YOUTH COURT: CIVIC ENGAGEMENT AND CHARACTER EDUCATION THROUGH JUVENILE ACCOUNTABILITY

HON. J. DENNIS HASTERT

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 20, 2001

Mr. HASTERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise to praise the efforts of the Constitutional Rights Foundation and the Constitutional Rights Foundation Chicago. Their work encourages schools, youth programs, attorneys, judges, and police departments to work together to form and expand diversionary programs.

These programs, known as Youth Courts, are where juveniles, under the supervision of representatives from the education and legal communities, determine sentencing for first time Juvenile offenders who are charged with misdemeanors or minor infractions of school rules.

The program displays that as a sentencing option, community service can serve both the offender and the community.

TRIBUTE TO FERRIS BELMAN

HON. JO ANN DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 20, 2001

Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to a distinguished constituent and public servant whose more than 30 years of service will come to a close at the end of this month.

Ferris Belman of Stafford County, one of the jurisdictions within the 1st District of Virginia, is a retired businessman who has devoted much of his adult life to serving the people of both the city of Fredericksburg and Stafford County.

For 13 years he was a member of the Fredericksburg City Council and has served as a member of the Stafford Board of Supervisors for 18 years, twice as a board chairman. He was also just recently the President of the Virginia Association of Counties.

Mr. Belman has served on numerous committees and commissions over the years and played a leading role in promoting economic growth and development in both in the city and county.

Ferris is a man of great honesty and character who has worked diligently on behalf of the people of Virginia. As Stafford County Administrator C.M. Williams notes, Ferris Belman helped insure that Ferry Farm in Stafford, the boyhood home of George Washington, would be preserved intact. He was also largely responsible for the county's acquisition of Government Island, the site of quarries that provided the stone for construction of the United States Capitol building and the White House.

Ferris Belman will leave office with the grateful appreciation of the thousands of people whose lives he has touched through his service. He will be remembered as a public official who always found time to listen to the concerns of his constituents, and went the extra mile to do all he could for those he represented. Ferris, who once owned several grocery stores, always said he thought of himself not as a politician but ''an apple peddler working for the people.''

I would like to thank Ferris Belman for a job well done. His selflessness and devotion to his constituents and Virginia are to be commended, and his service will be missed.

STATEMENT BY THE HONORABLE SOLOMON P. ORTIZ ON H.R. 3525

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 20, 2001

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, the Rio Grande Valley thanks the House for this economic stimulus package for the border * * * our economic opportunities were severely curtailed this fall when the extension of a deadline to obtain new border crossing cards was held up for three months.

The efforts of the House Border Caucus have borne fruit with the inclusion of the extension of the deadline to replace old Border Crossing Cards (BCCs) with new ''laser visas.''

This is the perfect Christmas present to the Southwest Border from the United States Congress.

In the aftermath of the September 11 terrorist attack, the increased vigilance at the border has also translated into a rougher tone in the Congress with regard to what should have been a pro forma extension of the deadline.

The Southwest border has seen extensive economic damage as a result of the deadline not being extended, as expected, in September.

I encourage the Senate to expedite consideration of the bill since the House has overcome the objections now.

As the Co-Chairman of the House Border Caucus, I thank the House for including this provision so important to the Rio Grande Valley.

I am also pleased that the bill authorized funding for additional staff and training to increase our border security.

I am particularly pleased that the bill includes a more complete monitoring program of foreign students, as since September 11 it is glaringly apparent that data and reporting gaps must be filled.

A HOLIDAY MESSAGE ABOUT UNITY

HON. HENRY J. HYDE

OF ILLINOIS

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 20, 2001

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, in this holiday season we are grateful for the familiar traditions of each of our faiths that comfort us and connect us with others. We are also thankful for the unprecedented unity of the Congress, the country, and the larger global community in its shared determination to aid the victims of September 11, and to defeat the forces of terrorism.

To maintain and strengthen that unity for the work that lies ahead, we need to find new ways to solve conflict and to overcome the suspicions that arise from differences in culture, race, religion, economic condition and political ideology. Establishment of shared traditions that promote intercultural contact will help.

On December 15, 2000, the 106th Congress unanimously approved a measure that calls for annual worldwide commemoration of the successful ''One Day in Peace January 1, 2000'' with shared meals, inter-cultural exchange, pledges of non-violence, and gifts to the hungry.

One Day in Peace provides an unparalleled example of global cooperation that is both instructive and inspiring. On that first day of the new millennium several billion people and nearly every government in the world acted responsibly, cooperatively and with astonishing success to avert the combined threats of unruly crowds, terrorism and fears of Armageddon—as well as feared panic and hoarding related to expected computer failures. The ''OneDay'' movement, begun by children and eventually pledged by one hundred countries, 1000 organizations in 135 countries, 25 U.S. governors and hundreds of mayors worldwide surely helped. The result could be called the world's first deliberate day of peace.

We believe this collective achievement by much of humankind is worth remembering and repeating each year. The United Nations General Assembly agrees. It recently adopted a resolution (56/2) inviting all Member States, and all people in the world to celebrate ''One Day in Peace 1 January 2002, and every year thereafter.''

At this season, as we enjoy the time-honored holiday traditions of our separate faiths, let us also celebrate a new tradition with a simple, world-wide all-faith holiday observance (comparable to our American Thanksgiving) that demonstrates our mutual resolve to create a future world of peace and sharing.

The schoolchildren who brought the concept of the ''OneDay'' holiday to Capitol Hill (some of the youngest and most energetic lobbyists we've seen) urge all Americans to celebrate OneDay by pledging non-violence to one another on January first. They also ask us to seek out someone of another culture and share a meal together, then match or multiply the cost of that meal with a gift to the hungry at home or abroad, in tangible demonstration of our desire for increased friendship and sharing.

We think these young peacemakers have a good idea. Happy holidays, both old and new!

INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BOND PROMOTION ACT OF 2002

HON. AMO HOUGHTON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 20, 2001

Mr. HOUGHTON. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to be joined by my colleagues, Mr. NEAL and Mr. ENGLISH, in introducing the ''Industrial Development Bond Promotion Act of 2002.'' While retaining the dollar limit on the tax-exempt issue itself, the bill broadens the pool of manufacturers who may be eligible to take advantage of the benefits of qualified small issue bonds.