

on an issue of great significance to me as a former educator, a vote against vouchers and a vote in favor of our public school system.

Unfortunately, I was called to act in my capacity as the Chairman of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus to host a series of important candidate debates that will have serious implications on the future and direction of this country.

If I had been present I would have voted "no" on rollcall No. 478, an amendment offered by Representative DAVIS, to H.R. 2765, the fiscal year 2004 appropriations bill for the District of Columbia.

If I had been present I would have voted "yes" on rollcall No. 479, an amendment offered by Representative NORTON, to H.R. 2765, the fiscal year 2004 appropriations bill for the District of Columbia.

As responsible members of Congress we must focus on ensuring all students in the District of Columbia, and across the country, have the tools for success. We must provide the necessary resources to ensure that all of our students have access to the proven keys to educational success—smaller class sizes, more parental involvement, up to date materials, and high quality instruction.

We should not give up on our public schools. Especially now just as reform efforts in D.C. are showing results. According to the D.C. Board of Education, recent reforms have resulted in improved test scores for public school students and academic gains in low-performing schools. By contrast, there is no evidence that vouchers will improve achievement for disadvantaged students.

Vouchers will not increase parental choice. Under voucher plans, the choice is in the hands of private schools, which can decide whether or not to participate in a voucher program and can discriminate in admissions.

Finally, when I supported the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act in the last Congress it was with the understanding that as a country we were focused on raising the level of accountability for the schooling of our children. The implementation of voucher programs like this undermines the public accountability component of NCLB. Private schools would not have to account to the public for how they spend tax dollars or require their students to meet the same standards or take the same assessments as public school students.

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the understanding of the House and my constituents on this issue.

HONORING MANNY ARVON, SUPERINTENDENT OF BERKELEY COUNTY SCHOOLS

HON. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 9, 2003

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Manny Arvon, Superintendent of Berkeley County Schools, West Virginia, in recognition of his commitment to education and talent as an administrator. Mr. Arvon was recently honored by being named West Virginia School Superintendent of the Year for 2003–2004. Mr. Arvon is now under consideration for the National School Superintendent of the Year.

As the son of a school superintendent and a teacher, Mr. Arvon was raised with a spirit of education. From a very early age, he showed great enthusiasm for education while being involved with his parents as they performed their educational endeavors. This spirit has thrived throughout the years in the Arvon family with many of Manny's relatives working in education and his son planning to enter the field in the near future.

Mr. Arvon began a career as an elementary school teacher before moving on to administrative responsibilities first as a principal and then as an assistant superintendent before being named Superintendent of Berkeley County Schools in 1996.

While Mr. Arvon has proven himself to be more than capable of performing the everyday tasks of a superintendent, his leadership abilities also have shone through greatly as Berkeley County has weathered the demands of a rapidly increasing enrollment, infrastructure needs, and budget challenges. Furthermore, Mr. Arvon has made strides in fostering an excitement for education among both his staff and the community.

I commend Mr. Arvon for his outstanding performance as Superintendent of Berkeley County Schools. This award is greatly deserved and only confirms Mr. Arvon's wonderful job performance throughout his thirty-year tenure in education. The students of Berkeley County, West Virginia have benefited greatly from his dedication and innovation. I wish him the best of luck in the national competition and I am proud to recognize him as an example of leadership for educators everywhere.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognition of Mr. Manny Arvon, 2003–2004 West Virginia School Superintendent of the Year.

INTRODUCTION OF THE PRETRIAL DETENTION AND LIFETIME SUPERVISION OF TERRORISTS ACT OF 2003

HON. BOB GOODLATTE

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 9, 2003

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to introduce today the Pretrial Detention and Lifetime Supervision of Terrorists Act of 2003.

In a time when our country faces heightened security alerts and continues to battle against those that would harm our citizens, we cannot risk allowing terrorists to be set free while waiting for trial. Terrorists are unlikely to scale back their efforts to attack Americans anytime soon and, likewise, America should not scale back its efforts to fight and eliminate terrorism in all its forms.

This commonsense legislation cracks down on terrorists by creating a presumption to deny the pre-trial release of those that commit terrorist crimes. Terrorists, and those that fund terrorists, are often highly organized. Because of the highly organized nature of most terrorist groups, the pre-trial release of these criminals would create unnecessary and extremely dangerous opportunities for terrorist groups to help these suspects flee the country before they could be brought to justice. This bill adds terrorist offenses to the list of offenses that

create a presumption that the terrorist suspect is a flight risk and would pose a danger to the community if released. This provision will help keep dangerous terrorists where they belong: in prison.

In addition, this legislation gives discretion to judges to impose lifetime supervision of terrorists once they are released from prison. Specifically, the bill would grant the judge this discretion for all terrorist offenses, not just those that result in death or serious injury. This provision will ensure that those who are convicted of terrorist crimes, including cyber terrorists and those that fund terrorist activities, will not be allowed to re-enter society and re-ignite their efforts against the United States. America simply cannot take the chance that terrorists will stop engaging in terrorist activities merely because they have served their time in prison. Giving judges the discretion to supervise these heinous and dangerous criminals after they are released from prison will help ensure the safety of America and her citizens.

I believe that this is a good, commonsense bill that is necessary for the safety of our country. I urge each of my colleagues to support this important legislation.

TRIBUTE TO BISHOP EARNEST EUGENE BALTIMORE

HON. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 9, 2003

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing Bishop Earnest Eugene Baltimore of Ranson, West Virginia. Bishop Baltimore passed away in 1999 after serving as senior pastor of King's Apostle Holiness Church of God for 51 years. On August 17, 2003, Bishop Baltimore's achievements were recognized through the establishment of a scholarship fund in his honor and the placing of a memorial plaque at Lancaster Circle in Ranson.

Bishop Baltimore's accomplishments and dedication to the community are countless. Many remember him as the former President of the Jefferson County NAACP; President of the South Jefferson Ministerial Association, Vice President of the School of Hope, and Councilman and Member of the Sanitation and Finance Committees for the City of Ranson. He also served as a Board Member for the United Givers Fund and Free Our Citizens of Unhealthy Substance Abuse (FOCUS). Bishop Baltimore was also an active Board Member of the Jefferson County Memorial Park.

As a man of devout faith, Bishop Baltimore preached every Sunday and presided over hundreds of weddings, funerals, revivals, and baptisms in West Virginia and around the country. He also provided local radio ministering during Sunday worship service and traveled and ministered extensively across the United States and throughout the World.

In honor of Bishop Baltimore's longstanding commitment to his community, I ask my friends in West Virginia and my colleagues here in Congress to join me in remembering the great accomplishments of Bishop E.E. Baltimore.