

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION URGING THE CONGRESS AND THE PRESIDENT TO INCREASE FUNDING FOR THE PELL GRANT AND EXISTING CAMPUS-BASED AID PROGRAMS PRIOR TO FUNDING ANY NEW EDUCATION INITIATIVES

HON. WILLIAM F. GOODLING

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 20, 1999

Mr. GOODLING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of a House Concurrent Resolution that calls on the Congress and the President to work together to increase funding for the Pell Grant Program and existing campus-based student aid programs before funding new education initiatives.

This resolution establishes two priorities for higher education funding. The first priority is increasing the maximum Pell Grant awarded to students from low-income families to \$3,525. This amount represents an increase of \$400 to the maximum grant award and would be the largest increase since the inception of the program in 1972.

The second priority involves increased funding for the existing campus-based student aid programs. These programs provide financial aid administrators at colleges across the country with considerable flexibility in the packaging of financial aid awards that best meet the needs of their students.

The Pell Grant Program is one of the largest voucher programs in the country and it is considered the foundation program for all Federal student aid. Students eligible for a Pell Grant can use that money to attend one of more than 6,000 postsecondary institutions in the country.

The Pell Grant Program was created in 1972 and the goal of the program was simple. Congress wanted to assist students from low-income families who would not otherwise be financially able to attend a postsecondary institution. In the first year of the program, 176,000 students received Pell Grant awards. For the upcoming academic year, almost 4 million students are expected to receive Pell Grant awards. Of these students, 90% have family incomes under \$30,000 and 54% of those families have incomes under \$10,000. I believe we can all agree that the Pell Grant Program continues to serve the vital purpose for which it was originally created.

Why increase the Pell Grant maximum by \$400 dollars? In real dollars, the appropriated maximum individual grant, adjusted for inflation, has decreased 4.7% between 1980 and 1998. At a time when yearly increases in college costs have greatly exceeded the rate of inflation, as well as family earnings, the Pell Grant has covered less and less of a student's cost of attendance. Although all students and

their families suffer as a result of exorbitant increases in the cost of attending college, students from low-income families suffer the most adverse consequences.

Today, will billions of dollars available in student aid from the Federal government, State governments and institutions of higher education, children from high-income families continue to enroll in college at almost twice the rate of children from low-income families. For many of these families, the cost of college is the overwhelming factor in their decision to forego a college education.

In 1997, we helped the President enact tax credits related to postsecondary education for middle and upper income families. At the same time, we voiced strong concerns about the need to continue making substantial commitments to the Pell Grant Program in order to assist those students from low-income families who would not receive any benefits from the new tax credits. Unfortunately, the President's request to increase the maximum Pell Grant by \$125 dollars is not the substantial commitment I had in mind.

In addition to the Pell Grant Program, this resolution supports increased funding for the campus-based student aid programs. While Pell Grants open the door to postsecondary education for many students from low-income families, it's the campus-based programs that provide these same students some degree of choice in selecting a postsecondary institution. After years of double-digit increases in the cost of a college education, the maximum Pell Grant no longer covers the cost of attendance at most public 4-year institutions in the country. However, a Pell Grant coupled with awards from the campus-based programs goes a long way in reducing the amount a student needs to borrow in student loans in order to pay the bills for tuition and room and board.

The campus-based student aid programs also require institutions to provide matching funds in order to receive funds from the Federal Government. The \$1.5 billion dollars devoted to the campus-based programs last year leveraged almost \$400 million dollars in additional aid to college students across the country. These are fundamentally sound programs that have served our nation's college students well for the past three decades and we should consider them a higher education funding priority.

I urge my colleagues to support this resolution and the higher education funding priorities it establishes for the Congress and the President.

TRIBUTE TO MARTHA JEAN "JILL" WIELAND

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 20, 1999

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today to congratulate a constituent of mine, Martha Jean "Jill" Wieland, for being named the "1999 Illinois Mother of the Year."

Often today our Nation measures success by the level of the Dow Jones Industrial Average or the value of the dollar. While these are certainly significant, nothing is more important to the success and future of our Nation than our children.

As a father of two young boys, I am aware of the many responsibilities and challenges that face parents today. Jill Wieland went above and beyond those expectations by acting as an excellent mother to her own children while also providing leadership for other children through Sunday School and Girl Scouts. Furthermore, since 1962, Jill has been a foster parent for the Children's Home and Aid Society of Illinois where she has cared for over 100 children.

