

in the region involving two North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) allies, Greece and Turkey, which would threaten vital United States interests in the already volatile Eastern Mediterranean area and beyond;

Whereas a peaceful, just, and lasting solution to the Cyprus problem would greatly benefit the security, and the political, economic, and social well-being of all Cypriots, as well as contribute to improved relations between Greece and Turkey;

Whereas a lasting solution to the Cyprus problem would also strengthen peace and stability in the Eastern Mediterranean and serve important interests of the United States;

Whereas the United Nations has repeatedly stated the parameters for such a solution, most recently in United Nations Security Council Resolution 1092, adopted on December 23, 1996, with United States support;

Whereas the prospect of the accession by Cyprus to the European Union, which the United States has actively supported, could serve as a catalyst for a solution to the Cyprus problem;

Whereas President Bill Clinton has pledged that in 1997 the United States will "play a heightened role in promoting a resolution in Cyprus"; and

Whereas United States leadership will be a crucial factor in achieving a solution to the Cyprus problem, and increased United States involvement in the search for this solution will contribute to a reduction of tensions on Cyprus: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That the Congress—

(1) reaffirms its view that the status quo on Cyprus is unacceptable and detrimental to the interests of the United States in the Eastern Mediterranean and beyond;

(2) considers lasting peace and stability on Cyprus could be best served by a process of complete demilitarization leading to the withdrawal of all foreign occupation forces, the cessation of foreign arms transfers to Cyprus, and providing for alternative internationally acceptable and effective security arrangements as negotiated by the parties;

(3) welcomes and supports the commitment by President Clinton to give increased attention to Cyprus and make the search for a solution a priority of United States foreign policy;

(4) encourages the President to launch an early substantive initiative, in close coordination with the United Nations, the European Union, and interested governments to promote a speedy resolution of the Cyprus problem on the basis of international law, the provisions of relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions, democratic principles, including respect for human rights, and in accordance with the norms and requirements for accession to the European Union;

(5) calls upon the parties to lend their full support and cooperation to such an initiative; and

(6) requests the President to report actions taken to give effect to the objectives set forth in paragraph (4) in the bimonthly report on Cyprus transmitted to the Congress.

CHILDREN

HON. LEE H. HAMILTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 1997

Mr. HAMILTON. Mr. Speaker, I am inserting my Washington Report for Wednesday, May 21, 1997 into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD:

EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT AND LEARNING

President Clinton recently hosted the White House Conference on Early Childhood Development and Learning. The purpose was to bring together parents, scientists, policy makers, child care providers and others to discuss the new research on brain development in children under age 3 and to explore how to deliver this information to more homes. The key lesson from this research is that our ability to interact with others, communicate, and learn is largely dependent on what happens to us as newborns and toddlers.

Now more than ever we know the importance of early intervention, from prenatal care to preschool, to ensure that children get off to a healthy start. Research shows that the stimulation children receive after birth counts even more than genetics to enable them to become smart and adaptable. Unfortunately, there remains a huge gap between our knowledge about children's needs and our success in meeting them. We simply must find effective ways to apply new scientific knowledge to public policy. Deprivation, abuse, and neglect of children often has long-lasting, damaging effects not only on them, but on our entire nation.

NEW DISCOVERIES

Fifteen years ago researchers thought that a baby's brain structure was virtually complete at birth, as if the brain were a computer just waiting to be turned on. Now we know that humans come into the world with a brain that is largely incomplete. Just as a sculptor shapes a lump of clay into a distinct work of art, our experiences mold our brain.

Giving children the stimulation they need to learn and grow doesn't require fancy toys or classes. Research shows instead that simple things can have the greatest positive impact. For example, talking, singing, and reading to children from birth onward helps develop the parts of their brains devoted to language. In addition, holding babies and responding to their cues enables them to feel secure, which helps them learn and grow. Unfortunately, the opposite is also true. The brains of children who are abused or neglected release high levels of stress hormones, which can actually hinder the brain's growth and development.

PERSISTENT PROBLEMS

Most parents work very hard to meet their children's needs. As a nation, though, we fail our youngest citizens far too often. The U.S. has the highest rate of young children living in poverty of any western industrialized nation. The child poverty rate has hovered at around 20% ever since 1981. Other trends are even worse. In 1995, nearly one million children were victims of abuse or neglect. Fourteen percent of children lacked health insurance, 25% lacked immunizations against preventable childhood diseases. Between 1985 and 1994, the percentage of low-birth-weight babies, who often have multiple health problems, grew. And while the infant mortality rate has improved, the U.S. still ranks 18th among industrialized nations. During this same period, the number of teens dying from accidents, homicides, and suicides rose 10%. Arrests of juveniles for violent crimes increased by a staggering 70% nationwide, 125% in Indiana. And while the teen pregnancy rate has leveled off in recent years, about half a million children are born to teen mothers each year.

