

His tireless efforts on issues related to air quality, water and Endangered Species Act reform have gone far to protect many diverse interests, to level the playing field with the federal government, to protect our heritage and to better our environment. Mr. Kuharich's keen insight and wealth of experience is a great benefit to Coloradans. Mr. Speaker, I commend Rod for all his efforts, and I look forward to working with him in the future.

HONORING RICHARD KRESEVITEH
GILBERT FOR ACHIEVING THE
RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. MICHAEL F. DOYLE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 13, 1999

Mr. DOYLE. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to recognize one of Pennsylvania's outstanding young students; Mr. Richard Kreseviteh Gilbert. This February, Richard attained the coveted rank of Eagle Scout, a distinguished goal that only 2 percent of Boy Scouts reach. Rich's achievement is the culmination of years of hard work, dedication, and community service.

Each Eagle Scout candidate is required to have earned a minimum of 23 Merit Badges, as well as contribute as least 100 man-hours toward a community oriented service project. Richard Gilbert, true to his selfless Scout nature, went above and beyond these minimum requirements, earning 33 Merit Badges and logging over 400 man-hours on his Eagle Scout Project. For his particular project, Rich chose to design and build a new retaining wall between American Legion Post 660 and St. Ireanaeus Church in his hometown of Oakmont.

Under his direction, Richard and 33 others gave up their summer vacations to work on the old retaining wall which had deteriorated on the S. Ireanaeus school playground. He and his crew worked through the hottest months of this summer to shape 120 ties and 22 tons of gravel into a wall which measures 6 feet tall and 110 feet long. Because of Richard's exemplary commitment to his project, St. Ireanaeus Church and Post 660 both sponsored his efforts, and Conrail graciously donated the needed railroad ties. Not only did Rich's labor improve the aesthetic beauty of the community, but it greatly improved the safety of the nearby playground.

Richard Kreseviteh Gilbert is currently a Junior at Riverview High School in Oakmont, and continues to shine as an outstanding leader among both his classmates and fellow Scouts in Troop 7854. His Scoutmaster, Mr. Dave Scatina has certainly provided the guidance and leadership that promote the growth of outstanding young Scouts like Rich. I am honored to stand here today in sincere praise of this outstanding example of the importance of community involvement. Congratulations Richard, your achievements make us all very proud.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTION
ON INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES
ACT FUNDING

HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 13, 1999

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join with my colleagues to introduce a resolution calling on the President and Congress to fully fund the federal government's obligation under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.

In 1975, Congress passed the Education for All Handicapped Children Act, commonly known as P.L. 94-142. The Act built upon previous legislation to mandate that all States provide a Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) to all disabled children by 1978. It also established the federal commitment to provide funding aid at 40% of the average per pupil expenditure to assist with the excess costs of educating students with disabilities. Historically, however, the appropriations for IDEA have not come close to reaching the 40% level. Federal funding has never risen above 12% of the cost. As a result, local schools and States are picking up the tab for an additional 28% above their fair share of special education costs.

As a former Governor, I have a unique understanding of special education funding and the tremendous burden this unfunded mandate places on schools. Local school districts spend on average 20 percent of their budgets on special education. Put simply, local schools are expected to pay much more than their fair share. This needs to change. If the federal government fulfilled its special education obligation for local schools, Washington would not have to step in to address issues such as class size reduction and building new school buildings. These decisions could be left up to local school districts who better understand the dynamics and needs of their students. This is precisely why the federal government must fulfill the commitment it made in 1975.

In Delaware, for instance, our largest school district, the Christina School District, currently receives \$800,000 per year in special education funding. The federal commitment is to pay Christina School District \$4.4 million. This means that if we fulfilled our commitment, Christina School District would have an additional \$3.3 million to focus on the needs of their students and teachers. The entire State of Delaware, if special education were fully funded, would receive an additional \$24.8 million. This is a tremendous amount of money, that is desperately needed by local schools in order to reduce class size, build and modernize schools, and implement technology into education. If the federal government fulfills its commitment to fund 40% of special education costs, States and schools across the nation would have the opportunity to focus their funds on the unique and individualized needs of their schools.

The Republican Congress has worked to increase special education funding. Since 1995, IDEA funding has increased by over 85%. This is an increase of approximately \$1.4 billion. Congress now needs to garner the sup-

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port of the President and the Administration to make IDEA funding a priority for our nation's schools.

WOMEN AND BUSINESS

HON. CAROLYN MCCARTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 13, 1999

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the enormous contribution women have made to the economy. As a Member of the Small Business Committee and life-long Long Islander, the issue of small business is an important one to me.

As we approach the new millennium, an increasing number of women are starting their own businesses. According to the National Foundation of Women's Business Owners, as of 1997 there were 8.5 million women-owned businesses in the United States employing over 23 million people and generating close to 3.1 trillion in sales as of 1997. Between 1987 and 1997, the number of women-owned firms increased by 89% nationwide, and as of 1996 women-owned businesses accounted for 36% of all firms in the United States.

Knowing how important small businesses are to our economy, I hope we will continue supporting the collection of data on women owned businesses as a regular part of the economic census of business. The knowledge such data provides is truly priceless, and I want to ensure it remains fully funded every year. Thousands of remarkable women have made significant advances for our economy, and they deserve nothing less than our full support.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 13, 1999

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained yesterday returning from my Congressional District. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on the following three roll call votes: No. 78 on H. Res. 135 regarding amendments to H.R. 98, Aviation War Risk Insurance Program Extension; No. 79 on H.R. 911, to designate the new Federal Building in Raleigh, North Carolina, as the "Terry Sanford Federal Building"; and No. 80 on H. Con. Res. 68, instructing conferees on the FY 2000 budget to protect Social Security and Medicare.

TRIBUTE TO JOHNSON'S CORNER

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 13, 1999

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, in Larimer County, Colorado, there is a family-owned