

them. I have run into them a couple of times.

Congressman SANDERS. Other comments?

AMANDA BEAN. I was wondering about longer hours of day care, like not longer days, but being open longer. Most day cares are 5:00 or 6:00, and what about people who work until 9:00 or 10:00 at night and have to pay someone extra, and weekend day cares. I work on the weekends, and I have to pay somebody unreal amounts of money to babysit my kid, and there goes most of my money.

Congressman SANDERS. The issue that we are talking about obviously is a very personal and difficult issue. I very much applaud you all for coming up, and I thank you for doing that.

HONORING SGT. JOHN PETERSON

HON. MARGE ROUKEMA

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 24, 1998

Mrs. ROUKEMA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to call attention of my Colleagues to a tragedy in my Congressional District earlier this month. Sgt. John Peterson, a loyal and dedicated Alpine, New Jersey, police officer was critically injured on the job. His case has brought an outpouring of sympathy from our community.

Sgt. Peterson was directing traffic around a Bell Atlantic cable-stringing crew on Hillside Avenue in Alpine about 1:30 p.m. July 2 when he was struck by a car. The car turned from Church Street onto Hillside, then increased in speed while ignoring Sgt. Peterson's orders to stop. The sergeant finally attempted to jump out of the way but was struck by the car and suffered broken bones in his nose, pelvis, chest and shoulders, among other injuries. He was flown by helicopter to Hackensack University Medical Center, where he was listed in critical but stable condition at last report. A 71-year-old Cresskill woman has been changed with failing to comply with the directions of a police officer.

Sgt. Peterson has patrolled the streets of Alpine for more than 25 years, becoming well-known among the residents of the affluent Bergen County borough. He, his wife, Marie, two adolescent children and one grandchild live in nearby Emerson. The couple also have two adult children. When word of the accident and severe injuries spread, the community was shocked. As a result, Alpine residents Ed and Sally Desser have begun a fund-raising campaign to help Sgt. Peterson and his family pay for medical expenses. A fundraising barbecue will be held at the Desser's home this weekend.

Mr. Speaker, we all know that police officers are among the most valued members of our communities. They work nights, weekends and holidays to protect us, our families and our property. Their work is hard and their pay modest. And every day they know they may be called on to put their lives on the line. Officers' spouses and children pray each day that they will return home from work safely—not a worry most of us have to face. In a small and relatively crime-free community such as Alpine, those worries seldom turn into real-life tragedy. But this terrible accident reminds us of the dangers a police officer faces every moment of every day—whether chasing drug dealers through a crime-ridden corner of a

major city or directing traffic in a peaceful suburb.

I ask all the Members of the House to join me in offering their gratitude to the hard work and dedication of officers like Sgt. Peterson across our nation. Let us strive to keep Sgt. Peterson and his family in our thoughts and prayers.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 24, 1998

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, on July 15, I was unavoidably detained during roll call vote number 282, on final passage of H.R. 3267, a bill concerning the Salton Sea. Had I been present for the vote, I would have voted "no".

EXPRESSING CONDOLENCES TO THE STATE AND PEOPLE OF FLORIDA FOR LOSSES SUFFERED AS A RESULT OF WILD LAND FIRES

SPEECH OF

HON. CARRIE P. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 20, 1998

Mrs. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of House Concurrent Resolution 298. The people in the northeast and central regions of the state of Florida have experienced great hardship because of the destruction of nearly 500,000 acres of land and over \$276,000,000 dollars in aggregate damages.

I would like to express my heartfelt sympathy to the people who have personally incurred loss, or who had family and friends who sustained losses due to the brush fires that damaged or destroyed nearly four hundred homes and businesses in Florida.

We must also recognize the firefighters, from forty-seven states across this nation who unselfishly worked around the clock in extreme heat to combat these fires.

At the same time, this incident underscores the need to prepare ourselves in advance for future catastrophes. I am hopeful that we can learn from our experiences in this matter and apply our knowledge to prevention.

With the victims and families of this disaster in mind, I strongly urge my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to vote for House Concurrent Resolution 298.

TRIBUTE TO CAROLE PONCHETTI

HON. GEORGE P. RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 24, 1998

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Fresno Businesswoman Carole Ponchetti, President and Chief Executive Officer of J.E. Ethridge Construction Inc., for her efforts and success in the business arena. Carole Ponchetti's climb and dedication to her current position in a traditionally male-

dominated field has made her very deserving of this recognition.

