

Jim was elected to the Galveston Independent School District Board of Trustees and served a 4-year term from 1991–94 during which time a successful bond issue permitted major construction and renovation of GISD facilities. In 1994, he was a successful candidate for the Galveston County Judge, a leadership position he has held since and from which he has earned much praise for his efforts to streamline county government. The Galveston County Daily News and the Boy Scouts of America both honored him in 1996 as their Citizen of the Year.

During the past 10 months, Jim and Carol Yarbrough and their family have faced perhaps their greatest challenge with the discovery of Carol's breast cancer. They recognized immediately the value of educating others to the challenge of cancer when they chose to share their story with the people of Galveston County, and, indeed, all of us. Carol now visits all the Galveston County high schools as a volunteer with the "Check It Out" program to educate junior and senior girls about breast cancer.

Since education has been an important part of Jim and Carol Yarbrough's success, the College of the Mainland Foundation believes a scholarship named for this remarkable couple will help current and future students succeed.

Once again, I commend the Yarbroughs for their leadership in my community.

TAIWAN'S NATIONAL DAY

HON. EVA M. CLAYTON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 1, 1998

Mrs. CLAYTON. Mr. Speaker, as I rise today to welcome Taiwan Representatives Stephen Chen and Mrs. Rosa Chen to the nation's capital, I hope the Republic of China will be able to return to the United Nations and other international organizations as soon as possible.

As an economic power and a symbol of democracy, Mr. Speaker, Taiwan deserves the world's respect and recognition. Since 1949, the Republic of China on Taiwan has moved from an agricultural society, exporting only bananas and sugar, to a major trading nation today. Moreover, the 21 million people on Taiwan are prosperous and free.

Lastly, Mr. Speaker, I take advantage of this opportunity to congratulate President Lee Teng-hui, Vice President Lien Chan and Foreign Minister Jason Hu. I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing them good luck as they celebrate their National Day on October 10, 1998.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 6, HIGHER EDUCATION AMENDMENTS OF 1998

SPEECH OF

HON. LOUIS STOKES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 28, 1998

Mr. STOKES. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the Conference Report on H.R. 6, the Higher Education Amendments of 1998. This

measure is similar to the House-passed bill and contains key Democratic priorities. The heart of this measure is its student aid programs, which are authorized under titles III and IV. These critical programs expand post-secondary educational opportunities for all students and increase the affordability and accessibility of a college education for many of our Nation's families.

I am very pleased with the historic increases for the Pell Grant program, included in H.R. 6. This critical program provides need-based aid for undergraduate students. As such, H.R. 6 raises the maximum authorized level for Pell Grant awards from the current appropriation of \$3,000 a year, to \$4,500 for the 1999–2000 academic year, to \$5,800 for the academic year 2003–2004.

In addition, the Conference Report makes some critical changes to the needs analysis formula used to determine the size of a student's Pell Grant and other Federal student aid awards. It increases the amount of income that families may exclude from calculations—to determine what they should contribute to the cost of education—and decreases the percentage of a student's assets that must be contributed toward the cost of their education.

This measure also lowers interest rates of student loans from the current 8.25 percent to 7.46 percent. This is the lowest level in 17 years and will result in students experiencing \$11 billion in savings over the life of their loans.

And, despite Republican efforts to eliminate the Federal Direct Loan Program, H.R. 6 strengthens both the Direct Loan and the Federal Family Educational Loan programs. This will continue to provide colleges and universities with the opportunity to choose the most appropriate program for them.

Mr. Speaker, while I am pleased with each of these commitments, I am particularly proud of the provisions included in H.R. 6 that were specifically designed to expand educational opportunities for underserved and minority students. One such report is the establishment of the "Gear Up Mentoring Initiative," which was originally introduced by Representative FATTAH (D-PA)—and endorsed by the administration—as the High Hopes Initiative. This program is a new national effort targeted at helping disadvantaged students prepare for college. Other important efforts include the strengthening of: the trio programs, which fund outreach and students support services designed to encourage disadvantaged students to enter and complete college; historically Black Colleges and Universities; and Hispanic-serving institutions.

Other important provisions include those focused on improving teacher quality, preparation and recruitment—and providing scholarships, support and services to recruit and prepare teachers to serve, for at least 3 years, in underserved urban and rural schools.

These are all critical investments that will continue to go a long way in leveling the playing field of educational opportunity for all of our Nations' students. As such, it is absolutely essential that they continue to receive strengthened and sustained support.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting the Conference Report for H.R. 6. This is an acceptable compromise that will benefit students across the Nation.

IN HONOR OF THE CUYAHOGA COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 1, 1998

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Cuyahoga County Public Library for 75 years of serving its community. Throughout its existence, the library has earned a reputation for conducting innovative programs and providing valuable services which have become models for libraries across the nation.

When the state legislature passed a law enabling the establishment of a county district library for any area not served by a free public library, the ever-increasing population of Cuyahoga County saw an opportunity to build a library in its community. The Cuyahoga County Public Library was the first to be organized under the new law.

The library rendered its services through schools, which proved to be the best way to serve residents eager for this resource. The schools had ample space and were willing to provide the available quarters rent-free. According to the County Library Report for 1924–1925, eight branches and 49 stations and classroom libraries were opened to the public.

As it continued to expand throughout the years, the Cuyahoga County Library was restructured within the framework of a regional library system. It grew to include in-depth collections and subject specialties in specific areas of study. Annual circulation grew from six million in 1965 to 10 million by the mid-eighties.

Today, this library has reached such success that it is ranked among the 10 busiest library systems in the nation. It has 29 locations, serving 47 suburban communities with a population of approximately 608,000 people. I am pleased to honor such an achievement on the 75th anniversary of the Cuyahoga County Public Library.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 6, HIGHER EDUCATION AMENDMENTS OF 1998

SPEECH OF

HON. ROBERT A. UNDERWOOD

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 28, 1998

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, through bipartisan efforts, we have before us a piece of legislation which will assist students, teachers, parents and educational administrators for the next five years. As an educator and former educational administrator, I know that components of the bill, such as increasing Pell Grant limits and lowering interest rates on student loans, provide students the security of pursuing their educational goals without fear of financial constraints. Improving teacher quality and strengthening minority institutions of higher education is also a strong signal that the United States is committed to enhancing student education as well as leveling the playing field for students by continuing to assist historically disadvantaged student populations.

The Conference Report on HR 6 also contains language which would extend Pell Grant