

states to impose and collect fees on trucks to cover the cost of these inspections. By requiring all trucks to pass inspections before entering the United States, we can help to limit the risks these unsafe trucks pose to our citizens. This country entered into NAFTA in order to better the lives of our citizens. I urge all of my colleagues to cosponsor and help me pass this legislation, because without it, we will simply put our citizens in more jeopardy. Thank you.

COMMEMORATIVE STAMP FOR
AVA GARDNER

HON. BOB ETHERIDGE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 14, 2001

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce a concurrent resolution recommending that the U.S. Postal Service issue a commemorative postage stamp for Johnston County's favorite daughter and one of America's most accomplished actresses, Ava Gardner.

Having grown up in Johnston County myself, I am proud to introduce this legislation in Ava Gardner's memory, not only because she is a famous North Carolinian; but because she touched the lives of thousands around the globe.

Despite her superstar status, Ava Gardner never forgot her humble Johnston County roots. She was born the youngest of seven children of Jonas and Mary Elizabeth Gardner in 1922 and grew up near Smithfield. When she was 13 her family moved to Newport News, Virginia, only to return to North Carolina where she attended high school in the Rock Ridge community and studied at Atlantic Christian College, which is now Barton College, in Wilson.

In the summer of 1941 the Smithfield Herald told the story of Ava Gardner's trip across country to a place called Hollywood. When she arrived there, it didn't take long for the whole world to recognize what the people of Smithfield and all of North Carolina already saw—Ava's remarkable talent. During her career, she starred in 64 films and won many honors including:

A Golden Globe nomination for "Best Actress in a Drama" for "Night of the Iguana" in 1964;

The Academy of Motion Pictures "Merit for Outstanding Achievement—Best Actress" nomination for "Mogambo" in 1953;

And the Look "Film Achievement" award for her performance in "The Hucksters" in 1947.

She was also the first woman from North Carolina to grace the cover of Time magazine. Indeed, Ava Gardner's story is the American Dream.

In addition to her success on the silver screen, Ava was a leader in the fight against cancer and worked tirelessly for more funding for research. She was also a patriot and was recognized by the U.S. Armed Forces for her spirit of public service and her performance as a guest star on the Armed Forces radio network's production of "Victorious Lady."

Ava Gardner was one of America's most accomplished actresses in the 20th century. She led the Hollywood golden age, shared the stage with Clark Gable, Burt Lancaster, and

Grace Kelly. She served as a goodwill ambassador to people around the globe and graciously dedicated her fame to the fight against cancer.

Mr. Speaker, Ava Gardner's legacy lives on through her movies and the wonderful Ava Gardner Museum in Smithfield, North Carolina. Being commemorated on a postage stamp is a high honor reserved for remarkable people, places, and even cartoon characters. Surely, someone as glamorous and accomplished as Ava Gardner deserves her own stamp too.

CHILD PASSENGER PROTECTION
EDUCATION GRANTS

HON. JAMES L. OBERSTAR

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 14, 2001

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, this week is National Child Passenger Safety Week. This national observance reminds parents and caregivers of the importance of buckling up children correctly on every ride. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, in 1999, motor vehicle crashes killed more than 1,400 children (infants to age 14) and injured another 300,000. Six out of 10 children killed in these crashes were completely unrestrained. This is simply unacceptable.

Today, I introduce a bill to continue for fiscal years 2002 and 2003 the Child Passenger Protection Education Grant program authorized by Section 2003(b) of the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA 21). The bill authorizes \$7.5 million for each of fiscal years 2002 and 2003 for the Secretary of Transportation to make incentive grants to states to encourage the implementation of child passenger protection programs in those states. Current authorizations for the Child Passenger Protection Education Grant program expire at the end of fiscal year 2001, whereas authorizations for virtually all other TEA 21 programs expire at the end of fiscal year 2003.

To increase seat belt use nationwide, the previous Administration established goals to reduce the number of child occupant fatalities 15 percent by 2000 and 25 percent by 2005. The Child Passenger Protection Education Grant program has played an important role in helping the Department meet the first of these goals. Since 1997, the number of child fatalities resulting from traffic crashes has declined 17 percent, exceeding the goal of 15 percent by 2000. Restraint use for infants has risen to 97 percent from 85 percent in 1996, and has climbed to 91 percent for children aged one to four, up from 60 percent in 1996.

Under my bill, a state may use its grant funds to implement programs that are designed to:

Prevent deaths and injuries to children;

Educate the public concerning all aspects of the proper installation of child restraints, appropriate child restraint design, selection, and placement, and harness threading and harness adjustment on child restraints; and

Train and retrain child passenger safety professionals, police officers, fire and emergency medical personnel, and other educators concerning all aspects of child restraint use.

