

to recognize Chairman DAVIS, Ranking Member WAXMAN and Representatives MCHUGH and DAVIS for their fine work on this issue.

I am a cosponsor of H.R. 735, the House companion. This is an important bill that deserves the support of the entire House. If we fail to act, the Postal Service has warned that it will be forced to raise rates as early as this fall. This is something the public can not afford.

If the Postal Service continues to pay into the Civil Service Retirement System under the current rate structure, the Postal Service will overfund the system by about \$71 billion by the time its pension obligations expire in 2071. This bill gives the Postal Service credit for its excess assets and thus, reduces the amount of money that it needs to pay into the fund. This will have no effect on current or future retirees' pension benefits. In fact, the bill is strongly supported by the National Association of Letter Carriers and the business community.

The savings realized from the bill will allow the postal service to make needed upgrades to improve service. Additionally, the Postmaster has also promised to keep rates steady through 2006.

This bill is a complete slam dunk. It is good for the public, the letter carriers, and the mailing industry. I urge its passage.

IN HONOR OF ERIC J. TOPOL, M.D.

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 9, 2003*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Eric J. Topol, M.D.—Chief Academic Officer of the Cleveland Clinic Foundation, Chairman of the Department of Cardiovascular Medicine at the Cleveland Clinic Foundation and Provost and Professor of Medicine at the Cleveland Clinic Lerner College of Medicine of Case Western Reserve University—as he is recognized by the American Heart Association for his leadership, achievement and vision that has placed Cleveland at the national and international summit of hope, possibility and success within the realm of cardiovascular treatment and research.

In collaboration with Dr. Edward H. Hundert and other medical visionaries, Dr. Topol helped shape the Cleveland Clinic Lerner College of Medicine of CWRU. This center of advancement, research and education in medicine promises to reflect the crowning achievements, breakthroughs and medical miracles that hold the cardiology program at the Cleveland Clinic Foundation as the nation's premier heart center. The Cleveland Clinic Lerner College of Medicine promises to delve into critical research and groundbreaking treatment programs without losing the humanity and sensitivity critical to successful patient care.

Since graduating from the University of Rochester School of Medicine in 1979, Dr. Topol's life's work has focused on the prevention, detection, treatment and research of cardiovascular disease. Dr. Topol's collaborative cardiology research, work, and remarkable achievements in cardiovascular medicine has improved the state of cardiac care for countless individuals of all ages, and has steadily raised the Cleveland community to the highest

levels of technological and medical advancement—in the eyes of the nation, in the eyes of the world, and within every being whose heart needs mending.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honor and recognition of Eric J. Topol, M.D., whose leadership, foresight, and total commitment for the advancement of medicine has helped Cleveland earn international acclaim as the leading center of heart research and treatment—offering hope and healing for heart patients here in Cleveland, and around the globe.

TRIBUTE TO SARAH PEACOCK

**HON. SCOTT McINNIS**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 9, 2003*

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to a young student from my district, Sarah Peacock from Montrose, Colorado. A fifth grader at Oak Grove elementary school, Sarah is making a big difference for children around the world with her quilting skills, and today I would like to honor her accomplishments before this body of Congress and this nation.

Instead of asking for presents for her tenth birthday, Sarah asked for quilting supplies. With those supplies she has made six blankets for Project Linus, a volunteer organization that provides blankets to children who are either seriously ill or who are emotionally traumatized. Sarah's blankets are among the more than 400,000 security blankets Project Linus has shipped around the world since 1995. Sarah heard about the project from a teacher at her elementary school who was teaching her kindergarten class about quilting and with that introduction, Sarah took to the craft immediately. Along the way, her blankets have earned grand champion honors at the Montrose County Fair and fourth place at the Colorado State Fair.

Mr. Speaker, Sarah Peacock is clearly a determined and gifted young woman. Even at such a young age, her volunteer efforts are reaching children around the world, and it is my great honor to recognize her hard work before this body of Congress and this nation today. Sarah has great things ahead of her, and I wish her every success in the future.

WE SHOULD MAKE OUR REMARKS  
WITH CARE

**HON. MARK STEVEN KIRK**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 9, 2003*

Mr. KIRK. Mr. Speaker, with regard to the remarks of our colleague, Ms. CUBIN, today, I want to express my lack of support for their tone and substance. In this temple of democracy, we should make our arguments with care and concern for the feelings of all Americans.

TRIBUTE TO PRIVATE JESSICA LYNCH ON NATIONAL FORMER PRISONER OF WAR RECOGNITION DAY

**HON. NICK J. RAHALL II**

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 9, 2003*

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to America's heroes on National Former Prisoner of War Recognition Day.

