

keep the promise of a true representational democracy as envisioned by our forefathers. This legislation furthers that goal. That is why I look forward to working with my colleagues and moving this legislation forward.

TRIBUTE TO MAJOR GENERAL
KATHRYN G. FROST

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 28, 2005

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, it has come to my attention that Major General Kathryn G. Frost is retiring after a long and exceptionally distinguished career.

General Frost's outstanding service to the nation has been marked by meritorious service in increasingly demanding command positions, culminating as the Commanding General of the United States Army and Air Force Exchange.

General Frost is a 1970 Phi Beta Kappa graduate of the University of South Carolina where she received a degree in Administrative Education. She also received a Master's degree in Counseling from Wayne State University.

Her distinguished career has spanned three decades, and her duties have included tours as Chief, Military Personnel Office/Deputy Adjutant General, Berlin Brigade/United States Army, Berlin, Germany; Commander, Eastern Sector, United States Military Entrance Processing Command, Great Lakes, Illinois; Adjutant General/Commanding General, Physical Disability Agency/Executive Director of Military Postal Service Agency, Alexandria, Virginia; and Deputy Legislative Assistant to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Washington, DC.

General Frost's awards and decorations include the Distinguished Service Medal with Oak Leaf Clusters, Defense Superior Service Medal, Legion of Merit, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal with 6 Oak Leaf Clusters, Army Commendation Medal, and Joint Chiefs of Staff Identification Badge. She also was named one of USC's Distinguished Alumni in 2002.

Mr. Speaker, I know the Members of the House will join me in paying tribute to Major General Kathryn G. Frost, for her outstanding commitment to the United States Army and the United States of America.

CHILD INTERSTATE ABORTION
NOTIFICATION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. LYNN A. WESTMORELAND

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 27, 2005

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Mr. Chairman, I rise today to offer my support for an important piece of legislation on which I was unable to vote due to the birth of my granddaughter.

During my absence, the House considered the Child Interstate Abortion Notification Act (H.R. 748) which I co-sponsored, and strongly support. There is no question that we must protect young women from being coerced into

obtaining abortions. As the testimony and advertisements made available through the committee process have clearly demonstrated, many clinics deliberately target minors in order to avoid parental notification and consent laws in their home states.

In order to protect the enforcement power of each state's laws and these young women, I am thrilled the House is moving forward with this legislation and look forward to its passage. Isolating minors from their parents at a time when they need them most is the wrong thing to do, and this legislation prevents these out of state clinics from doing just that. I am grateful my colleagues supported this important bill and opposed all amendments. If I had been present, I would have voted against all amendments and in favor of final passage (Roll Call Vote #144).

I know this is an important vote, and I was unable to be present for the vote because I have welcomed a new life into the world.

My son and daughter-in-law have been through a very challenging pregnancy, with serious concern that they would lose Kate during the early months. We couldn't imagine how terrible that would be, and are so grateful that God has provided for the safe delivery of little Kate Summerlin Westmoreland. She was born Tuesday, April 26 at Northside Hospital in Atlanta, Georgia and weighs in at six pounds, four ounces, with a full head of hair!

I am so blessed to have the family I do, and to enjoy the time together with them was worth everything in the world, especially after how many challenges accompanied the initial stages of Kate's life.

I don't know what God has in store for this little one, but am excited about what lies ahead of her. I am returning to Washington as soon as practicable after her birth, and look forward to getting back home to spend time with Kate, her big brother Acton, and her proud parents, Trae and Kristy.

In today's world, so many people rush by without realizing the treasure they have in their families. Events like the birth of grandchildren help bring those special ones into focus, and remind you of the rich blessings God has given.

Mr. Chairman, it has been an exhausting, but thrilling past few days, and I am honored to announce to the House the birth of Kate Summerlin Westmoreland.

INTRODUCTION OF FOCUS ON COMMITTED AND UNDERPAID STAFF FOR CHILDREN'S SAKE ACT

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 28, 2005

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join my colleagues Mr. PLATTS, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. HINOJOSA, Mr. ANDREWS, Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island, Mr. STARK, Ms. TUBBS JONES, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. OWENS, Mrs. CAROLYN MCCARTHY, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. PALLONE, Ms. WOOLSEY, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Mr. BROWN, Mr. WEINER, Mr. KUCINICH, Mr. KILDEE, and Mr. DANNY DAVIS in introducing the FOCUS Act. This bill would increase the overall quality of child care by elevating the skills and pay of early childhood education providers. This is a

proven successful model, first developed in North Carolina, and critical to helping all children reach kindergarten ready to succeed.

