse in the City of Klamath Falls, Oregon. The dedication of this building is much more than a celebration of an assemblage of bricks and mortar, it is a celebration of people who would not quit and who would not accept anything less than the best for their community.

In 1993 the historic courthouse was rendered useless by two earthquakes less than three months apart. Within a week after the second quake, all of the employees were moved to a variety of venues and the work of the county and the justice system went forward with great difficulty. People literally didn't know how to determine where court was being held or where building permits were being issued.

With no funds and no plans, the leaders and citizens of Klamath County rolled up their sleeves and got to work. In 1996 the Klamath County voters passed a bond issue to rebuild the courthouse and build the Government

Center that opened in 1998. With the assistance of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, Klamath County was able to repay \$1.7 million worth of bonds.

The journey of quickly moving out of the destroyed structure to a variety of temporary quarters to the new courthouse was a long and arduous one. It goes without saying that the system kept working only because of the dedication of employees of the county and the justice system and the elected officials who would not be deterred from their mission.

Today three hard working county commissioners, Steve West, Bill Garrard, and Al Switzer are justifiably proud of the new courthouse, which features many new innovations such as video arraignment and video hearings. The architecture of the building is remarkable in its aesthetic appeal. It is an impressive modern structure that remains loyal to its historic roots and the spirit of this resourceful western city. With grace and dignity, the Klamath County Courthouse declares that this is a community with high standards.

As the house of justice in Klamath County, the courthouse has been dedicated to those who have paid a very dear price to preserve our system of laws and freedom, our veterans and fallen police officers.

Proudly flying in the courthouse square are the illuminated flags of each branch of the military as well as the POW/MIA flag. Seeing these flags flying brightly in the clear Klamath County breeze is an inspiration.

A special area is dedicated to the memory of fallen law enforcement officers who have given their lives in the line of duty.

Mr. Speaker, my enthusiasm for what Klamath County has achieved must be tempered with the sobering thought that the death of these fallen officers is a grim reminder that the price of justice and security is often very dear. To honor those fallen heroes, I would like to pause for a moment and ask that they each be remembered in a special way.

John E. Lambert, Oregon State Police; Ernest M. Brown, Lakeview Police Department; David R. Sanchez, Lake County Sheriff's Office; Richard C. Swan, Jr., Klamath Falls Police Department; Bret R. Clodfelter, Oregon State Police; Scott A. Lyons, Oregon State Police; and James D. Rector, Oregon State Police.

The citizens of Klamath County will not forget the ultimate sacrifice offered by these fallen officers and neither should any of us in this revered body. It is truly fitting that the seat of justice in Klamath County proclaims every day that justice, freedom, and security are not to be taken for granted.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I salute the leaders and residents of Klamath County whose efforts to make this courthouse a reality have borne such remarkable fruit. This building will stand for a long time as a testimony to the rock-solid, iron-willed resolve of one of the great communities of the West. I am proud of what the citizens of Klamath County have accomplished and proud to have the honor of serving them in Congress.