

LIBERTY HIGH SCHOOL IN
ELDERSBURG, MD, RECOGNIZED
AS A GRAMMY SIGNATURE
SCHOOL FOR ITS OUTSTANDING
MUSIC EDUCATION

HON. ROSCOE G. BARTLETT

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 8, 2003

Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, Liberty High School in Eldersburg, Maryland and its Instrumental Music Director Joseph Fischer has been recognized as one of only 50 Grammy Signature Schools nationwide in 2003 for its outstanding music education. Along with the recognition, the Grammy Foundation awarded Liberty High School with \$1,000 toward its music education program.

The Grammy Foundation, a nonprofit arm of the Recording Academy, coordinates the Grammy Signature Schools recognition program for outstanding music education by public schools. Most of us are probably familiar with the Grammys awarded by the Recording Academy to outstanding recording artists. The Grammy Foundation is dedicated to engaging students of all ages through music and arts-based education programs. For more information about the Foundation and its programs, you can visit its website www.grammy.com. A list of all the winners is at www.grammy.com/foundation/signature_schools.html.

Liberty High School was one of 20,000 public high schools invited to submit detailed applications for the Grammy Signature Schools award.

Finalists for the Grammy Signature School award were determined on the basis of a scoring system applied and critiqued by a panel of top music educators and professionals. Finalists then had to submit additional documentation such as recordings of school concerts, sample concert programs and repertoire that were further reviewed by an independent screening committee.

As my colleagues are well aware, I was a scientist before I was elected to the Congress. However, I was also a teacher. I taught on the college level for more than 20 years. I support and applaud music education because it teaches participants the important life skills of discipline and team work. Liberty High School would not even have been considered as a Grammy Signature School without the leadership provided by its Instrumental Musical Director Joseph Fischer. It is the work of an excellent individual teacher, such as Mr. Fischer, that opens the door and inspires students to achieve success not just in their particular field of study, but in all future endeavors. I know that I am just echoing the gratitude of his students, their parents, faculty and administrators at Liberty High School when I salute Joseph Fischer.

ASSAULT WEAPONS BAN AND LAW
ENFORCEMENT PROTECTION ACT
OF 2003

HON. CAROLYN MCCARTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 8, 2003

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the "Assault Weapons

Ban and Law Enforcement Protection Act of 2003." This legislation will renew and strengthen the current assault weapons ban set to expire this Congress. I am joined by 68 of my colleagues in support of this legislation and overall goal of keeping illegal firearms out of the hands of criminals.

In September 2004, the assault weapons ban, which is supported by virtually every Federal, State and local law enforcement agency, is set to expire. Since its introduction in 1994, the ban has increased public safety and prevented dangerous weapons from falling into the hands of violent criminals, including gang members and terrorists. Unfortunately, even with its many successes, would-be criminals have demonstrated the ban's limitations.

A gun manufacturer's ability to slightly modify an assault weapon, and the sale of "parts kits" which permit criminals to assemble unlawful assault weapons, is a massive loophole in the current law, allowing these weapons to flood the market and jeopardize the lives of law enforcement officers.

Additional steps must be taken to address these types of problems. This legislation begins by improving upon the current definition of a semi-automatic assault weapon to include any semi-automatic weapon that accepts a detachable ammunition magazine and possesses, a single, narrowly defined, assault weapon characteristic. Furthermore, it contains a provision that makes it more difficult for individuals to purchase or sell parts that make it possible to convert a lawful semi-automatic weapon into an unlawful assault weapon.

During the 2000 election cycle, then-Governor Bush made a campaign promise to support the extension of the ban, as did Attorney General Ashcroft during his 2001 Senate confirmation hearing. I am glad to hear of their support and look forward to working with them in the upcoming months. I can think of no legitimate reason for civilians to have access to military-style weapons that are useless for recreational activities and only serve the purpose of furthering unwanted criminal activity.

IMPROVING EDUCATION RESULTS
FOR CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES
ACT OF 2003

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 30, 2003

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1350) to reauthorize the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, and for other purposes:

Mrs. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of H.R. 1350, to reauthorize the Individuals With Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). Although I have outstanding concerns about this bill that I will continue to work with my colleagues to resolve, this bill responds to the needs of special education teachers and the children they serve. It also authorizes much-needed funding levels for our States and local school districts.

H.R. 1350 will help schools identify special needs students at an earlier age and avoid misidentification of children. When a child is identified as having a disability at an early

age, their parents and teachers are better able to address their needs and integrate them as much as possible into the regular educational curriculum. I have worked hard to secure funding for newborn hearing screening programs, which save schools millions of dollars in special education costs by ensuring early detection and intervention of infants with hearing loss. Further efforts to increase early identification, as H.R. 1350 will accomplish, will surely save our schools millions more in special education costs.

H.R. 1350 puts us on the right track to provide funding that has been promised to our States and local school districts for 28 years. Many of us would have preferred that this bill provide mandatory IDEA funding increases, but by authorizing a plan to reach full funding of 40 percent of the excess cost of educating students with disabilities within seven years, H.R. 1350 is a step in the right direction. This bill will provide funding that our schools desperately need now.

This reauthorization will also help us learn how to reduce excessive paperwork for teachers. H.R. 1350 requires the General Accounting Office to conduct a study on Federal requirements under the Individuals With Disabilities Education Act that result in excessive paperwork burdens for teachers. This study will help policymakers better understand how we can improve conditions for teachers.

I will continue to work with all community leaders to improve the discipline and procedural safeguards provisions in this bill. During my time in the Minnesota House of Representatives, our State crafted a careful balance between the rights of children with disabilities and non-disabled students. This allows schools to maintain a safe learning environment for all children and at the same time, resolve discipline issues. I hope to offer Minnesota as a model to create Federal policies that best meet the needs of students and schools.

The bill before us today, while not perfect, will make notable improvements to the Individuals With Disabilities Education Act. In the coming weeks, I will work very hard with the disability community and my colleagues in the Senate to pass a final version of this reauthorization that allows for the best educational opportunity for all children.

GEORGIA CELEBRATES CHIEF
WARRANT OFFICER RON YOUNG,
JR.

HON. PHIL GINGREY

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 8, 2003

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Speaker, the capture of Chief Warrant Officer Ron Young, Jr. by Iraqi forces terrified not only his family back in Lithia Springs, Ga., but also all the Americans watching the news clips of the POWs.

When our Nation goes to war, our soldiers answer the call to sacrifice with honor. In the War on Iraq, they proved once more that they're the greatest fighting force the world has ever known.

Yet, even with the best trained soldiers, even with the best equipment, real dangers confront our fighting men and women.

Such was the case on March 24, when the helicopter of Chief Warrant Officer Young and