

HONORING THE LIFE OF JUDGE ED
J. HARRIS

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

HON. NICK LAMPSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 2, 1999

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, my colleague (Mr. LAMPSON) and I ask all of our colleagues in Congress to join us in paying tribute to an outstanding individual, Judge Ed J. Harris. Ed passed away on February 10th after leading a long and distinguished life of public service and civic duty.

Ed Harris devoted his professional and private life to serving his home state of Texas. After graduating from Southwestern University in 1941, Ed entered the United States Navy to bravely fight for his country for six years during World War II.

After devoting his energy towards completion of both his law degree and master's degree, Ed joined the law firm of Martin, Carmona, Cruse, Micks & Dunten in 1956. Ed was admired by his colleagues for his devotion to the law and constant strive for excellence, and within two years he became senior partner. He distinguished himself as a respected leader and accomplished attorney for the next 21 years.

Ed spent thirty-three years of his extraordinary professional career as an elected public official, which in of itself is a testament of his outstanding leadership capacity and desire to serve the community he loved. He won the first of his 17 successful elections in 1961 when he was elected as Galveston City Councilman, where he served for three years. In 1962, Ed's devotion to service led to his election to the Texas Legislature as a State Representative, where he honorably served for fourteen years.

After Ed completed his tenure as State Representative, he became State District Judge, where he presided over the administrative, civil, and criminal dockets until his 1993 retirement. Ed is remembered by all he encountered for his kindness and his dedication to the law.

Ed lead a rich and active civic life that enhanced the lives of the people in his community. He was a devoted parishioner of Moody Memorial First United Methodist Church in Galveston and was a board member of McMahan's Chapel, the oldest protestant church in Texas. He continued his long dedication to the law through his activity in many county and state bar associations and in the American Judges Association. Ed also maintained his Navy ties through his participation in the Retired Officers association and VFW. Ed's desire to help those less fortunate than he was a constant force in the community. In fact, in 1986 and 1987, Ed rode in the 175 mile, two-day Houston Muscular Dystrophy Bike Tour, where he earned \$14,000 in pledges for this cause. In 1991, Ed received the 1st Annual Independence Award from North Galveston County Democrats for his lifetime of devotion to this community.

The death of Ed Harris is a blow to all that loved and respected him. His years of public

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

service and devotion to his community touched thousands of lives. Those who were fortunate enough to have known Ed will never forget his kind spirit, his leadership in the community, and his dedication and understanding of the law. He has left a legacy that will never be forgotten.

Mr. Speaker, please join us in paying tribute to the life of Ed Harris. Those of us fortunate enough to have known him are truly blessed.

HONORING OUR NATION'S BEST AND BRIGHTEST

HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 2, 1999

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor and congratulate four outstanding high school students from my Congressional District, who were recently named as finalists in the Intel Science Talent Search. The talent search has given each of these students an opportunity to demonstrate their unique talents and capacity for innovation. The students will be honored this week in Washington with the thirty-six other finalists. Indeed, it is both humbling and inspirational to listen to the accomplishments of these dynamic individuals.

Trevor Bass, of Great Neck, used a genetic algorithm to analyze the theory of evolution. At Great Neck South High School, Trevor is the coach of the math team and has won several awards in math, computer science and physics. He hopes to attend Harvard University in the fall.

Lauren Cooper, of Roslyn, studied how gender based language influences our perceptions of Presidential candidates. At Roslyn High School, Lauren is active in student government and president of the math club. Lauren plans to attend Duke University in the fall.

Lisa Schwartz, of Roslyn, examined patterns in two-way sequences of positive integers for her project. At Roslyn High School, Lisa is the captain of her forensics team and the editor in chief of both her yearbook and newspaper. She is currently ranked first in her class of 221 students and hopes to attend Harvard University in the fall.

Eric Stern, of Great Neck, has studied the nature of Alzheimer's disease. At Great Neck South High School, Eric has led the marching band and science club and has won many music, math, and science awards. Next year, David hopes to attend Yale University.

