

person who visits once in a lifetime. The oceans provide food, jobs, vacation spots, scientific knowledge, and opportunities for reflection. Despite our inability to measure the many non-market values associated with our oceans and coasts, we are able to quantify some of the benefits they provide. For example, over a trillion dollars is added to our economy each year by ocean and coastal economies. I trust that we can all agree that this is a huge contribution; a contribution that must be protected so the returns keep coming.

Protection of our oceans will require a change of course. Unfortunately, all too often we take our oceans for granted: We underestimate their value and we ignore the negative consequences human-related activities can have on them. Our oceans represent the largest public trust resource in the U.S. and cover an area nearly one and a half times the size of the continental United States. Americans expect the Government to safeguard this vast resource and I hope that the Report just released will be the impetus for us to actually begin to do so.

Simply put, our current ocean and coastal management system, created over thirty years ago, is archaic and incompatible with new knowledge about how the oceans and coastal waters function as a whole. Our policies are fragmented, both institutionally and geographically. For example, Mr. Speaker, today we find ourselves with over ten federal departments involved in the implementation of more than 130 ocean-related statutes. It is time to reconsider this incoherent and often times incompatible management situation and bring order to our ocean governance structure. The U.S. Commission's Report offers some guidance on how to do just this.

One of the biggest advances in our understanding of oceans to occur since our last national review of ocean policy is that the natural world functions as ecosystems, with each species intricately connected to the other parts that make up the whole. The U.S. Commission's Report, as well as the independent Pew Oceans Commission Report released last June, clearly states that we must adopt a new policy framework that is based on the concept of "the whole," an ecosystem-based approach rather than one based on political boundaries. This approach will not be as easy or straight forward as our previous approaches, but we must dedicate ourselves to making it a reality. With a comprehensive national ocean policy explicitly written to maintain healthy ocean ecosystems, our oceans will be a bountiful resource in which we can all take pride.

The Report released this morning also stresses the importance of instilling a new ecosystem-based stewardship ethic. Involved in instilling this ethic is increasing ocean-related education for all Americans at all levels, from first-graders learning how to read to graduate students investigating challenging scientific processes. The U.S. Commission details suggestions on how we can instill a new stewardship ethic by emphasizing and investing in greater marine science education. I look forward to learning more about their recommendations.

The Report released today is, technically, a Preliminary Report. It is being sent to the Governors for their comments. This comment period lasts until May 21, 2004. I sincerely hope that all states will take this opportunity to acknowledge that the oceans provide value for

every American, whether intrinsic worth or direct economic benefit, and provide the Commission with input before the comment period ends. Despite historic and geographic patterns suggesting otherwise, every state has a role to play in the management of our oceans.

It is up to each of us to not let this unprecedented opportunity pass us by. With the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy and The Pew Oceans Commission Reports in the last year, the Bush Administration has a prime opportunity to take the steps necessary to instill a new ocean ethic in our government. Action by this Administration could very well save our largest public trust. The time for leadership is now. I am dedicated to providing it in Congress, with the help of my fellow Oceans Caucus co-chairs, and I hope the President will provide it in the White House.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to close with a quote from the Report that encapsulates my thoughts on this historic day:

"The responsibility of our generation is to reclaim and renew the oceans for ourselves, for our children, and—if we do the job right—for those whose footprints will mark the sands of beaches from Maine to Hawaii long after ours have washed away."

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to dedicate themselves to shaping a better future for our oceans.

CONGRATULATING CAROL L.
RUPPRECHT ON WINNING THE
2004 VOICE OF DEMOCRACY
BROADCAST SCRIPTWRITING
CONTEST

HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 20, 2004

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, it is my great honor to stand before you today to recognize the achievements of a fine Westfield High School student, Carol Rupprecht, of Carmel, Indiana. Ms. Rupprecht—sponsored by VFW Post 10207 in Westfield, IN—has been named a winner in the 2004 National Voice of Democracy Program and recipient of the Department of Connecticut and Auxiliary Scholarship.

Each year the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States and its Ladies Auxiliary conduct a Voice of Democracy audio and essay competition designed to give high school students the opportunity to voice their opinion on their responsibility to our country. This year, more than 80,000 secondary school students participated in this contest competing for 59 national scholarships. The contest theme for this year was "My Commitment to America's Future."

I am respectfully requesting that Ms. Rupprecht's winning essay, entitled "My Commitment to America's Future," be submitted to the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD for my colleagues' review.

We're always talking about the future. Our guidance counselors try to prepare us for it; stockbrokers try to predict it; scientists discuss their hopes and ideas for it.

