

strange indeed. A teacher I feared and fretted about giving me a promotion, based on speculation. No one had ever done this for me. I had had plenty of good teachers. I liked plenty of them, and they liked me. But no one had ever gone out on a limb on my behalf.

Then something even more wonderful happened. If Mrs. Musick thought I could do it and she believed in me, maybe I could do it and maybe I could believe in myself also.

Mr. Speaker, this inspiration given to me by a schoolteacher over 25 years ago always has stuck with me. I transferred to the new class and got to work. I doubled my efforts, my enthusiasm for learning. I did not want to let the other kids know I did not really fit in, and I sure did not want to let Mrs. Musick down.

During the Christmas holiday, I worked on my term paper for the winter quarter. I read "For Whom the Bell Tolls", "Thanatopsis", "Tess of the D'Urbervilles", "Red Badge of Courage", "The Last Leaf". I ended up the year making A and B's, mostly B's, but B's never felt so good. But above all, I was in the advanced class in everything else, algebra, science and history.

What else can I say about the woman who made this possible? She was strict but she was clear. She gave us the rules. We understood them and we followed them, and we if we did not, punishment was sure and swift. There was no pink slip, no parent-teacher conference or gray area. Fairness and certainty were her trademarks in discipline.

On her subject matter, she was passionate. No sentence has been constructed that she could not diagram. Infinitives did not get split and participles did not get dangled on her watch. In fact, I am still a little afraid now, if she is watching, she will catch all my mistakes.

On literature there was none so devoted. One day it snowed, and in Athens, Georgia a snow day to students was worshipped like manna from heaven. No school. While all of the students rushed to the hills for sledding, Mrs. Musick later confessed she could not wait to get back to a good book or two, and with good reason.

She was intimately acquainted with Fitzgerald, Thoreau, Emerson, Huxley, Whitman, Oliver Wendell Holmes and company. She was their peer and they were her friends. Once Lewis Nix suggested Hemingway partied too much in Key West. Mrs. Musick neither confirmed nor denied this but took us all to a higher plane with her admonishment, "Do not talk about one of America's greatest authors in such fashion. He went through a lot in the war." A classy way to handle such a statement. Her love of literature was contagious and many Clark Central students left with reading as a lifetime hobby.

I will close with this. I still do not know what Thanatopsis means, but I do know what the poem was about. I traveled with Hemingway to Mount

Kilimanjaro, spent some time with Thoreau at Walden Pond, dined with Fitzgerald and Gatsby at West Egg and wept with Oliver Wendell Holmes on the Gettysburg battleground. As they have become immortal, so has Mrs. Musick.

How many students like me left her class with a lifetime habit of reading and yearning for knowledge or even an appreciation of grammar? Our lives live on in the influence that we have on others, and Mrs. Musick's legacy is indelibly etched on thousands of Athens, Georgia kids. I am blessed to have had her and forever better for the experience. I am sorry for those who did not.

I started out, Mr. Speaker, saying there were two significant things that happened in Athens, GA. One, Mrs. Musick retired. The other, Jack Kingston graduated. After 12 years of study, I walked down the aisle with my diploma, a product of lots of classroom hours and homework and wonderful teachers like Mrs. Bertha Musick.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BOB SCHAFFER of Colorado). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas [Mr. EDWARDS] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. EDWARDS addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from North Carolina [Mrs. CLAYTON] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mrs. CLAYTON addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina [Mr. HEFNER] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. HEFNER addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina [Mr. ETHERIDGE] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. ETHERIDGE addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

ON SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from California [Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, as a Member of Congress representing parts of Los Angeles, I am acutely aware of the devastating impact natural disasters have on human life. The Northridge earthquake, for example, not only destroyed homes and parts of communities but lives and people's livelihood.

In response, Congress acted to ease the misery of these victims by quickly appropriating much-needed disaster assistance. By so doing, Congress sent a clear message to these victims that they were not being abandoned by their government and we gave them hope that they would be able to rebuild their lives. Congressional response to the Northridge earthquake represented the Federal Government at its best.

Today, 83 days after the President asked Congress to pass legislation providing desperately needed funds for families suffering the aftermath of the recent floods, these victims are still waiting for Congress to help them in their time of need. Their cries for help fall on the deaf ears of the Republican majority who insist on using the disaster relief bill as a vehicle to ram through an unrelated political agenda which the President has said over and over again is unacceptable.

Despite the President's warning of a veto, the Republican majority put their interests ahead of the interests of the flood victims and included unrelated provisions, knowing the bill would be vetoed. These Republican machinations represent government at its worst. Yes, the issues of the continuing resolution and the census should be considered by this House. But those are separate issues.

Our first and most immediate responsibility is to give help to those who are suffering the ravages of the floods. North and South Dakotans, Minnesotans, northern Californians and Ohio River Valley residents want and deserve to rebuild their lives. They want and deserve to have peace of mind and a modicum of security. They need help to relocate their businesses, repair damaged roads and clear their farms in time for planting.

Yet the Republicans keep placing their political agenda ahead of the needs of these victims. Such game playing is untenable when lives and livelihood are at stake. I call on the majority to do the right thing and immediately remove objectionable extraneous provisions from the emergency supplemental appropriations bill. Send President Clinton an emergency supplemental appropriations bill he can sign. Send the flood victims the relief they so desperately need and deserve.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Michigan [Ms. STABENOW] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Ms. STABENOW addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

PASS THE EMERGENCY SUPPLEMENTAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Maine [Mr. ALLEN] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. Speaker, a few moments ago I told my wife I was coming