

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

THE GIFT OF OPPORTUNITY

HON. RANDY "DUKE" CUNNINGHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 25, 2003

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to read the essay of Laura Mendoza, a member of the Valley Center Teenage Republican Club.

Like every Friday morning, my mother had snuggled into bed with me; soon I was to get up and go to school. Only, on this morning, I was quite lazy and pleaded with my mom so that she would allow me to stay home. Like any other day she simply gave me a "no." It had been worth a shot! As we laid in bed she said to me, "Laura, you must strive for your goals and never allow anyone to prohibit you from following them. Take advantage of every moment and savor it, for you do not know what may lie ahead." What could possibly make her think I would understand her words at the age of eleven?

Now, I'm seventeen and I understand what she was implying. Throughout the years I have learned about my mother. My mother was unable to go to school due to many reasons, none that she could control. To begin with there wasn't a school in sight for about 20 miles and she had no transportation to get there. By the time there was a school that was somewhat near she was eight and her father was very unsupportive. He once told her not to worry about getting an education, instead she was to stay home and help in the fields and with the animals. "Besides" he said, "you don't need to worry about being educated because you're going to end up married to some guy who will provide for you and your family. All you need to worry about is taking care of the house and children."

I can see that my mother was denied a natural part of life. My mother was brought up in Mexico, where education is nothing big. It's like a luxury; if you have the time, then you can go to school; if not, you must stay home and attend to the responsibilities there. Education in Mexico has not changed much over the years, only four of my cousins go to school, and they're all boys. The females in my family are either married or living at home, helping out their parents.

I appreciate the many sacrifices my parents have done for my siblings and me. They have done everything possible and impossible so that we can receive a good education and so that one day we don't have to go through the same things and our own families will succeed. My parents are my inspiration. I know for a fact that if my parents had decided to stay in Mexico, all that I have achieved would have been unrealized. This is why education is so sacred to me. In my opinion, education is the key to my goals and I know that my parents weren't wrong when they saw something special in this land of opportunity. That is why they decided to bring our family here. I will not let my parents' sacrifice or the opportunity given to me go to waste. I now understand my mother's words and will live by them for the rest of my life.

A PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING
RAMSEY NABIL ALLOUSH

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 25, 2003

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, whereas, Ramsey Alloush graduated from John F. Kennedy High School on June 7, 2003; and

Whereas, Ramsey Alloush has demonstrated a commitment to education; and

Whereas, Ramsey Alloush should be commended for reaching this academic milestone;

Therefore, I join with the residents of the entire 18th Congressional District of Ohio in honoring and congratulating Ramsey Nabil Alloush for his outstanding accomplishment.

HONORING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY
OF BRYN MAWR FIRE COMPANY

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 25, 2003

Mr. GERLACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Bryn Mawr Fire Company of Bryn Mawr, PA on its 100th anniversary.

Almost a century ago, citizens of Bryn Mawr, Haverford and Rosemont came together to form a fire company. The Montgomery County Court of Common Pleas approved the Certificate of Incorporation for the Bryn Mawr Fire Company on December 21, 1903, even before the Township in which it was located was chartered. The Company acquired its first horse-drawn engine the following year and the fire house was dedicated 2 years later in May of 1906.

The Bryn Mawr Fire Company has served its community in exemplary fashion over the past 100 years and today there are almost 40 volunteer firefighters in the Company. The Company responds to over 500 calls per year throughout Lower Merion, Radnor and Haverford Townships.

The volunteers of the Bryn Mawr Fire Company take every aspect of their job very seriously. Members drill every Monday night and participate in a live burn drill each month. Firefighters from the Company attend schools and conferences all across the country. The Company sends members into the local schools to talk about fire prevention and hosts an open house every year to educate the public about fire safety.

For the past 100 years, the citizens of Bryn Mawr and the surrounding communities have been able to depend on the courageous men and women of the Bryn Mawr Fire Company. I encourage my colleagues to join me in saluting the Bryn Mawr Fire Company on reaching this important milestone.

ESSAY OF MICHELLE WILKINSON

HON. RANDY "DUKE" CUNNINGHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 25, 2003

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to read the essay of Michelle Wilkinson, a member of the Valley Center Teenage Republican Club. "The Republican Party embraces many noteworthy values, including personal responsibility, service, and integrity. Throughout my life, I have been taught to follow these principles. As a student in an AP Government class and as a member of the Teenage Republican Club, I have come to realize how these values have influenced my life.

A major Republican value is personal responsibility. From a political view, this means that the government should only do what individuals can not do by themselves. To me, personal responsibility is a way of living so that I am a contributing member of society rather than a burden. In my life, I have taken the accountability for my studies and other extracurricular activities. Because I know that I am responsible for my own actions, I have been able to excel in school, and have been accepted to the school of my choice. I have tried to make the most of my opportunity to attend school and believe that my efforts have been rewarding and worthwhile. As a Republican, I hope to be able to elect officers who believe in personal responsibility and strive to create laws that promote self-reliance in American citizens. I plan to major in History Education, and, as a teacher, I want my students to know how important this ideal was to our founding fathers. I will personally teach my children and my students to be conscientious and charitable members of the community in which they live. People who have cultivated an independent lifestyle are better able to give service to others.

Service to others is an integral part of the Republican ideal. When individuals voluntarily give their time and means, resources are used efficiently where they are truly needed. Government entitlements are not conducive to a strong work ethic and should only be depended upon for true emergencies, not as a planned lifestyle. Some of my service experiences include: registering voters, organizing a concert for an elderly care center, quilting blankets for a women's shelter, and organizing a dance for mentally and physically handicapped adults. Although no one expected or demanded my service, they were all very grateful for my time and talents, which I give freely because of the joy I receive in return. I know that I will continue to give my time and resources how and when I choose. I believe that I should be able to choose how my resources are used so that I know they are being used wisely and effectively. When we are compelled to give our resources through high taxes, we are deprived of the feelings of generosity and benevolence. I will continue to

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

use my influence and my vote to elect Republicans who share this ideal.

Finally, integrity is a vital Republican value. We must elect officials who will do what they believe is right even if it is not popular or easy. Karl G. Maeser, an educator, once said,

I have been asked what I mean by my word of honor . . . Place me behind prison walls . . . there is a possibility that in some way or another I may be able to escape, but stand me on that floor and draw a chalk line around me and have me give my world of honor never to cross it. Can I get out? No, never! I'd die first!

We need public officials who will abide by their word of honor, not the shifting of polls and public opinion. I have sought to be honest with all people, even if it is not to my advantage. The reward of integrity is trust, which is broken much easier than it is built. Our country has suffered from the lack of integrity in our leaders, I hope that we can find leaders who can restore honor and integrity to public offices. As a mother and a teacher, I will instill the value of honesty into my children and students. I will teach them that their word of honor defines their character.

I know that there are many problems with our current system of government. I also believe, however, that they can be reformed if the ideals of responsibility, service, and integrity, are utilized. Despite imperfections, I know that our country is the best in the world. I am grateful and proud to be an American."

A PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING
BASEL ALLOUSH

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 25, 2003

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker,

Whereas, Basel Alloush graduated from Kent State University on December 14, 2002; and

Whereas, Basel Alloush earned a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration and Marketing; and

Whereas, Basel Alloush has demonstrated a strong devotion to academics; and

Whereas, Basel Alloush should be commended for reaching this milestone;

Therefore, I join with the residents of the entire 18th Congressional District of Ohio in honoring and congratulating Basel Alloush for his distinguished achievement.

COMMENDING ALEXANDRA SCOTT
FOR HER EFFORTS IN THE
FIGHT AGAINST CANCER

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 25, 2003

Mr. GERLACH. Mr. Speaker; I rise today to commend my constituent, 7-year-old Alexandra Scott, for the work she is doing to raise money for those living with cancer.