A state may carry out its child passenger protection education activities through a state program or through grants to political subdivisions of the state or to an appropriate private entity. Each state that receives a grant must submit a report that describes the program activities carried out with the funds made available under the grant. Not later than June 1, 2002, the Secretary of Transportation shall report to Congress on the implementation of the program, including a description of the programs carried out and materials developed and distributed by the states that receive grants under the program.

In each of fiscal years 2000 and 2001, the Transportation Appropriations Act provided \$7.5 million to finance the Child Passenger Protection Education Grant program. It is essential that we continue to provide funding for the Child Passenger Protection Education Grant program to ensure that we make progress in preventing deaths and injuries to children on the nation's highways, and achieve our goal of a 25 percent reduction in child occupant fatalities by 2005.

INTRODUCTION OF THE GIFT OF
LIFE CONGRESSIONAL MEDAL
ACT OF 2001

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 14, 2001

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to introduce the "Gift of Life Congressional Medal Act of 2001." This legislation creates a commemorative medal to honor organ donors and their survivors. Senator Frist, a heart and lung transplant surgeon himself, is introducing companion legislation in the Senate.

There is a serious shortage of available and suitable organ donors. Nearly 75,000 people are currently waiting for an organ transplant, and every 14 minutes a new name is added to the list. Because of low donor rates, over 6,000 people died in 1999 for lack of a suitable organ. Incentive programs and public education are critical to maintaining and increasing the number of organs donated each year.

We are very happy to hear that Secretary Thompson has made this a priority issue that he plans to address during his first 100 days as Secretary. He has promised to mount "a national campaign to raise awareness of organ donation", and to "do more to recognize families who donate organs of a loved one." The Gift of Life Congressional Medal Act is a great opportunity for us to work with Secretary Thompson to draw attention to this life-saving issue. It sends a clear message that donating one's organs is a self-less act that should receive the profound respect of the Nation.

The legislation allows the Health and Human Service's Organ Procurement Organization (OPO) and the Organ Procurement and Transplantation Network (OPTN) to establish a nonprofit fund to design, produce, and distribute a Congressional Medal of Honor for organ donors or their family members. Enactment of this legislation would have no cost to the Federal Government. The Treasury Department would provide an initial loan to OPTN for start-up purposes, which would be fully repaid. From then on, the program would

be self-sufficient through charitable donations. The donor or family member would have the option of receiving the Congressional Gift of Life Medal. Families would also be able to request that a Member of Congress, state or local official, or community leader award the medal to the donor or donor's survivors.

Physicians can now transplant kidneys, lungs, pancreas, liver, and heart with considerable success. The demand for organs will continue to grow with the improvement of medical technologies. According to the United Network for Organ Sharing (UNOS), an average of 9,600 donations was made per year between 1995 and 1999. Without expanded efforts to increase the supply of organ donation, the supply of suitable organs will continue to lag behind the need.

This is non-controversial, non-partisan legislation to increase organ donation. I ask my colleagues to help bring an end to transplant waiting lists and recognize the enormous faith and courage displayed by organ donors and their families. This bill honors these brave acts, while publicizing the critical need for increased organ donations.

HONORING LONNELL COOPER

HON. MARTIN FROST

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 14, 2001

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Lonnell Cooper, a retired sergeant with the Fort Worth Police Department and tremendous public servant who has served our community for half a century.

Throughout his life and career, Sgt. Cooper has been a stellar law enforcement officer and a trailblazer. He was a leader in breaking down the color barrier as one of the first six African Americans accepted to the Fort Worth Police Department. He also organized the department's first Explorer post.

Among the many honors bestowed on Sgt. Cooper throughout his distinguished career are Fort Worth Officer of the Year of the department's Service Division, he was designated an Outstanding Law Enforcement Officer by the State of Texas and a Pioneer in Criminal Justice by the U.S. Congress. The Mayor of Fort Worth even designated a "Sgt. Lonnell E. Cooper Day" in the city.

This Sunday, February 18, the New Rising Star Baptist Church is paying much deserved tribute to Sgt. Cooper for his lifetime of service to our community. I want to join with his family and many friends in thanking Sgt. Lonnell E. Cooper for all that he has done to make our community safer and a better place to live.

INTRODUCTION OF THE MCKINNEY-VENTO HOMELESS EDUCATION ACT OF 2001

HON. JUDY BIGGERT

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 14, 2001

Mrs. BIGGERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the "McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Act of 2001." This legislation builds upon legislation I introduced during the last

Congress, numbered H.R. 2888, to improve educational opportunities for homeless children.