Between 1970 and 2001, the percentage of mothers in the workforce rose from 38 to 67 percent. The change for mothers of young children has been even more dramatic. According to the New America Foundation, the labor force participation of women with children under age 6 has more than doubled—from 24 percent in 1960 to 65 percent in 2000. Over 9 million children between the ages of birth and 5 are in child care in this country. With so many of our children in early care and education settings, it is more important than ever that child care can support the developmental needs of children.

High quality child care plays an important role in healthy child development and school readiness. Research on brain development demonstrates that the experiences children have early in life have a decisive, long-lasting impact on their development and learning. Unfortunately, child care program evaluations indicate that the quality of most care ranges from mediocre to poor. This country must make changes in its child care system.

Just as it is the parents who matter at home, it is the teachers who matter in child care—a stable, educated and qualified teaching staff is one of the most critical components of quality child care. Staff training and experience are the most important components of child care quality. Research shows that children learning from more highly educated teachers perform better on tests of verbal and math achievement.

Studies repeatedly show that one of the leading causes of poor quality child care is low pay and high turnover among child care staff, who on average make just over \$17,000 annually. FOCUS improves the quality of child care by boosting training, reducing turnover, and attracting qualified staff by providing stipends of \$1,000 to \$3,000 to qualified child care providers based on their level of education. FOCUS also would grant funds for scholarships in early childhood development and education so providers can continue to improve their knowledge and skills. FOCUS also provides grants to States to provide better access to health coverage for child care workers since lack of health benefits also impedes retention of qualified early education teachers.

We cannot expect children to transition to kindergarten and succeed in school if we do not take the necessary steps to provide quality care in the years prior to school entry. The average quality of child care is far poorer than what it should be in a country as wealthy and committed to our children's future as is ours. It is time we work to make quality child care for all children a national priority. Mr. Speaker, I urge Members of the House to join me and co-sponsor the Focus Act.

IN RECOGNITION OF CLIFFORD J. MERRILL FOR HIS 21 YEARS OF SERVICE TO SOLANO COUNTY

HON. ELLEN O. TAUSCHER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 28, 2005

Mrs. TAUSCHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Clifford Merrill for his 21 years

of service to the people of Solano County. Mr. Merrill began his employment with Solano County on February 22, 1984, as an entry level Deputy Probation Officer in the Probation Department, and has since held positions ranging from Probation Services Manager to Interim Chief of the Probation Department.

Mr. Merrill has provided valuable intensive services to many probationers. His effective management of the Repeat Offender Prevention Program Grant, the Targeted Truancy Grant, and the Fouts Springs Aftercare Grant are just a few examples of his responsible stewardship of public services.

Furthermore, Mr. Merrill demonstrated exemplary leadership, both as Chief Deputy Probation Officer and as Interim Chief of the Probation Department. Mr. Merrill developed and implemented a comprehensive Administrative Policy Manual for the Solano County Probation Department, and was instrumental in coordinating the development of the departments "Task and Standards" Manual for Adult and Juvenile divisions.

Clearly, Clifford has been an exceptional and loyal employee of the Solano County Probation Department and has distinguished himself by providing outstanding, professional service and leadership to Solano County.

Again, I am proud to honor Clifford J. Merrill for his twenty-one years of dedicated service to the citizens of Solano County. I thank Clifford for his career contributions to the Solano County Probation Department, and I wish him a well-deserved retirement in the community he has done so much to improve.

HONORING NANCY CROSS OF FOREST HILLS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL UPON HER RETIREMENT

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 28, 2005

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Ms. Nancy Cross in recognition for her commitment and dedication to the youth of School District 101 in Illinois. For over 30 years, Ms. Cross has devoted her time to students and families of the Third Congressional District. Now, as she prepares for retirement, we would like to thank her for her countless years of fine service.

For the last thirty-six years, Ms. Cross has spent her life educating the residents of Illinois School District 101, first at the John Laidlaw Elementary School, and for the past twenty-four years at Forest Hills Elementary School, both located in Western Springs. At Forest Hills, Ms. Cross not only serves in a teaching capacity for the fifth grade, but also as the Head Teacher, who is second in command. In this position, she has been willing to help her principal in any capacity, especially by running the school in the principal's absence.

However, Ms. Cross's main contribution has been to her students, helping them learn how to enjoy reading. A bibliophile herself, Ms. Cross has shown through her own dedication to the written word and the imaginative world of books, that reading can be not only productive but enjoyable and engaging. She is often found reading to her students, and this exercise has left an indelible mark on many of them who still remember those class times spent listening to Ms. Cross.