Again, I would like to congratulate Jill on being named "1999 Illinois Mother of the Year." She has not only had a positive impact in the lives of many children, but has also made a significant contribution to society.

TRIBUTE TO CHIEF ROBERT J. PIZZUTI

HON. BILL PASCHELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 20, 1999

Mr. PASCHELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Chief Robert J. Pizzuti of Montclair, New Jersey, an outstanding individual who has dedicated his life to public service. He will be honored this Friday, April 9, 1999, by parents, family, friends, and professionals for his 43 years of outstanding contribution to the community through his outstanding leadership of the Montclair Fire Department. Chief Robert Pizzuti personifies public service through his true commitment to fire-fighting and the people of Montclair, New Jersey.

Robert J. Pizzuti was born on Willow Street in Montclair, New Jersey on the first day of January, nineteen hundred thirty five. He attended Immaculate Conception School in Montclair from first grade until eighth, where he then attended Montclair High School, where he graduated in 1952. After graduating from high school Chief Pizzuti fought in the Golden Gloves as a Welter Weight, weighing in at 147 pounds, where he was very successful winning a numerous amount of awards. In

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1953, he joined the armed forces and served for the next two years as a soldier in the Army. While there he attended a leadership school at Camp Chaffee in the state of Arkansas. Chief Pizzuti was released from the Army on September 13, 1955.

In June of 1956, Chief Pizzuti took his first Fire Exam and passed scoring the highest grade on the exam. He was officially sworn in as a firefighter on August 1, 1956. Chief Pizzuti has continued to serve on the Montclair Fire Department for 43 years and has performed in a variety of positions. He was sworn in as Lieutenant FireFighter on December 10, 1968, then as Captain on March 6, 1980. He was sworn in as Deputy Chief FireFighter on August 14, 1984, then as Acting Chief on October 1, 1990. Finally on July 1, 1991, Mr. Robert Pizzuti was sworn in as Chief Robert Pizzuti of the Montclair Fire Department, and it is in that capacity in which he has served for the last eight years. He is a member of the F.M.B.A. and is also the Sergeant at arms of the Chief's Association.

Chief Pizzuti has been acknowledged by many groups over the years for his civic awareness; the March of Dimes, Christ Church, the Borough of Glen Ridge, the New Jersey General Assembly, the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Youth Summit, and the Montclair Optimist Club, to name just a few. Chief Pizzuti has also been involved with First Night in Montclair, as well as coaching softball, baseball, and football.

Chief Robert Pizzuti has been married to Eleanor Majewski since May 18, 1957. And they have five children; Diana, Tracy, Robert Jr., Robin, and Thomas. He and his wife are also grandparents to seven grandchildren and they are presently expecting their eighth.

Mr. Speaker, since I took office in January of 1997, Chief Robert Pizzuti has been a member of my Eighth Congressional District Public Safety Committee that has been so instrumental in counseling me on issues of importance to those who are charged with saving lives every day. In fact, Chief Pizzuti was one of the forces behind the Firefighter Investment and Response Enhancement (FIRE) Act which I recently introduced in this esteemed body. This law will provide federal grants directly to paid, part-paid, and volunteer fire departments to hire more firefighters, train firefighters in state-of-the-art techniques, and better equip firefighters so that they can more effectively save lives. It was in large part to Chief Pizzuti's imagination and initiative that this innovative piece of legislation was crafted.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you please join me, our colleagues in the United States House of Representatives, Robert's family, friends, and co-workers, the Montclair Fire Department, and the Township of Montclair, New Jersey, in thanking Chief Robert Pizzuti for all his years of service to the community and congratulating him on his well deserved retirement, his presence will be greatly missed.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

TRIBUTE TO COMMANDER JOSEPH ANTHONY CRUZ SAN AGUSTIN

HON. ROBERT A. UNDERWOOD

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 20, 1999

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this occasion to commend and congratulate Commander Joseph Anthony Cruz San Agustin of the United States Navy on his distinguished career and his upcoming well-earned retirement.

