

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

THE GIFT OF OPPORTUNITY

HON. RANDY "DUKE" CUNNINGHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 25, 2003

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to read the essay of Laura Mendoza, a member of the Valley Center Teenage Republican Club.

Like every Friday morning, my mother had snuggled into bed with me; soon I was to get up and go to school. Only, on this morning, I was quite lazy and pleaded with my mom so that she would allow me to stay home. Like any other day she simply gave me a "no." It had been worth a shot! As we laid in bed she said to me, "Laura, you must strive for your goals and never allow anyone to prohibit you from following them. Take advantage of every moment and savor it, for you do not know what may lie ahead." What could possibly make her think I would understand her words at the age of eleven?

Now, I'm seventeen and I understand what she was implying. Throughout the years I have learned about my mother. My mother was unable to go to school due to many reasons, none that she could control. To begin with there wasn't a school in sight for about 20 miles and she had no transportation to get there. By the time there was a school that was somewhat near she was eight and her father was very unsupportive. He once told her not to worry about getting an education, instead she was to stay home and help in the fields and with the animals. "Besides" he said, "you don't need to worry about being educated because you're going to end up married to some guy who will provide for you and your family. All you need to worry about is taking care of the house and children."

I can see that my mother was denied a natural part of life. My mother was brought up in Mexico, where education is nothing big. It's like a luxury; if you have the time, then you can go to school; if not, you must stay home and attend to the responsibilities there. Education in Mexico has not changed much over the years, only four of my cousins go to school, and they're all boys. The females in my family are either married or living at home, helping out their parents.

I appreciate the many sacrifices my parents have done for my siblings and me. They have done everything possible and impossible so that we can receive a good education and so that one day we don't have to go through the same things and our own families will succeed. My parents are my inspiration. I know for a fact that if my parents had decided to stay in Mexico, all that I have achieved would have been unrealized. This is why education is so sacred to me. In my opinion, education is the key to my goals and I know that my parents weren't wrong when they saw something special in this land of opportunity. That is why they decided to bring our family here. I will not let my parents' sacrifice or the opportunity given to me go to waste. I now understand my mother's words and will live by them for the rest of my life.

A PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING RAMSEY NABIL ALLOUSH

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 25, 2003

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, whereas, Ramsey Alloush graduated from John F. Kennedy High School on June 7, 2003; and

Whereas, Ramsey Alloush has demonstrated a commitment to education; and

Whereas, Ramsey Alloush should be commended for reaching this academic milestone;

Therefore, I join with the residents of the entire 18th Congressional District of Ohio in honoring and congratulating Ramsey Nabil Alloush for his outstanding accomplishment.

HONORING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF BRYN MAWR FIRE COMPANY

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 25, 2003

Mr. GERLACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Bryn Mawr Fire Company of Bryn Mawr, PA on its 100th anniversary.

Almost a century ago, citizens of Bryn Mawr, Haverford and Rosemont came together to form a fire company. The Montgomery County Court of Common Pleas approved the Certificate of Incorporation for the Bryn Mawr Fire Company on December 21, 1903, even before the Township in which it was located was chartered. The Company acquired its first horse-drawn engine the following year and the fire house was dedicated 2 years later in May of 1906.

The Bryn Mawr Fire Company has served its community in exemplary fashion over the past 100 years and today there are almost 40 volunteer firefighters in the Company. The Company responds to over 500 calls per year throughout Lower Merion, Radnor and Haverford Townships.

The volunteers of the Bryn Mawr Fire Company take every aspect of their job very seriously. Members drill every Monday night and participate in a live burn drill each month. Firefighters from the Company attend schools and conferences all across the country. The Company sends members into the local schools to talk about fire prevention and hosts an open house every year to educate the public about fire safety.

For the past 100 years, the citizens of Bryn Mawr and the surrounding communities have been able to depend on the courageous men and women of the Bryn Mawr Fire Company. I encourage my colleagues to join me in saluting the Bryn Mawr Fire Company on reaching this important milestone.

ESSAY OF MICHELLE WILKINSON

HON. RANDY "DUKE" CUNNINGHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 25, 2003

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to read the essay of Michelle Wilkinson, a member of the Valley Center Teenage Republican Club. "The Republican Party embraces many noteworthy values, including personal responsibility, service, and integrity. Throughout my life, I have been taught to follow these principles. As a student in an AP Government class and as a member of the Teenage Republican Club, I have come to realize how these values have influenced my life.

A major Republican value is personal responsibility. From a political view, this means that the government should only do what individuals can not do by themselves. To me, personal responsibility is a way of living so that I am a contributing member of society rather than a burden. In my life, I have taken the accountability for my studies and other extracurricular activities. Because I know that I am responsible for my own actions, I have been able to excel in school, and have been accepted to the school of my choice. I have tried to make the most of my opportunity to attend school and believe that my efforts have been rewarding and worthwhile. As a Republican, I hope to be able to elect officers who believe in personal responsibility and strive to create laws that promote self-reliance in American citizens. I plan to major in History Education, and, as a teacher, I want my students to know how important this ideal was to our founding fathers. I will personally teach my children and my students to be conscientious and charitable members of the community in which they live. People who have cultivated an independent lifestyle are better able to give service to others.

Service to others is an integral part of the Republican ideal. When individuals voluntarily give their time and means, resources are used efficiently where they are truly needed. Government entitlements are not conducive to a strong work ethic and should only be depended upon for true emergencies, not as a planned lifestyle. Some of my service experiences include: registering voters, organizing a concert for an elderly care center, quilting blankets for a women's shelter, and organizing a dance for mentally and physically handicapped adults. Although no one expected or demanded my service, they were all very grateful for my time and talents, which I give freely because of the joy I receive in return. I know that I will continue to give my time and resources how and when I choose. I believe that I should be able to choose how my resources are used so that I know they are being used wisely and effectively. When we are compelled to give our resources through high taxes, we are deprived of the feelings of generosity and benevolence. I will continue to

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