Alex was diagnosed with neuroblastoma, a cancer of the nervous system, when she was just a year old. Six years later, she has had six surgeries and still undergoes chemo-

therapy treatments at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia.

When Alex was four, she told her mother that she wanted to have a lemonade stand and give the money that she made to her hospital in Connecticut, where they lived at the time. In July of 2000, Alex started her first lemonade stand and raised over \$2000. Shortly thereafter, the Scott family moved to Wynnewood, Pennsylvania. Each summer, Alex has opened her lemonade stand with proceeds going to help others battling cancer.

So far, Alex has raised over \$80,000 for cancer research. Money has been donated to Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, Connecticut Children's Medical Center, and Toireasa's Dream, a neuroblastoma research fund set up in memory of Alex's friend, Toireasa Barry. The Philadelphia Foundation recently presented Alex with its "Philanthropist of the Year" award.

I encourage my colleagues to join me in applauding Alexandra Scott on her accomplishments and in sending her our prayers for her recovery. May she continue to serve as a role model for all of us.

ESSAY BY HEATHER MACPHEE

HON. RANDY "DUKE" CUNNINGHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 25, 2003

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to read the essay of Heather MacPhee, a member of the Valley Center Teenage Republican Club.

"As a sophomore at Valley Center High School, I had a basic idea of where I stood in the world. Despite my lack of experience and knowledge, I knew that I valued being a conservative woman in a time of uncertainty and compromise. I was confident in my beliefs, but could not effectively defend or even explain my reasoning. That was the year I became involved with the Teenage Republican Club, and now I have no doubts that I have the knowledge to proudly register as a Republican voter.

Two seniors I admired and looked up to introduced me to the Teenage Republican Club. Melissa Hill and Nicolette Lawrence were smart young women that I respected very much. I hoped to be like them when I was a senior and was extremely flattered when they recommended me for the 2-1 Federation for Republican Women Advocacy Workshop. While at the Advocacy, I was exposed to the true enthusiasm of the Republican Party. During the short two days in Sacramento, I learned from party members, including state legislators, where Republican stood on big issues and the little known issues. I learned from first hand experience how our state government operates and the importance of individuals in our society. Since the Advocacy, I have done my best to be involved in my political surroundings.

T.A.R.S. has given me the opportunity to fulfill my desires to play an active role in local government. Until last week, I was unable to vote, but through T.A.R.S. I assisted other people in taking advantage of their right to vote. I have registered voters at North County Fair and encouraged seniors around me to cast their votes. I have also assisted with the Federated Republican Women's Club fundraiser so that they could adequately publicize, encourage, educate, and spread Republican ideals. I personally feel the most satisfaction from being a leader, I

know that the biggest impact I will make will be through my actions and not my words. With this in mind, I attempt to live each day in accordance to my faith and values which are inherently Republican. The best expression of my thoughts happens to be from the Republican Oath:

"I believe that Americans value and should preserve their feeling of national strength and pride, and at the same time, share with people everywhere a desire for peace and freedom and the extension of human rights throughout the world. Finally, I believe that the Republican Party is the best vehicle for translating these ideals into positive and successful principles of government."

As I grow older, my appreciation for the freedoms of this country and the enthusiasm behind my beliefs will only become greater. I hope to take advantage of all opportunities to vote and never lose sight of the direction of our government. I will continue to serve our nation through my career and participation in the political process. I will also continue to proudly support the Grand Old Party.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING MONSIGNOR PAUL E. METZGER ON THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF ORDINATION

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 25, 2003

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker,

Whereas, Monsignor Paul E. Metzger celebrated the 60th anniversary of his ordination on April 17, 2003; and

Whereas, Monsignor Paul E. Metzger should be commended for his faithfulness to the church; and

Whereas, Monsignor Paul E. Metzger served as a pastor for the St. John Church in Bellaire, Ohio for 26 years; and

Whereas, Monsignor Paul E. Metzger continues to serve the community of Middletown as the Director of Residential Individual Options and through his dedication to the Holy Family Parish;

Therefore, I join with the residents of the entire 18th Congressional District in recognizing Monsignor Paul E. Metzger as he celebrates the 60th Anniversary of Ordination.

DEEPLY ROOTED PRINCIPLES

HON. RANDY "DUKE" CUNNINGHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 25, 2003

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to read the essay of Patrick Anibaldi, a member of the Valley Center Teenage Republican Club. He is currently a senior at Valley Center High School.

"As an active Teenage Republican Club (TARS) member for the past two years, I have come to realize what the Republican tenets are all about. The Republican Party has been around for quite a while now proving that it can stand the test of time. Over these years the GOP has also shown that it's economic and social policy are fully capable of leading this country into times of economic expansion

and much needed ethical revival. Some of the events that have aided in my political education include TARS meeting, the advocacy workshop, Advanced Placement (AP) Government class, and AP macroeconomics class. Because of the truth that the republican principles hold I have firmly established them into my own life.

One of the most politically education functions I have ever participated in was the Advocacy workshop, which took place in our state capital Sacramento. This was a TARS function supported by the charitable Federated Republican Women of Valley Center. During this trip I not only got to meet some powerful political leaders in today's world, but was also taught some key issues that separate us as republicans. For instance, I discovered why we hold to our economic ideals though the whole scandal that involved Gray Davis, electricity and our horrendous deficit here in California. At this point I began to see that Republicans have great solutions for our state and nation's numerous problems. At the conclusion of this trip I took advantage of the opportunity to tell the whole Valley Center Federated Republican Women's group what I had learned and how it had impacted my life. This was a clear milestone in the maturing of my political life. I was acting like a Republican not only by standing up and publicly proclaiming what I had learned about the GOP, but also what I now believe.

I have earned the reputation of an accomplished scholar at VCHS by taking the hardest courses and excelling in them. AP government and AP Macroeconomics are the two current classes of mine that deal with politics. In these classes there is much debate about heated political issues, and this is another part of my life that reveals my sincerity to the republican values. I am known by my peers to thrive in this kind of environment not only because I know what I believe in as a republican, but also because I have a vehement passion to prove it right. I have revealed my opinion in class on countless issues. Some of these issues have dealt with fiscal policy, the role of our government bureaucracy, the office of the President, war and abortion. Not once has my view been contrary to that of the GOP, I am a proud member of the Republican Party!

Next year I will be attending a California University. These days Californian schools tend to be incredibly liberal. We've seen this in the news through 'war protests' and 'pro-choice rallies'. As a right-wing Republican it will be quite a task attending college. But I will persevere despite the obstacles in my path because of how deeply rooted the values are in my life."

THE SAVE SOCIAL SECURITY
FIRST ACT

HON. PATRICK J. KENNEDY

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 25, 2003

Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of a bill that will correct the mistake that the House made last week when it voted to repeal the estate tax. Not only that, but the Save Social Security First Act will also restore some credibility to the commitment that both parties in this House have made to safeguarding the Social Security trust fund.

In March of 2001, Speaker Hastert said, "We are going to wall off Social Security trust funds." Two years later, our fiscal stability has eroded and we are racing towards half-trillion dollar annual deficits. Rather than protecting it, we are now dipping into the Social Security trust fund to finance another round of tax cuts for millionaires and billionaires. The wealthy few in our country are benefitting at the expense of the millions of seniors who currently rely on Social Security and the millions of American workers who will rely on it in the future.

The question is a simple one, Mr. Speaker. Would you rather add an additional \$588 billion to the Social Security trust fund over the next 20 years, or give that money to families whose wealth already dwarfs the lifetime earnings of many Americans? The answer seems obvious. I believe that this House should keep its promise to protect Social Security and stop sacrificing the needs of the vast majority of Americans for the benefit of the privileged few. It is for these reasons that I have introduced the Save Social Security First Act.

