Mr. Speaker, I rise today in praise of an outstanding young adult from the 18th Congressional District of Pennsylvania, Ms. Amanda Iannuzzi, a Congressional Award medal recipient. Amanda’s commitment to self-development and community involvement serves as an inspiration to people of all ages, and illustrates the accomplishments that come with hard work and determination.

Without motivation, however, hard work and determination are destined to remain unfilled ideals. Amanda’s motivation breathed life into innumerable commendable acts. Not only did Amanda involve herself in volunteer work, but invested time in broadening her artistic and physical skills. While much of what is directed towards young people is prescriptive in nature, it is important to note that these acts were of Amanda’s own design and were completed with her own resolve.

Upon review of Amanda’s achievements, one is particularly struck by the considerable amount of time that was devoted to obtaining this award. Hundreds of hours over the course of months were invested. Clearly, Amanda recognizes the immense value of giving one’s time to help others. It is my hope that your actions foreshadow a life distinguished by the pursuit of new challenges.

Congratulations Amanda! Best wishes to you for continued success.

HONORING SISTER BRIGID DRISCOLL

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN
OF NEW YORK
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, May 25, 1999

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join in honoring sister Brigid Driscoll, President of Marymount College, who, as a prominent figure from my district, has been a role model for the espousal of women’s education for the last forty years. Sister Brigid, who will be retiring from her position in June, has devoted her life to Marymount College, establishing its solid foundation within the educational arena and the greater Tarrytown, New York community.

For more than twenty years as its president, and before that as an administrator and faculty member, Sister Brigid’s visionary leadership has overseen Marymount’s transformation from a homogeneous liberal arts college exclusively for women, to an institution that maintains a strong focus on women, while
serving an inclusive population of adult and international students. She has been recognized as an outspoken supporter of state and federal financial assistance for students, as well as a public policy advocate for independent higher education.

Among Sister Brigid’s many contributions to Marymount was her vision for an educational setting that would enable many people in the surrounding communities to reach their full potential through education. In 1975, Sister Brigid founded Marymount Weekend College, one of the country’s first full bachelor’s degree programs for working women and men exclusively in the weekend format.

Sister Brigid’s leadership and interest in the community is far reaching, as is her service and expertise in the field of education. Currently, she serves as a board member of First American Bankshares, Inc., the Westchester County Association, and as a member of Women’s Education of New York whose membership is by invitation only. In the educational sector, her present directorships include Saint Mary’s College in Notre Dame, Indiana, Marymount School in New York City, the National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities, and the New York State Commission of Independent Colleges and Universities.

In the past, Sister Brigid has served on the board of Axe-Houghton funds, the Statue of Liberty/Ellis Island Commission, the United Way of American Second Century Initiative, the National Board of Girl Scouts USA, Governor Mario Cuomo’s task force on the General Motors Plant Closing in Tarrytown, and Governor George Pataki’s Transition Team for Education. Her previous directorships include the Council of Independent Colleges, the Westchester Education Coalition, and the Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities, where she also served as a representative to the Consultation on the Apostolic Constitution on Catholic Universities in Rome.

Recently, the issue of gender bias in American classrooms has sparked a national advertising campaign supporting women’s achievements in education. Sister Brigid served on the committee of the Women’s College Coalition that approved the creative content for the campaign. Before the idea of this campaign was ever conceived, Marymount College, with the full support of Sister Brigid, responded to the challenge of making the educational needs of all women and girls a priority by creating the Marymount Institute for the educational needs of all women and girls a priority.

Alumni Association Award for Distinguished Life Achievement. Now, at the close of the millennium, Marymount College has conferred upon its esteemed leader the Honorary Degree of Doctor of Humane Letters. Finally, in a ceremony later this month, Sister Brigid will be granted an Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters by the College of New Rochelle.

INTRODUCTION OF THE CITIZEN LEGISLATURE AND POLITICAL FREEDOM ACT

HON. JOHN T. DOOLITTLE OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 25, 1999

Mr. DOOLITTLE. Mr. Speaker, today Majority Whip TOM DELAY and I are joining the chorus of calls in Congress for campaign finance reform because we agree that the current system is broken. There is something fundamentally wrong with the way political campaigns in America today are financed.

However, the reforms encompassed in the bill we are introducing today take a very different direction than most bills that have been introduced on campaign finance thus far. These bills share a common thread— they call for more government regulation into federal campaigns.

I believe that the proposals that call for greater regulation of our campaign finance system misdiagnose the problem. I submit that what has caused our failed campaign finance system is the regulation itself. If we want to deal with the real, underlying problem, we need to undo the regulations.

The Doolittle-DeLay approach is the proper remedy to what ails our campaign finance system in that it removes the regulations. Moreover, and no less important, is that this approach is consistent with the Constitution because it restores our first amendment right to engage in political speech.

In 1974, in the wake of Watergate, Congress threw a regulatory web over the campaign finance system, a system that had gone largely unregulated throughout our nation’s history.

Within two years of the reform’s passage, the Supreme Court, in Buckley versus Valeo, struck down major parts of the new regulatory scheme on first amendment grounds.

Since that time, the campaign finance regulators have blamed every problem involving campaign financing on the Court’s decision. There are those of us, however, who believe that the problem is not that which the Court struck down, but rather that which was left intact, the present campaign finance law.

The regulators would do well to remember that it was not the Supreme Court that put unreasonably low limits on how much individuals and groups could contribute to campaigns, or that failed to index these limits for inflation. It was not the Supreme Court that ran roughshod over the first amendment rights of office-seekers and other citizens. And it was not the Supreme Court that stacked the deck against challengers, locking in incumbents at an unprecedented rate. No, the problem is not that the Court invalidated part of the regulators’ grand scheme; the problem is that too much of their scheme remains intact.

I believe it is time we declare “the emperor has no clothes.” It’s time to dispel the myths perpetuated by the architects of today’s failed campaign finance scheme. And while the regulators devise new such schemes on how to limit participation in elections and eliminate money from campaigns, we should look at the real problems that have been caused by their regulatory approach.

Today’s campaign finance system requires current and prospective office-holders to spend too much time raising money and not enough time governing and debating issues. The present system has failed to make elections more competitive and allows millionaires to purchase congressional seats. While a millionaire can write a check for whatever amount he or she wants to their election campaign, everyone else is forced to live under the same hard dollar limits that were put in place in 1974, which have not even been adjusted for inflation.

Today’s system hurts voters in our republic by forcing more contributors and political activists to operate outside of the system where they are unaccountable and, consequently, less responsible. The big government reformers agree with me on this point, but their solution, of course, is more regulation. Beyond being unconstitutional, more regulation, such as banning soft money and limiting issue ads (ala Shays-Meehan), will only make the system worse. I don’t often agree with my home-town newspaper, the Sacramento Bee, but last year they put out an editorial on CFR (ala Shays-Meehan), will only make the system worse.

I couldn’t agree more. Because as long as we have a shred of a Constitution left, individuals will have the ability to act independently and spend as much as they have want on political causes. So, the net result of a Shays-Meehan bill would be to push political spending even further away from the responsible candidate-centered campaign landscape.

These are the problems we face today. And before we decide which reforms should be implemented, we need to decide where we want...