

church's council of deacons. Pat was instrumental in forming a satellite center for senior citizens in an area of Huntsville that did not have adequate outreach available to our community's elderly. She serves on the Huntsville Hospital Foundation Board of Trustees and has spent many years as a nursing home volunteer, helping establish the "Adopt Grandparents" program for 6 to 12 year-old children. She has organized various multinational receptions and hosted several international military personnel assigned to Redstone Arsenal, helping make Huntsville a welcoming community for our visitors. Additionally, Pat was a chief volunteer and contributor for the Downtown Rescue Mission's Capital Campaign Committee that developed a new women's and children's shelter, the Sapp Shelter for Women and Children.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the people of North Alabama, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Mr. and Mrs. Gene Sapp for receiving the 2002 Humanitarian Award from the Huntsville Chapter of the Arthritis Foundation. As you can tell, this distinguished award recognizing them for their outstanding commitment to our community is well-deserved. I join their children, Sharon Crain and Dr. Mark Sapp; their grandchildren, Will, Berkley, and Annie; and the people of North Alabama in thanking Gene and Pat Sapp for their contributions of time, talents, and compassion to our community over the years.

EDUCATION SAVINGS AND SCHOOL EXCELLENCE PERMANENCE ACT OF 2002

SPEECH OF

HON. ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 4, 2002

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to ask all of my colleagues to vote against H.R. 5203, the "so-called" Education Affordability Act that would make permanent all but one of the education tax benefits that were contained in last year's tax cut legislation.

I understand that some of the education provisions, such as the exclusion for employer provided education benefits and tax breaks for student loan interests in the bill today have broad bipartisan support.

However, those provisions can be considered in separate legislation that does not contain such provisions as the Coverdell Savings Accounts, that provides tax breaks equivalent to vouchers for private elementary and secondary schools' attendance.

Five similar bills have been pushed through this House that would make other provisions of last year's tax cut permanent. The Republican Leadership's irresponsible tax cuts have propelled the nation into deficit spending. Every dollar spent on making these tax cuts permanent is another dollar taken out of the Social Security Trust Fund.

Instead of passing this bill, the House should provide adequate public education funding. Additional resources are needed to implement the new ESEA law. This bill would divert much needed money from the public school system where funds are desperately needed to improve public education for all students.

I would urge a no vote on H.R. 5203.

HONORING THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CK & L OF I

HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 5, 2002

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the 40th Anniversary of the (Catholic Knights and Ladies of Illinois) CK & L of I in Swansea, Illinois.

Locally, the CK & L of I organization was started some 40 years ago by Emil Wottowa, who served as the organization's President. His son, Ed served as Vice President of the organization, which served the needs of the Catholic community in our area.

The CK & L of I is a fraternal organization based upon the tenants of the organization of Catholic Fraternal Life. The Knights of Columbus is a Catholic, family, fraternal service organization. Their 1.6 million members and families are dedicated to the ideals of charity, unity, fraternity and patriotism. They work to benefit their communities, their church and their fellowman. In the past ten years alone, the Knights have worked effectively on programs to benefit countless others in need, donating more than \$972 million and providing 421 million hours of volunteer service.

The members of the Catholic family respond person to person in times of need. Members devote thousands of hours annually to fundraising and community service programs to improve the quality of life for others. They give their time and talents and ask nothing in return. That is what fraternalism is about.

Volunteer efforts and council members are the heart of the organization. With the assistance of volunteer officers, members carry out numerous social, civic, benevolent, patriotic and religious activities throughout the year. They provide support, guidance and financial assistance to help members address local needs and their social interests. They support teen centers, blood banks and the Special Olympics, as well as women's shelter and child abuse prevention programs.

The CK & L of I was started locally by Mr. Wottowa who wanted to secure a place in the country where members could enjoy themselves. They started in the old Senior Center located at 116 West A Street in Belleville in 1930 and as they searched for a place for their members, they found the property that they needed at the old Dr. Walton Farm in the Fairview Hts/Swansea area along Rt. 159. Dr. Walton was an avid outdoorsman, as well as a horse enthusiast so there was plenty of undeveloped land available for members and their families to enjoy.

Their first meeting was held on the grounds of the old farm, where several farmhouses were converted for use by the organization. As the complex developed over time, the organization hosted Boy Scout troops from throughout the region, on overnight campouts to learn about the wetland areas and other open space. In fact, the organization works with St. Clair County, Illinois by utilizing its lake and retention areas as a holding pond for area storm water.

The complex today consists of 2 ball diamonds, an auditorium and private clubrooms.

The CK & L of I plays host to many weddings, meetings and receptions. Through their charitable work, they offer rent-free space to Althoff High School, the Fraternal Order of the Eagles, St. Henry's Catholic church, the Belleville Exchange Club, the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the Swansea Chamber of Commerce, Senior citizen meetings, the Camelot Auction, many fundraisers and the annual Blood drive.

Today the CK & L of I boasts over 1,800 members, 900 of which are the men of the organization and 950 are women. The men meet the first Monday of the month while the ladies meet on the second Monday.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the 40th Anniversary of the CK & L of I organization and wish the best to all of its members both past, present and in the future.

EXPRESSING CONCERN WITH STATED POLICY TOWARDS TAIWAN AND APPARENT MILITARY BUILDUP BY MAINLAND CHINESE

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 5, 2002

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my concern with our stated policy towards Taiwan and the apparent military buildup by the mainland Chinese.

Mr. Speaker, according to a recent report to Congress issued by the Department of Defense, China's military "offensive capabilities improve as each year passes, providing Beijing with an increasing number of credible options to intimidate or actually attack Taiwan."

This warning by the Department of Defense only adds to my concern over the long standing ambiguity of United States policy towards Taiwan. The policy of "strategic ambiguity" has served the interests of the United States in years past, but recent developments constitute a review in current United States policy.

According to the report, in March of this year, China announced a 17.6 percent increase in military spending. This is a significant increase when it is not facing significant threats from abroad. The report also states, "Beijing is pursuing the ability to force Taiwan to negotiate on Beijing's terms regarding unification with the mainland . . . it also seeks to deter, deny, or complicate the ability of foreign forces to intervene on Taiwan's behalf."

This report is very troubling. However, even more troubling is that while our stated policy indicates an acknowledgment of "one-China," it does not address what the United States' policy should be if Taiwan were attacked by China.

Because of our current policy of "strategic ambiguity" that dates back to the 1970's and the unanswered questions it generates, I am urging President Bush to conduct a comprehensive review of U.S. policy toward Taiwan.

With the apparent aggressive military buildup by the Chinese, the warnings reported by our own Defense Department, and our policy of "strategic ambiguity" towards the China-Taiwan relationship, it is time to review our policy toward Taiwan to unambiguously account for the possibility of a military conflict between mainland China and Taiwan and the United States response to such an action.