Because of Ms. Cross's undeniable love for books and her ability to shape the minds of her young students, she has been an outstanding teacher for over thirty years, expanding and encouraging all of her students to reach as far as they can. It is a certainty that our entire community will feel a loss left by the retirement of Ms. Cross.

The parents and children of School District 101 are fortunate to have had such an energetic and devoted teacher like Ms. Cross. Through her dedication and love of educating the young minds of this country, Ms. Cross has made a difference and should be recognized for her outstanding and selfless contributions to our nation's youth and their families, especially the students and families of Western Springs.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Ms. Nancy Cross as an outstanding educator who has had a distinguished career. She has done nothing less than an extraordinary job preparing America's future generations. We thank and congratulate her for an extraordinary career, and we wish her well in retirement.

HONORING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF NICHOLAS SCOTT

HON. STEVE ISRAEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 28, 2005

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the accomplishments of a man that embodies many core principles of our country: hard work, opportunity, selfless service, integrity and dedication. Nicholas Scott, now a middle school math teacher in the Brentwood School District, serves as a role model for the students in his classroom and the community as a whole.

Nicholas Scott was born to immigrant parents, his father having fled Cuba prior to the beginning of the Fidel Castro regime. At the age of eight his parents divorced and Nick moved with his mother to Deer Park, New York. Although the family had limited resources, Nick's mother instilled in him the values of hard work and perseverance, and she insisted that he attend college to seek the opportunities available in America.

Nick graduated high school in 1987 and lacking the resources to attend private college, he enrolled at Suffolk County Community College. For two years, Nick pursued his studies while still working four days a week. His persistence paid off, as he earned his Associate Degree in the Applied Sciences and was rewarded with an academic scholarship to Hofstra University, where he earned a Bachelor's Degree in Political Science. Nick's thirst for knowledge and devotion to self-improvement led him to Villanova University Law School, where he earned a Juris Doctorate degree. Nick was then admitted to the New York State Bar Association, becoming not only his family's first college graduate, but also its first lawyer.

Throughout his education, Nick sought out opportunities to give back to the community. While studying for the bar exam, Nick enlisted in the U.S. Army. Although he was eligible to enter as an officer, Nick chose to start at the bottom and work his way up, an experience

with which he was familiar. Nick quickly earned his Sergeant's stripes and soon after won a commission as an officer.

Nick left the active army to return to New York where he began legal practice. Once more, Nick chose others over himself. Rather than enter private practice, Nick went to serve the most vulnerable members of society as a lawyer for the Suffolk County Legal Aid Society.

After several years in practice, Nick decided that he wanted to further serve his community by teaching. He earned his teaching certificate and returned to Brentwood to teach middle school math.

Nick's service to our country has not ended in the classroom. Having joined the U.S. Army Reserve as a member of the Judge Advocate General Corps, Nick volunteered for duty in Iraq. In December of 2002, he was deployed along with the 101st Airborne Division to Kuwait and subsequently into Iraq, where he adjudicated local disputes, providing compensation to Iraqis that suffered property and other losses due to the war. Nick's dedication to improving the lives of newly freed Iraqi civilians earned him a Bronze Star and the title of Captain.

The day before his deployment to Iraq, Nick married fellow Brentwood teacher Nadine P. Kroner, and they are now the proud parents of a six-month old son, Ethan Hunter.

Nick Scott is an inspiration to me, to each student in the Brentwood school system and to our entire community. He is a living testament to the greatness of America, a land where opportunity matched with hard work can trump any hardship. But Nick Scott is a true role model because he has channeled his opportunity and hard work into a lifetime of service to others. I commend Nick for his dedication to service, for his remarkable accomplishments, for his strong work ethic, and his contributions to his family, community and country.

CONGRATULATING JIM FOGLESONG

HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 28, 2005

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Jim Foglesong on his induction into the Country Music Hall of Fame.

Jim grew up singing with his family and then after serving in the U.S. Armed Forces used his G.I. Bill to attend Eastman School of Music.

Later Jim Foglesong not only developed talent but also mentored legendary music performers. He nurtured the careers of Country Music superstars Garth Brooks, Barbara Mandrell, Reba McEntire, The Oak Ridge Boys, George Strait, and Tanya Tucker, among others.

Now at age 82, Jim remains an important part of the Nashville music community.

His induction is the most prestigious honor in all of Country Music. I thank Jim for the tremendous contributions he has given to the business, the artists, and the fans of country music.