

Upward Bound and Talent Search had been slated for elimination in the Administration's Fiscal Year 2006 budget request. As the co-chairman of the Congressional TRIO Caucus and a member of the Appropriations Committee, I worked with my colleagues on that Committee to make sure that these programs were restored to Fiscal Year 2005 funding levels.

I have received countless emails, letters and faxes from constituents in my district and other districts around the country urging me to spare Upward Bound and Talent Search. It is easy to understand why so many were concerned about the potential end of these two valuable TRIO programs that help over 3,500 low income Idaho students prepare for college. Parental income is one of the top predictors of whether or not a child will succeed in college or even go to college in the first place. Upward Bound and Talent Search help students exceed societal expectations and predictions by providing tutoring in college preparatory classes and help in navigating through the sometimes daunting maze of required forms and tests known as the college admission process.

Like so many other members of this House who joined me in the effort to save TRIO, several of whom are TRIO graduates themselves, I fully understand the worth and importance of these programs, and I will do everything I can to ensure that these programs continue to receive funding for many years to come. While the cost of Upward Bound and Talent Search may seem an unnecessary expense to some, I would ask them to consider the long term savings in public assistance generated by graduates of TRIO who go on to earn college degrees and become productive, self sustaining citizens.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the over 900,000 students currently enrolled in TRIO programs nationwide, I would like to thank and commend all those involved in the TRIO programs for a job well done. You are truly changing lives and making the impossible a reality for many of our Nation's students.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. KEVIN BRADY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 23, 2005

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday, June 22, 2005, I missed rollcall vote 296 regarding a proposed amendment to the Constitution authorizing Congress to prohibit the physical desecration of the flag of the United States. I fully regret not being able to participate in the vote. As a cosponsor of this legislation, I would have voted "yea."

TRIBUTE TO THE JAVITS-WAGNER-O'DAY PROGRAM

HON. FRED UPTON

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 23, 2005

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a small Federal program that is

often overlooked as a way to provide employment opportunities for people with disabilities. The Javits-Wagner-O'Day Program, often referred to as JWOD, provides more than 40,000 Americans who are blind or who have other severe disabilities with the job skills and training necessary to receive good wages and benefits and gain greater independence and quality of life. The JWOD Program empowers people with disabilities who traditionally face an unemployment rate of 70 percent and rely heavily on social programs such as welfare and SSI.

National Industries for the Blind (NIB) and NISH daily are creating new employment opportunities for people with severe disabilities, along with local nonprofit organizations in the State of Michigan. Demonstrating an excellent Federal-private sector partnership, NISH, National Industries for the Blind, and local nonprofits such as Goodwill Industries of Southwestern Michigan, Inc. enhance opportunities for economic and personal independence of people who are blind or who have other severe disabilities, primarily through creating, sustaining, and improving employment.

On behalf of people with disabilities, I rise to salute the important contributions of JWOD and Goodwill Industries of Southwestern Michigan, Inc. to the city of Kalamazoo and the community as a whole; and hereby commend all persons who are committed to and work towards enhancing employment opportunities for people with visual and other severe disabilities.

TRIBUTE TO CYRIL WRABEC

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 23, 2005

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, let me take this means to recognize the fine accomplishments of a fellow Missourian and Sigma Chi brother, Mr. Cyril Wrabec.

Mr. Wrabec will be graduating in May 2005 from the University of North Dakota's School of Aerospace Sciences with a Bachelor of Science Degree, Summa Cum Laude, in Commercial Aviation. He has been an exemplary student and has been named to the President's Honor Roll five times. While at the University of North Dakota, he spearheaded the re-establishment of the UND Flying Club.

Mr. Wrabec is a brother of the Beta Zeta chapter of the Sigma Chi fraternity at the University of North Dakota. During his time as a brother, he has served two terms as president of the fraternity.

Community work has been an important part of Mr. Wrabec's life. In his home state of Missouri, he provided an aviation course for school children and has been an active volunteer at his church. Also, he is a Certified Homeland Security Volunteer Pilot.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Wrabec is a fine, young man, and I know my fellow Members of the House will wish him all the best in the years to come.

RECOGNIZING MR. CARL
"BRONKO" STANKOVIC

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 23, 2005

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I recognize Mr. Carl "Bronko" Stankovic, a proud World War II veteran, and the men of the Eighth Armored Division Association. Bronko is also a dear friend of mine.

Bronko has recently brought to my attention an inspirational poem written by A. Lawrence Vaincourt, a newspaper columnist and Canadian World War II veteran himself, in 1987. This poem speaks powerfully about the aging of our heroes. The emotions it represents rings true with Bronko and many other veterans that this poem has touched in its years of existence.

It is with great pride that I submit an excerpt of the poem, Just a Common Soldier, as a tribute to the memory of all our World War II veterans:

JUST A COMMON SOLDIER

(A SOLDIER DIED TODAY)

(By A. Lawrence Vaincourt)

He was getting old and paunchy and his hair
was falling fast,
And he sat around the Legion, telling stories
of the past.

Of a war that he had fought in and the deeds
that he had done,
In his exploits with his buddies; they were
heroes, every one.

And tho' sometimes, to his neighbors, his
tales became a joke,
All his Legion buddies listened, for they
knew whereof he spoke.

But we'll hear his tales no longer for old Bill
has passed away,
And the world's a little poorer, for a soldier
died today.

He was just a common soldier and his ranks
are growing thin,
But his presence should remind us we may
need his like again.

For when countries are in conflict, then we
find the soldier's part
Is to clean up all the troubles that others
often start.

If we cannot do him honor while he's here to
hear the praise,
Then at least let's give him homage at the
ending of his days.

Perhaps just a simple headline in a paper
that would say,
Our Country is in mourning, for a soldier
died today.

Mr. Speaker, I hope this poem inspires my
distinguished colleagues as it has inspired me.

The Greatest Generation has given so much
to younger generations that I am happy to
give something back by submitting this poem
to the House of Representatives. I would ask
my colleagues to join me in honoring World
War II veterans with a moment of silence.