As my colleagues will recall, a majority of H.R. 2888 was incorporated into H.R. 2, the Students Results Act, which overwhelmingly passed the House in October of 1999. I am hopeful that this year's version of the legislation will garner the same kind of bipartisan support as did the last bill and ultimately will find its way into law.

Mr. Speaker, I think you would agree that being homeless should not mean foregoing an education. Yet, that is what homelessness means for far too many of America's children and youth today.

Even with our healthy economy, estimates are that one million kids will experience homelessness this year. Due to red tape, lack of information, and bureaucratic delays, some homeless children are missing school or are being turned away at the schoolhouse door and, as a result, losing out on the chance for a better life.

Studies show that as a result of these problems, some 45 percent of homeless children do not attend school on a regular basis. In addition, homeless children are twice as likely to repeat a grade and have four times the rate of delayed development.

Congress recognized the importance of school to homeless children by establishing the Stewart B. McKinney Education of Homeless Children and Youth program. This program is designed to remove barriers that prevent or make it hard for homeless youth to enroll, attend and succeed in school. And, for many homeless children, it may make the difference between success in the classroom and failure in life.

Yet today, more than a decade after the passage of that important program, inadequacies in the federal law inadvertently are acting as barriers to the education of homeless children. We must act to strengthen these weak areas, and we must act now.

This Congress has the rare chance to review, redefine, and improve our federal education policies. Not since 1994, when programs under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) were last authorized, has Congress had a similar opportunity to examine K through 12 education in total.

I believe it is incumbent for Members from both sides of the aisle and in both chambers to take advantage of this unique opportunity to renew our commitment to homeless children. As the 107th Congress rushes forward to reauthorize our federal K-12 education programs, we must pause long enough to ensure that all homeless children are guaranteed access to a public education, so that they acquire the skills needed to escape poverty and lead productive lives. In doing so, we will be meeting America's commitment to, as President Bush has clearly stated, leaving no child behind.

Mr. Speaker, the following is what the McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Act does. The bill:

One: ensures that homeless children are immediately enrolled in school. This means that no homeless child will be prevented for days or weeks from walking through the school doors because of delayed paperwork or other bureaucracy;

Two: limits the disruption of education by requiring schools to make every effort to keep

homeless children in the school they attended before becoming homeless, unless it is against their parents wishes. This provision ensures that homeless children are not unwillingly ripped away from their friends and environments where they are comfortable learning;

Three: keeps homeless students in school while disputes are being resolved. Homeless children often spend weeks or even months out of school while enrollment disputes remain unresolved. This legislation address this serious problem by creating a mechanism to quickly and fairly resolve such disputes, ensuring that the enrollment process burdens neither the school nor the child's education;

Four: requires local school districts to select a contact person to identify, enroll and provide resource information and resolve disputes relating to homeless students. Because many schools don't currently have a point of contact for homeless students, these children frequently go unseen and unserved;

Five: strengthens the quality and collection of data on homeless students at the federal level. This is particularly crucial, as the lack of a uniform method of data collection has resulted in unreliable information and the likely underreporting of the numbers of homeless students;

Six: prohibits federal funding from being used to segregate homeless students. Despite McKinney Act requirements to remove enrollment barriers and to integrate homeless students into the mainstream school environment, some school districts continue to segregate these children into separate schools or classrooms. By explicitly prohibiting McKinney money from being used for such a purpose, this provision will better define and put teeth into the current federal statute governing this issue;

Seven: increases accountability by providing States with greater flexibility to use authorized funds to provide technical support to local school districts in order to bring them into compliance with the Act;

Eight And finally: assists overlooked and underserved homeless children and youth by raising the program's authorized funding level to \$90 million in FY2002 and reauthorizing the program for another five years.

Mr. Speaker, a majority of these provisions are derived from the Illinois Education for Homeless Children State Act, which many consider to be a model for the rest of the Nation. These provisions also are a reflection of the best ideas of some of America's most dedicated people—homeless advocates, educators, and experts at the US Department of Education.

Like many of my colleagues here in the House, I am a strong supporter of local control of education. I believe the McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Act of 2001 meets this principle while making the best use of limited federal resources.

Regrettably, homelessness is and will likely be for the immediate future a part of our society. However, being homeless should not limit a homeless child's opportunity to receive what every child in America is entitled—a free and quality public education. I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support this much-needed and timely bill.

In closing, let me take a moment to thank Illinois State Representative Mary Lou Cowlshaw, as well Sister Rose Marie