

We must not forget what war can do,  
A shattered family—of men so true;  
Helping the helpless that did come back,  
To work on in life with a joyous knack.

LEGISLATION TO AUTHORIZE A  
LAND TRANSFER BY THE CLINT  
AND FABENS INDEPENDENT  
SCHOOL DISTRICTS

**HON. RONALD D. COLEMAN**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 16, 1995

Mr. COLEMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to announce that I am introducing legislation to remove from existing Federal law an obstacle which prevents two school districts from making important decisions regarding land which they were granted by the Federal Government 38 years ago. Through minor changes in existing legislation, this Congress can give the Fabens and Clint independent school districts the power to determine how to make the most effective use of land they have been capably utilizing for almost four decades.

Since 1957, Clint and Fabens independent school districts in Texas have used federally bestowed land to enhance their agricultural and vocational curriculum. Placing an educational farm on land which the Federal Government had previously ignored for 23 years, the Clint school district has been able to add another dimension to their educational programming, and teach valuable skills to their students.

Over the years, however, getting students to the educational farm has grown increasingly problematic. Located 2 miles beyond the outermost boundaries of the Clint independent school district, school officials and teachers must daily confront the difficulties and dangers of getting students safely from Clint schools to a farm which now lies in another district. Students and teachers must hope that a considerable trip through busy streets will not tragically alter the progress these students are making. It would make sense, some argue, for Clint to sell the land and use the proceeds to enhance its other vocational and technological programs. Unfortunately, such a sensible course of action is not allowed by current law.

As existing law is written, the ability of the school districts to make decisions in regard to that land have been bracketed by a reversionary clause in the law. This clause states that any attempt to dispose of the land would result in making the land property of the Federal Government once again. Clinton and Fabens are, therefore, confined by a 38-year-old straitjacket. They can either keep the land no matter how greatly local circumstances change, or they can surrender it to the Government and leave their students with even fewer vocational resources than they currently possess.

At a time when we are all appreciating the complexities and virtues of a Federal system that gives localities important decisionmaking powers, I am confident that most of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle understand the importance of letting school districts decide how to best utilize property that has been under their supervision for close to 40 years.

Therefore, today I am introducing legislation which would waive the reversionary right stipulated in Public Law 85-42, and untie the

hands of Fabens and Clint. Passage of this legislation would signal that this Congress is capable of recognizing instances when we can help our schools and students by intelligently scaling back the reach of the Federal Government.

Before the 85th Congress granted these districts the right to use this land, the Federal Government said for 23 years that it would soon build something on the land. After those two decades of inactivity, Clint, Fabens, and the Congress finally realized that the people of the community could make better use of the land than the Federal Government had. I urge my colleagues not to return to those years of inactivity and require the land to disappear into the labyrinthian maze of Federal bureaucracy.

Waiving the reversionary right is a simple and straightforward way to help the young people in my district in Texas. The language in the proposed legislation is narrowly tailored to ensure that any proceeds which come from any sale of land go to improving the education of students in two school districts. Moreover, by passing this bill, Congress can demonstrate that empowering localities is not a blind leap of faith, but a definite process which requires the Members of this body to be sensitive to local realities and local solutions. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

THE CRUSADE FOR CHILDREN:  
OUR COMMUNITY AT ITS BEST

**HON. MIKE WARD**

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 16, 1995

Mr. WARD. Mr. Speaker, year after year, the WHAS Crusade for Children shows us what a community working together can achieve. The crusade did it again this past weekend.

Rick Larkins, the chief of the Highview Fire Department, summed up the crusade when he said, "We're like a collection point for the goodness of everyone in Jefferson County."

The Crusade for Children has collected that goodness for 42 years. I know of no other cause which, year in and year out, brings together so many volunteers, working long hours, to truly make a community statement that we will stand behind children and families with special needs.

The volunteer fire departments of my community have made the crusade their cause. In doing so, they have given all of us a concrete example that a real community is people helping people.

My thanks and commendations go to the men and women of WHAS, the volunteer firefighters, the churches, the veterans' groups, and so many individuals who give their time and energy to this annual endeavor to help children.

I'm proud to represent in the U.S. Congress a community which really cares about people, and the Crusade for Children is one of the best statements of our caring.

THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF  
BELVIDERE AMBULANCE CORPS  
INC.

**HON. MARGE ROUKEMA**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 16, 1995

Mrs. ROUKEMA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the Belvidere Ambulance Corps Inc. on the 50th anniversary of its dedicated service to the people of Belvidere, NJ. I am certain you realize how difficult it is to find people who are willing to invest their time and energy to become an emergency medical technician, answer calls at all hours of the day and night, and keep up with the continuing education required for this skill. Yet the men and women of the Belvidere Ambulance Corps have accepted this challenge and perform their arduous duties gladly. They truly care about the fellow members of their community.

The history of the Belvidere Ambulance Corps is one that began with a sad, unfortunate, and avoidable tragedy. On June 28, 1945, Belvidere merchant Matthew Hains was pushing his stalled car when he became pinned between the door and a utility pole and was seriously injured. A local doctor rushed to the scene and immediately called for an ambulance, but it took more than an hour for one to arrive from out of town. Mr. Hains made it 15 miles to the Easton [Pennsylvania] Hospital but died 2 days later. Belvidere had lost one of its most valued young citizens for lack of an ambulance.

The citizens of Belvidere responded swiftly. On July 2, 1945—only 4 days after the accident—the mayor appointed an ambulance fund committee and an ambulance was shortly in service. Over the years, the ambulance service has grown considerably, gaining its own building in 1946, a crash truck and boat in 1963, a jaws-of-life tool in 1976, Med-Evac helicopter flights in 1983 and 911 emergency calling in 1994.

Since that fateful day in 1945, the Belvidere Ambulance Corps has answered roughly 27,000 calls, an average of 11 a week, put in more than 115,000 person hours, an average of 45 hours a week, and put nearly 700,000 miles on its vehicles—the equivalent of crossing the United States 224 times. These figures do not include time spent on education, drills, or equipment maintenance.

The ambulance corps will celebrate its 50th anniversary with a parade on Saturday. More than 1,000 participants and spectators are expected to participate and show ambulance workers their support. I wish them continued success in their next 50 years.

RECOGNITION OF MAYOR ROBERT  
PHINNEY AND POPULACE OF  
SOUTH GLENS FALLS

**HON. GERALD B.H. SOLOMON**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 16, 1995

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, every day when I'm home I have the privilege of driving through one of the most appealing communities on my way to and from my house in Glens Falls and main district office in Saratoga.