

TRIBUTE TO COURT STREET  
SCHOOL

**HON. MICHAEL PAPPAS**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 25, 1997*

Mr. PAPPAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call attention to an open house celebration for the Court Street School Education Community Center, Inc. [CSSECC] in Freehold, NJ.

The Court Street School was established in 1915 for the sole purpose of educating the African-American children in the area. The school remained open until 1974. In April 1990, the CSSECC began the planning and renovation of the school. Now, the CSSECC is ready to open the doors of this historical landmark for the entire Freehold community to see. This new community center will provide needed programs and support to area youth and their families.

Community centers, like the one in Freehold, are important infrastructures that help facilitate a stronger, compassionate community. It is in this spirit that the CSSECC has stated its mission: "To inspire hope in our children with a team of parents, teachers, volunteers, and CSSECC support staff, singularly dedicated to instill in each child the belief that he or she is a unique gift of perfect love."

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to announce the Open House Celebration for the new Court Street School Education Community Center on Saturday, September 27, 1997.

SUPPORT OF THE 21ST CENTURY  
STUDENT FINANCIAL AID SYS-  
TEM IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 1997

**HON. WILLIAM F. GOODLING**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 25, 1997*

Mr. GOODLING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the leadership efforts of Mr. MCKEON in moving the Department's management of the student aid delivery system into the 21st century. After 18 hearings on the upcoming authorization of the Higher Education Act, it is safe to say that there is a clear consensus on the need for improved management of the student aid delivery system, except in the minds of the people currently managing those systems.

Currently, the Department of Education has a dozen or so computer systems and contracts which aid in the delivery of more than \$40 billion in student financial aid every year. Timely delivery of these funds are vital to ensuring that every American has the ability to pursue a postsecondary education. We all recognize that this is no small task. However, the concerns that the Department's computer systems are out of date, vulnerable to fraud and abuse, and inordinately expensive to run cannot be ignored. The General Accounting Office, the Department's inspector general, the Advisory Committee on Student Financial Assistance, and a majority of the higher education community have all called for a fundamental restructuring of the way the Department manages the current student aid delivery system. Yet incredulously, the Department seems to think that it is on the road to becoming

the Microsoft of the higher education community, at least that was the opinion of one senior Department of Education official at a hearing before Mr. MCKEON's subcommittee.

It's time to stop talking about delivery system improvements and system integration and to start doing something about it. Last year, students and parents suffered through horrendous processing delays when the Federal student aid application processing system failed. Earlier this year, students wishing to consolidate their student loans submitted applications only to encounter lengthy delays in processing. Now students wishing to consolidate their student loans are told not to bother applying, since the Department has shut down the entire processing system. And just last week, our colleague, Representative HORN, chairman of the Subcommittee on Government Management, Information and Technology, gave the Department a failing grade for its efforts to address the year 2000 computer changes needed to keep the financial aid systems running after the Office of Management and Budget included the Education Department on its list of troubled agencies. Less than 2 months ago, in testimony at our system modernization hearing, a Department official stated "I would probably disagree if you say there are major bugs or problems because we have been able to continue to keep the trains running." Well, the train just stopped and it's the students who suffer as a result of the poor system management structure currently in place at the Department.

It's clear to me and the others here with us today that it is time to try a new approach. The bill that Mr. MCKEON has put together gets things moving in the rights direction. I sincerely hope that the Department of Education sees this effort as a positive step forward which will benefit students, parents, and institutions of higher education across the country.

SIXTY YEARS OF SERVICE: THE  
LADIES' AUXILIARY OF THE  
DELAWARE VOLUNTEER FIRE-  
MEN'S ASSOCIATION

**HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE**

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 25, 1997*

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to salute and pay tribute to an outstanding and caring volunteer association in the State of Delaware. The Ladies Auxiliary of the Delaware Volunteer Firemen's Association.

This weekend, the ladies auxiliary will celebrate its 60th year of service to the citizens of the First State. Their history of volunteerism began on September 9, 1937, when the first president, Nan Laws Woods of the Five Points Fire Co. Ladies Auxiliary, struck the first gavel establishing the ladies' auxiliary of the Delaware Volunteer Firemen's Association. The auxiliary encompassed many of the fire companies in Delaware and pledged their combined efforts to help the firemen of Delaware as well as those whose homes had been damaged by fire. Organized efforts included contributions to burn centers, food, and clothing to burn victims as well as financial support.

During the war years, the auxiliary assisted the Red Cross by sending Christmas packages to soldiers. The members also encour-

aged the purchase of war bonds. Returning to peacetime, the auxiliary focused on fund raising efforts to assist local fire companies. Throughout their years of service, tired firefighters have come to rely on the meals and beverages served by the auxiliary during fires and emergencies. When the gavel falls to open the 60th annual meeting in Rehoboth Beach, it is fitting that Mrs. Barbara Lewis, the current president will preside. President Lewis is also from the Five Points Fire Co., the home of the Mrs. Nan Woods.

I offer my congratulations not only as a Member of the House of Representatives but as a former Governor who appreciates the leadership, teamwork and commitment of this association in their service to the people of Delaware. I wish them many more years of success in their endeavors as they continue to assist volunteer fire and emergency services throughout Delaware.

TRIBUTE TO "THE BIG HELP"  
NICKELODEON PROGRAM

**HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 25, 1997*

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, this year, the Presidents' Summit for America's Future brought well-deserved attention to volunteers and volunteer programs throughout the country.

Six months later, a number of news organizations are reviewing the results the summit brought about in corporate America. One volunteer initiative that is especially interesting to me is Nickelodeon's "The Big Help." This is a volunteer program that began 4 years ago and focuses on motivating and inspiring kids aged 6 to 14 to volunteer.

"The Big Help" distinguishes itself because it involves not only Nickelodeon's corporate pledge to the summit, but also young Nickelodeon watchers' pledges to volunteer annually. This program is effective because it teaches children at an early age the value of giving back to their communities.

As part of its public responsibility, Nickelodeon created "The Big Help"; in 1994 after their research discovered that kids wanted to help make the world a better place, they just didn't know how. Combining on-air messaging, school and community outreach, and partnerships with 23 national volunteer organizations, "The Big Help" provides kids with tools to actively volunteer and participate in real helping activities.

This Sunday, September 28, Nickelodeon is inviting Members of Congress and their families to a celebration of kid volunteerism and "The Big Help." This event will also showcase Nick, Jr., Nickelodeon's award-winning preschool programming block, and its new online offerings including "nick.com" and "teachers.nick.com," the Internet component to Nickelodeon's "Cable-in-the-Classroom" programs.

In addition to dedicating 10 percent of its airtime to "The Big Help," Nickelodeon also provides substantial off-channel resources for outreach, including curriculum for elementary and middle schools and volunteer planning kits. In 1996, during the third annual "Big Help-a-Thon," over 8.5 million kids called in and pledged over 92 million hours to making a difference in their communities.