

WEB SITE INCLUSION OF VA
SCHOLARSHIPS

SPEECH OF

HON. MAXINE WATERS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 23, 2009

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1172—to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to include on the Internet website of the Department of Veterans Affairs a list of organizations that provide scholarships to veterans and their survivors. This important measure would provide an invaluable resource for our veterans and their survivors. In an effort to increase information accessibility, this bill would create a convenient section within the Veterans Affairs Department website for veterans and/or their survivors to view all available veteran scholarship opportunities that various public and private organizations sponsor throughout the year. I commend Rep. JOHN BOOZMAN for bringing this measure before the floor.

My veteran constituents frequently contact me with reports on the many administrative failures and shortcomings of the Department of Veterans Affairs. Slow processes and backlogs have become the expectation rather than an exception in the level of service our veterans receive. This is unfortunate as we send these brave men and women to armed conflict, and yet, we cannot provide them with the necessary tools and resources to become re-oriented with society. This bill provides one solution to a relatively simple problem. I have no doubt, however, that many veterans and their families will appreciate this information, especially in light of the economic recession.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to add my voice of support for H.R. 1172. I look forward to working with my colleagues to ensure that we continue to provide the necessary resources towards improving our Department of Veterans Affairs' administration and services.

RECOGNIZING THE FIRST BAPTIST
CHURCH OF DANVILLE, VIRGINIA

HON. THOMAS S.P. PERRIELLO

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 26, 2009

Mr. PERRIELLO. Madam Speaker, today I recognize the First Baptist Church of Danville, Virginia, which celebrates its 175th anniversary on June 28, 2009. Since its founding in 1834, the First Baptist Church has been a source of fellowship, education, and service in its community and beyond.

Although the First Baptist Church has suffered from a terrible fire, moved its location several times, seen the town it serves grow from 1,000 to almost 50,000, and faced countless other changes throughout its long history, it remains true to its founding principles. Under the leadership of Reverend Stephen Cook, today the church is a community of strong relationships, where individuals bond over worship, meals, study, and music. Their affinity extends beyond just Sunday mornings to include weekly dinners, small group meetings, choirs and instrumental ensembles, programs for seniors and children, cultural outings, and

engagement in the larger community through service.

I commend the First Baptist Church and its leadership on this commitment to hands-on service, whether locally, elsewhere in our nation, or abroad. The church has stated, "When our worship together ends, our service truly begins," and it has undoubtedly abided by this principle. The numerous organizations that have benefitted from the dedication and generosity of the church's congregants include Hope Harbor, Hope Tree Family Services, God's Storehouse, Klotthes 4 Kids, the Danville Homeless Shelter, Habitat for Humanity, and Baptist World Aid. The efforts of the First Baptist Church to live out its mission in its works are an inspiring example: we should all strive to be so diligent in following the call to love and serve our fellow man.

The Book of Isaiah tells us, "And if you give yourself to the hungry, and satisfy the desire of the afflicted, then your light will rise in darkness, and your gloom will become like midday." I congratulate the First Baptist Church on its tireless efforts to meet both the physical and spiritual needs of the Danville community, and I hope that its light will continue to shine for many years to come.

ARMY RESERVE ASSOCIATION'S
ENLISTED SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

HON. TODD TIAHRT

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 26, 2009

Mr. TIAHRT. Madam Speaker, I am honored today to speak on a wonderful program that impacts the lives of many great heroes and their families. The Army Reserve Association's, ARA United States Army Reserve, USAR Enlisted Scholarship Program awards a \$500 scholarship to assist qualifying enlisted reservists or their dependents attend an institution of higher learning.

Started in 2000 as an initiative of Command Sergeant Major Ray Lackey, this program has awarded a total of \$225,500 in scholarships. Through the generosity of the United Services Automobile Association, USAA, the administrative efforts of the ARA, and the support of the USAR, these patriots have the opportunity to pursue their dreams. The opportunity to further their education not only benefits these heroes, but the Army Reserve and the country as a whole.

I applaud the Army Reserve Association and all those responsible for this effort on behalf of our Army Reserve soldiers and their families. Additionally, I request that the following two letters regarding this program be inserted into the record: a letter from the Army Reserve Association and a letter from Lieutenant General Jack C. Stultz, Chief of the Army Reserve.

THE ARMY RESERVE ASSOCIATION,
Fort McPherson, GA, March 3, 2009.
Subject ARA Enlisted Scholarship Program Standards Approval.

