

wait to pass this bill we put another innocent person at risk of being harmed.

I urge my colleagues to support this common-sense legislation.

TRIBUTE TO BASIC HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

**HON. SHELLEY BERKLEY**

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 12, 2000*

Ms. BERKLEY. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to recognize a group of students and their teacher for their outstanding achievement and their remarkable understanding of the fundamental ideals and values of American constitutional government.

The students from Basic High School in Henderson, Nevada, were recognized for their expertise on the topic, "What Rights Does the Bill of Rights Protect?" at the We the People . . . the Citizen and the Constitution national finals held in Washington, D.C. The outstanding young people competed against 50 other classes across the nation and demonstrated their ability to understand and articulate the individual liberties granted by the Bill of Rights.

Additionally, the Basic High School students worked as a team to exemplify the ideals our nation was founded on. Their dedication, hard work, and unity truly embodied the three simple words in the preamble of our Constitution: "We the people."

The Constitution of the United States is the oldest working document in our nation's history, and thus the wisdom we have inherited is invaluable. As these students continue to carry out those values, we can be assured that our country will continue to strengthen and prosper. They will be ready to face the challenges of tomorrow and be leaders of our community.

The students who participated in the event are: Kate Bair, Joshua Bitsko, Ryan Black, Daniel Croy, Scott Devoge, Danielle Dodgen, Courtney England, Starlyn Hackney, Jill Hales, Alia Holm, Janae Jeffrey, Ryan Johnson, Aimee Lucero, Nathan Lund, Jessica Magro, Jasmine Miller, Holli Mitchell, Gary Nelson, Krystaly Nielsen, Mark Niewinski, Amanda Reed, Jeni Riddle, Leslie Roland, Landin Ryan, Alena Sivertson, Ashley Stolworthy, Tarah Strohm, Tyler Watson, Kara Williams, Ricky Zeedyk. Other individuals who should be recognized for their love and dedication for the students are their teacher, John Wallace; State Coordinator, Judith Simpson; and District Coordinator, Debbie Berger.

I thank their teachers and their parents for investing and sacrificing for the future of America. And once again, I congratulate these students for their accomplishment, and wish them every success in future endeavors.

TENTH ANNIVERSARY OF UKRAINE'S SOVEREIGNTY DECLARATION

**HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 12, 2000*

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, ten years ago, on July 16th 1990, the Supreme

Soviet (parliament) of the Ukrainian S.S.R. adopted a far-reaching Declaration on State Sovereignty of Ukraine. The overwhelming vote of 355 for and four against was a critical and demonstrative step towards independence, as Ukraine was at that time a republic of the Soviet Union.

The Declaration, inspired by the democratic movement Rukh whose key members were veterans of the Helsinki movement seeking greater rights and freedoms, proclaimed Ukraine's state sovereignty and stressed the Republic's intention of controlling its own affairs. Ukraine and its people were identified as the sole source of state authority in the republic, and they alone were to determine their own destiny. The Declaration asserted the primacy of Ukraine's legislation over Soviet laws and established the right of Ukraine to create its own currency and national bank, raise its own army, maintain relations with foreign countries, collect tariffs, and erect borders. Through this Declaration, Ukraine announced its intention not to use, possess, or acquire nuclear weapons. Going beyond Soviet leader Gorbachev's vision of a "renewed" Soviet federation, the Declaration asserted Ukraine's sovereignty vis-a-vis Moscow, a move that only a few years earlier would have been met with the harshest of sanctions.

The Declaration's assurances on the protection of individual rights and freedoms for all of the people of Ukraine, including national and religious minorities, were extremely important and viewed as an integral aspect of the building of a sovereign Ukraine. The Declaration itself was the outcome of emerging democratic processes in Ukraine. Elections to the Ukrainian Supreme Soviet—the first in which non-communists were permitted on the ballot—had been held only a few months earlier, in March 1990; one-third of the new members elected were representatives of the democratic opposition. Even the Communist majority voted for the Declaration, reflecting the reality that the Soviet Empire was steadily unraveling. A year later, on August 24, 1991, the same Ukrainian parliament declared Ukraine's independence, and in December of that year, on the heels of a referendum in Ukraine in which over 90 percent voted for independence, the Soviet Union ceased to exist.

Mr. Speaker, since the adoption of the Declaration ten years ago Ukraine has witnessed momentous transformations. Independent Ukraine has developed from what was, for all practical purposes, a colony of the Soviet empire into a viable, peaceful state with a commitment to ensuring democracy and prosperity for its citizens. It has emerged as a responsible and constructive actor in the international arena which enjoys good relations with all its neighbors and a strategic partnership with the United States. Obviously, the heavy legacy of communism and Soviet misrule has not yet disappeared, as illustrated by stifling corruption, and inadequate progress in rule of law and economic reforms. However, the defeat of the communists in last November's presidential elections, and the appointment of genuinely reformist Prime Minister Viktor Yushchenko have given grounds for renewed optimism, which is supported by evidence of growth in some sectors of the economy.

Mr. Speaker, now is the time for the Ukrainian people to strengthen and ensure independence by redoubling their efforts to build democracy and a market economy, thereby

keeping faith with the ideals and goals of the historic 1990 Declaration on Sovereignty.

A SALUTE TO COL. ALTHEA WILLIAMS

**HON. BOB SCHAFFER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 12, 2000*

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Col. Althea Williams for her outstanding service to our country as an accomplished nurse for the US Army.

Her dedication to the Nurse Corps spanned three major wars following her graduation in 1941 from the Beth-11 School of Nursing in Colorado Springs, Colorado. In World War II, she primarily served in the Southwest Pacific area, in addition to Australia, New Guinea, Netherlands, East Indies and the Philippines.

Later in the Korean War, Williams served in Japan with the 279th General Hospital. Finally, during the Vietnam War, she served with the 44th Medical Brigade. As a result of her dedication and outstanding abilities, she was awarded with the Legion of Merit with an Oak Leaf Cluster.

Col. Williams exemplified outstanding service in other assignments including Chief Nurse at Valley Forge General Hospital, Phoenixville, Pennsylvania; Chief Nurse of First US Army, Governor's Island, New York; Chief Nurse at Madigan General Hospital, Tacoma, Washington and the 44th Medical Brigade. Furthermore, Williams served as Chief Nurse at the Headquarters of the Sixth US Army at the Presidio of San Francisco.

Throughout her years of patriotic devotion, this Platteville, Colorado native also achieved several other degrees. Initially, from the Colorado State University she graduated with a Bachelors degree in Home Economics in 1948 and soon thereafter another Bachelors in Occupational Therapy. Notably, in 1970 she received the "Honor Alumni" award from CSU. Finally, in 1960 she graduated from Baylor University with a Masters in Hospital Administration.

Since Retirement in 1970, working as a representative of the USO and volunteering around Ft. Collins, Colorado has occupied Col. Williams, which further exemplifies her commitment to service.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress I hereby thank and salute Col. Althea Williams for her steadfast dedication to the US Army Nurse Corps and for her leadership for our beloved country. On her 80th birthday, may she enjoy the bountiful Liberty with which God has so richly blessed the United States of America, and which Col. Williams has herself so completely and patriotically preserved for all posterity.

TRIBUTE TO FABIUS-POMPEY HIGH SCHOOL'S MENS VARSITY BASEBALL TEAM

**HON. JAMES T. WALSH**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 12, 2000*

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Speaker, on Saturday, June 24, 2000, the Fabius-Pompey Falcons