I would also like to take this opportunity to congratulate all the schools in the Fifth Congressional District of New York. These students' achievements underscore our community's commitment to excellence in education. These four scholars truly embody the ideals of innovation, perseverance, and leadership. I ask all of my colleagues to join me in honoring and congratulating these young men and women, on their many accomplishments, and extending to them our best wishes for continued success in what appears to be a very bright future.

March 2, 1999

TRIBUTE TO BOB LIVINGSTON,
REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE
FIRST DISTRICT OF LOUISIANA

SPEECH OF

HON. JAMES T. WALSH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 23, 1999

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Speaker, Today I would like to extend my best wishes and prayers to BOB LIVINGSTON and his family as he retires from the House of Representatives. I know he has put the best interests of the family ahead of politics and I respect him deeply for that.

Chairman LIVINGSTON'S leadership skills and productive energy will be sorely missed on appropriations and in the House. I know that others have praised BOB for his humor and his intellect. I want to echo those words while I add that BOB LIVINGSTON is also a very good friend.

Since I came to Congress, he has been a mentor and much more. He has provided campaign support when I needed it, but more importantly he has assisted me with professional guidance as I learned the ropes in the Appropriations Committee.

The House of Representatives has been affected positively by the work of our colleague BOB LIVINGSTON. I know his future endeavors will be equally successful. I hope he will remember us as fellow combatants in a fight to cut government waste and return control to the American people. It is a great honor to have served during this period with BOB LIVINGSTON and I know his work will be a testament to his dedication to public service for many, many years to come.

INTRODUCING THE FAMILY EDUCATION FREEDOM ACT

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 2, 1999

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Family Education Freedom Act of 1999, a bill to empower millions of working- and middle-class Americans to choose a non-public education for their children, as well as making it easier for parents to actively participate in improving public schools. The Family Education Freedom Act accomplishes its goals by allowing American parents a tax credit of up to \$3,000 for the expenses incurred in sending their child to private, public, parochial, other religious school, or for home schooling their children.

The Family Education Freedom Act returns the fundamental principal of a truly free economy to America's education system: what the great economist Ludwig von Mises called "consumer sovereignty." Consumer sovereignty simply means consumers decide who succeeds or fails in the market. Businesses that best satisfy consumer demand will be the most successful. Consumer sovereignty is the means by which the free market maximizes human happiness.

Currently, consumers are less than sovereign in the education "market." Funding decisions are increasingly controlled by the federal government. Because "he who pays the piper calls the tune," public, and even private schools, are paying greater attention to the dictates of federal "educrats" while ignoring the wishes of the parents to an ever-greater degree. As such, the lack of consumer sovereignty in education is destroying parental control of education and replacing it with state control.

Loss of control is a key reason why so many of America's parents express dissatisfaction with the educational system. According to a recent study by The Polling Company, over 70% of all Americans support education tax credits! This is just one of numerous studies and public opinion polls showing that Americans want Congress to get the federal bureaucracy out of the schoolroom and give parents more control over their children's education.

Today, Congress can fulfill the wishes of the American people for greater control over their children's education by simply allowing parents to keep more of their hard-earned money to spend on education rather than force them to send it to Washington to support education programs reflective only of the values and priorities of Congress and the federal bureaucracy.

The \$3,000 tax credit will make a better education affordable for millions of parents. Mr. Speaker, many parents who would choose to send their children to private, religious, or parochial schools are unable to afford the tuition, in large part because of the enormous tax burden imposed on the American family by Washington.

The Family Education Freedom Act also benefits parents who choose to send their children to public schools. Although public schools are traditionally financed through local taxes, increasingly, parents who wish their children to receive a quality education may wish to use their credit to improve their schools by helping financing the purchase of educational tools such as computers or extracurricular activities such as music programs. Parents of public school students may also wish to use the credit to pay for special services for their children.

Greater parental support and involvement is surely a better way to improve public schools than funneling more federal tax dollars, followed by greater federal control, into the public schools. Furthermore, a greater reliance on parental expenditures rather than government tax dollars will help make the public schools into true community schools that reflect the wishes of parents and the interests of the students.