The act will accelerate estate tax relief while not entirely repealing the tax. It raises the exemption amount to \$3 million per person, or \$6 million per couple, beginning in 2004, and dedicates all estate tax revenue to the Social Security trust fund. Many of those who voted to repeal the estate tax last week argued that the tax unjustly forces small business owners to sell their business in order to pay the tax rather than be able to pass the business on to the next generation. According to a Treasury Department study, however, this is very rarely the case. In only 1.6 percent of taxable estates did a family-owned business comprise at least half of the value of the estate, and that was with an exemption just one-fifth of what is proposed by the bill I have introduced. We do not need to fully repeal the tax in order to keep it from unfairly impacting small businesses.

Under the Save Social Security First Act, only the truly wealthy will remain subject to the estate tax, while 99.5 percent of families will be exempt from it. The whole country will benefit from the \$588 billion that this bill will put into Social Security over the next 20 years. Over the next 75 years, it will make up for almost one quarter of the projected shortfall in Social Security funding.

Mr. Speaker, it's about time that we got our priorities straight. This bill says that even if you feel that fully repealing the estate tax is a priority, it is not a higher priority than ensuring the solvency of Social Security. It says that we should be committed to the growing number of seniors in our country. It says that we should be committed to today's workers who are depending on Social Security for their retirement. And it says that we should be committed to our children, who should not be forced to foot the bill of our fiscal irresponsibility.

I strongly urge this House to join me in supporting the Save Social Security First Act. We have two futures to choose from: on the one hand, we can make a tiny sliver of the wealthiest people in the country even wealthier. On the other, we can help save a program that will benefit untold millions of Americans for generations to come. This should be one of the easiest choices that we have made in a long time, and I hope to see my colleagues on both sides of the aisle join me to support this important bill.

JAMES ETTER HONORED BY THE
SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 25, 2003

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I want to share with our colleagues that Mr. James Etter has been selected by the Small Business Administration, SBA, as a Virginia Small Business and Business Advocate Award winner, and named the Veteran Small Business Advocate of the Year for 2003. Mr. Etter is founder/chancellor of American Public University in Manassas, VA, and was also a winner at the regional level, receiving the Region III SBA award. SBA's Region III includes the States of Delaware, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia and the District of Columbia. As the Region III winner, Mr. Etter is one of only 10 Veteran's Advocate winners in the Nation.

Mr. Etter, a retired U.S. Marine Corps officer, founded the university in 1991 to find innovative ways to empower veterans and active duty military, by providing educational opportunities. The university courses are delivered exclusively through distance learning. Before distance learning was an everyday concept, James Etter developed a way for veterans and active duty military stationed abroad or locked into rigid schedules to work toward their undergraduate or master of arts degrees. From an initial enrollment of 18 students, American Public University has grown to over 10,000 registered students, of which approximately 70 percent are active and reserve duty military. The nearly 600 faculty, 76 percent of whom are veterans, provide instruction and mentoring to students from all 50 States and 30 countries. I have been told that the university maintains the most expansive military studies, strategy and history curriculum in the world. Continuing education, through the flexibility of distance learning, affords veterans and active duty military the foundation they need to become entrepreneurs.

Virginia's SBA Award winners were honored at an Awards Gala in May that also celebrated the Small Business Administration's Richmond District Office's 50th Anniversary. Mr. Etter was nominated for the award by Linda Decker, who serves as president and CEO of the Flory Small Business Center in Manassas. She also serves as the chairman of the Virginia Small Business Awards Foundation.

Other winners included: Virginia Small Business Persons of the Year—Sharon Bennett, Founder & CEO and Evan Wooton, President, Premier Pet Products, LLC, Richmond; Runners Up for Small Business Person of the Year—Maxanne Taverniti, Williamsburg Group Tour Service, Williamsburg and James Cheng, President, Computer & Hi-Tech Management, Inc., Virginia Beach; Small Business Accountant Advocate of the Year—Elizabeth Moore, Partner, Goodman & Company, LLP, Newport News; Small Business Exporter of the Year—Marti Morenings, Universal Companies, Inc., Bristol; Financial Services Advocate of the Year—Teresa Walker, Vice President and Senior Community Development Officer, Wachovia Corporation, Roanoke; Small Business Journalist of the Year—Mary Flachsenhaar, Inside Business, Norfolk; Minority Small Business Advocate of the Year—Dr.

Donald Jones, Director, Office of Minority Procurement, University of Virginia, Charlottesville; Women in Business Advocate of the Year—Claire Gastañaga, Principal, CG2 Consulting, Richmond; Young Entrepreneur of the Year—Bryce Lee Robertson, LowTechWeb.com, Mechanicsville and Entrepreneurial Success of the Year—Dennis Gilbert, President, Tesoro Corporation, Virginia Beach.

ESSAY BY DANIEL ZAJDA

HON. RANDY "DUKE" CUNNINGHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 25, 2003

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to read the essay of Daniel Zajda, a member of the Valley Center Teenage Republican Club.

"As a T.A.R.S. member, I have worked hard for the Republican Party and have accepted the Republican values. These values have affected me in many ways and believe that they will stay positive in the future. For the past three years I have been an active supporter and beneficiary of the Teen Age Republicans at Valley Center High School. I have held many positions of office, including being a main contributor in the efforts of gaining an official club charter. As a Vice president in my sophomore year, I helped moderate the agenda and served as a stand in for the President, however, I didn't know much about the difference between conservatives and liberals, but all that eventually changed when I got the privilege to attend the Republican Advocacy Workshop in our state capitol. This particular journey opened my eyes to many of the problems that our state has burdened itself with, due to the incompetence of our governing office. After experience first hand what goes on at the capitol building, I realized the power of politics and eventually realized that I would lead a moral and conservative life as a Republican Party member.

The following year I was elected as President of the T.A.R.S. club and donated much of my time to the development and expansion of our organization. I can recall spending countless hours in hope of registering voters and urging people to get out and vote.

But now our country is dealing with different issues and right now is a great time for our nation to show their support and back our President. And that's exactly what the Republican Party is doing and I am proud to be a part of it."

COMMENDING THE FIRST GRADUATING CLASS OF THE CONNECTICUT INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE ACADEMY

HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 25, 2003

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a group of young

constituents of mine in the First Congressional District. They are the first graduating class of the Connecticut International Baccalaureate Academy in my hometown of East Hartford. I would also like to specifically recognize one of the graduates, Alix Prinstil, for the extraordinary speech he gave at the graduation exercises, which I also had the honor of attending. Alix's words and the sentiments he expressed are of lasting value to the school and indeed to our entire education system in Connecticut. I am proud to insert his remarks into the RECORD today and again offer my sincerest congratulations to the Class of 2003.

GRADUATION EXERCISES
(Oration by Alix Prinstil)

So we've finally arrived at this day: Our High School Graduation Ceremony. Since I was in about 3rd grade, I dreamed about what it would be like at my high school graduation. This speech, as a matter of fact, was for the most part written in my mind for the past . . . let's see, 12th grade—4th grade = 8 years! I always pictured what the audience's reaction would be when I'd start off with:

"Many graduation speeches begin with, Graduation, Webster's Dictionary defines it as—the award or acceptance of an academic degree or diploma. But you won't hear such a definition in this speech."

In light of what this program has brought to our attention, however, this definition that was probably established centuries ago barely skims the threshold of what "graduation" really means, especially for this C.I.B.A. class.

Ever since we were freshmen, I don't have to remind us how we've constantly been asked by not only friends, but parents and even strangers, the question: "What is I.B.?" But how many of us, except maybe Mr. Abelon, can even now give a detailed (or even correct) answer? If, at this point though, we were asked: What does IB do for a student? I think we could all give an appropriate response. To make a long explanation short, I'll partially quote the words of Mr. Abelon almost 4 years ago: "It's a rigorous program established to produce a well-rounded-out individual." Well when he said "rigorous" that day, not only did I not know what I was in for, but I apparently didn't know what "rigorous" really meant.

