

This great triumph is a direct result of years of hard work, discipline, dedication, and devotion to the sport. The players, coaching staff, and parents brought the game of soccer to new levels, and the entire team should be congratulated for a season that will no doubt go down both in school and district history.

I would like to recognize Coach Lisa Deil for guiding this team to victory, and for being recently named state coach of the year.

On behalf of the people of the entire 25th District of New York, I would like to congratulate the following champions for reaching such an exciting goal: Kate Ferrara, Jessilyn Fritz, Brenna Sexton, Lindsey Belle, Madison Gates, Ashley Gray, McKenzie Gray, Megan Jenkins, Vanessa Kenyon, Shaylyn Lawrence, Tessa Schraven, Carly Schurman, Mallory Wilder, Jessica Bill, Emily Mahar, Kim Ross, Dana Sheftic, Julianne Hasbrouck, Stacey Schurman, Danielle Wilder, Head Coach Lisa Deil, and Assistant Coach Jake Czyn.

HONORING DR. PETE MEHAS

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 28, 2003

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Pete Mehas, Superintendent of Fresno County Schools. He will be honored by the United Cerebral Palsy of Central California on January 25, 2003. During his tenure as Superintendent, Dr. Mehas has initiated and enhanced school programs throughout Fresno County for persons with disabilities.

A Fresno native, Dr. Mehas attended Fresno City College, and went on to receive his bachelor's degree from Fresno State in 1962, his master's degree from UCLA in 1967, and his Doctorate in Education from the University of Southern California in 1979.

He began his professional career as an instructor at Roosevelt High School, then taught at Edison High School, and then signed on with the Clovis Unified School District and worked his way up to Associate Superintendent. Dr. Mehas served as a legislative advocate for schools, which eventually led to a series of statewide educational and legislative appointments by then Governor of California, George Deukmejian. In 1987, he was appointed by the Governor to the State Board of Education. Among his many accomplishments, Dr. Mehas has participated in a series of Presidential summits on education and the future of American youth. In 1991, Dr. Mehas was appointed by President George Bush to a seventeen member advisory commission to implement the President's Executive Order on Latino education.

Dr. Mehas holds a lifetime California Standard Secondary Teaching Credential and a General Elementary Credential, as well as, a lifetime School Service Credential in General Administration.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Peter Mehas for his many years of service to the community. I urge my colleagues to join me in wishing Dr. Mehas many years of continued success.

IN SUPPORT OF THE LIFE INSURANCE EMPLOYEE NOTIFICATION ACT

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 28, 2003

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to reintroduce the Life Insurance Employee Notification Act of the LIEN Act for short. As a strong supporter of the American worker, I am here on the floor reintroducing legislation to stop American companies from profiting in the deaths of their employees. Last year, over 50 of my colleagues joined me as cosponsors on this important consumer protection legislation. Excellent investigative reporting by the Houston Chronicle brought this unsavory insurance practice to my attention. Businesses operating in Texas are purchasing secret life insurance policies on their employees without their knowledge or consent. These policies are known as Corporate-owned Life Insurance or COLI.

Unfortunately, they also have another name "dead peasant policies." They are called dead peasant policies because these Corporate-owned Life Insurance policies are usually purchased for the rank-and-file employees and not the CEO, CFO, or the Board of Directors. Executive Insurance or "Key Man Insurance" is the norm in corporate America and I have no problem with that because it is disclosed to investors and the individual. Dead peasant policies, on the other hand, are not disclosed to the low-level employee because he or she is not eligible to collect the death benefit. This failure to notify the ownership of the death benefit is the crux of the problem.

American companies are purchasing secret life insurance on the chance that one of their employees dies and they can collect the six figure death benefit. These companies have created a death derivative. In a large company with thousands of employees, economic modeling can be done to predict how many policies will be collected on in a given year. This blood money can be used for whatever the company wants, but most importantly it is rarely used to compensate the families of the dead employee. While I find the use of life insurance in this manner offensive, I understand it is not illegal and is in fact condoned in many states; Texas is not one of them.

The LIEN Act is a sunshine bill that forces companies to disclose to the employee that a dead peasant policy has been purchased in their name. In addition, it requires the company to provide the name of the insurer, the benefit amount, and under whose name the policy is in.

I do not want to ban this practice, but simply provide workers with more information about what the employer is doing on their behalf. As we saw with Enron, corporations often do not provide pertinent financial information to their employees. I am frankly disgusted with this whole practice and am amazed that this all began as a simple tax dodge worth billions of dollars. In the mid 1990s, the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) disallowed the classification of these policies as a legitimate business expense for the purpose of reducing their federal tax obligation.

I urge my colleagues to again cosponsor this important legislation protecting all hard

working Americans from dead peasant insurance.

ONE YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND ACT

HON. ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 28, 2003

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. once said that all of us have a responsibility to prepare our children for the future. I believe that education is the key to preparing our children for the future.

A year ago today, President Bush signed into law the No Child Left Behind Act (Act). This federal law requires annual testing and raises accountability standards for students and teachers. However, many states and school districts have complained that the funding has been inadequate and they lack guidance from the federal government to implement monumental reforms in the new education legislation. Furthermore, states are under a severe time crunch to make changes because the Department of Education did not issue final regulations on accountability and school improvement until late November 2002. In fact, accountability plans are due at the end of this month.

Earlier this month, the Center on Education Policy (Center) issued a report entitled, From the Capital to the Classroom, that reiterates a concern among educators—the Act's goals could be undercut by a lack of state and federal money as states face a budget shortfall. The federal government needs to provide more money to meet the requirements of the Act.

In my state of Maryland, like many other states in the country, improvements and progress have been made, but more planning is needed to implement the new federal law. It is unfair for the federal government to require new standards but then not provide the funds to carry out these standards. Mandates without resources provide an empty opportunity for our children.

I now urge Congress and the President to follow through on the promise made to students across America a year ago. More money must be given for states to fully implement the Act or this new law will be just another unfunded mandate for the states. The Bush Administration must give states more flexibility in implementing the Act to ensure that no child is truly left behind. Our children deserve no less. Our children deserve the education to prepare them for the future.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 28, 2003

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, January 27, 2003, I was unable to cast my floor vote on rollcall numbers 13 and 14. The votes I missed include rollcall vote 13 on Suspending the Rules and Agreeing to H. Res. 26, as Amended, Honoring the Contributions of Catholic Schools; rollcall vote 14 on Suspending the Rules and Agreeing to H. Res.