The Family Education Freedom Act will also aid those parents who choose to educate their children at home. Home schooling has become an increasingly popular, and successful method, of educating children. According to recent studies, home schooled children outperform their public school peers by 30 to 37 percentile points across all subjects on nationally standardized achievement exams. Home schooling parents spend thousands of dollars

annually, in addition to the wages forgone by the spouse who forgoes outside employment, in order to educate their children in the loving environment of the home.

Ultimately, Mr. Speaker, this bill is about freedom. Parental control of child rearing, especially education, is one of the bulwarks of liberty. No nation can remain free when the state has greater influence over the knowledge and values transmitted to children than the family.

By moving to restore the primacy of parents to education, the Family Education Freedom Act will not only improve America's education, it will restore a parent's right to choose how best to educate one's own child, a fundamental freedom that has been eroded by the increase in federal education expenditures and the corresponding decrease in the ability of parents to provide for their children's education out of their own pockets. I call on all my colleagues to join me in allowing parents to devote more of their resources to their children's education and less to feed the wasteful Washington bureaucracy by supporting the Family Education Freedom Act.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 2, 1999

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, had I been present for rollcall vote No. 28 on February 25, 1999, I would have voted "yea" on final passage of the Wireless Privacy Enhancement Act.

HONORING FIRE MARSHAL J.J. PRUITT

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 2, 1999

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I ask all of my colleagues in Congress to join me in paying tribute to an outstanding individual, Fire Marshal J.J. Pruitt. J.J. will retire after nearly a half-century of fighting and investigating fires.

J.J. began his career in 1950 when he entered the Houston Fire Department. He soon distinguished himself among his colleagues and all who encountered him through his selflessness, courage, and quick thinking in the most serious of circumstances.

J.J.'s years of distinguished service lead him to a position of responsibility and leadership at the head of Harris County's Fire Marshal's Office. As Marshal, J.J. oversaw a \$1.3 million annual budget, seventeen employees, and 29 full-time volunteer departments. He led his office in planning and coordination of fire prevention and control services in the unincorporated areas of Harris County and investigated arson.

J.J.'s decision to retire is definitely a blow to the Harris County community. His almost fifty years of dedicated service will leave a legacy for future fire marshals. Those people who have had the opportunity to work with J.J. are very fortunate to have benefitted from his leadership and courageous devotion to saving lives.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in thanking Fire Marshal J.J. Pruitt for his service to Harris County. Those of us who know J.J. are truly grateful for his leadership and wish him well in all his future endeavors.

STERNBERG MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

HON. JERRY MORAN

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 2, 1999

Mr. MORAN of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize the dedication of Dr. Edward H. Hammond on the occasion of the opening to the new Sternberg Museum of Natural History on the Fort Hays State University Campus in Hays, Kansas.

In the early 1990's, Fort Hays State University President Edward H. Hammond made the commitment to raise the funds necessary to move the impressive Sternberg fossil collection to an equally impressive facility. After eight years and \$11 million dollars, his vision has been realized. The collection's new home is a state of the art 100,000 square foot dome and adjoining facility which will not only house the artifacts but provide a realistic journey through the world of prehistoric flora and fauna.

The Sternberg Collection has long been one of the premier collections of fossils in the world. It holds the largest collection of fossil grasses; it has the third largest collection of flying reptiles, and it's mammal collection ranks in the top 20 in North America. The Collection's volume of more than 3,750,000 artifacts and specimens ranks it the world's largest at a small university.

Dr. George M. Sternberg, an army surgeon began the collection in 1866. His sons developed a love for fossil hunting, and his son George F. eventually established his paleontology headquarters in 1927 at Kansas State Teachers College of Hays, now Fort Hays State University. George was made Curator of Geology and Paleontology and continued to manage and add to the Sternberg Collection until his retirement in 1961. In 1994, the Sternberg Collection was combined with the Museum of the High Plains under one director, Dr. Jerry Choate.

The completion of this project marks a major achievement for Fort Hays State University and the community of Hays. The new facility promises to draw scholars and curious travelers from around the globe and provide them with an exciting experience in prehistoric times. I commend University President Edward H. Hammond and Museum Director Dr. Jerry Choate for their creativity and tenacity in envisioning and completing this project. It is truly a landmark accomplishment.