

O God!
 Stop my steaming blood from boiling;
 Angry snakes inside me keep coiling.
 I'll tell the snob
 To take her fancy form and shove it,
 Her trashy mind can't spoil me
 I'll fly high way up above it.
 Witch look down on me no more
 I'm ready to settle the score;
 Tell me face to face
 Before I crawl—
 How many of your sons
 Have their names
 Carved up on the Vietnam Memorial Wall?

RECOGNIZING WEST POTOMAC
 HIGH SCHOOL VIRGINIA SCHOLASTIC
 ROWING CHAMPIONSHIPS
 GOLD MEDAL WINNERS

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 12, 2003

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an extraordinary group of young men and women in Northern Virginia. This year, athletes on the West Potomac crew team took four gold medals at the Virginia Scholastic Rowing Championships. These accomplished individuals are tenacious, driven contributors to their high school community.

On April 26, 2003, West Potomac achieved its unprecedented success on the Occoquan River. The four first place West Potomac boats were the men's first four boat, the women's first four boat, the men's second four boat, and the women's second four boat. Crew is a difficult sport that requires strength, cooperation, coordination, strategy, and persistence. The youthful athletes of West Potomac demonstrated all of these traits in their quest for the state championship, and I am sure that they will continue to excel as sports team members and as citizens.

In a thrilling race, the men's first four earned gold for West Potomac for the first time in 16 years. Trailing McLean for much of their race, the Wolverines sprinted just past their opponents in the closing meters for a photo finish. At the official ceremony, the results of the race were revealed: West Potomac won the 1,500-meter race by four-tenths of a second! The members of the winning men's first four boat were coxswain Helen McGuirk, stroke Kip Wanser, 3-seat Will Aramony, 2-seat Luke Urban, and bow seat Paul Burgess. These Wolverines took the crown from defending champion, McLean in a high-paced, enthralling display of teamwork and athleticism.

The women's first four also came from behind in a tense and hard-fought race to win their gold. Gloucester led for most of the race, with West Potomac taking the lead with about 500 meters remaining and holding off Gloucester for a 1.5-second victory. Coxswain Ashley Morris, stroke Natalie Jones, 3-seat Dorothy Baden-Mayer, 2-seat C.J. Jenkins, and bow Kate Lord made history with their win as the first West Potomac women's varsity quartet to claim Virginia Scholastic Gold.

Continuing the winning streak for the Wolverines that same day was the men's second four boat, manned by coxswain Stephanie Zvonkovich, stroke Trey Burnett, 3-seat Justin Brown, bow Alex Fedgatten, and 2-seat Andrew Norbert. West Potomac held off Mathews and Gloucester for the win with a time of 5:37.3.

Members of the women's second four boat were: coxswain Ashley Thompson, stroke Stephanie Baker, 3-seat Amber Flynn, 2-seat Kelly Wernecke, and bow Moria Holt. This time it was Fairfax and West Springfield left behind in the Wolverines' wake, as West Potomac posted a winning time of 6:25.6 with their skilled and cohesive rowing.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate all of the athletes of the West Potomac High School rowing program. Their dedication, persistence and resolve deserve our highest praise. I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating this group of extraordinary competitors.

TRIBUTE TO PERK VICKERS

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 12, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to rise today to recognize the hours of dedication and hard work that Perk Vickers has invested for the betterment of the Lake Fork community of Colorado. Perk has recently announced his retirement from his seat on the Hinsdale County Planning Commission, a seat he has held for almost 30 years. I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the great leadership that Perk has shown and to highlight the many accomplishments he has made to his community.

Perk has served Colorado with vision and commitment for over half a century. Besides his notable service to the Hinsdale County Planning Commission, Perk has served as chairman of the Hinsdale Republican Party for over 50 years, as well as serving as the 34-year director of the Upper Gunnison River Conservancy District. In addition, Perk has spent 36-years serving as Hinsdale County's representative to the Colorado River Water Conservation District. In the 1950's, Perk was instrumental in the creation of Club 20, which he helped form to bring twenty Western Slope counties together in order to promote roads and tourism. He also founded the Hinsdale County Chamber of Commerce, which celebrated its 50th anniversary this year. In short, Perk's dedication has been inspirational, and Colorado has benefited greatly from his service.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great admiration that I pay tribute today to the many services Perk Vickers has performed on behalf of the citizens of Colorado. I wish to extend my heartfelt gratitude for his many examples of community service that have helped make Colorado a more prosperous, friendlier, and beautiful place to live. I know that men like Perk never rest, and so I wish to congratulate him now on his Lifetime Achievement Award and his retirement. I wish him success in all of his future endeavors. Perk, thank you for your service.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. HENRY E. BROWN, JR.