Although most mothers of children under 4 work outside the home, high-quality, affordable child care remains in short supply. The federal government's Head Start program is widely acclaimed, but it is available only to those age 3 and above, and serves only about

a third of eligible children. A new program for younger children, Early Head Start, has only 22,000 slots for 2.9 million eligible children.

PROPOSALS FOR CHANGE

At the White House Conference, President Clinton announced a number of worthy initiatives. First, he directed the Department of Defense, which runs many high-quality child care centers, to share its formula for success with state and local governments and private child care centers. Second, the President proposed a plan to extend health care coverage to an additional 5 million uninsured children. The balanced budget agreement recently announced includes funding to extend health insurance to some unserved children.

Third, the President wants to expand Early Head Start enrollment by one-third next year. Fourth, the U.S. Department of Education is making available early childhood development activity kits to anyone who calls 1-800-USA-LEARN to request one. Fifth, the Department of Justice is establishing a "Safe Start" program to help law enforcement officers respond more sensitively to children who are the victims of or witnesses to violence. The President also supports expanding the Family and Medical Leave Act to cover events like parent-teacher conferences.

CONCLUSION

Parenting can be vastly rewarding, but also demands enormous amounts of time, energy, patience and skill. Children require not just caretakers, but caregivers. Even under the best circumstances, the task of parenting can be overwhelming. For parents who are very young, lack education, are struggling to rise out of poverty, or who were once abused themselves, the demands occasionally are too great. The arguments for an expansion of support for new parents and for quality child care are compelling. Communities that have reached out to at-risk families with visits by social workers and nurses and free parenting classes have had promising results.

Children are persistently the poorest group in America. I worry that recent budget-cutting efforts in Congress have focused disproportionately on the poor. We have not yet seen the full effects of welfare reform, which not only included time limits on welfare benefits but also restrictions on food stamps and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits for children.

Children have such an amazing capacity to grow and learn and thrive provided there is love and patience and commitment. We adults fall short of our responsibilities if we fail to provide these, and we also pay the price. We need to reach out to struggling parents, offering assistance and advice that can help them become the strong mothers and fathers most of them want to be. The very youngest Americans are the ones who will lead us in the 21st century. We cannot expect to prosper in the future if we do not help them prosper today.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, PETE DARLING

HON. AMO HOUGHTON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 1997

Mr. HOUGHTON. Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the House to help me pay tribute to Dr. Arthur Perry "Pete" Darling, who today celebrates his 80th birthday. Pete Darling lives in Corning, NY. He came there in 1952. For the

last 45 years he has been an essential, constant, vital part of our small town. He is a true American original, and his story is part of the bedrock upon which this Nation is built. His children have this to say about their father:

Our dad endured a childhood of poverty—the sort of poverty it's better to read about in Horatio Alger than to experience. He lost his mother while he was still a small boy, and in the midst of the depression Dad got himself through Williams College on a scholarship that didn't include money for books, so he never bought any. After graduation he spent a year working 18 hour shifts as a bell-hop to earn the tuition for medical school, and though he interrupted his studies to enlist in the Army during World War II, he was eventually able to finish his surgical internship and residency at Columbia University and the University of Chicago.

Do you measure a man's value by his work? Dad is a brilliant surgeon. He brought a level of talent, innovation and skill to our hometown that saved countless lives. Sometimes we went with him on his housecalls, helping to carry his black bag. We've heard countless stories about how he listened to his patients, demanded the best from the hospital and its staff, and never accepted any of the endless offers that came his way to practice in other places.

Or is a man judged by his courage? We've never found a braver man than our father. At the height of his career, Dad lost his sight. His surgical career ended overnight. At a time when most men are contemplating retirement and solitude, he built a new life for himself at the age of 61. He gave up the practice he loved without a backward glance, and went to work at Corning, Inc., building a first-rate medical department.

He raised the money to found a low-vision clinic, a clinic that today offers those with limited sight the practical advice and tools they need to make a full, independent life possible.

Dad eventually retired at the age of 70, and finally had time for the things he loves—fly fishing, scotch, golf, good food, good conversation, a good joke. More than anything on earth, though, he loves our mother, Anne, his wife of 37 years. A local mechanic, speaking with them about the loss of his own wife, said wistfully, "I'd like to think we had the same sort of marriage you two have," and with those words he spoke for everyone who knows our parents. They have talked, laughed, loved and occasionally fought their way through nearly four decades of marriage, and no invention of Hollywood could ever tell a finer story.

Together they raised five children, creating a secure haven of love and stability in the midst of turbulent times.

All five of us have grown and gone now, and have established careers of our own in education, business, finance, law, politics and religion. Each child has at least one degree, some have two, one is working on her third. We are making our mark from New York to San Francisco, and trying to set the same standards in our chosen fields as our parents did in theirs. It's a hard act we're following, but if you asked Dad what he takes the most pride in, we suspect he would point to our independence, even if it does occasionally drive him wild.

