

Mr. Speaker, I rise today as Chairman of the House Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Subcommittee to congratulate Admiral James M. Loy, Commandant of the U.S. Coast Guard on his magnificent career and to thank him for his long service to America. Admiral, we wish you and your wife Kay every happiness as you begin this new posting and thank you both for your dedication to service and duty.

IN RECOGNITION OF MATTHEW F. RYAN, PRINCIPAL OF THORNDYKE ROAD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

HON. JAMES P. McGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 22, 2002

Mr. McGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Matthew F. Ryan, Principal of Thorndyke Road Elementary School in Worcester, Massachusetts. Mr. Ryan has been an educator in the Worcester Public Schools for past 36 years, and he is retiring at the conclusion of the school year.

During his distinguished career with the Worcester Public Schools, Mr. Ryan has served as a teacher, guidance counselor, and principal to thousands of students across the City of Worcester. Indeed, as principal of Thorndyke Road Elementary School, Mr. Ryan worked diligently to instill pride in his school, boosted its reputation and academic achievements, welcomed parent involvement, and most importantly developed a school climate that fostered respect and encouragement for each student. His parting accomplishment is the construction of the Thorndyke Neighborhood Trail, which will be dedicated on May 31, 2002.

Mr. Ryan is also deeply involved in the Worcester community. As a member of St. George's Catholic Church, Mr. Ryan is an active participant of the Diocesan Peace and Justice Committee as well as the Faith Into Action Homeless Coalition.

Mr. Ryan graduated from Worcester State College, received a Master's Degree from Assumption College, and was a Jacob Hiatt fellow at Harvard University's Graduate School of Education. In addition to his educational and professional accomplishments, Mr. Ryan is the father of five and grandfather of four.

Mr. Speaker, I am certain that the entire House of Representatives joins me in congratulating Mr. Ryan on his long career of service to the Worcester Public Schools, and wishes him the best of luck in retirement.

RAISING THE DEBT WITHOUT A DEBATE

HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 22, 2002

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, due to their poor economic planning, today Republicans are attempting to, increase the amount the Federal government can borrow—not through a direct, democratic vote—but by slipping it quietly into the Supplemental Appropriations bill. They're

not specifying how much they want, they're not telling us how they plan to spend it, and most importantly, they're not telling us how they plan to pay it back.

Every Member in this body knows that an increase in the debt limit has a monumental impact on our economy. However, under this Republican procedure, there is no chance to debate or offer alternatives to one of the most important decisions made by this Congress. The state of our economy affects the lives of all American families and businesses, not just today, but especially in future years as the Baby Boomers begin to retire. However, what we know today is that the federal government is in a deficit, and \$4 trillion of the surplus has disappeared in one-year—the largest fiscal reversal in our nation's history.

Mr. Speaker, before approving a substantial increase in our borrowing authority, Congress has an obligation to review our long-term budget policies in light of the dramatic reversal in our nation's fiscal condition. We should not, as the Republicans are proposing today, blindly pile debt onto future generations. It is fiscally irresponsible.

VIRGINIA A. SLOAN: TEACHING THE JOY OF READING

HON. JAMES A. BARCIA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 22, 2002

Mr. BARCIA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Virginia A. "Ginny" Sloan upon the occasion of her retirement after 31 years as an educator, all of them for the Oscoda Area Schools. Ginny deserves high praise for her devotion to teaching and her passion for ensuring every student left her classroom equipped with more than just the basic reading skills necessary for a productive life.

Ginny has always recognized the importance of reading as the one educational skill upon which all other learning is based. Throughout her tenure, she continuously sought to improve the methodology and the mechanisms for teaching reading. She was instrumental in establishing and developing the school district's "Right to Read Program," and its "Secondary In-Service Reading Program." Ginny also was a driving force in curriculum development for the district, most notably her work on a committee that reviewed Language Arts texts and materials for elementary grades.

Ginny's pioneering efforts and innovations were vital to implementing a suitable curriculum as the backbone of Oscoda's excellent school system. So many of the hours and effort put forth by Ginny took place long after the work day had ended. It is difficult to fully grasp the commitment of time and energy made by dedicated teachers such as Ginny Sloan, but their families understand. Ginny would be the first to acknowledge that the accommodations made by her husband, Jim, and their family, played an important role in her success.

Achieving success in the teaching profession often comes without much recognition or reward. In Ginny's case, she has earned an "Excellence in Education" certificate from the Oscoda Area Schools Board of Education and was recognized for 8th Grade achievements

on the Michigan Educational Assessment Program test. However, those awards serve as only a small measure of her value as a school teacher. The true yardstick of her success is the gift of learning she bestowed upon her students, something that can never be taken away from them.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I wish to pay tribute to Ginny for all that she has done for students, teachers and the entire community. Top-notch educators like Ginny Sloan are all too rare. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Ginny Sloan for a job well-done and in wishing her a successful and enjoyable retirement.

TRIBUTE TO JACK KOSZDIN AND GEORGIA MERCER

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 22, 2002

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join the Hillel Councils of CA State Northridge University (CSUN) and Valley and Pierce Community Colleges in paying tribute to my good friends, Jack Koszdin and Georgia Mercer, who are being honored this evening at Hillel's Gala Dinner.

Jack Koszdin and Georgia Mercer are very special people who have generously given their time, effort and dedication to Hillel and to our community as a whole. Jack is a practicing attorney with whom I had the privilege of practicing law for nearly six years. He is one of the most skilled and knowledgeable practitioners in the field of worker's compensation in the entire country and is a relentless defender of the judicial rights of our labor force. Before entering the legal field as an attorney, Jack was a great teacher with a huge heart and a wonderful sense of humor. He counts teaching at UCLA and serving as a law professor at the University of West Los Angeles among his many accomplishments.

Jack is continually striving to resolve issues in our educational and legal systems. He is a member of the Board of the San Fernando Valley Child Guidance Clinic and one of the Board of Directors of the Cerebral Palsy Association. He has been a legal advisor to the Valley Labor Political Education council and has held numerous prestigious judicial positions including Judge pro Tem of the Workers' compensation Appeals Board and Municipal Judge Pro Tem for the San Fernando Valley. He also participates in the State Insurance Commission Study of Workers' Compensation and Medical Benefits.

Georgia has more than 25 years of experience in education, communications and public affairs. Her accomplishments are legion and her energy boundless. She now serves as the Chair of CSUN's Hillel's Board of Directors as well as on the Boards of the CSUN Foundation, Vista Del Mar Child and Family Services, Valley Trauma Center, Valley Alliance of the Jewish Federation Council, and Friends of the Family. She is also an elected and distinguished member of the Community Board of Trustees. As President of this Board from 2000–2001, she led a campaign for a \$1.2 billion facilities bond measure for upgrading the modernizing all nine college campuses that ultimately won 67% voter approval. Georgia is a gifted and dedicated activist who knows how