

or being a cowboy means following through on one's commitments, setting goals, and achieving those goals both personally and professionally.

Although the Pasadena Livestock Show and Rodeo provides a wide range of entertainment during the year, the major function of the organization is to send as many of our community's graduating seniors to college as possible through the awarding of scholarships. That commitment to youth and to the power of education is a testament to the men and women who have carried on our Rodeo tradition 50 years.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the people who have brought us the Pasadena Livestock Show and Rodeo for half a century, and I thank them for their contributions toward ensuring our community, and especially our children, experience the joys and values of our longtime rodeo tradition.

SUPPORTING "BROADBAND"
NETWORKS

HON. JESSE L. JACKSON, JR.

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 14, 1999

Mr. JACKSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, the Telecommunications Act of 1996 promised new investment in high-speed digital networks capable of sending and receiving huge amounts of data and information. These networks, known as "broadband," are far superior to dial-up technology that relies on modems and conventional telephone lines. Make no mistake, broadband networks are a critical part of the continued growth of the Internet. However, the promise of the Telecommunications Act has not been met. Thus far, the main beneficiaries of these state-of-the-art networks are almost exclusively downtown business centers. Broadband services simply aren't widely available to people and small businesses, like my constituents in the second district of Illinois.

I have reviewed letters and other communications from the University of Illinois, Northwestern University, Western Illinois University, the State Board of Education, the Board of Higher Education, and the Illinois Department of Central Management Services as well as several community colleges and small businesses on this issue.

I am convinced that we need to take definitive and immediate steps to deal with the digital divide. If we don't we will be a nation of "haves" and "have nots." That's exactly what's occurring today and why I hope we will advance legislation to address this problem. As a matter of public policy, we should remove outdated regulations and encourage investment and competition by local telephone companies in the Internet's network backbone.

Mr. Speaker, we owe it to our constituents to keep the promise of a bright technological future for all Americans.

TRIBUTE TO ERIC ANDREW THACH

HON. RON PACKARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 14, 1999

Mr. PACKARD. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to Deputy Sheriff Eric Andrew Thach who was killed in the line of duty last week in Riverside, CA. Deputy Thach was born on March 19, 1965, in Van Nuys, CA. He was hired by the Riverside County Sheriff's Department on September 30, 1996. He served as a Deputy Sheriff assigned to Corrections, and then transferred to a field patrol assignment serving from the Jurupa Sheriff's Station.

On Friday, October 8, 1999, Deputy Thach, while investigating an in-home burglary, was shot and killed. Although his time in our community was short, Deputy Thach was known as an exemplary officer who lived his life with strength and courage. Our community is deeply saddened that he was taken from us so soon. He will live on in our memory. My thoughts and prayers go out to his widow, Evelyn; his daughter, Shana; and his colleagues, who mourn his loss.

Mr. Speaker, law enforcement officers put their lives at risk every day to ensure the safety of our citizens. Deputy Thach paid the ultimate price for our safety with his very life. I am deeply honored to recognize Deputy Thach for his tremendous service and sacrifice for the citizens of Riverside County. His brave service to our community will not be forgotten.

TRIBUTE TO MYREL FRANK

HON. FRANK D. LUCAS

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 14, 1999

Mr. LUCAS of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate the 100th birthday of Mrs. Myrel Frank. Mrs. Frank was born in Oklahoma City today, October 14 in 1899, the same year William McKinley was United States President and Oklahoma was still a territory. She graduated from high school in 1918, while the "Great War" raged on in Europe. And she married in 1920, the year Oklahoma Republicans elected their only majority in the Oklahoma State House of Representatives.

Mrs. Frank and her family moved to Yukon, OK, in 1935 where they weathered the Great Depression and watched as many fellow Oklahomans left the state, making the journey to the picking fields of California. Mrs. Frank, her husband and four children, however, stayed on in Yukon where she resides today.

Mrs. Frank has witnessed a century of our nation's history. Classroom and library textbooks can only provide so much historical detail for present and future generations. It is the oral history—the personal stories experienced and told by those who come before us—that truly makes our nation's history come to life. I thank Mrs. Frank for continuing to share her stories with us, and I extend my sincerest birthday wishes to her today on her 100th

birthday. I hope that the years to come only add to an already impressive treasure chest of experiences and stories. Happy Birthday.

AMERICAN INDIAN EDUCATION
FOUNDATION

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 14, 1999

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, as Co-chairman of the House Congressional Native American Caucus, it is an honor for me to introduce a bill creating an American Indian Education Foundation. I especially want to thank the original cosponsors of this bill; they include: Representatives PATRICK KENNEDY, GEORGE MILLER, TOM UDALL, J.D. HAYWORTH, EARL POMEROY and JIM KOLBE.

As a senior member of the House Education and the Workforce Committee, I have enjoyed the opportunity of developing proposals designed to support Indian education. Up for reauthorization this Congress is the Elementary and Secondary Education Assistance Act that includes a section devoted to Indian education. This act supports the educational, cultural and academic needs of American Indian, Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian children.

It is estimated that the BIA educates approximately 12 percent of the Native American K-12 population. This means that 88 percent of our American Indian and Alaska Native youth rely on supplemental educational programs like Johnson O'Malley. This program provides services to more than 200,000 Indian students. However, these programs are drastically underfunded.

A critical need for an increase in funding for school construction exists in Indian country. When I came to Congress 23 years ago, I was appointed chairman of the Indian Education Task Force. I will never forget visiting schools that were in such poor condition that the children of these schools could barely keep warm let alone have a chance at getting a decent education. I know that the judges in my hometown in Michigan shutdown prisons that were in better condition than many schools I visited.

Our Native American students deserve a decent education. It is our responsibility to ensure that our children are studying in environments conducive to learning. I support the creation of an American Indian Education Foundation because I believe Congress must find a new way to supplement current funding for BIA Indian education programs. The Foundation would encourage gifts of real and personal property and income for support of the education goals of the BIA's Office of Indian Education Programs and to further the educational opportunities of American Indian and Alaska Native students.

The governing body of the Foundation would consist of nine board of directors who are appointed by the Secretary of Interior for an initial period. The secretary of Interior and the Assistant Secretary of Interior for Indian Affairs would serve as ex officio nonvoting members.

Members of the board have to be "knowledgeable or experienced in American Indian