Mrs. Ponchetti has clearly demonstrated a drive for success. She attended California State University, Fresno, earning her license as a Class B General Building Contractor. In 1971, Mrs. Ponchetti began her career with Ethridge, working as a secretary in a one-employee office. Steadily climbing the corporate ladder in the mid 1980's, Mrs. Ponchetti was a key figure in the renovations of the Fresno Bee and the Fresno Metropolitan Museum.

Mrs. Ponchetti has served the community in more ways than one. She is currently on the Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, a board member of the San Joaquin Business Investment Group (a minority interest), and a member of the Fresno Business Council.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I pay tribute to Carole Ponchetti for her effort with J.E. Ethridge Construction Inc. Her commitment and unflinching dedication serve not only as a model for current heads of business, but also for women who wish to enter and succeed in the business field. I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing Carol Ponchetti many more years of success.

RECOGNIZING LARRY D. HAAB

HON. GLENN POSHARD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 24, 1998

Mr. POSHARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to my constituent, Mr. Larry D. Haab, who will be retiring from the Illinova Corporation, a power company in my congressional district. He has honorably served as Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer, and will resign from the latter post this summer after more than 25 years of service. I wish him all the best during his retirement.

Larry attended Millikin University in my district and earned his bachelor of science degree in 1959. He recognized that commitment to his career and Illinova was essential in the business world. Larry established his career in the early 1970's when he was appointed manager of data processing at Illinova. His superior service to the company resulted in his promotion to vice president two years later, and reelection in the subsequent years until he achieved the presidency in 1989. By 1991, Larry had achieved the offices of Chairman and Chief Executive Officer. Larry recognized the potential of Illinova, and he wanted to expand it into larger and new markets. During his career, he helped in the growth of the corporation from a local utility to a nationwide business to an international operation.

In addition, Larry devotes his energy to serving on dozens of boards and councils with dynamic leadership and integrity. He understands the importance of being involved and committed to the Decatur community. From the Illinois Energy Association and the Millikin University Alumni Board to the Decatur County Economic Development Foundation, Larry has maintained active involvement with business and community issues. He is married to Ann Haab, and has two daughters and a son.

Mr. Speaker, please help me in recognizing Mr. Larry D. Haab for his dedication and commitment to Illinova and his community. As a member of the House Small Business Committee, it is a pleasure to witness businessmen

such as Larry Haab succeed. I wish him the best during his retirement. He has been very successful with Illinova, and it has been a pleasure to represent him in the United States Congress.

EDUCATION FUNDING

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 24, 1998

Mr. BOB SCHAFFER of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, just yesterday, I met with principals from schools in the 4th Congressional District of Colorado and I would ask my colleagues to consider the issues raised by these education professionals. Congress, they told me, has mounted bureaucratic obstacles which prevent them from putting federal education dollars to use for their students. The paperwork and bureaucratic red-tape associated with federal money are hurdles which prevent dollars from reaching the classroom.

Principal Betsy Dumph from the town of Hudson, Colorado, stated that small schools like hers simply do not have the money to hire professional grant writers to negotiate the extensive federal grant applications and are therefore at a competitive disadvantage to large districts when seeking federal grants. Another principal described how bureaucratic rules often keep her school ineligible for federal grants. The entire group expressed frustration with federal rules concerning special education which restrict them from removing dangerous students.

These principals aren't the only ones who feel this way. Teachers and parents in northern Colorado told the Committee on Education and the Workforce they share the same sentiments. Over 79% of respondents to an education survey in my district support sending the majority of all federal education funds directly to the classroom. Nearly 85% would support efforts to eliminate onerous federal mandates affecting education.

The objective of these Oversight hearings was to produce the Education at a Crossroads report to Congress. Based on witness testimony, the Subcommittee has made four recommendations—send dollars to the classroom not the education bureaucracy, strengthen local control, emphasize basic academics, and promote parental involvement. These suggestions came after two years of investigations and the testimony of 225 witnesses in 15 states including Colorado. The report was adopted by the Subcommittee on the 17th of July.

Before developing these recommendations, the Subcommittee made several observations: There are 760 federal education programs. An average of 48.6 million hours are spent doing paperwork. As little as 65 cents of every federal tax dollar makes it to the classroom. There are over 18,000 federal employees and full-time equivalents administering federal education programs.

There are disturbing national trends that Congress should address. For example, almost half of America's fourth-graders do not read at even a basic level. Half of all students from urban school districts fail to graduate on time, if at all. The average 1996 NAEP scores among 17-year-olds are lower than they were

in 1984. American senior high students only outperformed two out of 21 nations in mathematics according to the Third International Mathematics and Science Study. Public higher education institutions spend one billion dollars on remedial education.

