

life on the line every day, that both Customs, DEA, and FBI agents and all of our law enforcement are, to make our country safe from this scourge of drugs that we have.

For people's benefit that they may not know, the rally was named in honor of Enrique "Kiki" Camarena, the Drug Enforcement Administration special agent who suffered a traffic death while being kidnapped in Mexico in 1985. I was proud to share the stage with Myrna Camarena, Kiki's sister. Kiki Camarena sacrificed, and the sacrifice of other law enforcement officers should never be forgotten. They have paid the ultimate price for our safety, and we should pledge to never forget.

As Members of Congress, we deal with many important issues, but I believe that none are more important than recognizing the sacrifice of law enforcement officers providing solutions, including effective treatment for drug addiction. By our involvement last Thursday, we demonstrated that in Texas we are serious about our involvement to reduce and end substance abuse.

I was proud to be there for a number of reasons. One, it was sponsored by a great many law enforcement agencies who typically are concerned with catching the people who are the users or the people who are selling, or the smugglers. Yet, this rally, with 1,000 students and the red ribbon, talking about the red ribbon day, that it was aimed not just at the effort for law enforcement, but for prevention; to be able to have schools and different agencies there to say, we need to do a better job in treatment and prevention. That is why it was a great rally, and it was good to see our law enforcement agents, again, who typically are out on the frontline protecting our country from drugs to be there and say well, we cannot do all of the job. We have to stop it with the young people that we have in our State and our country to make sure that they do not succumb and be addicted to drugs.

We owe a huge debt to the men and women who put their lives at risk to ensure our children's lives in the future are safe. I appreciate the opportunity to be present at that rally and to be one of the keynote speakers.

We have come a long way to eradicate substance abuse, but we still have a long way to go. One of the concerns I have is that on a national basis, we have seen a lessening in the use of illegal drugs by the general population, but we have seen an increase in the younger population, our youth. So what we need to do, and with those 1,000 young people there on the State Capitol steps in Austin, is to rededicate our effort not only for law enforcement, but also for prevention, and for treatment to where we can hopefully keep these young people from becoming addicted to drugs.

#### THE FIFTY STATES COMMEMORATIVE COIN PROGRAM ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Washington (Mr. METCALF) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. METCALF. Mr. Speaker, recently Congress passed the 50 States Commemorative Coin Program Act. Let me congratulate the work of past chairman of the Subcommittee on Domestic and International Monetary Policy, the gentleman from Delaware (Mr. CASTLE). Through his faithful work, we have seen this important legislation become law.

The 50 States Commemorative Coin Act authorizes the Mint to issue five new quarters each year for the 10-year period beginning in 1999. The coins are issued in the sequence that a particular State ratified the Constitution and were admitted to the Union. Many of us have already seen the five new State quarters minted this year with designs from Delaware, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Georgia, and Connecticut. The Act authorizes the Secretary of the Treasury to select the design and determine the number of quarters to be issued with each of the new designs. The statute outlines standards for designs and establishes a selection process for each State that includes consultation with State officials, the Commission of Fine Arts, and the Citizens Commemorative Coin Advisory Committee.

The new coins also establish a sense of pride in honoring the 50 States and the heritage they represent. But very importantly, the Act is a tool that will help lower the debt of the United States. That is right. The U.S. coins from the penny to the dollar actually turn a profit. In fact, last year, the Mint returned a profit of over \$1 billion to the taxpayer. This is often an overlooked element that can be an important tool to slow the looming public debt of this Nation.

The 50 States Commemorative Coin Program Act estimates the 10-year coin program for the quarter would produce \$110 million in earnings or approximately \$11 million annually, coming mostly from the coins sold as commercial products from the Mint. Frankly, the quarter program is already a huge success. In fact, the Mint has dedicated its main phone line to answer questions about the quarters and how to order them. Last year, the U.S. Mint made 1.6 billion quarters. This year the Mint plans to make 5.6 billion, due to the new design.

Clearly, this \$110 million yield expected on the new quarter is a significant amount. But the real savings comes in what is called seigniorage. Seigniorage is the difference between the face value of the coin and the coin's cost of production. The costs include coin processing operations, transportation costs and related overhead.

Specifically, to manufacture a quarter costs around 5 cents to the Treas-

ury. Thus, the government is realizing a 20 cent profit per quarter put into circulation. Therefore, the anticipated seigniorage profit to the Treasury for the new quarters is estimated between \$2.6 billion and \$5.1 billion. Let me repeat that again. The anticipated profit to the Treasury and ultimately to the taxpayer is \$2.6 billion to \$5.1 billion, depending on how many they make.

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Let us extrapolate for a moment. Next year, the Mint will start producing the new gold-colored Sacajawea \$1 coin. The seigniorage accrued from the dollar coin is estimated to be around 85 to 90 cents per coin. Imagine, 90 cents profit returned to the taxpayer for every dollar coin produced.

Congress talks a lot about balancing budgets, but with the national debt way over \$5 trillion maybe it is time we start targeting our new profits from coins toward eliminating the cloud of debt that still hangs over us. Maybe we can actually find a silver lining and reduce the debt for our children.

#### VOICES AGAINST VIOLENCE CONFERENCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin). Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Ohio (Mrs. JONES) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today before this great Chamber to share with my colleagues one of the greatest moments that I have experienced as a Member of Congress.

Today I participated in a discussion with the chaperons for the Voices Against Violence Conference which is being held today and tomorrow on Capitol Hill. Voices Against Violence is a national student conference whose purpose is to add the voices of America's high school students to the debate in Washington over what to do about youth violence.

LaDasha Richardson and George Whitfield of the Cleveland School of the Arts, of the Cleveland Municipal School District, are representing my district, the 11th Congressional District of Ohio.

LaDasha and George started the Students Against a Violent Environment, SAVE, a grass-roots organization comprised of students from around the city of Cleveland, that is committed to assisting and educating children and young adults on how to make our communities safe and more positive.

Today I want to applaud their efforts. I also want to recognize the chaperones who have accompanied students like LaDasha and George here today who too are committed to making the lives of our children better. Because of their commitment, I asked each chaperone what we can do as elected officials to make their vision a reality.