Born on October 19, 1957, in the village of Tamuning, Commander San Agustin is the son of Joaquin and Ana San Agustin. Prior to being accepted at the Naval Academy Preparatory School in Newport Rhode Island in 1975, he attended Father Duenas Memorial School. In 1980, he earned a degree in Physical Science from the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland.

Joseph was awarded his Navy Wings from the U.S. Navy Flight School at Pensacola Florida in 1982 and went on to serve as a pilot of military aircraft for 20 years. He was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the United States Marine Corps in 1980 and was assigned to VMGR-352 "Raiders" El Toro, California, VMGR-152 Okinawa, and Battalion 7th Marines, Camp Pendleton, California. Having transferred over to the Navy side as a lieutenant in 1987, he went on to serve with VQ-3 "Ironman" Barbers Point, Hawaii, PMRF, Barking Sands Hawaii, and VQ-3 "Ironman" Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, prior to being assigned to COMNAVMARIANAS, Guam.

Commander San Agustin holds the distinction of being one of only a handful of Chamorros to graduate from the Naval Academy and retire from the United States Navy. In addition to the numerous commendations and awards he received for his military service, he had also been presented various certificates and aviation qualifications which have included the Airline Transport Certificate, the Airline Single/Multi-engine land, the Flight Engineer Certificate, the Turbojet Powered, and the FAA First Class Medical Certificate.

While on Guam, he played a large role in the required process of normalization in the aftermath of various military operations and natural disasters. Joseph was involved with Operation Pacific Haven in support of over 6,600 Kurdish evacuees fleeing Iraq to seek political asylum in the United States. Along with various military personnel, he provided humanitarian assistance during the stressful times after the crash of Korean Air Flight 801 and the devastation left by super-typhoon Paka. He was also instrumental in maintaining a positive mutual relationship between the Navy and the Government of Guam in his position as Guam Liaison for COMNAVMARIANAS.

Joseph has also been active in community activities on Guam. For the past two years, he was the PTA president for Mt. Carmel School in Agat. He also finds time to get involved in various community projects with the Agat Elementary School, the Agat Mayor's Office, the Agat Running Club, the Barrigada Mayor's Office, and the San Vicente Catholic Church.

After more than two decades of distinguished and dedicated service, Commander

April 20, 1999

San Agustin has chosen to retire from the Navy. In addition to the great contributions his military career has made towards the strength and security of this nation, Joseph's achievements and community involvement have undoubtedly brought pride to the island of Guam and its people. He is a role model; he is a leader; he is a great representative of his island home.

I join his wife, Maria, their children Rachel, Rebecca, and Alan, in celebrating his accomplishments throughout his long and successful military career. On behalf of the people of Guam, I commend and congratulate Commander Joseph Anthony Cruz San Agustin on his well-earned retirement. I wish him well in his future endeavors and expect from him only the best as he once again becomes part of Guam's civilian community.

IN HONOR OF THE FIRST YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF THE MONTGOMERY COUNTY HOSPITAL DISTRICT EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE

HON. KEVIN BRADY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 20, 1999

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today marks the 1-year anniversary of the new Montgomery County Hospital District Emergency Medical Service (MCHDEMS). Therefore, on this occasion, I want to recognize and applaud the accomplishments of MCHDEMS in providing quality patient care and customer service for the citizens and visitors of Montgomery County.

During its first year, MCHDEMS implemented a system-wide improvement program focused on accountability to the patient and the community. They have also joined with area hospitals and school health programs to provide educational classes for pediatrics, trauma, and cardiac emergencies.

Furthermore, the Montgomery County Hospital District Emergency Medical Service has provide CPR certification for over 300 lay persons, who through this training, increased the survival rate for people in our community. Many of the CPR rescues and other critical interventions they have performed have saved patient lives and restored patients to their families.

In addition, its community outreach programs, including how to "dial 911" featuring Andy the Ambulance and Twinkle the Clown, have reached over 5,000 children. Their Driving While Intoxicated (DWI) awareness programs, provided across county high schools, have been beneficial in preventing many needless tragedies.

For all of these and other efforts, Allen Johnson, Operations Manager of the Montgomery County Hospital District Emergency Medical Service was recognized as the Administrator of the Year for the State of Texas for his leadership in the resumption of the Emergency Medical Service for Montgomery County Hospital District.

Mr. Speaker, I wish the Montgomery County Hospital District Emergency Medical Service well as they begin their 2nd year of service.