The holiday is all the more poignant this year. This year the world celebrated the rescue of POW Private Jessica Lynch from an Iraqi hospital. This brave West Virginia woman fought capture as she watched her comrades die next to her. West Virginians are especially proud of the rescue of one of our own and proud of the troops, including some of West Virginia's own National Guard, who went in to save her. We are particularly grateful of West Virginia Air National Guard Major Harry Morgan Freeman Jr. of Chapmanville who helped deliver the SEALs to the hospital where Lynch was held and then flew the group to safety. This was a truly remarkable moment for West Virginia's service men and women.

We may never know all the details of the ordeal Private Lynch endured while held in Iraqi captivity. Like so many POWs before her, not only are the physical wounds to heal but mental and spiritual. As Americans, it is our duty to welcome back these heroes who fought for our freedom. We must give all of our returned POWs the support they require and deserve and share with them our pride in their sacrifice to the Nation. We give thanks to God for the return of our POWs and ask Him to watch over our soldiers and our Nation.

TRIBUTE TO DR. LYUSHUN SHEN

**HON. ROBERT WEXLER**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 9, 2003*

Mr. WEXLER. Mr. Speaker, for the past several years, Dr. Lyushun Shen has served as Deputy Representative of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office ("TECRO") here in Washington. TECRO is Taiwan's unofficial embassy in the United States and works to strengthen the already strong ties between the United States and Taiwan. Dr. Shen has been an important diplomat in TECRO's ongoing mission, and he has been a prominent participant in the ongoing dialogue between the United States Congress and the Taiwanese government.

This is Dr. Shen's third posting in Washington, and, although he has developed a strong network of friends in Washington, the Taiwanese government has decided to name him as Director General of TECRO's office in Geneva, Switzerland. In his new position, Dr. Shen will work to enhance Taiwan's position with the many international organizations based there including the World Health Organization, which still does not count this vibrant democracy as a member, despite the strong endorsement of Congress.

Mr. Speaker, those of us who have come to know Dr. Shen will miss our discussions with him and his passion commitment to U.S.-Taiwan relations. While we regret he will be leaving Washington shortly, we know that he will

do an excellent job in Geneva, and we wish him continued success in the years ahead.

TRIBUTE TO BRIAN BALDWIN

**HON. SCOTT MCINNIS**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 9, 2003*

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the strength and courage of Brian Baldwin of Grand Junction, Colorado. Brian is a former rodeo champion who is now fighting a rare form of cancer, and today I would like to salute his determination to fight this disease and the strength of his will in this battle.

Brian started his career as a Little Britches Rodeo Champion in Delta, Colorado, becoming the world rodeo champion in 1994. He was diagnosed with cancer last October and since then has endured surgeries, chemotherapy, radiation treatments and physical therapy. Brian, like the champion he is, has remained positive through it all with the help of family and friends. In an effort to pay for his treatment, Brian's friends and family are hosting the Brian Baldwin Benefit Rodeo and Auction in Grand Junction.

Mr. Speaker, it is a great privilege to honor Brian Baldwin and to wish him and his family the best through this difficult struggle. The support Brian has received from friends in the rodeo community and throughout the area is a testament to the respect Brian himself inspires. Brian's is indeed an inspirational story. He is truly a lucky man and certainly has the good wishes and prayers of many people in Colorado and around the country. I add my own good wishes to Brian as he continues in his fight against cancer.

LAWRENCE CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL—WE THE PEOPLE COMPETITION

**HON. JULIA CARSON**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 9, 2003*

Ms. CARSON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commend Lawrence Central High School, Indianapolis, IN, on winning first place at the Indiana We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution state competition. Lawrence Central High School will travel to Washington, D.C. to represent the State of Indiana in the national civics competition this month.

I would like to congratulate Drew Horvath and his Competitive Government Law class students: Laura Bacallao, Loren Bondurant, Daniel Booth, Brian Boyer, Brad Cobb, Annalise Corman, Dana Courier, Kate Dobson, Sean Eagan, Kathryn Feary, Sarah Gilliland, Angela Hurd, Matt Kite, Ellen Kizik, Anna Krauter, Cassie Lomas, Regan Long, Emily Nave, Jennifer Ramage, Emily Rhodes, Lindy Rider, Ella Seet, Ilya Shulkin, Tina Spears, Joanna Stafford, Kim Tisdale, Rachel Townsend, and Audrey Veneck.

