

Hall; Oliver North; James Watt; apartheid apologia; the savings and loan scandal; voodoo economics; record budget deficits; double digit unemployment; farm bankruptcies; trade deficits; astrologers in the White House; Star Wars; and influence peddling.

I hope you find these facts useful in accurately depicting President Reagan's time in office.

With every good wish,

Sincerely yours,

JOHN D. DINGELL,
Member of Congress.

THE HEALTHY CHILDREN
THROUGH BETTER NUTRITION
ACT OF 2003

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 30, 2003

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to be able to introduce along with 20 of my Democratic colleagues on the Education and the Workforce Committee, the Healthy Children Through Better Nutrition Act of 2003.

Since coming to Congress in 1975, I have been a steadfast advocate of child nutrition programs and the significant role they play in meeting the health and educational needs of our nation's children. In my first year in Congress, along with Sen. Hubert H. Humphrey, I authored the Women, Infants and Children supplemental nutrition program, and the role of this program, and other nutrition programs, in improving the health, safe development, and school performance of our nation's children remains as strong as at that time.

I have seen first hand—at school cafeterias, summer programs and WIC clinics—children who receive their only meals through our federal nutrition programs. Today, the challenge to increase access to these programs for low-income children remains, and the programs must meet new demands.

Mr. Speaker, our children face a health threat that requires our immediate attention and response. We know that over the past thirty years, the childhood obesity rate has tripled. Among teenagers, childhood obesity increased from 5 percent in 1970 to 14 percent in 1999. This crisis spans age, race and gender groups and is leading to significant increases in the early onset of traditionally adult diseases such as hypertension, diabetes, and heart disease in young children. Leading medical researchers believe that—in conjunction with expanded exercise and nutritional education—improving the quality of foods served in schools can have a significantly beneficial effect on reducing childhood obesity and its related health effects.

The Healthy Children Through Better Nutrition Act of 2003 offers a multifaceted school- and community-based approach to responding to this dangerous trend in childhood obesity. School- and community-based nutrition programs have been serving the nutritional needs of American children for over 50 years. Today, it is well recognized that schools and communities have an even greater task in responding to the needs of children and families who face daily challenges in securing a healthy and nutritious meal. The Healthy Children Through Better Nutrition Act of 2003 provides schools

and communities with the tools and resources they need to promote a healthy and nutritious environment for children in need.

SCHOOL-BASED INITIATIVES

Federal school nutrition programs serve about 28 million children daily through school breakfast, school lunch and after-school snack programs. It is not unusual for a child to receive two-thirds of her daily diet while at school.

Meals served under these federal school nutrition programs must meet American Dietary Guidelines, and we congratulate the school food service program that continues to make real progress toward meeting these goals. However, the school cafeteria also plays host to foods that lack any significant nutritional value. These foods, sold side by side with the national school meals menu, are not subject to any dietary guidelines and can have a negative impact on healthy eating and student participation in the school meals program.

The Miller/Woolsey proposal will direct the Institutes of Medicine to recommend nutritional standards for foods sold side-by-side with foods that are offered as part of the federal school meals in the cafeteria. These standards would take into consideration the different dietary requirements of students in elementary, middle and high schools.

These recommendations would be submitted to the Secretary of Agriculture for implementation.

School food directors are in the best position and are most qualified to make decisions about the nutritional quality of foods made available to students. Unfortunately, in many schools, school food directors have little authority to implement policies that encourage a healthy school nutrition environment. The school food director often faces competing interests from school administrators to increase revenues through the sale of foods outside of the federal school meals program, such as soda, high fat and high sodium snacks. These "competitive foods" do not meet the nutritional standards we want for our children. The growing revenue constraints faced by many school districts have increased the proportion of unhealthy competitive foods in the cafeteria and has negatively impacted the school nutrition environment.

The Miller/Woolsey proposal will require schools to establish a nutrition policy and give operation authority to the school food directors. This approach coordinated with new standards for "competitive foods" will strengthen and protect the integrity and nutritional quality of the school meals program.

While school food service authorities have made progress improving the quality of school meals, consumer confidence remains low. Currently menus are reviewed for nutritional quality once every five years, and few schools publish the nutrient quality of their menus.

The Miller/Woolsey proposal will increase the number of nutritional reviews of school menus and require that this information be disclosed to the public. Technical assistance will be offered to schools that need additional assistance in improving the quality of meals.

The Farm Bill established a limited pilot in 4 states to provide for the introduction of more fresh fruits and vegetables into the school meals program. The increased availability of fresh fruits and vegetables produced a dramatic difference in the dietary intake of students in those schools.

The Miller/Woolsey proposal will expand the number of states and schools participating in this successful program, targeting schools in high poverty areas.

