

program was started in 1947 by the National Association of Broadcasters, the Electronic Industries Association, and the State Association of Broadcasters. Since 1961-62, the Veterans of Foreign Wars has been the sole sponsor of the program with over 5,200 VFV posts and 4,200 auxiliaries participating. The program requires high school entrants to write and record a 3 to 5 minute essay on an announced patriotic theme. This year, more than 109,000 secondary school students participated in the contest competing for 54 national scholarships. The contest theme was "Democracy—Above and Beyond."

I rise today to honor Susan Richter, a senior at Calloway County High School in Murray, KY, who won the 1997 Voice of Democracy broadcast script writing contest in Kentucky. Susan is the youngest child of Fred and Margaret Richter of Murray, KY. She hopes to attend Transylvania University in Lexington, KY, where she plans to pursue a degree in radio/TV broadcasting.

In addition to participating in essay contests, Susan keeps busy at Calloway County High School with a full plate of activities. She is the news anchor of the morning show on WCSD-TV 28, a school-run local cable channel, and an officer in the Student Council, the Co-ed Y Club, the Beta Club, and the Foreign Language Club. Outside of school, she enjoys playing the piano, reading, and working on her computer.

Please allow me to share with you Susan's award-winning essay, which appears below.

"DEMOCRACY—ABOVE AND BEYOND"

Democracy is a general term used to describe both a form of government and an ideal. Throughout the years, our country has thrived on the idea of creating a more perfect union through the means of a plan known as democracy. I believe democracy is a superior way of life and I believe that it will help carry our nation onward to meet its most fantastic goals.

Democracy is often referred to as "rule by the majority." However, another phrase I prefer seems to more clearly define democracy. It relates that democracy is the absence of hereditary class distinctions or privileges. In other words, democracy allows for any person, regardless of age, race, gender, or social status to have his say in the workings of our country. According to Robert Hutchins, "Democracy is the only form of government that is founded on the dignity of man, not the dignity of some men, of rich men, of educated men, or of white men, but of all men." I agree with this statement and claim this type of equal dignity and representation to be a major reason why democracy is a form of government above the rest.

Also, democracy is superior for its emphasis on individual freedom. As a general rule, it allows persons both the right and the responsibility of shaping their future. Each person is allowed to make his own choices, both in life and in governmental issues. However, not only is one given the ability to do so, he also has a responsibility both to the government and to himself to carry out his decisions. This individual freedom is necessary for a democracy and is another reason why democracy is a step above the rest.

However, not only is democracy an excellent program for the present, it is also a bright path into the future, a yellow brick road to tomorrow.

One feature of democracy that will help lead to a prosperous future is its ability to ensure peaceful change. Democratic methods for making changes negate the need for violent uprisings. Many economic and social

changes have been made recently, and most have happened with little turbulence, other than perhaps a peaceful protest march, or other such means allowed by the Constitution. Also, democracy allows for the peaceful change of political leaders. Free elections are held when time for the transfer of power, and the people vote upon who should next receive the responsibility of representing them in government. This power of the people ensures that they can make decisions peacefully. In a country founded on war, this assurance of peacefulness is a key to a bright future.

Another way democracy will take us beyond is due to its practicality. Generations to come will be able to follow in our democratic footsteps, just as we have been following our ancestors' paths as far back as the founding days. Why? Because democracy is easily applicable to a daily life. The process of electing officials and making decisions based upon majority vote can be seen from the capital to the classroom. The right to "Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness" is something not just penned in the Constitution, but is also a motto for daily life. The ability to still apply democracy some 2,600 years after its origin in Greece only stands as proof that it is a form of government stable enough to lead us beyond the realms of today and into tomorrow.

In conclusion, democracy is both a form of government and an ideal. Our country has been built and has grown as a result of this plan we call democracy. I believe that democracy is a way of life above and beyond any other man-made plan, and I am proud our country subscribes to this mode of self-government and equality for all.

INTRODUCTION OF THE AMATEUR RADIO VOLUNTEER SERVICES ACT OF 1997

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 11, 1997

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to announce the introduction of the Amateur Radio Volunteer Services Act of 1997. Similar to a unanimously accepted amendment I offered last year to the FCC reauthorization bill in the Commerce Committee, this bill would help protect the personal liability of volunteer amateur radio operators while performing duties on behalf of the Federal Government.

Amateur radio operators are self-regulated, with volunteer operators monitoring the airwaves for violations and administering licensing exams. This volunteer corps saves countless hours of staff time and resources for the Federal Communications Commission [FCC]; however, because they are not Federal employees, they put their personal assets at risk in the event of actions taken against them as a result of their volunteer service to the Government.

It is simply unfair that these volunteers who are saving the Government time and resources should have to risk their personal assets in carrying out their service. The Amateur Radio Volunteer Services Act would classify those individuals donating their time and expertise to maintaining the quality of the amateur radio airwaves as Federal employees only for the purpose of actions taken against them in the performance of their duties as self-regulators. This action will ensure the continued vi-

ability of the amateur radio community and continue to save the FCC and the Federal Government time and money that would otherwise need to be expended.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I urge my colleagues to support this worthy legislation.

TRIBUTE TO THE SPRINGFIELD LIONS CLUB

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 11, 1997

Mr. NEAL. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great joy to extend my congratulations to the Springfield Lions Club, one of the most prestigious organizations in my district, who will celebrate their 50th anniversary on March 29, 1997. With this in mind, I take this opportunity to enter the history of the club into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

In the Spring of 1947 a member of the Springfield Lions Club invited a group of men from Sixteen Acres to a meeting in the old brick schoolhouse on the corner of Parker St. and Old Acre Rd. At the meeting he described the purpose of a Lions Club and what being a member would entail. Fifty-three men signed up that day and a Lions Club was formed in Sixteen Acres.

The Sixteen Acres Lions Club was organized April 25, 1947 and was chartered June 18th. Charter Night was held at Belli's with many members from other Lions Clubs in attendance.

Meetings were held for a short time in the schoolhouse with a caterer providing the meals. The meetings were later held for long periods in Belli's and Foster Memorial Church and for brief periods at various area restaurants. While meeting in the original Foster Church building the members meals were prepared by their wives at home and then brought to the meeting. Meetings are not held at Church in the Acres.

When the Club was formed a public dump existed where Duggan Jr. High now stands. Many people apparently found it more convenient to dump their rubbish at the side of the road. Under pressure from the Lions Club they had the rubbish removed.

In the 1950's the club purchased a motion picture projector and screen and for several years movies were shown on Saturday afternoons in an upstairs room of the old schoolhouse. The purpose was to give the younger children a place to go during the winter months. A charge of ten cents was made to help defray the cost of the film. It should be noted, however, that no child was turned away due to lack of a dime.

The Lions Orthoptic Clinic was originated in 1951 by the late Russell Koch, a past president of the Sixteen Acres Lions Club, who, with the approval of the club, enlisted the aid of other clubs in the district to get it organized. The clinic offers treatment of eye problems which have been referred to local ophthalmologists. A charge is made according to the patients ability to pay.

A sport program was organized under the direction of Fred Hoarle. He was successful in developing a number of teams and getting area men to coach them. The program was expanded to include soccer, softball, and basketball as well as the baseball teams. For several years the club held a soccer tournament