

us never forget that only justice and democratic governance will lead to a stable and prosperous Bosnia and Herzegovina.

INTRODUCTION OF H.R. 6525, THE
AMERICAN HISTORY AND CIVIC
ACHIEVEMENT ACT

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 2008

Ms. McCOLLUM, of Minnesota. Madam Speaker, last week I introduced the American History and Civic Achievement Act to renew our national commitment to teaching history and civics in America's schools. This legislation is a companion to S. 1414, a bill authored by Senators KENNEDY and ALEXANDER, and it will help ensure that our schools maintain their important civic role in creating the next generation of engaged and informed citizens.

Social studies education is a vital mission of our public schools. With our rapidly changing world and all the challenges we must face as an international community, it is more important than ever that children grasp basic concepts about history, civics, geography and economics. These core disciplines help students understand the world today and give them the ability to think about possibilities for making things better tomorrow.

It is alarming that studies indicate that too many students do not know history and geography or understand basic facts about government and economics. According to the most recent National Assessment of Education Programs (NAEP) for U.S. History and Civics, nearly 75 percent of eighth graders cannot explain the historical importance of the Declaration of Independence. Even more eighth graders do not know why America was involved in the Korean War or how the fall of the Berlin Wall affected U.S. foreign policy.

These trends threaten the future vitality of our democracy. While we are making some progress thanks to the hard work of many history and civics teachers in classrooms across America, we must do more. Additionally, underfunding is prompting many school districts to cut resources for social studies instruction.

H.R. 6525 takes important steps to improve social studies education by making changes to the National Assessment of Education Programs (NAEP). This continuing assessment, also known as "The Nation's Report Card," can currently evaluate social studies subjects—but only "to the extent time and resources allow." While social studies testing is on the NAEP schedule, it has recently been targeted for elimination due to funding challenges. My legislation protects this important study in several ways: Requires a national assessment of students in American history under the NAEP at least every four years; creates new 10-state pilots to assess history and civics under NAEP to provide quality information and comparable results across states for educators; provides funding to ensure a quality assessment.

This legislation will allow more effective analysis of social studies in classrooms across America. The future of our democracy relies on having well-educated, highly skilled citizens with the ability to think critically, which is why

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

IN HONOR OF ANNETTE MORMAN

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 2008

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Annette Morman, a member of the Georgia Municipal Association, the Mitchell County Hospital Authority, and a citizen of the Second Congressional District of Georgia, which I am privileged to represent.

Annette Morman is a native of Baconton, Georgia. She attended Dent-Reynolds Elementary School and graduated from Camilla Consolidated High School in 1966. She then furthered her education by attending both the Albany Technical College and Albany State University.

Ms. Morman is a very dedicated woman in many aspects of her life. She helps the children of her community through her job as a caseworker for the Mitchell County Department of Family and Children Services. For 34 years, she has guaranteed children in the area are protected and receive proper care. She truly epitomizes the motto, "no child left behind."

In addition to her service to children throughout the county, Ms. Morman leads her community through civic involvement. She has served on the Baconton City Council for 14 years in the same seat that her father, James E. Morman, once held. While on the council, she has served on the Recreation Committee, Budget Committee, and Chaired the Grand Opening Dedication of the Jackson Davis House.

Ms. Morman also serves on the Workforce Investment Board, the Mitchell County Democratic Executive Committee, and the Mitchell County School Board Facility Committee. Ms. Morman is also a devoted member of St. James Missionary Baptist Church, where she has served in numerous capacities.

Ms. Morman is the loving mother of two children: Olivia Dionne Morman and Dexter Dwayne Morman and the proud grandmother of five grandchildren.

Madam Speaker I am so pleased to honor this great woman who not only exemplifies the qualities of a dedicated activist for children, the community, and the church, but also epitomizes everything great about the United States of America.

HONORING VINE VILLAGE OF
NAPA COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 2008

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Vine Village of Napa County on the occasion of their 35th anniversary. Vine Village has done visionary work to provide people with developmental disabilities a comfortable place to call their home.

Thirty-five years ago, Grace Kerson, George Kerson and Dante Bagnani looked around at

the options they had for their developmentally disabled children: virtual isolation in an independent living situation, or institutionalization. They concluded that there had to be a better way; that people with developmental disabilities could have a comfortable home that allowed them social interaction and the same quality of life as their non-handicapped peers while still meeting their care needs.

The fruit of their ingenuity and compassion is Vine Village in Napa, California. Today at Vine Village, 19 developmentally disabled adults live full-time on a beautiful 25 acre ranch in the Cameros region amongst the animals and vineyards. They also maintain a day arts and recreation program that can be attended by any developmentally disabled person in the community.

The Kerson family remains the main benefactors of Vine Village. Grace and George's son, Michael and his wife, Nancy have directed Vine Village since 1973, and their daughter, Saanen, joined the staff in 2007. Debbie Kerson remains a resident.

Madam Speaker, it is appropriate at this time that we thank the Kerson family and everyone at Vine Village for the remarkable work they have done for our community. Only through the hard work and generous contributions of countless members of our community has this program thrived for the past 35 years, and I know that we will see much more progress in the years to come.

HONORING NEAL THOMAS

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Neal Thomas of Blue Springs, Missouri. Neal is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1696, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Neal has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Neal has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Neal Thomas for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

HONORING THE FBI ON ITS 100TH
ANNIVERSARY

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 2008

Mr. WOLF. Madam Speaker, I had the privilege of attending the 100th anniversary commemoration event for the Federal Bureau of Investigation on July 17 at the National Building Museum.

I insert for the record the remarks of Robert S. Mueller III, who was appointed the sixth director of the Bureau just one week before the