We all walked in the first day with our middle school work ethic, bags that we'd soon discover weren't big enough, and among the presence of a group of approximately 50 people, most we never seen in our lives, and probably never would have. Never did I think that someone my age from towns like Marlborough and Ellington would be in the same classroom. It was through this school that every single one of us was able to see and experience diverse personalities and people from various towns of Connecticut. This diverse group of young people is one of the things within the Academy that I'll probably remember the most. And we've all grown along the way, now looking forward to this summer so we can catch up on the sleep we've lost.

But we can't just think about what we the students went through. Let me remind you, the audience: this is the first school in New England governed by the International Baccalaureate Organization. Our teachers were just as new and in for a treat just as much as we were. Those countless hours of home-

work that we received every night was put right back into the hands of our teachers who would sometimes experience countless hours of grading, whether it be watching our Chinese characters develop as we got older, reading how students explained why a dog isn't a cat, or grading a couple of derivative and integral problems. At this point, I'd really like to give a round of applause to the teachers who have gone through this alongside their students for the first 4 years of this school's establishment, to those who we've recently had, and to those we have had and lost.

Now after all of this reminiscing, we must examine what this graduation really means for us now and what it will mean for us in the future. When we go home this evening (whatever time that may be), what will we all think about? Parents: is the first thing that occurs to you going to be what color your child's room will be painted for that office or gym you always wanted after they go to college? Graduates: will you be wondering what you're going to do for fun tomorrow . . . if we can wake up for tomorrow? With 4 years of such great education behind us, I think we should all go home and take some time to reflect on the advantages we have gained over the majority of students in this state; country; and even the world.

Now for the backbone of this delivery; what I've been trying to lead into for the past 687 words . . .

I need to refer back to the beginning of this speech when I said that graduation means more than just receiving a diploma; more than just moving a tassel from one side of our hat to the other and officially ending the part of our lives as high school students. Graduation is what you make of it. And after experiencing life under the wings of the IBO, I should be correct when I say that the lives of each and every one of us will be successful ones, no matter where we go. When we have our 5 or 10-year reunion, or whenever Allison wants to organize it, I strongly doubt that my statement will be false. After 4 years of seeing the same exact faces everyday all day, we're finally each going our separate ways. College life is going to be much different from what we have had. Let's not forget exactly where we came from. We've put up with each other for what seemed forever. But I have to say something I realized just two days ago and that I got a little emotional when typing this: friends aren't always people you talk to everyday. There are a lot of people in the world that you may call a friend and could be one of the worst individuals to be involved with. But being with you guys for 4 years has showed me that there's greatness in every single one of you, things unmentionable to the mind's recollection, and that I really have to say I love you all. There was apparently apart in my heart that was being saved to be filled by a group of people, and I realized that the 21 of you, in each of your own ways, filled that void with a better feeling that I've had in a long time. The feeling I'll have for you next year is beyond the word "miss". I just hope the person I've been will be imprinted into your hearts as well. Please remember that this isn't goodbye, it's just "see you later."

Once again, I would like to thank Mr. Abelon for being patient with this class, the Governing Committee, the East Hartford Board of Education, Mr. Jordan, especially Dr. Fallon, our Guidance Counselor Mr.

Spiller for being there almost everyday for not only being a Guidance Counselor who organized our schedules, but a friend to talk to, teachers who made our high school transition the easiest and wonderful four years to look back on (I'd love to mention every single one but it would make this speech longer than it is), East Hartford High School staff but most importantly, the parents, who brought us onto this Earth, gave us life, and raised us to the best of their ability. And when I say best, I mean BEST. Whether they show it or not, every second we're alive on this Earth, they love us in a way we may not understand. We wouldn't be here today if it weren't for them. To this first CIBA graduating Class of 2003: The programs and tickets call this a Commencement of the Class of 2003. This means we're just starting where our lives will begin to pick up. Make this graduation one of dignity and remembrance; and treat today as your fast big step into the real world.

Thank you.

HONORING CHAIRMAN BOB STUMP

HON. DARRELL E. ISSA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 25, 2003

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight to remember the life and work of former Congressman Bob Stump. Mr. Stump was a true gentleman with whom I had the privilege of serving in this body for two years.

Before being elected to Congress, Mr. Stump served in the United States Navy and also served in the Arizona House of Representatives and in the Arizona State Senate.

He was first elected to Congress November 3, 1976, where he faithfully served the people of Arizona for 26 years in the U.S. House of Representatives. Mr. Stump was a man whose congressional career was spent working for our Nation's men and women in uniform. His commitment to the military and to our Nation's defense should be an example to us all.

I send my condolences to his wife Nancy, three children, and five grandchildren.

THE AMERICAN DREAM

HON. RANDY "DUKE" CUNNINGHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 25, 2003

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to read the essay of Elizabeth Hernandez, a member of the Valley Center Teenage Republican Club:

For many years people from Mexico have been coming to this country for a better opportunity, better life and a future for their children and family, the most common reason why they choose to come here, is because America gives them a chance to start a new life. They have special programs from which they can benefit, so they can progress in life and have something they can call their own. The economy has a great influence in this too. Mexico has many states that are very poor.

Economic issues are a strong reason why America is a good target for them. Mexico has many states that are poor and do not have the sufficient resources that a person should have during this century. Most towns

are still without electricity, water pumps, and telephones. This makes daily life more difficult. They always hear that in America all of this is not an issue; that you can practically go everywhere and all of these resources are given to you. In Mexico, jobs are everywhere but they don't get enough money to have an average life. The cost of food constantly increases but the wages stay the same. That makes it harder to buy or afford anything. Here in America, we don't see that problem because if food or the daily necessity goes up, so does the minimum wage for every job. In Mexico, there is not a law that tells companies how much they have to pay their employees. Most of the time they pay a small amount of money for the amount of time they work. Some occasions they work up to sixteen hours straight a day for five or six days a week. Here in America you can't do that, the hours you can work is a maximum of forty hours a week; after that they have to pay you over time. When this happens in Mexico, parents can't afford to feed their children because they are not paid overtime. That is why they choose to come to America so they can have food on their table every night and a few other luxuries.

For that same reason, their education is affected. Most parents make their children work so they can get more money to be able to buy food and clothing. Usually the children drop out of school at an early age, some of them just complete the fifth grade. Children that keep on going to school usually have money or they live in the city. People that don't live in a major city don't have the same opportunity. In America there is always a public school minutes away from where you live even if you don't live in a major city. You are guaranteed a free education all the way until high school and after that you can also get a college education in a community college that is less expensive than a University. That is why the people of Mexico come to America so they can put food on their table and their children are guaranteed an education regardless from what country they originate. That is why the "American Dream" is the way they refer to America.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE ALABAMA STATE DOCKS FOR 75 YEARS OF SERVICE TO SOCIETY

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 25, 2003

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to recognize the Alabama State Docks on the occasion of the 75th anniversary of its official dedication. The dedication took place on June 25, 1928, with several dignitaries attending, including Governor Bibb Graves, U.S. Congressman John McDuffie, U.S. Senator Hugo Black and the Assistant Chief of the United States Department of Transportation. Since that time, the port city of Mobile has enjoyed a lengthy history as an integral part of the State and National economy.

In 1519, just a short 27 years following Christopher Columbus's discovery of the New World, Spanish explorer Admiral Alvarez de Pineda sailed into what is now called Mobile Bay. The present-day city of Mobile was founded in 1702 by French explorers Jean Baptiste Le Moyne and Sieur de Bienville. The port of Mobile, which lies at the mouth of the Mobile River and the head of Mobile Bay, began contributing to the economy of the re-

gion by becoming one of the leading exporters of cotton. Since the early part of the 17th century, the port city has flourished to become Alabama's third largest city and among the national leaders in international trade.

