

Why don't I know? Where can I learn?
What does it mean?
Our children don't understand the constant fighting
When the grownups take up arms in foreign lands
Their eyes and ears look to hear peaceful solutions
Their tiny souls wish them to lend a helping hand.
Our children sometimes need our conversation
To help discuss, sort out confusion, simply explain
Somewhere to turn, just to be heard, express opinions
Never silent, looked down upon, new knowledge gained.
Our children come enwrapped in many colors
The most precious gifts that God will ever give
Teach them respect, pride in their culture, always love them
Ensure their world will be a better place to live.
Our children are the leaders of their tomorrow
Share your wisdom, understanding, make them strong
Learn to accept one another for their differences
Dismiss all others who will tell them that they're wrong.
—Paula McCoy-Pinderhughes.

HONORING KAREN D. CALL

HON. ED PASTOR

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 15, 1995

Mr. PASTOR. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Ms. Karen D. Call who was one of 10 teachers nationwide to win the Reader's Digest American Heroes in Education Awards.

Ms. Call has devoted her life to the noble profession of teaching. Her commitment to making a difference in other people's lives inspired her to develop a unique program that affects both young and adults.

Seventeen years ago, she started teaching a supplemental, 30-minute extra reading class for at-risk children in the second grade. Understanding that more was needed for the children in Safford, a low-income, rural community where English was many times not spoken, she found a way to expand the program. It was transformed into a district wide-effort that reaches children from pre-school through high school.

The uniqueness of the program lies in the inclusion of parents and children in the learning process. Classes now range from at-home learning for pre-school children to adult literacy to English-as-a-second language.

By including parents in the process, attendance in her evening classes has grown from a few parents to over almost 70. By making her workshops a family affair, she has secured the success of her program.

At a time when our children's education has become a national priority, true heroes as Karen Call serve as a source of inspiration and hope for others whose selfless devotion to the honorable profession of teaching remains unrecognized. For in the teachers like Karen Call lies the future of our youth and our nation. I send my sincerest congratulations to Ms.

Call for this deserved recognition and applaud her commitment and dedication.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SUE MYRICK

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 15, 1995

Mrs. MYRICK. Mr. Speaker, Tuesday, June 13, 1995, and Wednesday morning, June 14, 1995, I was granted a leave of absence due to illness in my family. I therefore missed the following rollcall votes: On Tuesday, rollcall No. 370—had I been present, I would have voted "yea;" rollcall No. 369—had I been present, I would have voted "yea;" rollcall No. 368—had I been present, I would have voted "yea;" rollcall No. 367—had I been present, I would have voted "yea." On Wednesday, rollcall No. 373—had I been present, I would have voted "nay;" rollcall No. 372—had I been present, I would have voted "yea;" and rollcall No. 371—had I been present, I would have voted "nay."

A TRIBUTE TO SOUTH GLENS FALLS CENTRAL SCHOOL VOLUNTEER/MENTOR PROGRAM

HON. GERALD B.H. SOLOMON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 15, 1995

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege to rise today and pay tribute to a program which provides a tremendous service to the students and community of South Glens Falls. The Volunteer/Mentor Program is completing its second year of service helping elementary and middle school children with their self-esteem, allowing them to meet their academic and personal potential.

Young people comprise America's greatest asset. In that respect, a program like this one is invaluable and representative of that uniquely American concept of volunteerism. In this day and age especially, our children are subject to an alarming range of negative influences. Therefore, it is critical that we call upon the entire community to assist our young people in overcoming problems with their self-esteem by countering the impact of damaging social ills. That is why the service of the 60 volunteers in this program is so critical.

Allow me to recount some of the efforts of these mentors. They meet with the students in small, or even one-to-one settings for at least 45 minutes per week. This relationship between mentor and child lasts for a minimum of one school year, whereby affected children receive the degree of attention they need to ensure they reach their maximum potential. These volunteers and the children often establish such strong bonds that many mentors have extended their service for a second year.

This type of devotion exemplifies those qualities which makes Americans, and America, great. I have always felt that there are three distinct reasons for this greatness, American pride, patriotism and volunteerism. The American people have been noted for this voluntary service, be it in the fire departments, civic and community organizations, or extra-curricular programs at our schools.

Mr. Speaker, the United States of America is the longest continuing democracy in the world and a model for emerging countries. In that same mold, people like those who comprise the Volunteer/Mentor Program in the South Glens Falls Central School District are models for all of us here.

I have always been one to judge people based on what they return to their community. By that measure, these volunteers are truly great Americans. I ask, Mr. Speaker, that you, and all fellow Members, join me in paying tribute to this program that works to protect our future.

IN SUPPORT OF THE DAY OF THE AFRICAN CHILD

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 15, 1995

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today before this distinguished body to express my strong support for the Day of the African Child and the efforts of UNICEF to help the children of Africa.

The Day of the African Child was founded to commemorate the lives of the children who were massacred in Soweto, South Africa, on June 16, 1976. They joined together to rally against the sinister scourge of apartheid, and the Day of the African Child is a chance for us to unite against another blight; impoverishment. It is also an opportunity to bring public attention to a forgotten realm; a place where 30 million children are malnourished and many have lost their homes and families. These children's lives are irrevocably scarred by the mental wounds of the violence that ravages their homelands. However, it is also a time to reflect upon the many positive programs that have come to fruition. Many African nations have achieved real progress in attaining the needs of their children. Unfortunately, we are constantly reminded of the threat to the fragile lives of children by the civil strife that was most recently, and most graphically, illustrated in the carnage of Rwanda. That is why the theme of this years Day of the African Child is "Children in Armed Conflict."

Now in it's 5th year, the Day of the African Child utilizes the backdrop of the struggle and sacrifice of those heroic children in Soweto, to provide a forum for understanding and recognizing the many challenges that African children face today. It is a day to transcend the man-made boundaries that keep us apart, and to recommit and focus our efforts to the protection and development of our most precious resource. We must work together to stop the violence, illness, and instability that continue to plague the children of Africa.

Rwanda is a recent example of the traumatizing and tragic effect armed conflict on children, the innocent victims. In the strife that has spread across Africa in the last decade, an estimated 2 million children have been killed. Children have borne witness to unspeakable acts of brutality. As the attention of the world community has been focused on other parts of the world in the last 10 years, the situation has not improved. The impact of the crises are just as severe as the famines and armed conflicts of the 1980's. More ominously, the reaction of the world to these tragedies has been dangerously slow, and donor