The answer to this situation is simple: Listen to educators, parents, and administrators and take their advice. For once, the government needs to support what works and take the suggestions of professionals who are making the grade and making a difference.

Mr. Speaker, the principals I met with, the letters, responses and phone calls I have received have pointed to the same thing. The findings in the Education at a Crossroads report come as no surprise because they simply state what people have been saying for some time—get rid of the red tape and put dollars in the classroom; trust teachers, local administrators and parents to make decisions about policy and budgeting rather than Washington bureaucrats in the Department of Education. It is time we listen.

JULIAN BREECE: ONE OF D.C.'S BRIGHT STARS

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 24, 1998

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize one of the bright stars of the District of Columbia, Julian O. Breece. Though only seventeen years old, Julian has compiled an exemplary academic record, extensive production and anchoring experience in local and national television, served as a Youth Ambassador to Israel, and participated in the Junior Statesmen summer school program. Now, I am proud to recognize his latest achievement: a \$10,000 scholarship in the Arts and Humanities category of the Discover Card Youth Program. Julian joins a select group of only nine award recipients from around the nation, achievers who stand out personally and academically.

Julian Breece, like so many other D.C. students, is a gifted and talented young man. His 4.0 grade point average at Benjamin Banneker Academic Senior High School simply wasn't enough; Julian had to do more. He has worked with the D.C. Public Schools cable station, DC28, for two years, honing his skills as an anchor, writer and producer. Julian is a regular panelist on Black Entertainment Television's Teen Summit show, which airs nationally each week. I am proud that Julian uses his exceptional oratorical and communications skills to serve his community.

Julian's community service endeavors, awards and activities are simply too numerous to list here. From theater troupes to helping the homeless, from foreign affairs programs to science fairs, Julian Breece has made an important contribution to the life of the District of Columbia. I have no doubt that he will continue to contribute to this city and this nation as he grows and matures, striving to promote cultural understanding and community awareness. My warmest congratulations to Julian on his latest award, and my regards to his parents, who have raised such a fine son!

ADDITION TO DEBATE ON HOUSE RESOLUTION 392

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 24, 1998

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to include the letter of July 16 from Chairman BILL ARCHER and my reply of July 17 as part of the record of the proceedings on House Resolution 392, relating to the role of Japan in solving the economic crisis in Asia, that took place on the House floor on Monday, July 20:

COMMITTEE ON
INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS,
Washington, DC, July 17, 1998.

Hon. BILL ARCHER,
*Chairman, Committee on Ways and Means,
House of Representatives.*

DEAR BILL: Thank you for your letter about the consideration of H. Res. 392, relating to the role of Japan in solving the economic crisis in Asia.

I very much appreciate your willingness, in view of the urgency of this matter, to forego marking up the resolution in the Committee on Ways and Means.

After consultation with Chairman Bereuter and the minority, I am certainly prepared to bring H. Res. 392 to the floor as ordered reported by the Committee on International Relations on suspension without additional amendment. I also accept the other understandings set out in your letter.

I will be working with the Majority Leader to arrange for early consideration of the Resolution on the suspension calendar.

With best wishes,

Sincerely,

BENJAMIN A. GILMAN,
Chairman.

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS,
Washington, DC, July 16, 1998.

Hon. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN,
*Chairman, Committee on International Relations,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.*

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: I am writing in reference to H. Res. 392, relating to Japan, which was reported to the House by the Committee on International Relations, as amended, on June 25, 1998. The resolution was sequentially referred to the Committee on Ways and Means until July 17, 1998, to address provisions within the Committee's jurisdiction.

On July 15, 1998, the Subcommittee on Trade of the Committee on Ways and Means held a hearing to review U.S.-Japan trade policy. This very productive hearing allowed the Subcommittee to address the necessity for Japanese implementation of broad structural reforms, including deregulation of its economy, reform of its banking system, improved transparency, and the opening of its distribution system to eliminate exclusionary business practices.

Accordingly, in order to expedite consideration of this important legislation, I do not believe that a markup by the Committee on Ways and Means will be necessary on H. Res. 392. However, this is being done only with your assurance that you will bring the resolution, as reported by the Committee on International Relations, to the House for a vote under suspension of the rules, with no additional amendment. In addition, this action by the Committee on Ways and Means with respect to H. Res. 392 is being done with the understanding that it does not in any way prejudice the Committee's jurisdictional prerogative on this measure or any other