The current 45 foot deep navigational channel, which is maintained by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, serves the port well in connecting Mobile to the Gulf of Mexico. The Mobile River, which is formed by the confluence of the Black Warrior and Tombigbee Rivers, functions as the gateway for the Tennessee/Tombigbee Waterway. The obvious economic possibilities and the lack of central organizational operation spurred the Alabama Legislature to submit a constitutional amendment to develop Alabama's Seaport with state financial assistance. The amendment was passed in 1922 and the State Docks Commission was formed to build, operate and maintain the facilities of the State Docks. With just \$10 million to spend, the Commission chose retired Major General William L. Sibert to engineer and construct one of the finest seaports on the Gulf Coast. Construction was not yet completed when the new Docks received their first cargo ship in May of 1927.

The port, which ranked 14th in total tonnage in 1999, is ahead of other ports such as Tampa, Seattle, Charleston, and Savannah. Mobile also ranks first nationally in wood pulp and Gulf coast forest products exports. The State Docks has made an overwhelming impact on the State economy by generating approximately \$3 billion in revenues statewide each year. With the ability to service many different products, the port continues to position itself among the leaders in international trade. And as a self-supporting enterprise agency of the executive branch of State government, the facilities prove that they can compete and operate to the benefit of not only the people of Alabama but also the Nation.

I ask my colleagues to join me today in recognizing the Alabama State Docks for 75 years of excellence and leadership in the shipping industry. The residents of Alabama and the American people have all benefited greatly from the Docks, existence and its important role in today's economy.

CONGRATULATIONS TO MS. KATHLEEN McGRATH ON ELECTION INTO NATIONAL TEACHERS HALL OF FAME

HON. CLIFF STEARNS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 25, 2003

Mr. STEARNS. The National Teachers Hall of Fame is an organization, which recognizes and honors exceptional teachers and the teaching profession. The Hall of Fame annually honors five teachers whom have demonstrated commitment and dedication to teaching our Nation's children. This year, I am fortunate to have one of my constituents, Kathleen McGrath, elected as a member of the Class of 2003.

Kathleen is a fifth grade teacher at Saddlewood Elementary School in Ocala, FL and has been teaching for 22 years at various schools throughout Marion County. Kathleen creates a learning environment in her class where students feel safe to take risks and

strive to do their personal best each day. Her classroom is a safe haven, where learning is natural and anything is attainable.

I would like to congratulate Ms. Kathleen McGrath on her election into the National Teachers Hall of Fame, and for continuing to provide the children of Marion County with a fun and inspiring learning environment.

INTERNATIONAL DAY IN SUPPORT
OF THE VICTIMS OF TORTURE

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 25, 2003

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, as Chairman of the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe, I find myself dealing with the issue of torture many times over during the course of any given year—torture committed by Russian forces in Chechnya, systematic police abuse of Roma in Greece, prisoners tortured to death in Uzbekistan, to give just a few recent examples. Unfortunately, torture remains the weapon of choice by many oppressive regimes, systematically used to silence political opposition, punish religious minorities, or target those who are ethnically or racially different from those in power.

But on the occasion of the United Nations' Day in Support of the Victims of Torture, I'd like to reflect on the steps that can be taken to help prevent torture from occurring in the first place.

Torture is prohibited by a multitude of international instruments, including documents of the Organization on Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE). Moreover, it is absolute and nonderogable under any circumstances, even wartime. The challenge, then, is to translate this commitment into practice.

Amnesty International has issued a number of recommendations to help end torture. They are remarkably straightforward and easy to grasp: officials at the highest level should condemn torture; governments should ensure access to prisoners; secret detentions should be prohibited; and confessions obtained through torture should be excluded from evidence in the courtroom. I believe the implementation of these fundamental principles would have a significant impact in reducing torture. At the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly's Annual Session two years ago, I introduced a resolution, passed by the Assembly, that built on these basic concepts.

While we work to eradicate torture, we must not forget those who have already become its victims. Along with Representative TOM LANTOS, I have introduced H.R. 1813, legislation to re-authorize the Torture Victims Relief Act and the list of cosponsors is growing. The Senate companion bill, S. 854 was introduced by Senator COLEMAN. This reauthorization will continue funding for centers here in the United States that help provide treatment for the estimated half million survivors, most of whom came to this country as refugees. It will also provide funds, distributed through the Agency for International Development or the U.N. Voluntary Fund for the Victims of Torture, for treatment centers abroad. While life for torture survivors can never be the same, treatment can provide victims the hope of becoming stable and productive members of their commu-

nities. I urge my colleagues in the House to join in supporting this measure as a tangible support of the victims of torture.

HONORING DR. JAN VAN
WAGTENDONK

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 25, 2003

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Jan van Wagtendonk, who recently received the 2002 Excellence in Wilderness Stewardship Research Award. Van Wagtendonk was presented the award on June 12, 2003 at the Forest Service's 2002 National Wilderness Awards ceremony in Arlington, VA.

Dr. Wagtendonk has been involved in wilderness science for over 30 years. Van Wagtendonk grew up in Indiana where he studied forestry at Purdue University. During the summer, he worked as a smokejumper for the U.S. Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management. This led him to Oregon State University where he received his B.S. in Forest Management. He then served four and a half years in the U.S. Army as an officer in the 101st Airborne Division where he was also an advisor to the Vietnamese army. He entered graduate school at University of California, Berkeley where he received his M.S. in Range Management and his Ph.D. in Wildland Resource Science with a specialty in fire ecology. From 1972 through 1993, van Wagtendonk was a research scientist with the National Park Service at Yosemite National Park. Since then he has been a research scientist with the U.S. Geological Survey. In 2001, van Wagtendonk was chosen to be an invited speaker at the 7th World Wilderness Congress held in South Africa.

Through his extensive research, interagency wilderness programs in the Sierra Nevadas have improved greatly. His contributions have not only helped in Yosemite, but across the country, with his work on fuels dynamics, fire prescriptions, remote sensing and the application of geographic information systems to fire management. The techniques developed through van Wagtendonk's work have been used in the wildernesses of national forests in Oregon, North Carolina and California. Dr. David Parsons nominated van Wagtendonk for this because "his dedication to providing sound science to the challenging dilemmas facing wilderness managers in Yosemite and across the country is unparalleled."

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing Dr. Jan van Wagtendonk for his significant and steadfast efforts to preserve and manage the wilderness of the United States.

SUPPORTING THE EFFORTS OF
PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION ADVOCATES

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 25, 2003

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to show my support for the efforts of

public transportation advocates around the country.

Today, the National Alliance of Public Transportation Advocates (NAPTA) is distributing a letter to the Hill, which asks Congress to double the investment in public transportation to \$14 billion by FY2009 when it reauthorizes the federal surface transportation program.

Providing increased, guaranteed transit funding is critical to improving the livability of our communities. In Portland, we have been proud to be leaders in understanding the connection between land use and transportation. Our light rail system has not only provided additional choices to our residents, it has also helped with environmental problems.

Portland's transit system, Tri-Met, has the 13th largest ridership in the nation, despite being only the 29th largest transit district. Rider totals increased 65 percent the last decade. This growth is a reflection of the increased transit investment provided by the federal, state and local levels. In my community, transit truly is making a difference in the quality of life for our citizens.

NAPTA also points to the strong success of such existing programs as the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ), Enhancements, and Transportation and Community and System Pilot Preservation Program (TCSP).

Communities nationwide are experiencing the flexibility and freedom of having more public transportation choices. For every federal dollar invested in public transportation as many as \$6 are returned in congestion reduction, safety benefits and access to economic opportunity. At the same time, 47,500 jobs are created for each \$1 billion invested. Increasing guaranteed federal funding in public transportation can bring these benefits to people across the country.

