

Jefferson School's state-of-the-art technology gives students an added dimension to their educational program. Each teacher has a personal classroom computer that is networked to a school-wide web. E-mail and Internet will soon enhance teacher communication and professional discourse. To prepare students for a successful transition to middle school, their sixth grade students are introduced to a morning core block rotation, stressing reading/language and math. Jefferson Elementary, in recognition of the importance of solid study skills, provides all intermediate students with a Student Agenda, organizational tools and a vital home/school connection.

Student success in the result of a collaborative effort of all members of the Jefferson learning community. Their growth and achievement is showcased by their mathematics program, effective reading strategies, instruction of second language learners, judicious use of well-trained instructional assistants, Extended Day programs, use of technology and their P.E. and sports program.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I pay tribute to Dinuba Elementary School District Jefferson Elementary School. The students and faculty in this school exemplify a care for the community and a dedication to hard work. I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing Jefferson elementary many more years of success.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 4059,
MILITARY CONSTRUCTION AP-
PROPRIATIONS ACT, 1999

SPEECH OF

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 29, 1998

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Military Construction Appropriations Act of Fiscal Year 1999 (H.R. 4059).

I am particularly pleased the House and Senate authorizing and appropriating committees have listened closely to the case I have been making for many years on behalf of funding the P-208 Lakehurst Aircraft Platform Interface (API) laboratory, and they are now responding.

I also want to extend my thanks to the support extended to the API lab by the Chairman of the Military Appropriations Subcommittee, RON PACKARD, and on the Senate side, by my New Jersey colleague, Senator FRANK LAUTENBERG. It is very encouraging to see that the report language contained in the House and Senate versions of H.R. 4059 have survived and are included in the final product tonight. As a result, H.R. 4059 includes directive report language that earmarks \$1.65 million in planning and design funds to be used to begin designing the P-208 Lakehurst API lab project.

At my urging, the House reaffirmed its support for the P-208 project in the report accompanying H.R. 3616, the Fiscal Year 1999 Defense Authorization Act, and now Congress is specifically appropriating the funds to adequately finance the planning and design of the P-208 API lab.

I also want to commend the Navy for moving forward with this vital project in an expedi-

tious manner. The Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC), in response to one of my inquiries, has informed me that on May 22, 1998, the Navy issued the necessary authorization to begin the planning and design of those military construction projects listed for fiscal year 2000, which includes the Lakehurst API lab. The only questions remaining now are how many square feet the facility will have and what it will look like.

Mr. Speaker, today is a very good day for America, for naval aviation, and for the people of the 4th Congressional District. It has been a long, grueling fight to successfully get the Lakehurst API consolidation project to this point, and the battle is by no means over. However, in the end, our Navy pilots and carrier crew will be able to operate more safely, more efficiently, and more effectively because of the improvements that will be brought about by the P-208 API lab project.

IN MEMORY OF OFFICER JACOB
CHESTNUT AND SPECIAL AGENT
JOHN GIBSON

SPEECH OF

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 28, 1998

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the memories of Officer Jacob Chestnut and Special Agent John Gibson. The untimely and tragic deaths of these two men demand from all of us contemplation as to the awesome costs of freedom as well as the delicate nature of life.

The freedoms that we, as Americans, enjoy today are a direct result of a brave decision made long ago by the first Americans, a decision reaffirmed by every generation of the nation's citizenry. This was the decision made by Officer Jacob Chestnut and Special Agent John Gibson this past Friday. The measure of America's greatness, a greatness in which Officer Chestnut and Special Agent Gibson share, is this brave commitment to a free society.

The burden of this commitment is an unflinching vigilance against those who threaten our freedoms. Officer Chestnut and Special Agent Gibson devoted their lives to providing the very security that allows our free society to flourish. It was in providing this security that these two men lost their lives, a sacrifice which demands the reverence of a grateful nation.

My fellow colleagues, let us learn from the sacrifices of Officer Chestnut and Special Agent Gibson. The legacy of these two patriots offers important lessons to us all.

HONORING THE MEMBERS OF THE
CHATTANOOGA ALL-STAR TRAM-
POLINE AND TUMBLING TEAM

HON. BOB CLEMENT

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 30, 1998

Mr. CLEMENT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Courtney Bailey, Allison Bovell, Alice Ann Caldwell, Lindsay Davis, Sarah Harris,

Lori Hughes, Samantha Robinson, Nat Davis, Caleb Hicks and Ashley Nickols for their competitive performances at the USA Trampoline and Tumbling National Championships in St. Paul, Minnesota on July 1-8, 1998. During these competitions, these fine young athletes earned eight first place national championships and made Tennesseans proud.

Even more outstanding that recognition, medals or fame is how these students have overcome the obstacles of our society and let their determination and perseverance win the ultimate goal. With all the negative publicity brought on our youth today, it is good to know that children like these are our true future of tomorrow. Their persistence has brought honor, pride and dignity not only to the state of Tennessee, but to the nation as a whole. With these achievements, these remarkable young athletes serve as role models for members of the younger community. I would also like to congratulate the coaches, teachers, parents and/or guardians who have provided these "champions" with spiritual and mental guidance. Without this influence, these extraordinary young men and women might not have learned how to excel in all realms of life.

I want to conclude with a special "thank-you" to Courtney, Allison, Alice Ann, Lindsay, Sarah, Lori, Samantha, Nat, Caleb and Ashley for their achievements. And I encourage them to continue to strive for their goals and to be a positive influence on those around them.

FAREWELL TRIBUTE TO ITZHAK
OREN

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 30, 1998

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I invite my colleagues to join me today in bidding farewell to Itzhak Oren, who for the past four years has been the Minister for Congressional Affairs at the Embassy of Israel here in Washington, D.C. During this time, he has been a major influence in maintaining and fostering the strong and friendly relationship between the United States and the State of Israel. For Members of Congress and for congressional staff, Itzhak has been a ready source of information and assistance.

Mr. Oren will shortly take up his new position as the Ambassador of Israel to Nigeria and Benin.

Mr. Oren has served in the Israeli Foreign Ministry for 17 years. Prior to assuming his position in Washington, he was head of the Foreign Ministry's Coordination Department and served as political advisor to Prime Ministers Yitzhak Rabin and Yitzhak Shamir. In 1991 and 1992, he was a participant in the multilateral peace talks in Moscow, Tokyo and the Hague. He has served a number of years in the United States as Consul of Israel in Boston, and prior to that he was posted in New York City.

Prior to joining the Foreign Ministry, Itzhak served as an officer in the Israeli Defense Forces and as an intelligence analyst. He holds a B.A. degree from Bar Ilan University and an M.A. from the City University of New York.