

added devastation to our community, environment, and quality of life would have been unimaginable. Their tireless commitment throughout the fire season has served as an inspiration to us all and I extend my sincere gratitude to everyone in the department.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 4546,  
BOB STUMP NATIONAL DEFENSE  
AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL  
YEAR 2003

SPEECH OF

**HON. JO ANN DAVIS**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 12, 2002*

Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak on H.R. 4546, The Bob Stump National Defense Authorization Act of Fiscal Year 2003. I believe that this year's Defense Authorization package is a compromise that does many good things. In particular, I was extremely happy to see that the Committee would offer its full support for restoring the original schedule for CVNX-1.

However, Mr. Speaker, I must point out that I am disappointed at the lack of progress that we have made on the issue of concurrent receipt. Yes, this legislation would allow some of our retired veterans to receive both their VA disability and retirement pay. However, in a real sense, this is not true concurrent receipt as payments are authorized through the Special Stipend for the Severely Disabled Retirees. It is a step, but quite frankly, it is not enough.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to reemphasize my support for inclusion and passage of a full version of concurrent receipt in future years. It is something our veterans deserve and is owed to them. I am fully aware of its costs. The Administration, simply put, should either add the money and program for it, or request that this be made a mandatory spending measure.

Mr. Speaker, I am aware that many members do not fully support this and see it as simply "pork". However, let's look at what this is for. VA disability payments, in a very real sense, are earned. The military life is a job unlike any other profession. That's why it is often referred to as a calling. The risks associated with this profession are higher than most and often result in injury that years later becomes debilitating. That is why we have disability payments for our service members.

Mr. Speaker, as we hold this debate, we stand on the cusp of another war, one which will surely cause more casualties and more debilitating injuries to our young servicemen. We should do the right thing and grant concurrent receipt to our current and future veterans.

TRIBUTE TO SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGISTS  
IN SUFFOLK COUNTY, NY

**HON. STEVE ISRAEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 14, 2002*

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the work of school psychologists in Suffolk County, NY, during the week of November 4, 2002.

The children of Suffolk County, NY, have a natural desire and propensity to learn and the inalienable right to an education. It is imperative that our society supports the needs of children and youth and invest in education as our top priority.

Children's mental health is closely linked to their successful learning and development. Schools must apply sound psychological principles to instruction, learning and oversight, cultivate children's intellectual, social and emotional development, meet the educational and developmental needs of culturally diverse student populations, and promote prevention and early intervention to ensure students' achievement.

Suffolk County schools must ensure a safe, healthy learning environment for all children and be able to recognize and respond to their emotional and psychological difficulties.

Suffolk County school psychologists help parents and educators foster healthy child development and are the school-based experts in children's learning and development.

Suffolk County school psychologists and other trained school-based professionals have the opportunity and ability to help parents identify and access needed community resources to help their children.

Suffolk County school psychologists are leaders in delivering mental health services to children. It is appropriate that Americans recognize the important and vital role that school psychologists play in the personal and academic development of our nation's children.

HONORING MR. MIKE ALLEN, DIRECTOR,  
HOUSE RECORDING  
STUDIO

**HON. ROBERT W. NEY**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 14, 2002*

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, on the occasion of his retirement at the end of this year, we rise to thank Mr. John Michael Allen for his exemplary service to the U.S. House of Representatives. The following statement by Robert F. Kennedy truly defines the caliber of work that Mike has provided to the House during the past 23 years: "Few of us have the greatness to bend history itself; but each of us can work to change a small portion of events, and in the total of those acts will be written the history of this generation." Mike's strong commitment to providing professional and flawless broadcast coverage of the House floor proceedings has made history. Every day that this House of the People is in session, Mike has guided a professional and dedicated team to provide flawless daily coverage to the country. We who are here and can just cross the street to watch history being made, may not appreciate what Mike has been helping to "make happen" for 23 years. Mike is to be admired and praised for providing this notable service to the House.

Mike is currently leading the House Recording Studio from operating in an analog environment to operating in a digital environment and to providing broadcast coverage of Committee Hearings. He continues to lay the groundwork for these technological transitions as he approaches the end of his career with the House. The strength and commitment of the team he has developed will ensure the

success of these efforts even after he moves on to his new job of "retirement."

On behalf of the entire House community, we commend Mike for his dedication and long, selfless service to the House of Representatives. We wish Mike and his wife Sheila many wonderful years in fulfilling their retirement dreams.

TRIBUTE TO WILLIAM THIEBAUT,  
JR.

**HON. SCOTT MCINNIS**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 14, 2002*

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to a man that has selflessly devoted his time and energies towards the betterment of the state of Colorado. A member of the Colorado State Legislature, the hard work and dedication of William Thiebaut, Jr., known as Bill, is a testament to the Western pride and character of my state and its citizens. Bill is now leaving the Colorado State Legislature after serving since 1993, and I can think of no better way to celebrate Bill's retirement than to honor his many achievements before this body of congress, and this nation.

Educated in Canon City and now living in Pueblo, Bill has not only experienced the best the state has to offer but also has been inspired to give back to the state and its people. He has served in both the House and the Senate as both an appointee and an elected official. During his time in the Colorado General Assembly he has served on countless committees and dedicated countless hours to improving the lives of Coloradans. Most notably he has diligently served as the Senate Majority Leader and has selflessly given his time to the Legislative Councils Subcommittee on Sexual Harassment, the Criminal Justice Commission, the Governor's Job Training Coordination Council, the Federal Budget Task Force, and the Task Force on Worker's Compensation Premium Rate Increases. In addition he has worked on the issues of election reform, worker's rights, and children's rights. When Bill is not working in the General Assembly he is serving in his other roles as loving husband and devoted father of an amazing fifteen children.

Mr. Speaker, it's clear that Bill Thiebaut is a man of dedication and commitment to his state and its citizens. He has achieved many things in his distinguished tenure in the Colorado General Assembly, and I am honored to be able to bring his hard work and dedication to the attention of this body of congress. It is my privilege to be able to express to him, and to this country, my gratitude for all that he has done for our wonderful state, and I wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

HONORING WORCESTER COMPREHENSIVE CHILD CARE SERVICES

**HON. JAMES P. MCGOVERN**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 14, 2002*

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Worcester Comprehensive Child