

Official Spokescat of the Rally, to celebrities like Miss America reading their favorite books to school children. Through the generous sponsorship of Ferrero USA, Literacy Volunteers of America is able to provide materials and supplies to its participating affiliates at no cost to the local programs.

Other corporate sponsors may contribute through either cash or prize donations. Friends and family can sponsor volunteers by pledging money for each hour per book read during the Rally period. Eighty percent of all monies raised by volunteers will stay in the local community and directly benefit individuals who need reading help. In addition to highlighting the importance of families reading together, this event gives participants a sense of accomplishment about their efforts to support literacy.

Once again, I would like to congratulate the Beaumont Teachers of America and Literacy Volunteers of America for their fine work.

TAVELLI ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 4, 1999

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay humble tribute to the students, teachers, and parents of Tavelli Elementary School in Colorado for their efforts to help the needy during the holidays. I comment the faculty of the school as well as all the students, parents, and individuals who contributed to their special canned food drive. Their selfless dedication has provided warmth, comfort, and happiness to families in Colorado. That the school produced so much for the Salvation Army for the benefit of the needy is testament to the true meaning of the spirit of Christmas and Hanukkah. Let us remember, as these good people have, that the holiday season is one of giving, one of joy, and one of hope. Let the children's example during the holidays be a beacon to us all throughout the year.

TRIBUTE TO COACH DAVEY WHITNEY AND THE ALCORN STATE BRAVES

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 4, 1999

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, it gives me extreme pleasure to stand before you and recognize the accomplishments and success of one of Mississippi's finest basketball coaches, Coach Davey Whitney, men's head basketball coach at Alcorn State University. Coach Whitney was the first coach to lead a team from a historically black college or university (HBCU) to victory in the NCAA and NIT tournaments.

Alcorn State University, located in Lorman, Mississippi, was once known as a basketball powerhouse under the guidance of Coach Whitney. During his first stint as head coach, the Braves enjoyed 17 straight winning sea-

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sons, nine Southwestern Athletic Conference (SWAC) titles, three National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) tournament appearances and two National Invitational Tournament (NIT) appearances. Then Coach Whitney retired.

Three years ago he was called upon to return and revive the winning program. Through hard work by Coach Whitney and his staff, along with the dedication of this young talented ball club, the Braves are currently enjoying their best season since 1986, the last time Alcorn won the SWAC title. Therefore, it is only fitting that in 1999, while Coach Whitney is on the brink of accomplishing that same goal with the very same program, that I take time out to recognize him.

At the age of 69, Coach Whitney's goal this time around is to get the basketball program back on its feet and train someone to replace him. Although some may view this as a wise decision, I know that there are many Braves fans out there who are lobbying for him to stay for as long as he wants.

Mr. Speaker, Coach Whitney exemplifies college basketball in every way. His track record shows that he has what it takes to be successful and stay successful in college basketball. Keep up the good work Coach and the best of luck to you and your ball club as you continue on your quest for greatness.

ELIMINATION OF AID TO TURKEY

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 4, 1999

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud the action of the 105th Congress to withhold all aid for Turkey in the 1999 appropriations bills.

For the past 25 years, Turkey has brutally oppressed the people of Cyprus and committed atrocious human rights violations. Despite the condemnation of the international community, Turkey has refused to withdraw its troops from Cyprus or improve its record on human rights. The United States must take the lead in resolving this conflict in the Mediterranean. Not only is it our moral obligation to oppose unjust oppression and brutal human rights violations, but a lasting resolution to the Cyprus problem would also improve relations between Greece and Turkey, strengthen the peace and stability of the Eastern Mediterranean region, and serve important United States interests.

I have been delighted to work with Congressman JOHN EDWARD PORTER, a key member of the House Appropriations Committee and a great leader on these issues. Congressman PORTER and I introduced H.R. 388 and H.R. 1361 in the 105th Congress to address the situation in Cyprus. These bills proposed to withhold all American military and economic assistance to Turkey unless Turkey peacefully resolved the conflict with Cyprus and halted all human rights violations. I am very pleased that Congressman PORTER and I were able to achieve our goal when these funds were withheld in 1999 appropriations. I join my colleague in urging this Congress and the Presi-

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dent to continue to deny aid to Turkey until these diplomatic and human rights requirements are met.

THE ETHERIDGE SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION ACT

HON. BOB ETHERIDGE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 4, 1999

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to announce the re-introduction of my legislation I originally introduced last year to assist fast-growing states to build new schools, reduce class sizes and overcrowding and foster an orderly and disciplined learning environment. To date, I have gathered more than twice as many original cosponsors this year than the bill enjoyed in the last Congress, and I urge all of my colleagues to join me in signing on to this important legislation.

As the former Superintendent of North Carolina's schools, I know firsthand how important quality facilities are to our children's education. The General Accounting Office has identified more than \$112 billion in school construction needs across the country. The Secretary of Education has reported that the "Baby Boom Echo" will create an explosion of growth in the school-age populations in many states over the next ten years. In fact, the experts at the U.S. Education Department have projected that my state's high school enrollment will grow by 27.1 percent over the next ten years. Almost all of my Congressional District's nine counties have experienced tremendous growth this decade (Franklin County—19.6 percent, Granville County—9.9 percent, Harnett County—18.9 percent, Johnston County—25.3 percent, Lee County—17.1 percent, Nash County—17.3 percent, Sampson County—9.5 percent, Wake County—29.4 percent, Wilson County—2.6 percent).

Congress must assist the states to meet their school construction needs of the coming decade. My bill will use new tax credits to create \$7.2 billion in school construction bonds over the next ten years. These school bonds will be allocated to the states based on the growth we know they will experience in the coming decade. The Etheridge School Construction Act will complement the Administration's school construction initiative by using the same bond-leveraging tax credit but targeting resources to growing states. These targeted tax credits will provide resources directly where they are needed without adding any new federal government programs of bureaucracy. My state of North Carolina will qualify for about \$360 million in school construction bonds under this legislation.

By directing these bonds to the states with the most growth, we will provide desperately needed assistance to the states with the most critical needs and provide some relief to virtually every state. Specifically, the Etheridge School Construction Act will provide school construction bonds to these states at the following amounts: California—\$2.32 billion; Texas—\$840 million; New York—\$540 million; Florida—\$436 million; North Carolina—\$360 million; Georgia—\$303 million; Virginia—\$249