But it inevitably ends up that we cannot know and pencil in every detail of what will happen in days to come. But we can influence the future through what we do in the present

and what we commit to do in the future. A commitment is not just a promise in a valiant speech or a fleeting charitable intention. A commitment is a set of actions that follow up on one's intentions.

When September 11th recharged our devotion to America, we began to exhibit this renewed commitment by reciting the Pledge of Allegiance more frequently at school. We have recited it from memory since we were in elementary school, but this renewal of tradition got me thinking. What exactly am I promising? Am I only pledging to be loyal to this country, or does it entail more than that? To me, it does.

In order to outline all that my pledge of allegiance involves, I have created the acronym PLEDGE: Protect, Lead, Education, Dedicate, Give, and Elect. This will ensure that I never forget what I owe America.

The first letter of PLEDGE is "P." I will protect the ideals of America—the values that make our country stand out from the rest. The determination to protect these ideals was epitomized in the hearts of the veterans such as those who will forever be remembered at the Korean Memorial in Washington D.C. As I passed the silent statues of these men forever frozen in their quest for freedom, I knew that they had made the ultimate commitment to the preservation of America and its values. They were assigned a duty and didn't back down. The valor and selflessness that these soldiers demonstrated are qualities I should strive to imitate.

The second letter of PLEDGE is "L." I will lead my fellow Americans, especially the youth of America, and I will encourage them to follow the examples of our forefathers, our war veterans, and of past and present patriots. I, too, will endeavor to set an example worth following.

The next letter in PLEDGE is "E." I will educate myself on our nation's history and the sacrifices of veterans who enabled us to have a history. I will then be able to share what I learn with others.

The fourth letter, "D," stands for "dedicate." I will dedicate my time, energy, and talents to making the most of the opportunities America has given to me. I will study hard; I will work hard. I won't let my dreams become wilted flowers that could have thrived. Instead, I'll sow discipline, determination, and faith and cultivate my field of dreams.

The letter "G" in PLEDGE stands for "give." I will give my services to the community and my prayers for the people of America, especially its leaders. As author Carolyn Simpson said in her book *The Value of Patriotism*, "Patriotism boils down essentially to one thing: giving something back to your community." I, too, believe that one of the best ways to show a love for one's country is to show love for its people.

The final letter in PLEDGE, "E," stands for "elect." When I reach the voting age, I will ensure that my voice is heard by electing government officials. My vote will have an effect on America's future, in the same way that my actions today will affect America's future.

We, the youth of America, are its future. The veterans who went before us fought and sacrificed to secure our freedom, and we are now reaping the benefits of what they sowed. Let's do the same not only for our own generation but also for those that follow. Let's make a PLEDGE to Protect, Lead, Educate, Dedicate, Give, and Elect.

God has richly blessed America, and America has given much to each of us. So what will I give back? What is my commitment to America's future? I will wake up each morning with a renewed determination to serve my God and my country. I will appreciate those who were and are committed to America, and I will endeavor to be counted among them.

HONORING LEINKAUF ELEMENTARY SCHOOL OF MOBILE, ALABAMA, ON THE OCCASION OF ITS 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 20, 2004

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the staff, students, and friends of Leinkauf Elementary School of Mobile, Alabama, as they celebrate 100 years of providing quality education to the students of that area.

The school was named for William H. Leinkauf, a member of the Mobile County Board of School Commissioners from 1871 to 1894. When it opened its doors in November 1903, the school had an enrollment of just 51 students. In the century that has passed since that time, the school has witnessed a tremendous growth in its student body that has increased to a present level of more than 600 boys and girls. At present, it is believed Leinkauf Elementary is the oldest continually operated public elementary school in Mobile County, and, perhaps, in the entire state of Alabama.

Leinkauf Elementary has a long and proud tradition of providing one of the finest educational settings anywhere in the country. The teachers and administrators have, from the school's opening, demonstrated a clear understanding of the needs of the students and have met these needs with compassion, care, and a personal interest in every boy and girl. The admirable traits displayed on a daily basis by the school staff resulted in producing countless successful students, a list which includes such distinguished individuals as Winston Groom, the award-winning author of *Forrest Gump*, and former Alabama Governor Don Siegelman.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Leinkauf Elementary School on its 100th anniversary. In a time when Americans are placing more emphasis and more effort into providing quality educational opportunities for their children, Leinkauf continues to set the standard for success in this area. I congratulate the faculty, staff, and students currently at the school, and I also congratulate the generations of students who have used their education and their experiences there as a springboard to success later in life.

