CONGRATULATING THE GARDNER GRADE SCHOOL CHOIRUS

HON. JERRY WELLER
OF ILLINOIS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, February 5, 1998

Mr. WELLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Gardner Grade School Choirus of Gardner, IL on their recent performance at Walt Disney World in Orlando, FL.

At the direction of Patti Johnson, the Gardner Grade School Choirus had a dream back in 1996, that it would someday have a chance to perform at Walt Disney's Magic Kingdom. After a year of research, planning, rehearsals, and raising the funds that were needed to make the trip to Orlando, the Gardner Grade School Choirus realized their dream on June 9, 1997.

The journey to Orlando by the 40 member choirus and 10 chaperones began on June 7, 1997. After saying their goodbyes to family and friends, the choirus was escorted through Gardner by the local police and fire departments as they began their 24-hour bus ride to the Magic Kingdom. In short Mr. Speaker, this was not a dream come true just for the choirus, it was a dream come true for an entire town.

On June 9, 1997 the long-awaited dream was finally fulfilled. Outlasting the Florida rain, the choirus and their audience as they performed on the Tomorrowland Stage in the Magic Kingdom. The choirus performed several selections in their 25-minute performance including, “Dance, Dance, Dance”, “Sea of the Cowboy”, and “Footloose”. On June 10 the Chorus participated in a 3-hour music education workshop at the Epcot Center, where chorius members received first hand knowledge on how Disney prepares its shows from the Disney cast.

Now as you might suspect Mr. Speaker, this trip was not all work and no play. On the final 2 days of their trip, chorus members explored the theme parks and took part in many of the activities in the Orlando area, taking advantage of a much deserved rest before returning home to Illinois.

Mr. Speaker, the Gardner Grade School Choirus had a dream that they would perform at Walt Disney World someday, and they did. Thanks to the hard work of its members, directors and chaperones, the Gardner Grade School Choirus not only realized their dream, but, they shared their dream with their parents, schoolmates, town, and the people in the audience at the Magic Kingdom.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in saluting the Gardner Grade School Chorus and their very special performance at Disney World, and I ask that a list of those who participated on this trip be included in the RECORD following my statement.

HON. GLENN POSHARD
OF ILLINOIS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, February 5, 1998

Mr. POSHARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a dear friend, Mr. John L. Smith of Chicago, IL who will be retiring next month from the U.S. Small Business Administration. He has honorably served as director of the SBA’s Chicago District Office of over 20 years.

Jack has been a faithful Federal employee for 46 years beginning in the U.S. Navy and then establishing his career in the Department of Commerce’s Economic Development Administration. It is rare for a Regional Administrator for the Commerce Department’s Office of Minority Business Enterprise. The SBA noticed his extraordinary accomplishments as Commerce Regional Administrator and after just 2 years, Jack was appointed SBA Chicago District Director.

Mr. Speaker, Jack dedicated his life to the importance of sports for women and girls. I congratulate Ms. Comaneci for her awe-inspiring achievements, and I applaud the Women’s Sports Foundation for its recognition of outstanding women who exemplify the dignity, spirit, and commitment to excellence.

Ms. Comaneci is the most celebrated gymnast in the history of the sport. She was the star of the 1976 Olympic Games in Montreal, where she won three gold medals, two silver medals, and a bronze, and became the first woman ever to score a perfect 10.

COMMERCIAL SAVINGS ACCOUNTS FOR FEDERAL EMPLOYEES

HON. MATT SALMON
OF ARIZONA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, February 5, 1998

Mr. SALMON. Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased today to see the introduction of the Burton/Archer/Thomas/Mica/Salmon legislation on medical savings accounts for federal employees. It is certainly time our federal workers have the opportunity to select a medical savings account for their health care.

Mr. Speaker, Jack dedicated his life to the community and the SBA. Now it is our turn to thank Jack for all of the energy and dedication he expended for so many years to make Illinois a better place.

STATEMENT IN SUPPORT OF NATIONAL GIRLS AND WOMEN IN SPORTS DAY

HON. CAROLYN C. KILPATRICK
OF MICHIGAN
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, February 5, 1998

Ms. KILPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to state my strong support for the 12th Annual National Girls and Women in Sports Day. I have long been an ardent supporter of women athletes who use grace, strength, and discipline to break down barriers. Sports instill confidence in girls and women and equip them with important life skills such as teamwork, goal-setting, the pursuit of excellence in performance, and other achievement-oriented behaviors.

National Girls and Women in Sports Day was established in 1987 in memory of the late Flo Hyman, the Olympic volleyball champion who died suddenly in 1986. Participants in this year’s celebration include Tajama Abraham, Sacramento Monarchs center; Lilian Greene-Chamberlain, PhD, national track and field champion; Nancy Hogseed, three-time Olympic swimming gold medalist, Benita Fitzgerald Mosley, Olympic track and field champion; Nadia Comaneci, Olympic gymnastics champion; Robin Campbell, track and field Olympian; Dominique Dawes, Olympic gymnastic gold medalist; Camille Duval-Hero, world champion water-skier; Kelly Dyer, world-champion ice hockey player; Wendy Hilliard, national rhythmic gymnastics champion; Rusty Kanokogi, highest ranking woman in judo; Nikki McCray, 1996 Olympic gold medalist and member of the newly formed WNBA Washington Mystics; Aimee Mullins, national track and field champion; Donna Richardson, fitness star, national aerobic champion; Chanda Rubin, tennis champion; Lyn St. James, champion auto racer.

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD — Extensions of Remarks
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