

of the 105th Congress) during last year's debate on campaign finance reform.

THOMAS PUGH HONORED

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 1999

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a noted community leader, Mr. Thomas E. Pugh, as he is honored by the Ethics Institute of Northeastern Pennsylvania at their annual dinner. I am pleased to have been asked to join in this event.

A former CEO of the John Heinz Institute of Rehabilitation in Wilkes-Barre, Tom Pugh now works at Allied Services in Scranton. He began there as director of communications and served later as vice president of corporate services better assuming his current role as vice-president of rehabilitation.

Tom is a dedicated professional who is active on both the local and international scene. Since 1994, Tom has worked with the Litewska Children's Hospital in Warsaw, Poland as a consultant on hospital privatization and foundation formation. He conducts a corporate program that provides equipment to the Association of Disabled People of Lithuania. Tom also serves as a consultant to Trnava University Healthcare Management Education Project in the Slovakia Republic. Locally, Tom is active in the Arthritis Foundation, the James S. Brady Center, the Northeast Region Board of the Health Education Center, and the Northeast Regional Cancer Institute. He serves as Executive Vice-President of the Board of Pennsylvania Association of Rehabilitation Facilities.

Mr. Speaker, Tom Pugh is a dedicated professional and community leader. His commitment to improving the lives of the disabled both here and abroad is well known. The Ethics Institute of Northeastern Pennsylvania, which was established to increase the understanding of contemporary ethical issues in business, government, politics, health care and social issues, is wise to fete him. I send my sincere best wishes to Tom as he accepts this prestigious award.

TRIBUTE TO THE LUTKE FAMILY

HON. DAVE CAMP

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 1999

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Lutke family of Marion, Michigan, whose farm was recently designated a Centennial Farm by Secretary of State Candice Miller and the Michigan Historical Commission.

This honor is bestowed on farms that have remained in the same family for 100 years or more. The Lutke farm was established in 1873. Today Harvey and Ruth Lutke harvest 280 acres of hay and corn.

The Centennial Farm designation recognizes the rich agricultural heritage of our great state. It pays tribute to the generations of fam-

ilies who have fed the world and passed on their legacy of hard work and determination to their children.

The Lutke family's success is a source of pride to Missaukee County, to Michigan, and our nation. I am pleased to have the opportunity to honor them today in the U.S. House of Representatives and I wish them many more generations of bounty.

GROWING DIGITAL DIVIDE

HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 1999

Mr. LARSON. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to draw attention to our nation's growing digital divide. The nation's economy is surging to unprecedented levels. The productivity of small business start-ups, driven by technology and American ingenuity, is bursting with entrepreneurial capital and the creation of unparalleled wealth.

Yet amidst the euphoria, there is growing concern about the alarming trend of limited access to the benefits of this "digit" economy.

In its July report, "Falling Through The Net," the Department of Commerce confirmed these fears about the information "haves" and "have nots" citing a persisting "digital divide" between the information rich and the information poor. A divide characterized by a disparity of race, gender, wealth and geography that grows disturbingly further apart.

The great irony of this technology enterprise is that it's running out of a vital fuel source: skilled workers. American corporations are now in the position of asking Congress to help import a workforce from foreign countries.

Congress needs to reinforce a crucial pipeline for this needed fuel so that our technological enterprises can feel secure in their ability to grow. That pipeline has been and continues to be public education. Unfortunately, the pipeline is clogged because our policies are floundering with piecemeal, patch-worked solutions instead of a solidly constructed plan. We cannot meet the demands of a digital economy, with inadequate infrastructure, untrained teachers, resistant universities, indecisive government, and a private sector that thinks donating its old computers is the solution to the problem.

Congress must recognize a fundamental need to rethink how we deliver education in our classrooms. It needs to light up the desktops of our students and the blackboards of their teachers, and provide students with the training and skills they need to be contributing members of our future workforce. Specifically, it needs to bring the information superhighway into our schools and libraries, giving students the opportunity to participate in the global economy.

In order for this opportunity to be seized by Congress, it will take more than a thirty second sound bite. It will require a long term plan.

Congress must forge a new alliance of the nation's talented technological sector and leading academic and government agencies, to develop a strategic plan with appropriate implementation bench marks. The information

infrastructure needed for classrooms and public libraries must be examined to ensure that it provides the most efficient and cost effective results. Yet, we must also realize that while a high-tech education system is critical, it won't work without trained professionals.

As a parent of three and a former teacher, I understand that no act of Congress ever reads to a child at night, tucks him in, or offers him the kind of nurturing growth that comes from caring parents. Similarly, no piece of technology can replace a highly trained teacher. There can be no high tech, without high touch.

According to U.S. Secretary of Education Richard Riley, over the next 10 years, this country will need two million new teachers. These new teachers must be digitally fluent and prepared to integrate technology into their daily lesson plans and curriculum. Our colleges and universities must be prepared to provide this outcome, and Congress must be prepared to provide incentives. These incentives would include tax credits for equipment purchases, tuition credits to acquire new skills, and incentives for business to buddy with teachers and adopt schools.

The third component of how Congress can integrate high-tech learning into our society, relates to creating a civic culture that will encourage young people with computer talent to share their knowledge with their community. The best way to make that happen will be through a youth technology corps.

A national tech corps starting in the fifth grade and continuing through high school, this youth technology corps will be of technological service to its peers and adults, and expose young people to the importance of community service. Learning the important lesson that serving is as important as being served.

Congress has a responsibility to leave no one behind in the digital economy. It must provide the opportunities needed to help Americans attain personal and financial security in a global economy. It can make this happen, or it can be remembered as the Congress that squandered an unprecedented educational moment.

HONORING REVEREND AMOS G. JOHNSON

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 1999

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to rise before you today on behalf of the congregation of New Bethel Missionary Baptist Church in Pontiac, Michigan. On Friday, September 17, the New Bethel family will gather to honor Reverend Amos G. Johnson for 42 years of dedicated service to the community in the name of the Lord.

Born in Mississippi, Reverend Amos Johnson was heavily influenced by his mother, whom he helped around the house as a young man, and his father, the Reverend Robert Johnson. In 1944, Mr. Johnson was called up to serve his country in the United States Army. It was there that he received his calling. The following year, Reverend Johnson enrolled in