

team, but came away with a silver and a bronze medal in the women's discus and shot put, respectively. Jennifer's distance in the shot put was a personal best at 9.97 meters.

Miss Barrett has won every major field competition available to amputees, and holds the prestigious world record for discus and the U.S. national record for shot put. Her athletic prowess has been notable since her win at the 1996 Atlanta Paralympic Games. It was at that game when Jennifer set the then-world record, and won a bronze in the shot put resulting in the current U.S. record. She continued with determination and skill, and in 1998 at the IPC World Championship won gold medals in both discus and shot put.

While earning her Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Studies at the Sonoma State University, Jennifer competed in throwing events with able-bodied athletes on the track and field team. She also holds an A.A. in general studies from Hartnell Junior College. Not only has Ms. Barrett excelled on the athletic field, but she is a published poet.

Jennifer's plans for the future are as commendable as her accomplishments in track and field. She plans to teach third grade with an emphasis on disability awareness in the classroom. In addition to her educational career goals, she also plans on working in prosthetics, coaching field events and "becoming a reading specialist." I believe her goals for the future will inspire young people the way she has been an inspiration to Gonzales and the Central Coast of California.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in commemorating Jennifer Barrett for her outstanding achievements in the United States Olympic community. May she continue to excel.

HONORING RUTH HARTER

HON. LOIS CAPPS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 4, 2000

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, today I bring to the attention of my colleagues the outstanding work of Ruth Harter. On Sunday, December 3, Ruth received the Distinguished Community Service Award from the Anti-Defamation League. As someone who has worked closely with the ADL in its efforts to promote tolerance and combat hatred and prejudice, I am pleased that this prominent organization has chosen to honor Ruth.

For over twenty years, Ruth has distinguished herself as a tireless community activist. Among other positions, Ruth served with distinction as Santa Barbara's Chairwoman of the Anti-Defamation League from 1986–1998 and is currently Chairwoman Emeritus and ADL National Commissioner. Additionally, Ruth is a founding-board member for both Beyond Tolerance and Latino-Jewish Roundtable. She is also a member of the Civic Light Opera, life member of Hadassah, and a sustaining member of the Women's Board of the Art Museum.

Ruth also served as a member of the Grand Jury from 1987–1988. After serving on the Grand Jury she was appointed by the Superior Court to serve on the Juvenile Justice/Delinquency Prevention Commission for the County of Santa Barbara from 1988–1999. During her

tenure as chairwoman, from 1995–1996, she helped to develop the "Youth and the Law" program which is presently being taught in most 7th grade or Middle Schools in Santa Barbara County. For her efforts, Ruth was honored by the Superior Court in 1997 and 1999.

Ruth and her husband, Jerry, are founding board members of several organizations and active supporters of many charities. I believe that Ruth Harter's service to her community is an example for our nation, and I am very proud of her accomplishments.

IN MEMORY OF WILMER HALE,
COSHOCTON FIRE DEPARTMENT
CAPTAIN

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 4, 2000

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, today I speak in memory of Wilmer Hale, who passed away on December 16th, 1975.

Wilmer was born in Coshocton to Willard and Anna Boyer Hale. He was a 1954 graduate of West Lafayette High and joined the fire department in December 1969. Wilmer attended numerous fire training schools, was a heart saver instructor for the Central Ohio Heart Association and worked for fifteen years on off-duty time at Shafer Awning. Wilmer and his wife, Betty Bonzi, had four children; Ronald, David, Wayne and Shelly.

Wilmer was killed on December 16th, 1975 when a brick wall collapsed and crushed him as he was fighting a blaze at the Buckeye Fabric Furnishing Company located at 14th and E. Main Street.

Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege for me to pay last respects to a man who gave so much of himself to his community and his family. On this, the 25th Anniversary of his untimely death, Wilmer is still missed by all whose lives he touched. I ask that my colleagues join me in remembering Wilmer Hale for his dedication and commitment to our area.

U.S. CHILD LABOR LAWS NEED REFORM

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 4, 2000

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share with my colleagues an article by Thomas Hine which appeared in the November 26, 2000 issue of The Washington Post. The article, "Working at 14—and Paying For It," deals with teenagers who work too many hours during school, and, according to the author, this can result in a higher incidence of drug and alcohol abuse and in a failed education. Mr. Hine discusses the effects, both positive and negative, of after-school work, and finds that working 10–12 hours a week has a positive influence on young people, but working more than 12 hours a week can be seriously detrimental. Mr. Hine implores parents to take teenage work seriously, and stresses the need to place limits on the hours they work. He challenges us to "help young people integrate

work into their lives and maximize its potential as a tool to help them grow up."

Mr. Speaker, employment provides teenagers with valuable lessons about responsibility, punctuality, dealing with people, and money management, and it increases their self-esteem, encourages independence and teaches skills. On the other hand, long working hours are associated with all sorts of undesirable teenage behavior. According to Hine, working more than 11 hours a week is strongly correlated with teenage use of tobacco and alcohol, and working more than 26 hours a week shows the same correlation with marijuana and cocaine use. Studies have also found that teenagers working more than 11 hours a week have an increased rate of sexually transmitted diseases and unwanted pregnancies.

Working during the school year has become much more commonplace among America's youth over the past decades. Nearly a quarter of 14-year-olds and 38 percent of 15-year-olds have regular scheduled employment during the school year. When interviewed, eighty percent of high school students said that they have held jobs sometime during their high school years. Hine points out that young Americans are three times as likely to work than young people in Western Europe. Also, American youth who work average six times as many hours per work week as their European counterparts who are employed. Undoubtedly, those numbers reflect some of the reason for the comparative underachievement of American high school students.

Mr. Speaker, young people working more than 20 hours a week are also less likely to finish high school. The average employed American high school student works 17 hours a week. Link this with 35 hours a week spent in school and homework usually suffers. Young people also sacrifice sleep and exercise and spend less time with their families. When work and school obligations conflict, many students end up giving a higher priority to work.

Hine stresses that working in moderation, can be valuable. Teens who work 10–12 hours a week, actually receive higher grades than students who don't work at all. They learn important skills such as organization, teamwork, and responsibility. They exhibit a more mature attitude than their non-working classmates.

Mr. Speaker, under current Federal law, minors aged 14- and 15-years-old may not work for more than three hours a day and a maximum of 18 hours a week, when school is in session. It is also unlawful for 14- and 15-year-olds to work before 7 a.m. and after 7 p.m. so that work will not interfere with learning. Minors who are 16 and 17, however, face no federal restrictions when it comes to the number of hours they can work and they can work late into the night.

Mr. Speaker, teenagers should give education the top priority. This is nearly impossible when they are burdened with heavy work commitments. Our country is experiencing tremendous economic growth with low unemployment, resulting in a robust economy. This economic prosperity only creates greater pressures for employers to hire more teens and encourage them to work longer hours. We must not promote or permit practices that satisfy short-term economic demands without giving proper attention to the long-term future consequences of these policies.