TRIBUTE TO THE EMPLOYEES OF
WYETH-PHARMACEUTICALS IN
RICHMOND, VIRGINIA

HON. ERIC CANTOR

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 25, 2003

Mr. CANTOR. Mr. Speaker, the breakthroughs in medicine now occurring on a daily basis were unimaginable 40 years ago when Medicare was established. Seniors lead better lives due to these research breakthroughs and new prescription drugs; however, these medical breakthroughs are meaningless if seniors cannot access these lifesaving medications prescribed by their doctor.

Last year a constituent of mine from Bumpass, Virginia wrote me because she could not afford her mother's private assisted living care. She was paying over \$550 a month for her mother's prescription drugs, and those huge costs severely limited the care available for her mother. I can only imagine how heartbreaking a decision this must have been for a daughter and her mother—choosing medicine over assisted living care.

That is why I want to recognize the 1,465 Richmond-based employees of Wyeth-Pharmaceuticals, a world-class pharmaceutical research company. These employees participate in charitable company program that offers patients lifesaving medications, free of charge.

The Wyeth Patient Assistant Program has been a very successful way for seniors in Richmond and the Nation to get lifesaving medicines free of charge. Wyeth employees are good community partners for Richmond and a group of people that we need to recognize for their kindness and compassion.

But we as Americans can and must do more to help our seniors afford prescription drugs.

Providing voluntary prescription drug coverage to Medicare beneficiaries will ensure that America's seniors will be able to enjoy their golden years while we as their children and grandchildren will be able to enjoy their wisdom and good health. Both a noble and worthy cause.

TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE BOB STUMP

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 25, 2003

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, today I join my colleagues as we pay tribute to our friend, Bob Stump of Arizona. I was deeply saddened to learn of his passing last weekend. I join my colleagues in extending our deepest sympathy to Bob's wife, Nancy, his children, and his entire family.

Bob Stump was my first friend in Congress. Almost 26 years ago, two newly-elected Members of Congress sat down next to each other at an organizational caucus for the 95th Congress, and formed a friendship that has endured and grown through the years. You have to understand that when we met, Bob Stump and I thought we were pretty important. After all, we had both served in the State Legislatures of Arizona and Missouri—as Senators. But we both adjusted and came to love the House of Representatives.

It should be no surprise that I liked Bob from the first time I met him. I could tell immediately that he was a person of character and integrity. He was a true son of the old Southwest:

Strong, yet gentle.

Tough, yet compassionate.

Fiercely independent, yet unflinchingly loyal.

He was born in Phoenix in 1927, just 15 years after Arizona joined the Union as the 48th State. He was only 16 when he demonstrated the love of country and the patriotism that would characterize his life in public service. He left high school to join the Navy in 1943, and before his 20th birthday, he had served in combat in World War II. It was no doubt during this time that Bob acquired his life-long respect for the men and women who serve our Nation in uniform. This respect became a commitment, and the commitment became the hallmark of Bob's service here in Congress. As Chairman of both the Armed Services Committee and the Veterans Committee, he worked tirelessly on behalf of our men and women in uniform and our veterans.

No one has done more to ensure that our military and their families have decent pay and benefits, the best equipment and training, and quality housing and facilities. No one has done more to ensure that our Nation honors its commitments to its veterans.

Only last October, Bob's portrait was unveiled at the Armed Services Committee and

placed up on the wall where it belongs—among the other great leaders who have chaired the Committee through the years. I feel blessed that I had the opportunity to work closely with Bob during the past two years in my role as Ranking Member of the House Armed Services Committee. As Chairman, he was respectful of others, fair, and honorable. Knowing him as I do, I would have expected no less. On most issues which Congress has faced over these many years, we agreed. On those rare occasions where we did not agree, our disagreement never got in the way of our friendship, and for that I am grateful.

KELLY SHINN'S ESSAY

HON. RANDY "DUKE" CUNNINGHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 25, 2003

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to read the essay of Kelly Shinn, a member of the Valley Center Teenage Republican Club.

Being a part of the Teenage Republican club and working for the Republican Party means I have accepted the republican values. By accepting these values I have so far been affected by the party's efforts to keep public schools excellent and accountable. These values will also affect me in the future.

The value of ensuring affordable and accessible health care for children, families, and seniors has already affected my life. Without affordable health care I would not have been able to receive the medical assistance I needed to treat my Irritable Bowel Syndrome and get rid of a stomach parasite. These values will also affect my future and the future of my family. When I start a family of my own I will need affordable health care to keep my husband and children healthy and safe.

Also the value to ensure excellent and accountable public schools for children has already affected and will continue to affect me later in life. I have always attended public schools and because of the Republican Party's fight to keep the public school districts accountable, I have received a wonderful education. My education has given me the confidence I need to continue learning after high school. Keeping schools accountable and excellent will also affect my children. I want to give my children the same opportunity to receive a solid education and the only way to do this is to support the Republican Party.

All of the values that are held by the Republican Party will help secure a government that exists to protect the freedom of each individual. And this means that America will continue to be the home of the brave.

IN RECOGNITION OF CHRISTOPHER BALOGH FOR BEING HONORED WITH THE CONGRESSIONAL AWARD GOLD MEDAL

HON. E. CLAY SHAW, JR.

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 25, 2003

Mr. SHAW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Christopher Balogh of Jupiter, FL, for receiving the Congressional Award Gold Medal. It is my pleasure to congratulate this

fine young resident of the 22nd Congressional District of Florida who has been incredibly dedicated to the betterment of not only his community but himself.

Mr. Speaker, the Congressional Award Gold Medal requires more than 3 years to complete a minimum of 800 hours of community service, 200 hours in both personal development and physical fitness, in addition to a total of four nights of expedition/exploration. These are cumulative hours as Christopher has previously earned the Bronze and Silver Medals. I applaud his hard work and dedication.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to again congratulate Christopher Balogh of my district who is being presented with the Congressional Award Gold Medal today. The outstanding work done by this dedicated young man has been truly influential in his community, and I congratulate him as he is recognized among the Nation's most outstanding young people.

RECOGNIZING THE COMMITTEE FOR CITIZEN AWARENESS

HON. PHILIP M. CRANE

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 25, 2003

Mr. CRANE. Mr. Speaker, at a time when strained Federal, State, and local budgets are affecting our country's funding for the education of our people, some individuals and organizations in our private sector are doing something about it. They have combined efforts with the Committee for Citizen Awareness (CCA) to provide all the secondary schools and many others in their area with free educational videotapes. These videotapes explain civic issues about our country and how our government works.

The CCA is a nearly two-decade-old not-for-profit organization that produces and distributes award-winning educational videotapes that focus on civic issues. These videotapes feature appearances by people such as Secretary of State Colin Powell, Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, many Members of the U.S. House of Representatives, U.S. Senators, and other pertinent individuals.

The subjects covered in these videotapes are particularly important for a number of reasons. For example, although America is the world's greatest democracy, our people vote at a rate lower than any other country. Surveys have shown that one of the major reasons for not using the right to vote is a general lack of understanding of our government and the citizen's role in it. One of the many civic goals of the CCA and these civic-minded individuals and organizations is to correct this problem with the gift of these educational videotapes.

The videotapes are given free to all the public and private high schools, community and junior colleges, community access television stations, and to many libraries and chambers of commerce. Our country and our democracy are better because of the efforts of the CCA and because of its countless dedicated sponsors.

IN RECOGNITION OF ELIZABETH COUNTS FOR BEING HONORED WITH THE CONGRESSIONAL AWARD GOLD MEDAL

HON. E. CLAY SHAW, JR.

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 25, 2003

Mr. SHAW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Elizabeth Counts of Jupiter, FL, for receiving the Congressional Award Gold Medal. It is my pleasure to congratulate this fine young resident of the 22nd Congressional District of Florida who has been incredibly dedicated to the betterment of not only her community but herself.

