

using these grants, or to expand existing programs, an increase in overall funding is essential. This package would provide this much needed funding for services to foster strong and healthy children, families and communities.

The causes of youth violence are extremely complex and there is no panacea. This package doesn't include everything communities may need, but it certainly addresses some of the key concerns our community has identified.

Youth Violence Prevention Act:

Increases funding for early childhood intervention programs such as Head Start.

Increases funding for juvenile justice delinquency prevention programs including court schools.

Increases funding for child abuse prevention programs focusing on community-based family preservation and crisis intervention programs.

Expands the National Guard's successful Youth Challenge program for troubled high school dropouts.

Provides incentive grants for states to implement a 72-hour hold for juveniles caught with a firearm on school grounds.

Authorizes expansion of the instant criminal background check system so a person who sells a firearm but is not a licensed dealer can check to see if a prospective purchaser is eligible to purchase a firearm.

Provides for a tax credit of up to \$250 for the purchase of safe storage devices for firearms.

Requires manufacturers to provide trigger locks for all purchases of new firearms.

Requires safe storage of firearms.

MY SERVICE TO AMERICA

HON. COLLIN C. PETERSON

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 6, 1999

Mr. PETERSON of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, each year the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) and the VFW Ladies Auxiliary conducts the "Voice of Democracy" broadcast script writing contest. This year's contest theme was "My Service to America". It is my pleasure to announce today that Bria Knorr, from Moorhead, Minnesota, is one of fifty-four national scholarship winners. Ms. Knorr reminds us that the spirit of service to our country remains strong among our nation's youth, and that individuals can make a difference. At this point, I'd like to enter Ms. Knorr's essay into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

MY SERVICE TO AMERICA

(By Bria Knorr)

3,536,341 square miles, 2,807 miles from sea to shining sea, and populated by 270 million people. It's America and it's big. So large, in fact, that many people find it incomprehensible to think they could serve a country of such vast dimensions. It causes a person to wonder whether or not they can make a difference in a community of so many. However, if we page backwards through the history of our country, we find countless examples of single individuals changing America forever through their dedicated service.

One such man, traveling across the country as a doctor for Native Americans and set-

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

tlers moving west was John Chapman. He is more commonly associated with the trail of apple trees he left where ever he went. To this day we hear of slightly legendized tales of the heroic self-sacrificial acts of a man committed to helping settle this great nation. Not only was he serving America in the eighteenth century, but also the many generations who would come to love his apple trees and his legends.

Another guide, traveling south and north rather than east and west, embodied the idea of advocating a principle through the liberation of peoples. Under the cover of darkness Harriet Tubman repeatedly risked her life to bring slaves out of servitude and into freedom. Her development of the underground railroad improved the lives of hundreds of runaway slaves.

The powerful motivator and leader, Dr. Martin Luther King Junior, chose to serve his country by speaking out against the hypocritical idea that all men were created equal but should not be treated that way. Through peaceful protest, this passionate man drew the attention of the country to the injustice of segregation. His service did not end when his life did, but goes on through the idea of equality he brought to the United States.

Single individuals can and have made a difference throughout the course of our history. But these greats are few and far between. Most of us never have the opportunity to render our services on such a scale. Are we worthless to our country? How can we serve this nation, this body of people?

I'd been regulating pumps for six hours and now it was in the dead of night; the purring of the pumps and the swish of water being mopped down the drain droned on monotonously as it had all night. When my family and I had gotten here, this couple had been manning their pumps 'round the clock for four days just to keep the rising flood waters from filling their basement. Their cistern would fill and need to be pumped out every fifteen minutes and water was running into the room through cracks in the cement floor. I was tired and uncomfortable and the air was cold. One more hour and my shift would be over. My thoughts drifted upstairs to the exhausted couple who were getting the first real sleep tonight that they'd had in days. I thought that tonight I might have been home in my warm bed. Instead, I was in a clammy basement, fighting off sleep to flip a switch every fifteen minutes and mop up water that would cover the floor just as soon as you finished pushing the last batch down the drain. I thought of Dr. Martin Luther King Junior, of Harriet Tubman, of John Chapman. I wasn't aiding anyone to freedom, I wasn't risking my life for an ideal, I wasn't improving the United States on a grand scale. But maybe this was grand for these people whose home I was protecting. I was doing something grand for some small part of the country. Perhaps that is what defines my service to America. For what is one foot in the 5,280 that make up a mile? Except that it wouldn't be a mile without it . . ."

