

THE ASSISTANCE FOR NEEDY
FAMILIES, TANF

HON. STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 11, 2003

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise to acknowledge the importance for Congress to address the concerns of a welfare reform bill. I support the 3-month extension to reauthorize the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Block Grant Program through fiscal year 2003. I also ask the U.S. Senate to move on this important legislation.

Mr. Speaker, more than 35 States have made cuts in programs funded with TANF and child care block grant funds. Most importantly, these cuts are in programs that promote the goals of welfare reform. These cuts reflect both the exhaustion of many States' surplus. Cuts are in welfare to work programs, cuts are in programs to help the most disadvantaged families, cuts are in transportation assistance, cuts are in basic cash assistance benefits, cuts are in teen pregnancy prevention programs, and cuts are in child care. My dear colleagues, let us come together—set aside our differences—and work to pass a bipartisan measure that will provide adequate aid to families with dependent children (AFDC) and critique the job opportunities and basic skills training (JOBS) programs.

Mr. Speaker, our Governors have spoken out and printed on recycled paper critical funding and flexibility of the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families block grant, which must be preserved—without any set-asides. The program should be reauthorized to ensure that States are able to continue their current innovative efforts to assist low-income individuals and families. I ask that we work together to provide meaningful legislation that will lead our families to self sufficiency.

HONORING REBECCA JOHNSON

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 11, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to stand before this body of Congress today to recognize a dedicated educator. Rebecca Johnson has provided exemplary service as a teacher at Redlands Middle School in Grand Junction, Colorado, and it is my pleasure to honor the creativity that Rebecca has employed in touching the lives of her students and incorporating real life lessons in her classroom.

Rebecca has used a number of tools and methods to bring her academic lessons to life for the children she teaches. She has reinforced her students' interest in reading, turning her classroom into a movie set based on a book they read together. Rebecca has also encouraged interest in the arts as she supervises murals painted at the school. Rebecca's creativity has surely impacted her students in a positive manner and assisted them in developing a life-long appreciation for learning.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to stand before this body of Congress today to express my admiration and gratitude for Rebecca's service and

devotion to teaching. Individuals like Rebecca symbolize the dedication and commitment necessary to impart strong values to future generations and allow them the opportunity to succeed. Rebecca has answered a noble call that demands the utmost admiration and respect. Thank you, Rebecca, for your dedication and selfless public service.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO BOB TAYLOR

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 11, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to recognize one of my district's most prominent and accomplished agriculturalists. Bob Taylor is the founder of a farming dynasty that has flourished for the last fifty years in La Plata County, Colorado. In addition to a wealth of agricultural knowledge, his reputation precedes him throughout the county as a fair and honest man. I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to Bob for the contributions that he has made throughout Colorado.

In spite of adverse conditions for area farmers, Bob has persevered throughout the last decade. He is consistently one of the top agricultural producers in the area and is always willing to offer advice to fellow agriculturalists. For his efforts, the Durango Area Chamber of Commerce has recently honored Bob as Agriculturalist of the Year.

The community also recognizes Bob for his long history of service to his church and the surrounding community. He embarked upon his two-year Mormon Church Mission after high school and began his service to the nation when he joined the Army during World War II. Bob was elected to a County Board position in 1954, but declined to run again after his church's local ward summoned him to serve as Bishop. Bob continues to maintain his public involvement by serving on two water-district boards.

Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct privilege to recognize Bob Taylor before this body of Congress and this nation. He served his country with honor as a soldier, and he has excelled in his agricultural career ever since. I congratulate Bob on his recent award and wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

HONORING ALUMNI OF THE
FRANCES PAYNE BOLTON
SCHOOL OF NURSING

HON. STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 11, 2003

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to extend my sincere congratulations and gratitude to the nurses who served in the United States military during World War II and the U.S. Cadet Nurse Corps who are alumni of the Frances Payne Bolton School of Nursing at Case Western Reserve University. These nurses were honored during their Reunion Celebration, which took place on May 17, 2003 at Severance Hall in Cleveland, Ohio.

Representative Frances Payne Bolton acquired the congressional seat of her late hus-

band, which she maintained from 1939–1969. As a Member of Congress, she led the effort to create the U.S. Cadet Nurse Corps which trained 125,000 nurses in 1,100 nursing schools from 1943 to 1948 to reduce the nursing shortage and improve health care in the military and throughout the entire nation. She was the very first Congresswoman to serve the state of Ohio.

It is my pleasure to join with the Case Western Reserve University community and the citizens of the 11th Congressional District in honoring this group of nurses for their untiring service to this country.

NATIVE AMERICAN SACRED
LANDS PROTECTION ACT

HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 11, 2003

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, many would argue that the United States Capitol is sacred. It is a testament to freedom, a symbol of government, a monument of national historical and cultural significance. Throughout its halls there are statues of our founders, our heroes, our history. For the past 200 years, legislators have sweat blood and tears debating the laws of our great country.

It is sacred to me, to the American people and to the underlying principles of this country. No patriotic American or friend of this great country would even think to spoil or mar the sanctity of this building.

But there are many places across this country no less sacred than the Capitol building, that are being desecrated as we speak. It is inconceivable to have open-pit mining in Arlington Cemetery or to imagine an oil rig plopped in the middle of the Sistine Chapel. But in fact that is the very problem facing Native American sacred lands today.

For example, the proposed site for a 1,600-acre, open-pit gold mine in Indian Pass, California, is a place where "dream trails" were woven. The Bush administration revoked a Clinton-era ruling that said mining operations would cause undue impairment to these ancestral lands, an extremely sacred place to the Quechan Indian tribe. Now the tribe is left fighting for its religious and cultural history. Although the state of California has taken action to help protect this site, the Federal government remains poised to permit the gold mine.

Long before my ancestors arrived on these shores, American Indians were the first stewards of this land. They respected the earth, water and air. They understood you take only what you need and leave the rest. They demonstrated you do not desecrate that which is sacred.

Most Americans understand a reverence for the great Sistine Chapel, or even the United States Capitol. Too often non-Indians have difficulty giving the same reverence we give to our sacred places to a mountain, valley, stream or rock formation.

We cannot fight to preserve Native American sacred lands on a case by case basis. We need a comprehensive process to protect bona fide Native American sacred sites wherever they may lie on the public domain.

That is why today I am introducing the Native American Sacred Lands Protection Act.