

Americans into separate racial, gender, or ethnic groups. Rather government should strengthen those bonds that make us all Americans. Throughout his tenure in the House, CHARLES CANADY has remained committed to working toward realizing this goal.

For these and many other reasons, both CHARLES CANADY's constituents and his colleagues will miss him. Back in 1992, CHARLES CANADY pledged to serve no more than four consecutive terms in this body. While I admire his commitment to keeping his word, I know I speak for many of our colleagues when I say the House is losing one of its most effective Members. I wish CHARLES CANADY the best in whatever the future holds.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CHRIS CANNON

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 3, 2000

Mr. CANNON. Mr. Speaker, I rise for a point of personal privilege. I was unavoidably detained during a vote on the motion by the gentleman from Oregon to instruct conferees on the Fiscal Year 2001 Labor-HHS Appropriations Bill, rollcall vote No. 591.

Had I been present I would have voted "No."

TWO CENTRAL NEW YORK HIGH SCHOOLS WIN NEW YORK STATE MARCHING BAND COMPETITION

HON. JAMES T. WALSH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 3, 2000

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Speaker, on Saturday, October 29, 2000, two Central New York high schools won their respective divisions at the 2000 New York Field Band Conference Championship in Syracuse, New York. West Genesee High School located in Camillus, New York won their 12th straight title in the National Division of the competition. C.W. Baker High School in Baldwinsville, New York placed first in the Division III large-school competition.

Today, I would like to recognize the hard work, dedication and support of the band members, leaders and parents. Excellence has been achieved only through the dedication of so many, and I congratulate all of them on their success.

Forty bands competed in the championship competition held at the Carrier Dome on the Syracuse University Campus. West Genesee competed against six other teams in the National Division. Since 1974, West Genesee has won 23 of the past 27 New York State Field Band Conference Championships. The 2000 "Wildcat" Band has 170 members in grades 9–12. The end of the 2000 season marks the bands seventh consecutive undefeated year in New York State competition.

C.W. Baker High School competed against nine schools in the Large School, Division III component of the competition. The win marked "the Bee's" third New York State Championship victory. The 2000 Baker High Band has 70 members in grades 8–12.

I am pleased to congratulate all of the participants, supporters and leaders of West Genesee High School and Baldwinsville C.W. Baker High School Marching Bands.

MISSED OPPORTUNITY

HON. LOIS CAPPS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 3, 2000

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, I stayed in Washington until the last possible moment, hoping that Congress could finish the business of the people of the Central Coast and all Americans. There are critical unresolved issues still on the table—including school modernization, common-sense tax relief, and adequate funding for Medicare.

I am deeply dismayed that the congressional leadership has decided to push these issues off to a lame duck session. The American people deserve better. I support the Water Resources Development Act for a number of reasons. The bill authorizes a historic environmental restoration of our national treasure, the Everglades. Here on the Central Coast, I was pleased to help include \$9.2 million in federally authorized funding for the Lower Mission Creek Area flood control project.

I am, however, very disappointed that two additional provisions that I secured in the House bill were stripped out by the Senate Leadership. I fought for authorization to fund the Los Osos sewage treatment. I also secured a \$10.3 million authorization for a desalination project in Cambria. Both of these projects are important to the quality of life for thousands of San Luis Obispo county residents.

At this time, I am pleased to note that the leadership of both the House and Senate have pledged to include these projects in the final appropriations legislation that will pass when Congress reconvenes after the election. My constituents can rest assured that I will work very hard to see that these critical programs are enacted.

HONORING CITIZENSHIP AND SERVICE

HON. STEVE BUYER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 3, 2000

Mr. BUYER. Mr. Speaker, as we approach the final days of the one hundred and sixth Congress, I would like to address what it means to be a citizen of these United States. America's national character has always been defined by hard work, discipline and commitment to a higher goal. These ideals have convinced patriots throughout our history to serve their nation and defend freedom and the rule of law in every corner of the globe. They have also inspired ordinary citizens to dedicate themselves to improving the lives of their neighbors through service to their communities.

With Veterans' Day now a week away, it is appropriate to pause and reflect on the service and sacrifice that so many of our citizens have

made in defense of freedom. Tragically, this service has often exacted a terrible price. On October 12, 2000, seventeen American sailors gave their lives when a terrorist bomb exploded near the U.S.S. *Cole*, a Navy destroyer moored in Aden, Yemen. I extend my condolences to the families of those who died and my heart felt appreciation to all those who wear the uniform of America's armed forces. Your dedicated service ensures our nation's continued prosperity and well-being.

The obligation to serve one's nation is an important component of citizenship but it is not the sole domain of those who wear the uniform of the United States' armed forces. On the contrary, service comes in many forms. Participation in one's local government, church or charity is an important aspect of service to the nation. Active involvement in the lives of our families is an often overlooked and neglected aspect of service. Whatever the calling, selfless service to a higher goal satisfies an important obligation that we all have as citizens of our great nation.

As we approach Election Day 2000, it is important to recognize another equally important component of citizenship: Our right and duty to vote. Plato said, "The price of apathy towards public affairs is to be ruled by evil men." In our form of democracy, liberty cannot be preserved without the participation of the electorate. Yet, sadly, many of our citizens fail to exercise their right and responsibility to cast their vote for those who would govern them. This ambivalence erodes the rigor of our democracy and can lead to disastrous results for our nation. On Tuesday, November 7, 2000, honor your fathers and their fathers before them by exercising your civic responsibility at the voting booth.

The most visible and enduring symbol of a strong, active American citizenry is our flag, the Stars and Stripes. Two hundred and twenty-three years after Congress first authorized the flag, it stands as a powerful symbol of our Republic, the courage of those who have defended it, and the resolve of Americans to protect their freedom. It is a mighty symbol, not only to the citizens of this great nation, but also to those abroad who see it flying at our embassies or on the ships of our naval fleet.

The Continental Congress resolved that, "The flag of the United States be thirteen stripes, alternate red and white; that the union be thirteen stars, white in a blue field, representing a new constellation." This blueprint is representative of the unity that we have been able to forge in this melting pot of cultures, ethnic groups, and races. Regardless of where our families originated from, the rich heritage that they brought with them and the uniquely American culture that they have forged, represents one of our greatest strengths.

America is still recognized as the land of opportunity and some of our proudest citizens are the newest Americans. Dr. Lorne A. Schnell, the father of a member of my Congressional staff, was one of these proud new Americans. Originally from Saskatchewan, Canada, Dr. Schnell and his wife, Joanne, have lived in Bourbonnais, Illinois since 1984. Steadfastly proud of his Canadian heritage, he made the decision to become an American citizen last year. Dr. Schnell flew his American flag with unabashed pride and he was eagerly looking forward to voting in this first election next week. Sadly, this proud new American