May 6, 1999

RECOGNITION OF THE FIRST ANNUAL MEMORIAL DAY FOR THE GAY, LESBIAN, BISEXUAL AND TRANSGENDER COMMUNITY

HON. JERROLD NADLER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 6, 1999

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the first annual Memorial Day for the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender community. This special day has been established to remember the many who have lost their lives due to killings, beatings, and suicides that have resulted from the homophobic attitude prevalent in our society and throughout history.

Every year, on the anniversary of the Warsaw ghetto uprising, the world commemorates Yom Hashoah or the Day of Remembrance for the Holocaust. Although several museums throughout the United States and Europe include exhibits recalling the homosexual experience during the Nazi era, most Yom Hashoah services fail to mention that part of Hitler's reign of terror was the systematic attempt to eliminate homosexuals from Germany. It is estimated that, under his plan, tens of thousands of homosexuals were arrested and thousands were confined to death camps along with others he deemed "undesirable." Today's solemn remembrance is part of an effort to remove the veil of silence about this tragic history of persecution and killing, underscore the seemingly endless chain of hate crimes, and provide education aimed at eradicating intolerance and violence against gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender persons.

I salute Congregation Beth Simchat Torah, the Church of the Holy Apostles, the International Association of Lesbian and Gay Children of Holocaust Survivors and the many other religious and community organizations that have joined in coalition to cosponsor today's solemn commemoration of the many lives lost as a result of a national reaction to homophobia. May their lives serve as reminders of the horrors of prejudicial acts of this kind. Let us honor their memory by committing ourselves to ending bigotry toward all people regardless of who they are or who they love.

TRIBUTE TO PETER MARONE

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 6, 1999

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, on Friday, May 7, 1999, the Ocean County, NJ, Democratic Party will pay tribute to Peter A. Marone on the occasion of his retirement as Assistant Supervisor and Investigations Coordinator of the Ocean County Board of Elections. Mr. Marone has served in this post since 1979.

Peter Marone has been a leader in political, civic and community affairs in Ocean County for as long as most area residents can remember. He was a member of the Point Pleasant Borough Governing Body for three decades (the 1970's, 1980's and 1990's), including a term as mayor from 1979-1982, and

two periods of service as a Councilman, from 1974-78 and 1989-91. He also was a member of the Point Pleasant Planning Board from 1979-82, and he served as Acting Administrator of the Borough from 1979-82. In 1976, he was appointed by former New Jersey Governor Brendan Byrne to the Open Access Public Beaches Study Commission. He has been a loyal and active member of the Ocean County Democratic Committee, serving as Treasurer and Sergeant-at-Arms from 1985-1999. He also currently serves as a New Jersey State Committeeman.

Peter Marone's service to his community and our country goes back decades. A New Jersey native, Mr. Marone served in the Korean War from 1948-52, and is a Life Member of the Disabled American Veterans. He is a member of the Chosin Few (Korea-1950) Exclusive Fraternity, and has been decorated with the Japan Occupation Ribbon and the Korean Campaign Ribbon with five bronze stars. A past Senior Vice Commander of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, he is a member of VFW Post 4715, and American Legion Post 196. He is also a member of the Loyal Order of Moose.

Peter and Doris Marone have been married 42 years, and they have three children. A communicant of St. Martha's Roman Catholic Church in Point Pleasant, Peter enjoys a number of activities besides politics—but he enjoys nothing more than his seven grandchildren.

As his friends and colleagues in the Ocean County Democrats pay tribute to Peter Marone, I want to add my voice to all those wishing him well and thanking him for so many years of steadfast service, solid leadership and true dedication to his town, county, state and nation.

CONSTITUENT COMMENTS ON
CHANNEL ONE

HON. VAN HILLEARY

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 6, 1999

Mr. HILLEARY. Mr. Speaker, one of my primary concerns, as a member of the House Education and the Workforce Committee, is the education of our children. In this regard, we are always looking for new creative ways to improve our educational system. More and more, the private sector is providing teachers and schools with these creative ways to help our children learn.