Mr. Speaker, the Congressional Award Gold Medal requires more than 3 years to complete a minimum of 800 hours of community service, 200 hours in both personal development and physical fitness, in addition to a total of four nights of expedition/exploration. These are cumulative hours as Elizabeth has previously earned the Bronze and Silver Medals. I applaud her for her hard work and dedication.

I would also like to take this opportunity to recognize Elizabeth's advisor, Ms. Lynn Lyons, who has shown tireless dedication to the Youth Congressional Award and has mentored countless youth over the years. The relationship between Ms. Lyons and her students has been an extraordinary one. Ms. Lyons is now retired after her years of teaching at St. Mark's Episcopal School.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to again congratulate Elizabeth Counts of my district who is being presented with the Congressional Award Gold Medal today. The outstanding work done by this dedicated young woman has been truly influential in her community, and I congratulate her as she is recognized among the Nation's most outstanding young people.

HONORING RALPH NURNBERGER

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 25, 2003

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor Mr. Ralph Nurnberger who was honored by Georgetown University with their Excellence in Teaching Faculty Award. His dedication to the students and the Liberal Studies Program at Georgetown makes him most deserving of this honor.

Ralph has extensive experience on Capitol Hill. In former Senator James Person's office as the foreign policy legislative assistant and as professional staff on the Senate Foreign Relations committee, he became an international affairs expert.

After his time on the Hill, Ralph became a Senior Fellow and director of congressional relations at the Center for Strategic and International Studies, and later worked for eight years as a lobbyist with the American Israel Public Affairs Committee. Following the historic signing of the Oslo Accords, he was appointed as the Executive Director of "Builders of Peace," an organization set up under the guidance of Vice President Al Gore to aid in the Arab-Israeli peace process. Through his

work, Ralph can lead us down a roadmap to a sustainable peace.

Currently, Ralph is with Preston Gates Ellis and Rouvelas Meeds law firm and also heads the government relations firm, Nurnberger and Associates. He has also published extensively and written several books, sharing his insight and knowledge on the Middle-East and the foreign policy of the United States.

While his work with all of these organizations is impressive and worthy of praise, it is through his teaching that he has touched the most lives. Ralph's students have always showered him with the highest praise and always leave his classes with insights that only Professor Nurnberger can give. He engages his students and helps them to understand the most complicated situations through his real life experiences.

Most importantly, Ralph has taught his students how to have a debate over a contentious issue with civility. He encourages his students to hold conversations based on facts, rather than with the emotional intensity that some subjects conjure. Through his classes, Ralph has taught students to be thoughtful and considerate when engaged in civil discourse, something that is too rare in this world.

Ralph Nurnberger is very deserving of this award from Georgetown University. He has helped shape the minds of his students and colleagues with insights on the major issues facing the United States. I congratulate Ralph on all his accomplishments, and I look forward to seeing him one day in a deserved position of national leadership on international relations. Our Nation would be very well served.

IN RECOGNITION OF MATTHEW MILLS FOR BEING HONORED WITH THE CONGRESSIONAL AWARD GOLD MEDAL

HON. E. CLAY SHAW, JR.

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 25, 2003

Mr. SHAW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Matthew Mills of Jupiter, FL, for receiving the Congressional Award Gold Medal. It is my pleasure to congratulate this fine young resident of the 22nd Congressional District of Florida who have been incredibly dedicated to the betterment of not only his community but himself.

Mr. Speaker, the Congressional Award Gold Medal requires more than 3 years to complete a minimum of 800 hours of community service, 200 hours in both personal development and physical fitness, in addition to a total of four nights of expedition/exploration. These are cumulative hours as Matthew has previously earned the Bronze and Silver Medals. I applaud his hard work and dedication.

I would also like to take this opportunity to recognize Matthew's advisor, Ms. Lynn Lyons, who has shown tireless dedication to the Youth Congressional Award and has mentored countless youth over the years. The relationship between Ms. Lyons and her students has been an extraordinary one. Ms. Lyons is now retired after her years of teaching at St. Mark's Episcopal School.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to again congratulate Matthew Mills of my district who is being

presented with the Congressional Award Gold Medal today. The outstanding work done by this dedicated young man has been truly influential in his community, and I congratulate him as he is recognized among the Nation's most outstanding young people.

IN HONOR OF THE MINORITY BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONALS NETWORK'S "FIFTY INFLUENTIAL MINORITIES IN BUSINESS" ANNUAL AWARDS GALA

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 25, 2003

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor fifty men and women for their outstanding achievements as influential leaders in business. They will be recognized at the Minority Business and Professionals Network's 5th Annual Award Gala at the Crystal Gateway Marriott in Crystal City, Virginia, on June 25, 2003.

The fifty men and women being honored represent a leadership that is diverse, innovative, and incredibly driven. While there have been impressive advancements for minority-owned businesses and minority business leaders, there is much work to be done, and it is critical that such leadership continues to gain strength. These awardees help ensure that minority leadership is growing, and that the voices of minorities are not ignored. Their influence is critical to securing the future success of minority-owned businesses, and their efforts and achievements are a symbol of the strength of minority leadership. As dynamic leaders in their fields and in their communities, their accomplishments are an inspiration to all those looking to succeed.

I would like to recognize the importance of the Minority Business and Professionals Network for providing critical resources that continue to support minority-owned businesses. I thank the Network and its president, Debra Williams, for providing an opportunity to recognize and acknowledge these important leaders.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the Fifty Influential Minorities in Business and congratulating them on their achievements. I wish them continued success as they continue to lead the way for minorities in business.

HUMAN RIGHTS IN CUBA

HON. WALTER B. JONES

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 25, 2003

Mr. JONES of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to submit this letter to the Editor for the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

The letter was written by a man for whom I have endless respect my friend Ray Flynn, the President of the American Catholic Alliance, former Mayor of Boston and U.S. Ambassador to the Vatican.

Like myself, Ambassador Flynn believes strongly in fighting for increased human rights and religious freedom throughout the world.

I support Ambassador Flynn and the entire American Catholic Alliance in their efforts to right the wrongs in Cuba.

I would like to enter this document from Ambassador Flynn, entitled, "Human Rights in Cuba" for the RECORD.

HUMAN RIGHTS IN CUBA

Dear Editor: Pope John Paul II publicly released a letter that the Vatican sent to Fidel Castro a couple of weeks ago expressing dismay at Cuba's crackdown on political dissent.

The pope personally appealed to Castro to show leniency with dissidents recently given harsh prison sentences and denounced the execution of the men who seized a ferry to reach the United States.

The letter, which was signed by the Vatican Secretary of State Angelo Cardinal Sodano, stated in part, "The Holy Father felt deeply pained when he learned of the harsh sentences recently imposed on numerous Cuban citizens. And even, for some of them, the death penalty." Thus far, Castro has not acknowledged the letter.

Speaking at a political luncheon in Boston and also later on MSNBC national television on Saturday, I said, "Castro has a human rights record of shame. He has oppressed and persecuted many Cubans including those in the Catholic Church and priests whose only objective was to teach the world about God." The U.S. Government and the international community have closed their eyes to this injustice and terror in Cuba for forty years.

Cuba sits only ninety miles off the United States coast, but it continues to be one of the world's worst violators of human rights. When you see what has been happening in Cuba these many years, you have to be concerned about whether we have lost our moral compass. Our government policy of looking the other way when it comes to human rights abuses must be changed. When members of the U.S. Congress visit Castro in the future, they should demand that the Cuban leader recognize and respect the God given rights of all individuals. Our policy in Cuba has been a failure. Economic boycotts and expanding business opportunities have not worked.

Pope John Paul II has been a clear and consistent moral voice on human rights issues throughout the world, but the international community must be equally committed.

IN RECOGNITION OF PETER BRANNEN, FOR BEING HONORED WITH THE CONGRESSIONAL AWARD GOLD MEDAL

HON. E. CLAY SHAW, JR.