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 12, 2003

Mr. BROWN of South Carolina. I was unable to participate in the following vote be-

cause of a death in the family. If I had been present, I would have voted as follows: June 5, 2003, rollcall vote 248, on agreeing to S. 273, I would have voted "yea."

TRIBUTE TO DANA JOHNSON OF
 BATTLE CREEK, MICHIGAN—EX-
 CEPTIONAL TEACHER

HON. NICK SMITH

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 12, 2003

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, Education is the key for our Nation's future prosperity and security. The formidable responsibility of molding and inspiring young minds to the avenues of hope, opportunity and achievement rests partly in the hands of our teachers. Today I would like to recognize a teacher from Battle Creek, Michigan that most influenced and motivated exceptional students in academics and leadership that were winners of the LeGrand Smith scholarship.

Mr. Dana Johnson teaches mathematics at the Battle Creek Area Mathematics & Science Center. He is credited for instilling in students an enthusiasm for mathematics. In one student's own words, "Mr. Johnson made math come alive, and he always gave real-world examples of even the most abstract topics." The respect and gratitude of his students speaks well of Mr. Johnson's ability to challenge young minds to stretch the mental muscles and strive to achieve the best that is in them.

Mr. Johnson's excellence in teaching challenges and inspires students to move beyond the teen-age tendency toward surface study and encourage deeper thought and connections to the real world. No profession is more important in its influence and daily interaction with the future leaders of our community and our country, and Dana Johnson's impact on his students is certainly deserving of recognition.

On behalf of the Congress of the United States of America, I am proud to extend our highest praise to Mr. Dana Johnson as a master teacher. We thank him for his continuing dedication to teaching and his willingness and ability to challenge and inspire students for leadership and success.

INTRODUCING A RESOLUTION FOR
 A U.S. POSTAGE STAMP COM-
 MEMORATING ANNE FRANK

HON. STEVE ISRAEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 12, 2003

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce a resolution that expresses the sense of Congress that the United States Postmaster General should issue a postage stamp commemorating the 75th birthday of Anne Frank.

As we all know, Anne Frank documented her life during the Nazi occupation of Amsterdam in a diary that she called "Kitty." The diary became her confidant, and she wrote about her experiences before the occupation, going into hiding, and the tortuous years in hiding. She has come to be a girl we all feel we know well, a personification of good in the face of hatred, murder and genocide.

Anne Frank: The Diary of a Young Girl has been translated into 67 languages and has sold more than 31 million copies. It is the most widely read memoir of the Holocaust. For many American students, this book is their first exposure to the horror and historical uniqueness of the Holocaust.

Anne Frank has become an inspiration to youth of all faiths and is a symbol of children throughout the world who suffer in war, subjugation and oppression. She serves as a beacon of bravery, hope and tolerance under the most harsh, inhumane conditions. Her life and death are reminders of the need for constant vigilance and international human rights.

U.S. postage stamps have honored well-respected and influential people, and I believe that Anne Frank deserves recognition. It is appropriate to honor her in this very unique way.

Today Anne Frank would have been 74 years old. She was a talented writer, and her contribution to the world cannot be understated. In one year from today, we will be remembering her on her 75th birthday. I am hopeful that this postage stamp will be issued in time for this milestone.

I encourage all my colleagues to cosponsor this important resolution.

SOUTH CAROLINA SEWER DIVERS

HON. HENRY E. BROWN, JR.

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 12, 2003

Mr. BROWN of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, in South Carolina, a new breed of heroes are saving the city of Charleston from a potentially catastrophic sewage explosion and subsequent environmental disaster. It will take years and millions of dollars to replace the aging Charleston sewage tunnels. Until then, the Commissioners of Public Works are calling upon divers to repair the existing pipes and tunnels. Already two sewage tunnels have suffered minor cave-ins, but these divers were able to prevent the dumping of millions of gallons of wastewater into the harbor. Sewage divers are crawling more than 120 feet underground into a mire which is so dark and filled with murky sludge that even the strongest light is unable to reveal what surrounds them.

Daily, these brave men risk their lives to protect the well being of other citizens in their community. Although their job has a high level of difficulty, the divers do not complain but fearlessly complete what they believe is "just their job."

On behalf of the residents of South Carolina and especially Charleston, I would like to commend the sewer divers for their bravery, selflessness, and dedication to the historic city and its overall welfare.

DISABLED VETERANS TAX

HON. JIM MARSHALL

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 12, 2003

Mr. MARSHALL. Mr. Speaker, today I am signing a discharge petition that I brought to the House floor to right a wrong that has been done to disabled American veterans for more

than a century. In 1891, the United States of America imposed the Disabled Veterans Tax. We did not call it by this name. We did not even call it a tax. Instead we called it a prohibition upon concurrent receipt. We called it something few Americans would understand.