I am pleased to commend the informative feedback given by one of my constituents as a result of his first hand observation of the Channel One experience in Manchester, TN. Gary Dyer is the Director of Accountability and Technology of the Manchester City Schools. His letter to Mr. Jeff Ballabon, Executive V.P. for Public Affairs for the Channel One Network, is as follows:

DEAR MR. BALLABON: It is my pleasure to write to you concerning this school district's experience with Channel One. We have been a part of the Channel One family at Westwood Junior High School since 1991. During this time, our experience with the Channel One Network has been very positive. As Director of Accountability/Technology, I

have had the opportunity to be in the school on numerous occasions during the Channel One broadcast. I have personally observed that the students are very attentive during this broadcast and that the teachers have used the broadcast material to supplement and enrich their instruction over these years. I have not heard of one negative comment about Channel One from students, teachers, or parents. In addition to providing televisions for most of our classrooms, Channel One has provided hours of current, relevant, and timely information. Channel One is an excellent program, and the Manchester City School District is pleased to be a member of the Channel One family.

Sincerely,

GARY W. DYER
DIRECTOR OF ACCOUNTABILITY/
TECHNOLOGY.

READING TOGETHER USA AND
READING TOGETHER ADULT TU-
TORS PROGRAMS IN NORTH
CAROLINA

HON. BOB ETHERIDGE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 6, 1999

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, as the former North Carolina Superintendent of Schools and the Second District's Congressman, I rise today to call the attention of the Congress to the Reading Together USA Program and its extension by the proposed Program Reading Together Adult Tutors in North Carolina.

Reading Together USA is a peer tutoring reading program launched to improve the reading fluency and comprehension skills of second grade students with the help of fifth grade tutors. The program was collaboratively developed by University of North Carolina—Greensboro, Guilford County Schools, and the National Council of Jewish Women Institute for Education and Innovation at Hebrew University in Jerusalem. Materials used are developed by the reading research literature, an institutional framework that has proved to be a well developed support system.

Highly acclaimed by students and tutors, parents and educators, Reading Together USA is a systematic and cost effective program to improve reading and comprehension skills of youngsters. The program received governmental funding in the amount of \$750,000 both in 1998 and 1999. Reading Together USA consists of nine training sessions for the fifth grade tutors who work with the students in thirty tutorial sessions. The students and tutors meet twice a week for 35 to 45 minute sessions. Furthermore, to determine the effectiveness of a session, the tutors meet their students twice a week to plan and prepare for the next session.

The response to Reading Together USA has been very positive as students have gained positive reading experience at a level that helps them to develop fluency and reading comprehension. Their tutors have also developed leadership, organization and human relation skills.

Because of enormous success of the program and to meet the growing demand for tu-

tors the extension of Reading Together USA by Reading Together for Adult Tutors has been proposed. This program builds on Reading Together USA but features adult tutors targeting especially parents tutoring students at home and volunteers working with youngsters in schools in after school programs. The estimated cost of the two programs is \$2 million annually.

Study after study has demonstrated that sound reading skills are essential to a student's academic achievement. Students who learn to read well gain the ability to excel in other subjects and enhance their overall educational performance. Reading is a particular important ingredient for success in the Information Age and Congress must support innovative efforts to improve reading.

Mr. Speaker, I commend the great achievements of Reading Together USA and strongly support its proposed extension Reading Together Adult Tutors. Education holds the key to our nation's future. Education leads to progress. One of the most important responsibilities we have as a society is to provide quality education for all of our children that is crucial to succeed in a competitive global environment.

I encourage my colleagues to join students and tutors, parents and educators to support both Reading Together USA and Reading Together Adult Tutors and to allocate the necessary fund for the Fiscal Year 2000.

EXPRESSING SENSE OF HOUSE IN
SUPPORT OF AMERICA'S TEACH-
ERS

SPEECH OF

HON. NICK LAMPSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 4, 1999

Mr. LAMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the thousands of men and women who help our children learn during National Teacher Appreciation Week.

As a former high school teacher, who is married to a special ed teacher, I know both the joys and challenges teachers face every day.

I remember the sense of excitement my students shared with me when we watched Neil Armstrong step onto the moon in 1969. I will never forget the gleam in their eyes and their new-found enthusiasm about space and science.

I also know about the challenges. My wife, Susan, faces children with not only physical and developmental disabilities, but also emotional problems and mental illness. But, special ed teachers aren't the only educators who face emotional and behavioral problems.

Unfortunately, many of our children suffer from physical and emotional abuse, or live in homes wrought with substance abuse and violence. Teachers, alone, cannot solve all of society's ills. We, as a broader community, must help our teachers reinforce the lessons taught in school by getting involved with their education.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, on behalf of parents and grandparents everywhere, I'd like to thank