

defense. The goal of the Cadet Corps is to encourage young people to develop an interest in basic seamanship and teach cadets patriotism, courage, confidence and self reliance.

Cadet CPO Downey has been a member of the Naval Sea Cadet Corps Program's Tomcat Squadron for over 5 years. She has completed a large number of advanced training courses over her tenure in the program, including seamanship training aboard the USNSCS *Grayfox*, Coast Guard training, Master at Arms School, and Petty Officer Leadership Academy. In addition, she has completed sixty-four hours of community service and won numerous citations and ribbons.

Cadet CPO Downey's promotion to Chief Petty Officer was brought to my attention in a letter from her Commanding Officer, LTJG Lisa Stoyanovich, who writes me to say that CPO Downey "is a very personable young woman who takes pride in herself and her unit. CPO Downey's performance of her duties is always top-notch, her leadership abilities are exceptional, and her ability to motivate other cadets is finely tuned. Through her years of Navy League Cadet and Naval Sea Cadet training, she has earned the respect of her peers, and the officers in the unit."

The letter from Lieutenant Stoyanovich goes on to say that "Chief Petty Officer Downey has developed into a mature, solid leader and is a fine example of what the Sea Cadet Corps hopes to develop in young people."

I ask all my colleagues to join me in congratulating Chief Petty Officer Jennifer Downey for her achievements as a member of the U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps.

#### OPPOSING THE SYRIA ACCOUNTABILITY ACT

#### HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 21, 2003*

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to this bill despite being one of its cosponsors and having voted for it when it came before the House on October 15th.

I strongly believe Syria's actions ought to be called into question. To say this regime is a bad actor is putting it mildly. Their actions are rightly condemned, especially when it comes to their tacit support for terrorism and ongoing occupation of Lebanon. The United States ought to use the tools at our disposal—both political and economic—to demand an end to their egregious policies.

There is, however, a reason why I am voting against this resolution. It is based on my long held reservations about the President's intentions on foreign policy. Given his belligerent declarations yesterday, I have genuine concerns that he may seek authority in this resolution to pursue aggressive military action against Syria.

After all, Mr. Speaker, this President did not need much to march to war against Iraq. At best, the evidence was soft, the intelligence was trumped up and now not a grain of proof can be found showing Iraq had any weapons of mass destruction. But, ultimately, President Bush used past declarations of Congress meant merely to reprimand Iraq for its policies to justify full-blown war against that regime.

This resolution today contains provisions that rightly admonish Syria, but do so on the

basis of reasonable beliefs and assumptions, not proven facts. Most notably, there is reference to Syria's "hostile actions" in regard to the United States and our troops in Iraq. Although our suspicions are well founded, there is as yet no proven connection between the government of Syria and terrorism in Iraq.

I have concerns the President may not draw this distinction and take these words as grounds for pursuing preemptive military action.

Frankly, Mr. Speaker, I don't trust this President. His actions toward Iraq have clearly demonstrated his willingness to lie to the American people. But, they also underscore his willingness to use force indiscriminately without the burden of proof.

I cannot support a resolution that might be used as a vehicle for the President to act counter to the interest of the American people. I vote "no" on this resolution.

#### HONORING THE BASIC HIGH SCHOOL MJROTC UNIT

#### HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 21, 2003*

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Basic High School Marine Corps JROTC unit. I am proud to represent this outstanding group of young men and women and urge the entire House to join me in commending them today.

The MJROTC unit at Basic High, in Henderson, Nevada is one of the top JROTC units in the country, having been recognized as a Naval Honor School for the 2002–2003 school year. In addition, the Basic High MJROTC unit is the National Champion of the unarmed competition at the United States Air Force Academy National Invitational Drill Meet Championship, and has won seven times in the last 9 years. The Basic High armed competition unit has won the National Championship every time it has competed.

Basic High MJROTC is not only a champion on the drill field; it is also a champion in producing young men and women of character. Basic High MJROTC has been an active part of honoring Veterans Day in Henderson, with the whole battalion presenting the colors for the City of Henderson ceremony. The unit also led the local celebrations of the 228th anniversary of the founding of the U.S. Marine Corps. I want to thank the members of the unit, and instructors Lieutenant Colonel Montgomery, Master Gunnery Sergeant Ignatz, and First Sergeant Rael for standing always faithful, "Semper Fidelis," to the best traditions of Nevada, America, and the U.S. Marine Corps.

#### HONORING SISTER JEANNE O'LAUGHLIN

#### HON. E. CLAY SHAW, JR.

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 21, 2003*

Mr. SHAW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the amazing life and contributions of Sister Jeanne O'Laughlin, OP, Ph.D., as she prepares to retire from service to the

Barry University community this December. Sister Jeanne is the president of Barry University, which is located in Miami Shores, Florida. Since becoming president in 1981, Sister Jeanne has worked endlessly to increase the reputation and endowment of Barry University, raise hundreds of millions of dollars for her student's aid, and create a student body and alumni that stretches 70 countries, ranking number one in diversity among southern regional universities.

Sister Jeanne O'Laughlin was born and raised in Detroit, Michigan where she first learned what it meant to love and educate. As a little girl, she realized that in order to stop hatred, crime, and injustice, education must be the first priority on any agenda. Sister recalls the story when she was a 13-year old girl riding a streetcar in Detroit, she noticed a black woman enter the car with four small children. As the streetcar lurched forward, one of the children fell into her lap. Without hesitating, young Jeanne gladly held the young child for the remainder of the ride. Later, as a man departed the streetcar, he walked by and spit on young Jeanne.

Startled by what occurred, Jeanne asked her father later that evening why the man spit on her. Jeanne's father replied, "prejudice". Innocently, Jeanne asked, "how do you stop that?" "Education" was her father's answer. This simple response began a vision. A vision we honor today.

The Adrian Dominican Sisters founded Barry University in 1940, as a university dedicated to educating women. Since then, the University has continued to be administered by women, including the last 22-years with Sister Jeanne at the helm. My first year in the people's House, was also Sister's first year as Barry president. The year was 1981, and for Sister Jeanne it was the beginning of an educational revolution. In 22 tremendous years, Barry has changed from a predominantly women's university of 2,000, into a diverse campus of 8,500. She has raised nearly \$170 million for the university since she took office and has seen the university contribute nearly \$200 million to South Florida's economy last year.

Under the supervision of Sister Jeanne, Barry has been able to sustain in excess of 1,000 employees, up from 340 when Sister Jeanne started in 1981. Barry's budget has also increased dramatically rising from \$8.3 million to a staggering \$100 million. Barry's endowment has also risen more than 2,000 percent to \$22 million during the past 22 years. The university now offers seven doctoral degrees, including the only Doctor of Podiatric Medicine in the Southeast, and only seven universities in the country to offer such a degree. During her term as president, Sister Jeanne has inspired those around her to give more and more of themselves to better the lives of the students of Barry University. A tireless educator, Sister Jeanne has not only contributed greatly to Barry University, but also to many other institutions around Florida and the nation.

Sister Jeanne has served as chair of the Council of Independent Colleges from 1994–1996, the chair of the Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities also from 1994–1996, and as an Executive Council member of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools' Commission on Colleges from 1991–1996. Just in Florida alone, Sister Jeanne has