

A.O. REED & COMPANY: SPIRIT OF
COOPERATION AWARD

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 19, 2000

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker and colleagues, today I recognize A.O. Reed & Company, as it is honored by the San Diego-Imperial Counties Labor Council, AFL-CIO, at its 12th annual Worker's Memorial Dinner with its Spirit of Cooperation Award.

A.O. Reed, founded in 1914, is one of the largest and most respected locally owned construction companies. The company has been in continuous business in San Diego for over eighty years, and it is responsible for some of the largest, most complex projects in the San Diego area, including the East Terminal at Lindbergh Field, Hyatt Regency San Diego, San Diego Marriott Hotel, Kaiser Hospital, Salk Cancer Research Facility, Scripps Institute of Oceanography and Marine Biology, California State Prison, Idec Pharmaceutical, and Callaway Golf Ball Facility. With this Labor Council Spirit of Cooperation award, we honor their long-standing support for the trade union movement.

A.O. Reed employees are compensated with wages and benefits that lead the industry. Their employees receive the best training available through state-approved apprenticeship and journeyman training programs. A.O. Reed management has demonstrated an admirable commitment to the collective bargaining process.

A.O. Reed is also a consistent leader in charitable giving. They donate labor and materials to those in the San Diego community who are in need of plumbing and mechanical services.

This award recognizes their contribution to San Diego and honors their partnership with Plumbers and Pipefitter Local 230 and Sheetmetal Workers Local 206. My congratulations go to A.O. Reed & Company for these significant contributions.

**INTRODUCTION OF THE HIGHER
EDUCATION TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS OF 2000**

HON. WILLIAM F. GOODLING

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 19, 2000

Mr. GOODLING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Higher Education Technical Amendments of 2000. On May 8, 1998, the House passed the Higher Education Amendments of 1998 on a bipartisan basis. That legislation was subsequently enacted on October 7, 1998, and greatly benefited students by providing the lowest student loan interest rates in almost 20 years, as well as by making needed improvements to important student aid programs like Work-Study, Pell Grants, and TRIO.

At that time I congratulated the Subcommittee Chairman, Mr. MCKEON, the Ranking Member, Mr. CLAY, and the former Ranking Member of the Subcommittee, Mr. KILDEE, for a job well done. The past year and a half has shown that praise was well placed. Mil-

lions of students have since benefited from their efforts, and the minimal number of technical amendments that are needed is testimony to the fact that the bill was well crafted.

Since that time, the Department of Education has concluded its first round of negotiated rule making, and issued final regulations to reflect the changes. We have had a chance to analyze the implementation of the law with respect to congressional intent. In most cases our intent was adhered to, but in a few important instances it was not.

The legislation we are introducing today makes necessary technical changes as well as a few policy changes that we believe are necessary to implement the Act as intended. There are also a number of policy changes that were recommended to us that have not been included in this bill, and I expect that some will be disappointed at their exclusion. However, in crafting this legislation, we have worked to ensure that the bill is bipartisan, that it is fully paid for, that it will benefit students, and that it will be signed into law.

For example, I feel very strongly that the Department is not following our intent with respect to direct loan origination fees. Now, before this is taken out of context, let me be clear; I support better terms and conditions for students. The 1998 amendments were designed to provide students with the best possible deal under very tight budget constraints, and I believe we succeeded in doing that. However, the law is very clear in directing the Secretary to collect a four percent origination fee on direct student loans.

This is confirmed in legal opinions from the Congressional Research Service and the Comptroller General. It was not our intent to change that, and in my view the Department's action sets a very dangerous precedent. The fact that this legislation does not address this issue should not be taken as an endorsement of the Department's actions.

The legislation we are introducing today does make a needed change to the "return of federal funds" provisions in the Higher Education Act to help students who withdraw before the end of a term. Specifically, it corrects the Department's interpretation and clarifies that students are never required to return more than 50 percent of the grant funds they received. Again, I know there are those who would like us to go further. However, doing so would have mandatory spending implications that we have no way to pay for, and in many instances would result in students leaving school with increased student loan debt.

This bill will also modify the campus crime reporting provisions of the Act to provide parents and students with information on schools' policies regarding the handling of reports on missing students. Specifically, information will be provided on a school's policy on parental notification as well as its policy for investigating such reports and cooperating with local police. I have a long history of trying to ensure that parents have the information they need to make sure that their children are safe on campus, and I have worked closely with my colleague, Mr. Andrews, to craft this version of "Bryan's Law" so that it gives parents this information without overly burdening schools.

Finally, I would also note that we have included the provisions of H.R. 3629, the Tribal College Amendments, which we marked up last month and which passed the House under

suspension of the rules. These provisions will streamline grant applications for Tribal Colleges under Title III and allow institutions to apply for a new grant without waiting for two years. We have included them again here because we are uncertain whether the other body will act on H.R. 3629 in a timely manner. I also note that this bill contains similar treatment for Hispanic Serving Institutions under Title V, and I thank our colleague, MARK GREEN of Wisconsin, for bringing this issue to our attention.

I also want to thank Mr. CLAY, Mr. MCKEON, and Mr. MARTINEZ for their efforts in crafting this bipartisan legislation. This bill will not satisfy everyone completely. But it does make necessary technical and policy changes that will improve the implementation of the Higher Education Amendments of 1998, and it does so in a way that will benefit students and that is likely to be enacted. I urge my colleagues from both sides of the aisle to support this legislation.

**COMMENDING MASTER CHIEF
ANDE HARTLEY**

HON. ROY BLUNT

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 19, 2000

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. Speaker, today I commend Master Chief Ande Hartley of the United States Navy upon his retirement after twenty-one years of service and duty to our country. Ande carried out that duty as a submariner.

Being a member of a submarine crew for two decades is no small accomplishment. It is well known among members of our armed forces that submarine duty may be among the toughest and most challenging assignments in the Navy. After all, in most other assignments in the Navy, there is usually an opportunity to leave your station for a few hours and have time alone. When you are aboard a submarine there is no opportunity for retreat from one's responsibilities.

Ande's specific duties as a Machinist Mate aboard a nuclear submarine were to make sure that the mechanical systems of the submarine ran properly. All though I am not aware of all those responsibilities, I want to be sure and mention the importance of running the propulsion plant spacers and ensuring that all mechanics associated with the reactor plant were in proper working order. If a qualified member of the crew had not carried out these duties correctly, then this ship would be unable to perform its covert operations for the Navy that are so vital to the freedom of this nation.

Without reservation Mr. Speaker, I can say that Master Chief Ande Hartley has performed his duties well. I am sure there were days he realized he could pursue other employment opportunities and earn better pay, and benefits as well as enjoy more time with his family and friends. For Ande though, true commitment is more than pay and benefits, it is about the preservation of the freedom we enjoy so that our family and friends will have the opportunities they now have in the future.

Ande's sacrifices are without doubt noteworthy and commendable. His commitment is an example that his family, friends and fellow sailors can follow as a pattern in their own