I applaud Principal Caroline Hanna and the educators of Lawrence Central High School who have developed an enriched educational program which challenges students and encourages academic achievement.

The We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution program is the most extensive educational program in the country, developed specifically to educate young people about the Constitution and the Bill of Rights. More than 1,200 students travel from across the United States to compete in the national competition held in Washington, D.C.

The national competition is modeled after hearings in the United States Congress, consisting of oral presentations by high school students before a panel of audit judges on constitutional topics. The students are given an opportunity to demonstrate their knowledge while they evaluate, take, and defend positions on relevant historical and contemporary issues. Their testimony is followed by a period of questioning by the judges who probe the students' depth of understanding and ability to apply their constitutional knowledge.

Congratulations to Lawrence Central High School! I wish you good luck at the national competition.

TRIBUTE TO CLINTON FAIR ON THE OCCASION OF HIS INDUCTION INTO THE UPPER PENINSULA LABOR HALL OF FAME

**HON. BART STUPAK**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 9, 2003*

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life and achievements of Clinton Fair, who will be honored posthumously for his service to the cause of American working men and women with induction into the Upper Peninsula Labor Hall of Fame at a ceremony in Marquette, Michigan on April 26, 2003.

Clinton Fair earned degrees from Eastern Michigan University and the University of Wisconsin before taking his first job as a school-teacher in St. Ignace, Michigan in 1931. He taught there and in Dearborn, Michigan before and after World War II. During that war, he served for five years with distinction in the U.S. Navy, leaving service as a lieutenant commander.

After the war, Clinton Fair began his career in organized labor as a delegate to the local branch of the American Federation of Teachers in association with the Detroit unit of the American Federation of Labor.

In 1947, he began working as assistant to John Reid, secretary of the Michigan Federation of Labor, and was soon named director of the Michigan Labor League's political action committee. In that capacity, he worked on the successful 1948 gubernatorial campaign of G. Mennen "Soapy" Williams.

After the election, Clinton served on Governor Williams's staff until 1951, when he returned to the Michigan Federation of Labor as its legislative director. In 1953, he became education director for Region 7 of the Allied Industrial Workers. From there, he rose to the national labor scene and became secretary of the American Federation of Teachers.

Over the next twenty years, Clinton Fair contributed his considerable skills to his labor brethren in many capacities, including work on the Social Security task force of the national AFL-CIO in Washington, D.C., a stint as legislative representative for the California State AFL-CIO, and a final term at the AFL-CIO national office before retiring in 1975.

Coming full circle, he moved back to St. Ignace in retirement, but for Clinton Fair, retirement was not an entirely accurate description. He continued his work on behalf of labor, handling special assignments for the Michigan and national AFL-CIO offices.

He also branched out into community service, and was elected to the Mackinac County Board of Commissioners, serving in the capacity until 1980. His death in 1982 was a severe loss to his family, his community, his colleagues and the friends he made over a lifetime of hard work and dedication to bettering the lives of working Americans.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my House colleagues to join me in acknowledging Clinton Fair's lifetime of contributions to organized labor and his community, and in celebrating the accomplishments that have earned him the distinction of becoming an honored member of the Upper Peninsula Labor Hall of Fame.

EDUCATION SECRETARY RODERICK PAIGE HAS LOST CREDIBILITY

**HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 9, 2003*

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, Education Secretary Roderick Paige has lost credibility. Following his deeply troubling comments in Baptist Press proclaiming the importance of teaching Christian values in public schools, it is evident that Secretary Paige cannot be an unbiased advocate for all public school students.

I am not concerned with Secretary Paige's personal religious beliefs. Many of us were raised in religious traditions and with faith-based values that have led many of us to serve in this body—the desire to help out those in need, to care for our neighbors, and to be good members of the global community.

Secretary Paige's views, however, are offensive because they reflect on how he will undertake his Constitutional responsibility: to provide the best educational opportunities for all students in the United States. Our nation was built on the idea of separation of church and state. Article I of our great Constitution requires that there be no established religion. This was not an afterthought by the Founding Fathers—it was clearly and forcefully stated at the very outset. By expressing his preference for parochial education and criticizing public schools for not teaching religious values, Secretary Paige violated that founding principle.

Secretary Paige has forcefully described his preference for schools that have "a strong appreciation for the values of the Christian community." He has described Christian schools and universities as having a "strong value system" that is "not the case in a public school where there are so many different kids with different kinds of values." How then can the parents of children in public schools—which educate 90 percent of all children in our country—believe that Secretary Paige's bias against public education will not be reflected in his policies? How can they be assured that he