

some dubious value around the world, and we are paying the price with the loss of key personnel and lower retention.

I am pleased today to announce that at least one program in Georgia's 7th District is taking steps to reverse this trend. That program is the Air Force Junior ROTC Program at Rome High School. The Air Force Junior ROTC Program at Rome High School official is only 4 years old, yet it is already having a major positive impact. It offers students a variety of challenges and learning experiences in airplanes and on flight simulators as well as in classrooms that help prepare them for a career in military aviation. Additionally, it helps teach students the kind of work ethic and values that will enable them to succeed as leaders no matter where their future takes them.

This program and programs like it deserve our support. I am proud to honor today the Rome High School Junior ROTC Program.

HONORING MARK BROWN, ONE OF OUR NATION'S FALLEN LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS

(Mr. INSLEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. INSLEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge adoption of House Resolution 31 in honor of fallen police officers and, more personally and specifically, in honor of a great Shoreline City police officer and King County sheriff's deputy, Mark Brown, who died in the line of duty Saturday, February 27, leaving his wife, Laurie, and Hannah and Alex, his children; and it is a personal matter because he was my cousin.

Mr. Speaker, I want to tell the Members that I am proud that my cousin responded to an alarm last Thursday on his motorcycle and was pursuing his duties and was involved in a collision and died early Saturday morning, and I want to tell them that it brings home that we have many public servants who get up and risk their lives every day, and their families do not know whether they are coming home.

Mr. Speaker, I want to tell my colleagues that in 1993 I voted for a bill that established community police officers, and I want to tell them Mark Brown was the epitome of a community police officer.

On the TV stations in Seattle I listened to tribute after tribute after tribute to a man in his grocery stores and in his restaurants who was a pillar of his community. Mark Brown, as a community police officer, I want his children, Hannah and Alex, to know they lost a father and we lost an American hero, Mark Brown.

□ 1030

ED-FLEX AND ENDING SOCIAL PROMOTION

(Mr. FORD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FORD. Mr. Speaker, I also extend my prayers to the Brown family, as we all do.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 800, as my friend just did, the Ed-Flex Partnership Act of 1999. I support this bill because it gives States and local school districts the flexibility to tailor Federal programs to meet their local needs.

But with flexibility also comes accountability. Ed-Flex works to require States to identify specific and measurable goals they have for those students and groups affected by the waivers. In other words, Ed-Flex requires States to have accountability systems in place prior to granting them the authority to waive specific requirements.

But Ed-Flex alone will not solve all of our problems. Our public schools still have pressing needs: Unmet school construction and modernization, a shrinking pool of qualified teachers, and a lack of technology in the classroom.

At a time when children are being promoted to successive grades based on age and not achievement, social promotion is an issue that should concern us all. It must stop. That is why I urge my colleagues, cosponsors of Ed-Flex, to not only cosponsor Ed-Flex, but to support the Democrats' plan to reward those school districts who end social promotion and close underperforming schools by providing them with additional funds to build new schools and hire new teachers. Ed-Flex is good, but alone it will not solve all our problems.

FRESHMAN REPUBLICANS ARE WORKING TO RETURN DOLLARS, DECISIONS, AND FREEDOM BACK HOME

(Mr. DEMINT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DEMINT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of my fellow freshmen Republicans to thank the leadership for recognizing our ideas and allowing us to quickly turn our campaign promises into action.

Yesterday the House passed a resolution that directs this body towards real social security reform. That bill was sponsored by a freshman, the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. PAUL RYAN). The gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. LEE TERRY) has already introduced a bill to eliminate a tax on international home pages, and the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. MARK GREEN) is heading up a project for the

freshman class that will reduce Federal mandates on our State governments.

We believe local people can best secure our Nation's future: parents, teachers, pastors, small business owners, and civic leaders. These are not only the heroes of our home towns, they are the heroes of our country. The answers to our problems are seldom found here in Washington. They are found on Main Street, in board rooms and community centers, in church sanctuaries and classrooms, and in family rooms all across our Nation.

Freshmen Republicans are working to return dollars, decisions, and freedom back home.

COMMEMORATING THE NAVAL RESERVE ASSOCIATION

(Mr. GARY MILLER of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GARY MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the men and women of the Naval Reserve Association, and to congratulate them on the 84th anniversary of the founding of the Naval Reserve, celebrated on March 3, 1999. At the same time, I wish the Association's Spring National Conference to be held on the same day in San Diego, California, the best of success.

The American people owe the 94,000-strong Naval Reserve a debt of gratitude for the sacrifices they have made, both past and present. America's strength and position as the sole superpower in the world is the result of our dedication to our country's defense. Without the Naval Reserve's contribution, America would not have become the beacon of democracy it is today in the world. For that, I, along with the residents of the 41st Congressional District in California, thank them.

I look forward to working with them and other members of the Naval Reserve Association on issues which affect all the men and women of our military.

WELCOME TO WHITNEY ELIZABETH GERRO

(Mr. BARTON of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BARTON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, having a Member of Congress in your family is kind of like a white elephant gift. You are kind of glad you have it, you just do not quite know what to do with it. But every now and then it pays off to have a congressman in your family.

Today is one of those days. On December 7, 1998, Mike Gerro and Jan Barton Gerro had a beautiful baby daughter, Whitney Elizabeth Gerro. They have written this poem to announce her arrival to the world, and I