Lieutenant General JACK C. STULTZ,
Commanding General,
U.S. Army Reserve

DEAR LIEUTENANT GENERAL STULTZ: This letter requests you approve the standards of the ARA Enlisted Scholarship Program listed below. Request approval of the following standards:

- (1) a member of the USAR not under flag or pending disciplinary action;
- (2) qualified in the MOS of their position of assignment;
- (3) attending or entering an institution of higher learning (2 or 4 year college, vocational school, bible college, etc.) that is regionally or nationally accredited;
- (4) military dependents must be registered in DEERS.

The applicant's chain of command CSM or SGM will certify that the applicant meets qualification standards (1) through (4), as applicable.

The ARA Enlisted Scholarships are for enlisted members of the United States Army Reserve and their dependent family members. Each year the ARA offers scholarships to each major command to which USAR members are assigned as designated by the Command Sergeant Major of the USAR. The annual goal of awarding fifty scholarships is predicated on the number of major commands participating and the number of scholarship applicants from each major command, as well as the amount of funds donated by the program cosponsor, the United Services Automobile Association (USAA).

The Army Reserve Association will create an announcement for the annual scholarship program and will transmit that announcement to the USARC G-1 with a request that the USARC G-1 forward the announcement to each major command. The announcement will include the approved standards and an application form that each command's applicants can use to apply for the scholarships. The calendar year program's closing date for receipt of all applications is 31 December, unless a waiver is granted.

We request the USARC G-1 to forward the scholarship program announcement to USAR commands with instructions on submitting the applications to the USARC G-1 together with submission dates specified by the USARC G-1, so that applications can be forwarded to the ARA in time for evaluation and award of scholarships.

The ARA will appoint a selection board with a board president from its existing association membership to select nominations for award of the ARA Enlisted Scholarship Award. Board members will serve in their private-citizen capacity and not in any military role and the board recorder may be a member of the Army Reserve Association. The selection list will be compiled, signed by the ARA enlisted scholarship selection board president and forwarded to the ARA for issuance of individual scholarship awards. The ARA may choose to either present or mail the awards to the Soldier's command or directly to the individual.

We appreciate your continued support and assistance in implementing this program. Sincerely,

MG KENT HILLHOUSE (R),
President, Army Reserve Association.

COL GEORGE M. LIND, (R)
Director, ARA Field Support Services.

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY, OFFICE
OF THE CHIEF, ARMY RESERVE,
WASHINGTON, DC, APRIL 24, 2009.

Major General KENT HILLHOUSE, RETIRED,
Winfield, Kansas.

DEAR GENERAL HILLHOUSE: This is to acknowledge receipt of your letter of March 3, 2009, requesting approval of the eligibility standards for the Army Reserve Association (ARA) Enlisted Scholarship Program. I approve the following eligibility standards:

- a. an enlisted member of the U.S. Army Reserve not under flag or pending disciplinary action
- b. qualified in the MOS of their position of assignment

c. attending or entering an institution of higher learning (2 or 4 year college, vocational school, bible college, etc.) that is regionally or nationally accredited

d. Military dependents who are registered in DEERS

The ARA will submit any changes to the eligibility standards to this office for approval before implementation. It is understood that ARA is solely responsible for selection and notification of scholarship awardees.

The Army Reserve G-1 will make information available to the Army Reserve Major Subordinate Commands regarding the scholarships and forward all applications to ARA for processing as outlined in your letter.

If you have questions or concerns, please contact Sergeant Major Gary Martz of the Army Reserve G-1, at (404) 464-9011.

Sincerely,

JACK C. STULTZ,
Lieutenant General,
U.S. Army Chief, Army Reserve.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2010

SPEECH OF

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2009

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration of the bill (H.R. 2647) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2010 for military activities of the Department of Defense, to prescribe military personnel strengths for fiscal year 2010, and for other purposes:

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Chair, the amendment offered by Representative SCHIFF of California would allow a federally funded research and development center (FFRDC) under the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's (NASA) to apply for grants made available by the Department of Defense. Of NASA's ten field centers, there is only one FFRDC—the Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL)—in Pasadena, California. The amendment would allow this NASA center to do the "research, development, demonstration, or transfer of technology . . . for activities including, but not limited to, those conducted by the center under contact with or on behalf of the Department of Defense."

NASA is a civilian agency, doing civilian work that affects every American in various ways. It must not become too closely associated with the Department of Defense. NASA's mission is to pioneer scientific discovery, aeronautics research and space exploration, not to conduct research for the benefit of the Department of Defense.

At a time when these programs may be facing extensive funding cuts, allowing NASA's field centers to focus solely on carrying out NASA's mission could not be of more importance. Allowing JPL to apply for these grants would set a precedent that could pave the way for other NASA centers to follow suit. NASA is prohibited by law from accepting these grants from the Department of Defense for a reason. NASA should not be doing the work of the Department of Defense and should remain a distinct entity doing strictly civilian work for civilian benefits. It should be fully funded in order to allow it to do so.