Nutrition Education provides students with meaningful information on the importance of good dietary habits as well as professional development for nutritional professionals and teachers. The lack of guaranteed funding for nutrition education has limited states in their ability to provide assistance to LEAs.

The Miller/Woolsey proposal will authorize mandatory funding for a nutrition education program that will fund a Team Nutrition Network State Coordinator in each state and promote a coordinated approach for nutrition education.

The Healthy Children through Better Nutrition Act of 2003 also: Streamlines eligibility requirements for school meals for children who are currently eligible for Food Stamps, TANF and Medicaid; makes homeless children automatically eligible for school nutrition programs; provides startup and expansion grants for school breakfast; provides schools with commodities for the school breakfast program; establishes a demonstration project to evaluate the impact of universal breakfast in high schools; and provides grants to schools for improving the use of technology in the school meals program.

COMMUNITY-BASED INITIATIVES

The community outside of the schoolhouse is playing an enhanced role in meeting the nutritional needs of children. The Healthy Children Through Better Nutrition Act of 2003 introduces a new program to eliminate paperwork and streamline participation requirements for community-based providers of nutrition programs.

The Year Round Community Child Nutrition program fills a gap in current nutrition services for children in before and after care programs, homeless shelters, and after-school programs. Currently community-based programs, such as after school programs and homeless shelters, serve up to 2 meals and a snack to the children participating in their programs. Some of these programs run only during the summer, other programs run full year but must submit paperwork for two separate programs in order to serve children year round. Under this legislation, the Year Round Community Child Nutrition program will:

Allow community-based non-profit organizations to serve healthy and nutritious meals to children year round.

Offer up to three meals and two snacks to children who participate.

Make 21st Century Community Learning Centers automatically eligible to participate.

Give program providers greater flexibility in when and where meals are served.

The Healthy Children Through Better Nutrition Act of 2003 also:

Allows more states to serve an additional meal to children in full day childcare programs.

Allows homeless children up to 18 years of age to receive meals Through the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) program.

Provides startup and expansion grants for the summer food program.

Streamlines paperwork for summer food providers.

Eliminates unnecessary paperwork for CACFP providers.

Establishes a demonstration project for streamlining the monitoring of CACFP providers.

WIC

The WIC program continues to be successful in improving the nutritional status of over 7 million low-income women, infants, and children. The Healthy Children Through Better Nutrition Act of 2003 enables WIC to be more flexible in meeting the needs of women and children at risk, while promoting a highly nutritious food package.

This legislation: Emphasizes greater consumption of fruits and vegetables in the WIC program; Allows infants and children to be certified for the WIC program for up to 1 year and allows offices to waive the "physical presence" requirement for infants and children under specific circumstances; and requires a decennial review of the WIC food package.

Mr. Speaker, as the Committee moves forward with the reauthorization of child and school nutrition programs, I encourage my colleagues to review the set of proposals in the Healthy Children Through Better Nutrition Act of 2003. This legislation which has been endorsed by the American School Food Service Association, the Food Research Action Center, America's 2nd Harvest and California Food Policy Advocates, offers a comprehensive means for improving access to child nutrition programs and addressing the troubling rise in childhood obesity rates. The Healthy Children Through Better Nutrition Act of 2003 reflects a commitment to the future by investing in our children's nutrition and overall health. They deserve no less.

RIPKEN POST OFFICE BUILDING

HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 30, 2003

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation to designate the postal facility in Aberdeen, Maryland as the Ripken Post Office Building in honor of the Ripken family and their contributions to this great city in the Maryland 2nd Congressional District.

It is difficult to think of baseball and not think of the Ripken name. The accomplishments of Cal Ripken, Jr. are literally the stuff legends are made of. He appears throughout the record books after 21 seasons with the Baltimore Orioles—as one of only seven players in baseball history to have 400 home runs and 3,000 hits. Of course, few in my home state of Maryland or this nation will ever forget his Iron Man record or the number 2131—signifying when Cal Ripken, Jr. broke Lou Gehrig's record for consecutive games played. Cal ended his own streak in 1998 after playing 2,632 games consecutively.

Bill Ripken had a 12 year major league baseball career as a second baseman with incredible successes including a .927 fielding percentage in 1992—the best of any major league second baseman that season. In the spring of 2002, Bill Ripken was honored for his career accomplishments with an induction into the Maryland Sports Hall of Fame.

Those achievements alone are certainly deserving of admiration and acclamation, but there is so much more to the Ripken family philosophy and that is why this designation is for the Ripken family as a whole. Starting with Cal Ripken, Sr. and his wife Vi, the work ethic

both Cal Jr. and his brother Bill exhibited throughout their professional careers can be attributed to this Ripken philosophy of hard work, dedication, sincerity of effort, and commitment.

