

IN HONOR OF BUCKEYE-
WOODLAND ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

HON. STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 16, 2002

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the Buckeye-Woodland Elementary School in Cleveland, Ohio for affording me the opportunity to visit with young students during my Third Annual Back-to-School Tour on Monday, September 23rd and Monday, September 30th of 2002. I would like to offer special thanks to Cleveland Schools Municipal District CEO Barbara Byrd-Bennett, Superintendent Debra Brathwaite and Principal Barbara A. Kozak for their leadership and kind hospitality. The tour was an educational experience for all who were in attendance.

Buckeye-Woodland Elementary School has set forth major academic goals for the year, which include establishing a focus on literary implementation of a comprehensive reading program; developing high standards for mathematics and science skills concepts; assessing student progress on an ongoing basis; and providing focused, organized opportunities for professional development. Recent accomplishments from last year include measuring student progress on an ongoing basis using the information to help students learn; providing individual student support; and providing teachers with organized and focused opportunities for professional development.

I commend the Buckeye-Woodland Elementary School for its commitment to education and will continue to fight for increased funding to improve the quality of public education for all students.

A TRIBUTE TO MRS. GRACE WEST-
PAYNE

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 16, 2002

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Mrs. Grace West-Payne, who was born in Portsmouth, Virginia, on September 4, 1902 in recognition of her 100th birthday celebration.

Once Mrs. West-Payne completed her elementary education, she worked as a domestic helper and married Mr. Thomas Payne. They moved to Brooklyn, New York over sixty years ago, where she continued her trade as a domestic worker.

Mrs. Grace West-Payne is an active member of Bethel Baptist Church. Her hobbies include singing and reading. Her favorite song is: "If it wasn't for him (God) I'd be nothing." Mrs. Grace West-Payne also has a favorite saying: "Let Good Girls Be Good and Boys Be Good".

Mr. Speaker. Mrs. West-Payne, who now resides at the Marcus Garvey Nursing Home, has devoted her life to serving her family and being a community leader, and as such, she is more than worthy of receiving recognition today.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE NAPA
COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION'S
"OPERATION RECOGNITION"

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 16, 2002

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a new program being implemented in California's Napa Valley. Operation Recognition grants high school diplomas to persons who were unable to complete high school due to World War II, the Korean War or Japanese American internment. Diplomas will be presented November 9, 2002 at the California Veteran's home in Yountville.

From September 16, 1940 to December 31, 1946 and from June 25, 1950 to January 31, 1955 millions of high schoolers were not thinking about the prom or their upcoming graduations. Instead these high school students were sleeping in fox holes, being shot at on foreign battle fields and fighting to defend the freedoms of the United States of America.

Mr. Speaker there is no doubt that our veterans are heroes. When our country called on them for protection and dedication during war they answered the call and gave us all they had. Too often this included sacrificing their lives. For most of the veterans who did return home reenrolling in high school was not a plausible option, rather they entered the job force and were forced to accept that their educational pursuits had come to a screeching halt.

Mr. Speaker, Operation Recognition gives back to our veterans what they rightfully deserve—but never had the opportunity to attain—their high school diplomas. A diploma is more than a piece of paper it is a treasure, one no nation, military or individual can take away. More than anything, Mr. Speaker, Operation Recognition seeks to give back to our veterans a piece of their lives that was taken from them for a time. Thanks to this program, that time is over.

Mr. Speaker, it is appropriate at a time when we are increasingly calling on our service men and women to protect America that we acknowledge Operation Recognition for the outstanding hope, joy and educational satisfaction it is bringing to our nation's beloved heroes by presenting them with the high school diplomas they so richly deserve.

SUPPORT FOR NATO EXPANSION

HON. ROBERT T. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 16, 2002

Mr. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my support for House Resolution 468, which this body overwhelmingly passed on October 7, 2002. This resolution expresses the support of the House for enlargement of NATO that will take place at the Prague Summit next month. The resolution endorses the candidacy of countries that satisfy the membership criteria of the alliance and are willing and able to contribute to the security of the North Atlantic community and the war against terrorism. An enlarged NATO that is prepared to grapple with the challenges presented by conventional

and unconventional threats is in America's vital interest.

Only a vibrant and strong NATO will be able to meet these formidable challenges. And this requires the candidate countries to remain committed to the shared democratic values of respect for the rule of law and minority rights. The full protection of minority rights of the ethnic communities of Central and Eastern Europe will extend the zone of democracy and ensure the security that is a direct consequence of genuine stability.

An important but not exclusive element of the respect for civil and minority rights is the restoration of religious and educational properties to those ethnic communities, such as the Hungarian minorities in Romania and Slovakia, where they had been confiscated by earlier totalitarian regimes. Restitution of these communal properties has been too slow.

I urge these new democracies to immediately and vigorously pursue the process of restitution until satisfactorily and fully completed. Resolution of this important question will constitute the kind of demonstrable commitment to democracy and shared Western values that will serve these countries well both before and after Prague. It will also be favorably received by the United States that deems fair treatment of religious and national minorities to be indispensable for a democracy.

TRIBUTE TO THE MONTROSE COL-
ORADO STAKE RELIEF SOCIETY

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 16, 2002

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to honor an organization of women that works to strengthen its members and their communities through compassion and kind service. The women of the Relief Society in the Montrose Colorado Stake of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints recently gathered together to complete humanitarian projects in conjunction with their annual worldwide women's conference. It is my privilege today to highlight the service efforts of these local women before this body of Congress and this nation.

Originally founded in Nauvoo, Illinois in 1842 as the women's organization within the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, the Relief Society today boasts a membership of over 4 million women worldwide. Recently, some 150 LDS women from of Montrose, Colorado and its surrounding communities gathered together to put into action the principles of charity and service that their organization seeks to embody. Seeking a way to contribute to society, the women made hand activity books to give Alzheimer's patients in nearby nursing homes—something to help keep their minds active in the face of a debilitating disease. They also made dolls, stitching some parts by hand and others by machine, for the Church's Humanitarian Services to distribute to children affected by disasters throughout the world.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the women of the Montrose Colorado Stake of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and to their work in the Relief Society organization. The efforts of these women have