Mr. Speaker, our predecessors in Congress called their law a prohibition upon concurrent receipt because they did not want to call it what it is, a tax on disabled veterans. This bad law prohibits retired veterans from receiving both their retirement pay and any benefit for a service-related disability at the same time. In effect, it is a 100% tax on a retired veteran's disability benefits. As a veteran's disability increases, so does the tax imposed by our government.

Mr. Speaker, it is time to call the concurrent receipt prohibition what it really is: the Disabled Veterans Tax. It was wrong then. It is wrong now. It is time to end the Disabled Veterans Tax.

Mr. Speaker, I receive a disability benefit for wounds received in Vietnam. But my benefits are not taxed away. The Disabled Veterans Tax does not apply to me because I only served two years. Had I provided more service to my country—enough to be entitled to military retirement benefits—then the Disabled Veterans Tax would tax away my disability benefit completely.

Mr. Speaker, I cannot imagine how any member of this body can defend the Disabled Veterans Tax, a tax that not only punishes disabled veterans, but punishes most those who served our country most, those who made the military a career. Congress should be ashamed of itself.

Mr. Speaker, for years a large majority of the members of this House have cosponsored House Resolution 303, a bill that would end the Disabled Veterans Tax. And for years, House Resolution 303 has been bottled up in committee, just like campaign finance reform was bottled up. The discharge petition process forced a vote on campaign finance reform. I am using that same process to force a vote on ending the Disabled Veterans Tax.

At last count 322 members of this Congress are co-sponsors of House Resolution 303. Only 218 of these co-sponsors must sign the discharge petition for us to force a vote. This bill has broad bipartisan support. Both Democrats and Republicans have co-sponsored House Resolution 303. I am a Georgia Democrat, but by my discharge petition seeks to force a vote on a bill authored by a Florida Republican.

Mr. Speaker, some will ask whether we can afford this tax cut, whether we can afford to let these disabled veterans keep their benefit money. I believe many cosponsors of House Resolution 303 have already answered that question twice this year. These cosponsors already have voted for tax cuts 400 billion dollars and 200 billion dollars greater than what we eventually enacted. So Mr. Speaker, on the question whether we should finally eliminate the Disabled Veterans Tax, I trust we will not hear questions about affordability coming from those already on record in support of far, far larger tax cuts.

Mr. Speaker, the Disabled Veterans Tax is wrong. As of this morning, 322 cosponsors of House Resolution 303 agree with me. Let's bring it to a vote. No more half measures. No more evasions. No more hypocrisy. It's time for members who continually co-sponsor this bill to put up or shut up, once and for all.

TRIBUTE TO THE MCCOLLOUGH INVADERS IN THEIR 38TH YEAR

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 12, 2003

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the McCollough Invaders, a gospel missionary brass band who this week will be celebrating their 38th Anniversary.

These men are only a few of the many unsung heroes of our community, who have given of their time and have never asked for anything in return. This group of men began their careers as early as 9 years of age. During the 1960s, these boys were encouraged by the late Bishop Walter McCollough to make a positive contribution to the community while simultaneously improving the quality of their own lives.

Many came from broken homes where there was no father figure. Their grandparents, aunts, uncles, older brothers, sisters, other relatives or friends would step in when a parent was not around. In order to make ends meet, many of their families depended on public assistance. In some cases, these boys were left to themselves to survive on their own.

Despite these personal obstacles, these young boys devoted their lives to ministering music to many in need of relief from the day-to-day frustrations and anxieties of life. Throughout the 1960s, they performed around the country. Their dedication to the peace movement and to playing Gospel music helped shaped the America we know today.

Today the McCollough Invaders are still making history. Some of these young men no longer live in New York. However, they continue to influence and help others cope with life's frustrations by making burdens just a little bit lighter. Some have used what they have learned many years ago by working with young Gospel bands and marching bands in other inner cities in Washington, DC, and Charlotte, N.C. Their travels have taken them as west as California and as south as Florida.

Others have become business leaders or entrepreneurs in the fields of finance, healthcare, energy, and technology. Many continue to work with youngsters who are mirrored images of themselves almost two scores ago. It is certain that these young men have been and will continue to be role models for others who will also make significant contributions to our communities.

Though the McCollough Invaders can be heard on any given Sunday at the same venue in Harlem, New York at 125th Street and Frederick Douglass Boulevard, we join the City of New York on Saturday, June 14, 2003 as The McCollough Invaders celebrate 38 priceless years of providing service to the Harlem community and the world.

A TRIBUTE TO AL DAVIS

SPEECH OF

HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 10, 2003

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, I rise this evening to join with my colleagues and celebrate the life and mourn the untimely, tragic