Mr. Speaker, those children, their spouses, and Pete's grandchildren will all arrive in Corning in a few days, to celebrate this special birthday and this special man. His has been a life of service, courage, and love. I am proud to call him my friend.

THE SMALL BUSINESS PERSON OF THE YEAR FOR 1997, DERYL MCKISSACK, PRESIDENT AND CEO, MCKISSACK AND MCKISSACK OF WASHINGTON, DC

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 1997

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, each year the U.S. Small Business Administration [SBA] celebrates Small Business Week by honoring outstanding men and women as Small business Persons of the Year. The winners of this award are judged based on staying power, growth in number of employees, increase in sales and/or unit volume, current and past financial reports, innovativeness of product or service, response to adversity and evidence of contributions to community-related projects. The Small Business Person of the Year for 1997 is Deryl McKissack, President and CEO of McKissack and McKissack of Washington, DC.

Mr. Speaker, Deryl McKissack is a DC resident and graduate of Howard University who, in 1990, opened the Washington Office of McKissack and McKissack, the oldest minority-owned architectural/engineering firm in the Nation with \$1,000, exceptional skills, determination, and a dream. In 1995 the company was certified in SBA's 8(a) Program and has won two 8(a) contracts totaling \$9.5 million.

Mr. Speaker, today this business woman has over 35 full-time employees with an estimated revenue of \$7 million for the coming fiscal year. Her client list now includes the U.S. Department of Labor, the Department of the Treasury, the Washington Convention Center, NationsBank, Georgetown University, Howard University, Morgan State University, and Coppin State College. The firm is a leader in program management engagements and is working on three separate contracts at the historic Treasury building in downtown D.C.

Ms. McKissack has encountered closed doors and stiff competition. She overcame these obstacles with a strong commitment to excellence, a determination to outperform her competitors, emphasis on delivering outstanding work on schedule and within budget and ensuring that client's needs are met. Ms. McKissack supports a number of charitable organizations and serves the community in other ways including the DC Public Schools' Task Force on Education, Infrastructure for the 21st Century, and the Architectural Review Board.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that this body join me in saluting Deryl McKissack, SBA's Small Business Person of the Year for 1997 for the Washington Metropolitan Area and celebrating the contributions of the small business community to this Nation's economic health.

LEWIS AND CLARK RURAL WATER SYSTEM ACT

HON. JOHN R. THUNE

OF SOUTH DAKOTA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 1997

Mr. THUNE. Mr. Speaker, today, I am introducing legislation that authorizes constructions of the Lewis and Clark rural water system.

This system, when complete, will provide much needed, safe drinking water for hundreds of communities in southeastern South Dakota, northwestern Iowa, and southwestern Minnesota.

I am proud of the citizens of South Dakota who have worked extremely hard on this project. They are to be commended. Nothing is more important to the health of South Dakota ranchers, farmers, and people living in towns and cities than the availability of safe drinking water. The bill I am introducing today will achieve that goal.

In this day of fiscal austerity, only projects of the greatest public benefit can be brought forward. The Lewis and Clark rural water system is the only feasible means of ensuring that future supplies of high quality water will be available well into the next century. The Lewis and Clark rural water system will provide a supplemental supply of drinking water that is expected to serve over 180,000 people.

Mr. Speaker, water development is a health issue, economic development issue, and a rural development issue. The ability of rural America to survive and grow is intrinsically related to the ability of rural and growing communities to provide adequate supplies of safe drinking water. Without a reliable supply of water, these areas cannot attract new businesses and cannot create jobs. The creation of jobs is a paramount issue to a rural State such as South Dakota. The Lewis and Clark rural water system will help assure job growth in the areas to be served.

It is extremely difficult for rural communities and residents to maintain a healthy standard of living if they do not have access to good quality drinking water. This bill authorizing the construction of the Lewis and Clark rural water system with work toward this end.

I urge my colleagues to take a close look at this legislation. Their support would be greatly appreciated.

DECLARING MAY 22, 1997, BILINGUAL FOUNDATION OF THE ARTS DAY

HON. ESTEBAN EDWARD TORRES

OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 1997

Mr. TORRES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Bilingual Foundation of the Arts [BFA] on the occasion of its 17th annual El Angel Awards ceremony, which will honor the outstanding artistic contributions of women, and to declare May 22, 1997, Bilingual Foundation of the Arts Day in my California's 34th Congressional District.

This year marks BFA's 24th season of bringing Latino world drama to both English- and Spanish-speaking audiences. Each year, more than 300,000 children and adults experience the richness and diversity of Latino culture through the presentation of plays in southern California schools and at BFA's Lincoln Heights Theater.

BFA's mission has been to bring communities together through the presentation of plays from the diverse Latino cultural and theatrical tradition. Classical and contemporary plays are presented in both English and Spanish, alternating weekly. Founded by my good friend and internationally recognized Mexican-