

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 TUTORS 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 TEACHERS

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

our nation's teachers for helping the next generation succeed.

MASSACHUSETTS CONGRESSIONAL  
DELEGATION WELCOMES THE  
INTERNATIONAL REGATTA

**HON. JOHN JOSEPH MOAKLEY**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 6, 1999*

Mr. MOAKLEY. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Massachusetts Congressional Delegation, I am submitting the following statement that welcomes an international regatta of spectacular sailing ships that will visit the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and the city of Boston on July 11-16 in the year 2000. We anticipate a fantastic event and look forward to welcoming the world to Massachusetts and Boston.

SAIL BOSTON 2000

(July 11-16)

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts and the City of Boston officially welcome you to join with us in celebrating the New Millennium with a magnificent gathering of Tall Ships from all over the world from July 11-16 in the Year 2000.

The entire Massachusetts House Delegation in the United States Congress, Governor Paul Cellucci, both houses of the Massachusetts Legislature, and the Mayor of Boston, Tom Menino, are delighted to welcome the World's Tall Ships to Boston and to accept the American Sail Training Association, and International Sail Training Association invitation to serve as the Official Race Port for the Millennium Transatlantic Regatta Sailing from Boston to Halifax, Nova Scotia, and on to Amsterdam.

On July 11-16, in the Year 2000, the City of Boston and port cities and towns in Cape Cod and along the coast of Southeastern Massachusetts will host an international regatta of sailing ships to culminate in a Parade of Sail led by the U.S.S. Constitution, the oldest commissioned war ship in the United States Navy.

In 1992, when Boston hosted the most majestic and most successful Tall Ship event in the United States, over 150 sailing ships, and representative warships from over thirty-five nations graced the port of Boston with grand, international good will. Thousands of crew members mixed with over 7 million visitors from all over the world over a six day period, celebrating Boston's unique maritime history and cultural diversity.

From all accounts, Sail Boston 2000 will surpass the success of its predecessor in 1992. We have, to date, secured commitments from over eighty Sailing Ships and continue to work in conjunction with the United States Government and the international sailing community to once again share our magnificent harbor with the world.

FIRST TIME HOMEBUYERS ACT

**HON. WILLIAM F. GOODLING**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 6, 1999*

Mr. GOODLING. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the, First Time Homebuyers Act,

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

which will make the American Dream of owning a home a reality for thousands of renters and low income families. Today renters often pay as much for rent as many homeowners pay for a monthly mortgage payment. It is not surprising that a recent Fannie Mae National Housing Survey found that 60% rank homeownership as their top priority in life.

To many Americans, homeownership means financial, psychological and familial security. This is especially true for minorities, younger Americans and those with lower incomes. Homeownership means a stronger economy, after neighborhoods and a better quality of life. Mr. Speaker, given such an optimistic view of homeownership, why do so many individuals continue to rent? According to the Fannie Mae survey, renters cite the expense of a down payment as the major obstacle in their ability to afford a home.

Several years ago, I visited a home builder in York, PA, located in my Congressional District, who developed a unique and innovative arrangement in which moderately priced single-family homes are constructed for purchase with no down payment. A local financial institution finances 80 percent of the loan, while the builder the remaining 20 percent as a second mortgage. This creative financing plan makes the purchase of a home affordable for financially responsible, hard-working people who want to buy a home, but can not afford the down payment.

However, the Tax Code penalizes builders who finance the down payment on behalf of the purchasers. Currently, the Tax Code limits a builder's ability to finance second mortgages because it assumes that the buyers are paying the entire balance of their tax obligations in the year the property is purchased. The law also requires builders to pay taxes on the entire amount of the of the income received from a mortgage in the year the purchase is made. For a builder, it becomes almost impossible to pay these taxes, not having cash on hand to do so until received at a future date. In other words, the Tax Code prohibits a builder from using the installment method to calculate their tax liability. This situation places a builder in a financial bind and jeopardizes the future of this and similar housing programs.

The First Time Homebuyers Act will enable a builder to use the installment method to calculate their tax liability under certain specific circumstances. This bill applies to any one family, owner-occupied unit. The purchasers must be a first time homebuyer who qualifies for 100 percent of the loan. Further, the legislation directs that a second mortgage on the property be no more than 20 percent of the sale price and applies only to single-family homes costing no more than 75 percent of the median home price for newly constructed one-family residential real property in a given area.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to co-sponsor this legislation which is specifically geared to helping those who need the most assistance buying a new home. With your support the First Time Homebuyers Act, can make the American Dream an American reality.

May 6, 1999

HONORING JACK C. HAYS HIGH  
SCHOOL REBEL BAND

**HON. RON PAUL**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 6, 1999*

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, the Jack C. Hays School Rebel Band of Buda, Texas, recently earned the distinct honor of being selected for the 1999 "Sudler Flag of Honor" award from the John Philip Sousa Foundation. This award is the highest recognition of excellence in concert performance that a high school band can receive. During the 17 years the award has been in existence, only 39 bands from the entire United States and Canada have been selected for the Flag of Honor award. Conductor Gerald Babbitt and his Rebel band deserve our praise and recognition on the occasion of receiving this prestigious award.

The John Philip Sousa Foundation designed this award to identify and recognize high school concert band programs of very special excellence at the international level. To be eligible for nomination, a band must have maintained excellence over a period of many years in several areas including concert, marching, small ensemble and soloists. The director must have been the conductor of the band for at least the previous seven consecutive years including the year of the award.

Each recipient receives a four-by-six foot "Flag of Honor" which becomes the property of the band. The flag is designed in red, white and blue and bears the logo of the John Philip Sousa Foundation. The conductor receives a personal plaque and each student in the band receives a personalized diploma.

Mr. Speaker, it is indeed an honor to have such an outstanding high school band in the 14th Congressional District. I am delighted to extend my hearty congratulations to them. Their hard work and dedication is an inspiration to us all.

STATEMENT ON THE NATIONAL  
DAY OF PRAYER

**HON. ROBIN HAYES**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 6, 1999*

Mr. HAYES. Mr. Speaker, I begin with the following quote: "Without the assistance of the Divine Being who ever attended him, I cannot succeed. With that assistance I cannot fail. Trusting in Him who can go with me, and remain with you, and be everywhere for good, let us confidently hope that all will yet be well."—Abraham Lincoln as he began his inaugural journey from Illinois to Washington, D.C., February 11, 1861.

Mr. Speaker, throughout the history of our Nation, leaders have turned to prayer for guidance and inspiration. Our Founding Fathers built this country on the principle that its citizens had a God-given right to freedom, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

Since that time, America has been a beacon for millions in search of religious freedom.

The first Thursday of May of each year is set aside as the National Day of Prayer. This