It is my hope Leinkauf Elementary School continues its story of success for another one hundred years.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO LOLA SPRADLEY

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 20, 2004

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege to rise today to pay tribute to Lola Spradley and thank her for her leadership and contributions to Colorado as the Speaker of the Colorado House of Representatives. She has brought an outstanding level of energy and commitment to the Colorado General Assembly throughout her years of public service. As Lola celebrates her retirement, let it be known that the citizens of Colorado and I are eternally grateful for the guidance she has provided in making Colorado a leader of American democracy.

Lola was appointed to the House of Representatives to fill a term in 1997, and was subsequently elected in 1998, 2000, and 2002. Serving Chaffee, Custer, Fremont, Park, Pueblo and Saguache counties, Lola has fought for the issues that are important to her constituency, including renewable energy, affordable health care, and water conservation. Before serving as Speaker of the House, Lola was the House Majority Leader, and currently chairs the Executive Committee of Legislative Council and the Legislative Council Committee. Her outstanding record of public service has garnered Lola numerous legislator of the year awards, the Fremont Economic Development Corporation Citizen of the Year award in 2000, and the NFIB's Small Business Guardian of the Year award in 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, and 2002.

Lola's commitment to community participation exemplifies her belief that it is the duty of every citizen to do what they can to make their community stronger. She is an active member of the Canon City Lions Club, the Pueblo Community College Foundation Board of Directors, the Sangre De Cristo Arts Center Board of Directors, and the Colorado State Fair Ladies.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to pay tribute to State Representative Lola Spradley before this body of Congress and this nation for her selfless dedication to public service. It is clear that she has been an invaluable resource for the State of Colorado, and her efforts have helped ensure a promising future for our great country. I would like to extend my congratulations to Lola on her retirement and wish her and her husband Dale all the best in their future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING JOAN KELSCH

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 20, 2004

Mr. GERLACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Joan Kelsch for being honored by the Boyertown Area Times and the Boyertown Jaycees as the Educator of the Year for 29 years of dedicated service as a teacher at the Saint Francis Academy in Bally, Pennsylvania.

Joan Kelsch, a graduate of West Chester University in Pennsylvania, has been teaching at Saint Francis Academy for 29 years. She

began her career teaching fourth graders and has consistently demonstrated her dedication to education. While on maternity leave after the birth of each of her two children, she continued her teaching efforts as a substitute.

In 1982, recognizing her dedication and passion, Joan was asked by Father Joseph Fricker to create a kindergarten program for St. Francis Academy. Joan eagerly took on this task and created the first kindergarten class for the school consisting of thirty students.

Joan has been credited with creating an exciting and enriching learning environment for her students, while also enhancing the curriculum of several programs throughout the school. Her students have art work decorating the rooms and, not only does this artwork display the abilities of the children, but it also highlights the talent that Joan possesses as a teacher. Joan has created several learning devices for children, such as literature tea parties, where the students learn etiquette while also challenging their reading skills and vocabulary with students from the fifth grade. In this challenge, the students are also encouraged to use their imagination by creating new words and new definitions.

As a teacher in a Roman Catholic school, Joan also has the responsibility for aiding the spiritual guidance of her students. She prepares the students for the sacraments of Reconciliation and the Holy Communion. In addition, Joan is also a religion coordinator for St. Francis Academy. She attends yearly meetings to help update textbooks and curriculum for Catholic school students.

Outside of the classroom, Joan acts a Staff Liaison to the Home and School Association where she attends monthly meetings. Joan also spends her time volunteering in her community. Each summer, Joan and her husband, William, volunteer at the annual church carnival and, every fall, Joan works at the Santa Secret Shop at the annual bazaar for the school.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me today in recognizing Joan Kelsch for her many years of exemplary service to St. Francis Academy's community.

IN HONOR OF TED FEHRING

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 20, 2004

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Ted Fehring, who turned 90 on April 8th. Born to buggy manufacturers in Columbus, Indiana, Ted has lived a full and truly exceptional life. A man of the highest moral integrity, Ted has proven to be a devoted family man, dedicated member of the community, faithful Christian and successful businessman.

Ted married Marie Theresa Grote on June 29, 1938, and the rest is history—with five daughters, Janet, Jean, Joy, Julie and JoAnn, thirteen grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren, Ted has led a rich family life.

As for his professional career, Ted has embarked successfully upon several different career paths: he was a teacher, a coach, an escrow officer, Vice-President of a Savings and Loan, and President of a Mortgage and Investment company. Ted has been a Carmel resident since June of 1945 and his active participation in our community has been invaluable.