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 25, 2003

Mr. SHAW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Peter Brannen of Palm Beach Gardens, Florida for receiving the Congressional Award Gold Medal. It is my pleasure to congratulate this fine young resident of the 22nd Congressional District of Florida who has been incredibly dedicated to the betterment of not only his community but himself.

Mr. Speaker, the Congressional Award Gold Medal requires more than three years to complete a minimum of 800 hours of community service, 200 hours in both personal development and physical fitness, in addition to a total of four nights of expedition/exploration. These are cumulative hours as Peter has previously

earned the Bronze and Silver Medals. I applaud him and his hard work and dedication.

I would also like to take this opportunity to recognize Peter's advisor, Ms. Lynn Lyons, who has shown tireless dedication to the Youth Congressional Award and has mentored countless youth over the years. The relationship between Ms. Lyons and her students has been an extraordinary one. Ms. Lyons is now retired after her years of teaching at St. Mark's Episcopal School.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to again congratulate Peter Brannen of my district who is being presented with the Congressional Award Gold Medal today. The outstanding work done by this dedicated young man has been truly influential in his community of Florida, and I congratulate him as he is recognized among the nation's most outstanding young people.

IN MEMORY AND PRAISE OF MAYNARD HOLBROOK JACKSON

HON. MAJOR R. OWENS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 25, 2003

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, I join with all of my colleagues, with the family and with all Americans in mourning the passage of a great political leader and a personal friend, Mayor Maynard Jackson. I rise to salute the outstanding achievements of the former Mayor of Atlanta who was also a national political leader and a major asset of the Democratic Party. But before I sound the loud trumpets which are appropriate for the highlighting of Mayor Jackson's public life, I would like to pause and note my fond personal memories of Maynard.

In the Morehouse College class of 1956 he was my classmate. But even more intimate than that space were the roles we shared as part of an experimental program sponsored by the Ford Foundation. Maynard and I were two of 30 college freshmen who had been admitted without completing the last 2 years of high school. Most of the so called "Ford Boys" were 16 years old. Maynard was the youngest at age 14.

Maynard was a native of Atlanta, the location of Morehouse College. He was a member of one of the oldest African American leadership families. Maynard even at that early age had a strong sense of mission and personal responsibility. Despite his youth he became the host for our group of 30 special students. We were from very different worlds. My father was a factory worker who had never earned more than the minimum wage. But during that freshman year Maynard's father who was the minister of one of Atlanta's most prestigious churches, died suddenly. My mother also died in the Spring of that year. Few understand better than I did the sudden escalated maturation of the 14 year old Maynard. It was probably the first great crisis of his life but he rallied his personal resources and he overcame that great emotional obstacle. It was a challenge which set a pattern for the rest of his life and career.

My classmate, Mayor Maynard Jackson leaves a clear and shining legacy for all to see and for African American leaders to utilize as a guiding beacon. Mayor Maynard sought power and through a very creative strategy and set of tactics he won power. But the truly

distinguishing achievement of Mayor Maynard Jackson was his bold and uncompromising use of his power to further empower the African American community of Atlanta. In very concrete dollar and cents terms he confronted the business elite of Atlanta and forced the opening of new doors of significant business opportunities for minorities.

Under Mayor Jackson's early leadership as Mayor, Atlanta City contracts soared from less than 1 per cent in 1973 to 39 per cent within 5 years. Many of these contracts were related to the construction of the expanded world class Atlanta airport. It is believed that several dozen new black millionaires were created via Maynard's mandated joint venture models. It is important to note that the airport expansion was still completed ahead of time and under budget. For African Americans unprecedented new opportunities were opened up as a result of the Mayor's confrontation with the white business establishment. Maynard Jackson could never be called an "empty suit" concerned only with the ceremony and symbolism of being the first Black Mayor of Atlanta. The legacy he leaves is a lesson for all African American leaders: power is acquired for the purpose of empowering those who lacked power before. Martin Luther King's movement and the Voting Rights Act were constructed, not to install peacocks with their limited agendas for personal wealth and fame; instead the assumption of public office is a method of extending the struggle.

Let it be noted and fully understood that Maynard Jackson had to pay a price for his courage and his boldness on behalf of the continuing struggle. When he left office as Mayor, the white establishment attempted to lynch him economically by denying him an appropriate berth in the private sector. Fortunately, it was one more hurdle which Maynard overcame. More of the story of the battle of Atlanta must be told in order for the legacy to be understood clearly. Mayor Maynard Jackson was more than just a successful politician. He was a trailblazer, a hero who set high standards that all African American public officials must measure up to in performance.

ANNE E. SMITH—2003 PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLAR

HON. JULIA CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 25, 2003

Ms. CARSON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, it is with a great sense of pride that I rise today to extend heartfelt congratulations to Anne Elizabeth Smith, 2003 Presidential Scholar, Indianapolis, IN.

Anne is a recent graduate of North Central High School, Indianapolis, IN. Her myriad achievements include the prestigious Indiana Honor Diploma and the North Central Honor Diploma. Anne will continue her education at Williams College, Williamstown, MA.

The United States Presidential Scholars Program was established in 1964, by Executive Order of the President. This program was established to recognize and honor some of our Nation's distinguished graduating high school seniors. In almost 40 years since this program was implemented, 4,000 students have been recognized for their outstanding

achievement in leadership, scholarship, and community.

I would like to welcome Anne to Washington, DC, for National Recognition Week, where scholars are recognized for their academic achievements.

I would also like to thank Anne's parents, David and Alyson Smith, for providing Anne with the exceptional parental guidance that has contributed to her success.

I ask the House of Representatives to join me in saluting this extraordinary young woman for her academic excellence.

IN RECOGNITION OF CHAD VEZIN
FOR BEING HONORED WITH THE
CONGRESSIONAL AWARD GOLD
MEDAL

—
HON. E. CLAY SHAW, JR.

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 25, 2003

Mr. SHAW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Chad Vezin of Jupiter, Florida for receiving the Congressional Award Gold Medal. It is my pleasure to congratulate this fine young resident of the 22nd Congressional District of Florida who has been incredibly dedicated to the betterment of not only his community but himself.

Mr. Speaker, the Congressional Award Gold Medal requires more than three years to complete a minimum of 800 hours of community service, 200 hours in both personal develop-

ment and physical fitness, in addition to a total of four nights of expedition/exploration. These are cumulative hours as Chad has previously earned the Bronze and Silver Medals. I applaud him for his hard work and dedication.

I would also like to take this opportunity to recognize Chad's advisor, Ms. Lynn Lyons, who has shown tireless dedication to the Youth Congressional Award and has mentored countless youth over the years. The relationship between Ms. Lyons and her students has been an extraordinary one. Ms. Lyons is now retired after her years of teaching at St. Mark's Episcopal School.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to again congratulate Chad Vezin a resident of my district who is being presented with the Congressional Award Gold Medal today. The outstanding work done by this dedicated young man has been truly influential in his community, and I congratulate him as he is recognized among the nation's most outstanding young people.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS
 Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate on February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place, and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled, and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.
 As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD

on Monday and Wednesday of each week.
 Meetings scheduled for Thursday, June 26, 2003 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

JULY 9

10 a.m.
 Indian Affairs
 To hold oversight hearings to examine the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act.
 SD-106

JULY 16

10 a.m.
 Indian Affairs
 To hold hearings to examine S. 556, to amend the Indian Health Care Improvement Act to revise and extend that Act.
 SR-485

JULY 23

10 a.m.
 Indian Affairs
 To hold hearings to examine S. 556, to amend the Indian Health Care Improvement Act to revise and extend that Act.
 SR-485
 Judiciary
 To hold oversight hearings to examine certain pending matters.
 SD-226

JULY 30

10 a.m.
 Indian Affairs
 To hold hearings to examine S. 578, to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to include Indian tribes among the entities consulted with respect to activities carried out by the Secretary of Homeland Security.
 SR-485