Even more, the Ripken Way embodies the memory of Cal Ripken, Sr. and his pure belief in the joy and craft of baseball. For 37 years, Cal Ripken, Sr. played, coached and managed in the Baltimore Orioles organization. He was responsible for developing a method of teaching that shaped the Orioles' minor league system and became known as "The Ripken Way." That way has become the centerpiece of the Cal Ripken Sr. Foundation and its state-of-the-art baseball academy.

This is a family with a history of giving back to the community—both the communities of Baltimore and Aberdeen. Through the Baltimore Reads/Ripken Learning Center to the creation of the Cal Ripken Baseball and the Cal Ripken, Sr. Foundation, the Ripkens continue to give of themselves in very tangible ways. The Aberdeen Complex has brought minor league baseball, jobs and prestige to the Aberdeen community. Both Cal and Bill Ripken are actively involved in youth camps, coaches clinics, tournaments and, of course, The Cal Ripken World Series.

In a world when sport and commercialism is so often intertwined, the Ripken family—the individuals and the family as a whole—serve as incredible role models for what baseball means to this nation and what it was meant to be. These are real sports heroes and truly admirable people. Mr. Speaker I am honored to introduce this legislation on behalf of this incredible family from my home state and I urge my colleagues to vote for this bill.

COMMEMORATION FOR WALTER EDWARD WASHINGTON

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 30, 2003

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I arise today to inform the House of the passing of the first Mayor of the District of Columbia in the 20th century. Some members will remember Walter Washington's service or will know him by reputation because no mayor here or, I dare say, elsewhere has enjoyed more respect from this body. Mayor Washington enjoyed the same bipartisan admiration from the two presidents during his tenure, Lyndon Johnson, who appointed Mr. Washington the District's first mayor in 1968 and Richard Nixon who signed the Home Rule Act in 1973 giving the District its current home rule status, complete with an elected mayor and city council.

The conventional wisdom is that home rule for the District depended upon Mayor Washington's performance as appointed mayor. Few would disagree. If home rule was past due then, more than 150 years after the city's founding, surely full self-government, democracy and congressional voting representation are shamefully tardy in coming to the city's approximately 600,000 residents today. Mayor Washington, who did more than any person to bring self-government to the District, deserved to see its full realization before his death. Home rule happened because people made it happen, with Walter Washington as the lead-

er. Freedom and democracy for an entire city is a lot to have on one man's shoulders, but Walter Washington carried the burden easily. His gifts were spectacularly broad—deep integrity and ability that won him enormous professional respect as well as personal and political skills that evoked affection from the people. That combination amounts to the sum total of what it takes to lead. Few leaders have it all. Walter Washington did.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that in addition to my own statement at the time of Mayor Washington's death, I be allowed to place in the RECORD a Washington Post editorial and a personal tribute from Post editorial writer, Colbert King, who was a close friend of Walter Washington and who served on the Senate staff when Mr. Washington was mayor.

I ask the entire House to join me in paying tribute to a man of historic stature in the District of Columbia and in offering the profound respect and condolences of the House of Representatives to Mayor Washington's wife Mary and his family.

NORTON SAYS PASSING OF WALTER WASHINGTON MARKS END OF HOME RULE ERA

Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton (D-DC) today released the following statement on the passing of Mayor Walter E. Washington.

"The era of home rule ended today with the passing of Walter Washington. Mayor Washington simultaneously shaped the office of mayor and the practice of home rule governance for a city that had lived without democracy for a hundred years. The District has a strong mayor form of government in no small part because his service as appointed mayor demonstrated that a mayor could lead this city as mayors of other big cities did. His service is significant for far more than the office he held, however; President Lyndon Johnson appointed Walter Washington our first mayor because he wanted a man of great character and ability to pave the way for an elected mayor. The people of the District returned the compliment by electing Walter Washington our first elected mayor. Residents realized he had the "right stuff" to be mayor—not only outstanding ability and integrity but also the indispensable political skills and common touch that make people want to follow the lead of an elected official. That combination of gifts proved mighty useful during the 1968 riots. The mayor was legendary for his way with the President and the Congress, but Walter Washington was appreciated in this town not only because he could talk to power but because he talked equally well to the powerless.

"People who missed his years as mayor often got some sense of his political gifts on the public occasions when his extraordinary wit was in full form as it remained throughout Walter's life.

"With the passing of Mayor Washington, the home rule era he shaped also passes. Perhaps, almost 30 years after Walter Washington was first elected, Congress will now understand that a new era of full democracy, independence and voting rights is overdue.

"Mrs. Mary Cornelia Washington, Walter's daughter, Bennetta Jules-Rosette and his family have my condolences and the sympathy of the city who loved him."

[From the Washington Post, Oct. 28, 2003]

WALTER E. WASHINGTON

"What I would like to be remembered for is that Walter Washington changed the spirit of the people of this city, that he came in as mayor when there was hate and greed and misunderstanding among our people and the