HONORING THE MINUTE MAN NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK ON THE OCCASION OF ITS 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. EDWARD J. MARKEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 26, 2009

Mr. MARKEY of Massachusetts. Madam Speaker, the resolution that I am introducing today with the gentlewoman from Massachusetts, Ms. TSONGAS, honors the Minute Man National Historical Park in Massachusetts on its upcoming 50th anniversary. Since being established in September 1959, the Minute Man National Historical Park has played a vital role in protecting and preserving the historic sites in the towns of Lexington, Lincoln, and Concord, where the American Revolution began. As the July 4th holiday approaches, it is fitting that we also have the opportunity to recognize Minute Man for its critical role in educating millions of Americans about the ideals of freedom and democracy that were embodied in the American Revolution and are the cornerstones of our Nation.

The Minute Man National Historical Park recognizes the people, places and events that have become enduring symbols of our shared American values. The park includes many important sites and landscapes along the historic 22-mile route from Boston to Concord, known as the "Battle Road" where British soldiers and American militia first clashed on April 19, 1775. The park includes the famed North Bridge in Concord, MA, where American militia were first ordered to return British fire. This heroic action was commemorated by the great American laureate Ralph Waldo Emerson in "The Concord Hymn" as "the shot heard round the world." The park commemorates Paul Revere's "midnight ride" on the night of April 18, 1775, to raise the alarm for the residents of Concord, Massachusetts, that the British were marching to destroy military stockpiles.

The Minute Man National Historical Park continues to serve as a vital and enduring educational resource not only to the American people, but also to people all around the globe. The Minute Man National Historical Park plays a vital role in protecting these special places in Massachusetts where the fight for our democracy began and providing a true benefit to our Nation.

A TRIBUTE TO FRANK REYES FOR A LIFETIME DEDICATION TO EDUCATION AND PUBLIC SERVICE

HON. JERRY LEWIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 26, 2009

Mr. LEWIS of California. Madam Speaker, I would like to pay tribute to my good friend Frank Reyes, an exceptional educator who has helped the San Bernardino Community College District become a national leader in programs designed to meet a diverse student body.

Frank Reyes has been involved in education in San Bernardino County for more than three

decades, beginning with receiving a bachelors and masters degree from California State University, San Bernardino, and culminating in his current position as Executive Director of Governmental Affairs for the 16,000-student San Bernardino Community College District.

Prior to joining the district management team, Frank worked as a counselor, professor, Director of Community Services and Director of the Counseling Department. He has shown a dedication to his hometown, and the students there, which has paid huge dividends for the community college district. He is part of the team that has helped keep costs down, while improving the campuses and their quality of education. This has helped make the two colleges—Crafton Hills College in Yucaipa, and Valley College in San Bernardino—among the most diverse in the Nation.

In his current role in administration, Frank has been extremely successful at winning competitive government grants for the community college district. After a major earthquake in 1992 made nearly all of the buildings at the Valley College campus unsafe, Frank led a team that secured Federal Emergency Management Agency funds to build a new library, health and human services building, administration and student services building. Most recently, the campus has added a 37,000-square-foot campus center, a new art building and modern gallery.

I was proud to work closely with Frank in bringing funding to deserving projects for the colleges. Thanks largely to his hard work, the Federal Aviation Administration provided \$12.6 million for a new state-of-the-art fire academy that focuses on commercial aviation fires. Located at the San Bernardino International Airport, the facility attracts students from all over the country for real-life training on a jet fuselage. Most recently, I was delighted to work with Frank in winning the donation to Crafton Hills College of the swimming pool used in the 2004 Olympic Trials, which will be part of a recreation facility used by both the students and the community.

Frank has developed a national reputation for education excellence, serving on the International Development Team in Spain in May 2006, as well as the Defense Department's partnership with the Hispanic Associations of Colleges and Universities (HACU). Frank was also selected to be part of the U.S. Delegation to China in February 2006. The delegation continues its work on business, education and cultural exchanges. He has been a national leader with HACU, ensuring a significant federal funding increase for schools with significant Hispanic student bodies.

His community involvement beyond the colleges has been widely recognized—he has been listed in the Inland Empire Magazine as one of The Most Influential Hispanics and was named Latino of the Year by the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce. He has been Chairman of the Board for the Arrowhead Regional Medical Center Foundation for two years, and is an active Board member of the Hands of Mercy, an organization which builds loft houses for the indigent.

Madam Speaker, after three decades of service to the students and people of San Bernardino County, Frank Reyes is retiring from the community college district. Please join me in thanking him for his hard work and dedication, and wish him well in his future endeavors.