

where he pursued postgraduated studies at Eastern Michigan University, the University of Michigan-Flint, and Harvard Business School. During this time, he also participated in the National Urban League Management Training and Development Program. This served as just the beginning of a long standing relationship with the Urban League.

Throughout the years, Mel worked at Flint Osteopathic Hospital as a radiologic technologist, and then moved on to lengthy and rewarding tenure with Flint Community Schools, which included positions such as teacher, special counselor, and job development and placement specialist. In September of 1968, Mel was appointed deputy executive director of the Urban League of Flint, and held the position until November of 1970, where he became president, a position he has held until this day.

In addition to his extensive work with the Urban League both locally and nationally, Mel has benefited many members of the community with his vision and insight. In the past, he has served on such boards as Genese County Commission on Substance Abuse Services, the Coalition for Positive Youth Development, the Urban Coalition of Greater Flint, and the Hurley Hospital Board of Managers, to name a few. Currently he has been involved with the boards of Disability Network, Priority 90's, the Hurley Medical Center Human Resources Committee, and he serves as Chairman of the Bishop International Airport Authority. Mel has also been found working with groups such as the NAACP, the Rotary Club, and the Genesee County Sickle Cell Anemia Foundation, among many others.

Mr. Speaker, the Flint area, as well as the entire state of Michigan has prospered due to the efforts and leadership of Melvyn Brannon. I ask my colleagues in the 106th Congress to please join me in congratulating him on his retirement.

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FLAG DAY 1999

**HON. RON PAUL**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 14, 1999*

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I wish to pay tribute to a great symbol of our nation, the flag of the United States of America on this Flag Day 1999. I wonder how frequently we take for granted this symbol, how often we fail to consider what it is and indeed what it represents.

The flag contains 13 stripes and 50 stars. Those 13 stripes represent the first thirteen states, each of which emanating from colonies of British America. These 13 colonies came together because they were opposed to continued oppression by the British executive and the British parliament. After numerous and significant entreaties seeking reconciliation, the British American came to understand that political independence and local self-government was the only way to insure against the most dangerous of tyrannies.

Was this eternal truth forgotten immediately upon the founding of our nation? Hardly. From the Articles of Confederation through to the original U.S. Constitution a clear under-

standing of the necessity of the separation of powers was maintained. And the genius of that division of powers lay only so partially in the three federal branches, each reliant upon some different direct authority but all resting government finally on the consent of the governed. Indeed, it has rightly been said that "the genius of the constitution is best summed up in that clause which reserves to the states or to the people those powers which are not specifically delegated to the federal government."

So those states came together to form a compact, indeed to form a nation and, they gave specific but limited powers to the federal government. From those original thirteen stars and stripes, representing the individual states, came one. E pluribus unum. And this is what the flag and those stripes represent.

Today the flag contains 50 stars to represent the 50 current states. From 13 came 50 and in this way "E pluribus plurimum" is also true. From many came more.

Yes, Mr. Speaker, our flag is a symbol of our Nation. It is a symbol but certainly not the sum. America means so much more to us than symbol devoid of substance. It means those rights, inalienable and indivisible, which are life, liberty and property. Property not just as an object of ownership but as an idea. Private property is indeed the bedrock of all privacy. And private enjoyment of property is not simply exemplified by the right to hold, but to use and dispose of as the owner sees fit. This is at the very essence of property, and it is in fact the meaning of the pursuit of happiness.

And those stars and stripes represent an idea about how it is that we should hope to actually realize the protection of all these rights that we as Americans hold so dear. Namely, we the people vest in those very states that formed this union, the power to legislate for the benefit of the residents thereof.

This is the idea of federalism and of local self-government. This idea is sacrosanct because it is the necessary precursor to all of those things which we hold dear, most specifically those rights I have enunciated above. Our Nation is based on federalism, and State governments, indeed the nation is created by the States which originally ratified our Constitution.

Now confusion has come upon us. We are far removed from the days of the Constitution's ratification and hence it seems we have lost that institutional memory that points to the eternal truths that document affirms.

Today there are calls to pass Federal laws and even constitutional amendments which would take from the States their powers and grant them to the Federal Government. Some of these are even done in the name of protecting the Nation, its symbol, or our liberties. How very sad that must make the Founding Fathers looking down on our institutions. Those founders held that this centralization of power was and ought always remain the very definition of "unAmerican" and they understood that any short term victory an action of such concentration might bring would be paid for with the ultimate sacrifice of our very liberties.

To do what is right we must understand and honor the symbol and the sum of our Nation. We must contemplate the flag and the con-

stitution, both of which point us to the key basis of liberty that can be found only in local self-government. Our Flag and our Constitution both honor and symbolize federalism and when we undermine federalism we dishonor our Flag, our Constitution and our heritage.

The men who founded our Nation risked the ultimate price for freedom. They pledged "their lives, their fortunes and their sacred honor" to the founding of a Republic based on local self-government. We should honor them, our Republic and its most direct symbol, our U.S. Flag by taking a stand against any rule, law or constitutional amendment which would expand the role of our Federal Government.

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MR. DICK DIXON OF SALIDA, COLORADO, HAS TOUCHED THE LIVES OF SO MANY HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

**HON. SCOTT McINNIS**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 14, 1999*

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to honor and recognize Mr. Dick Dixon of Salida, Colorado. Mr. Dixon has touched many lives as a teacher of Western History and Journalism at Salida High School, and I would like to recognize his hard work, dedication, and achievements.

Mr. Dixon is a man of great experience who has received state and national awards, dined with the Governor, and taken the Tenderfoot Times student newspaper of Salida High School to greatness. After his arrival, the student newspaper began winning numerous awards and became one of the most recognized high school newspapers in Colorado.

Mr. Dixon guided the newspaper team to three national Gold Crown awards, a Peacemaker honor and a rank as one of the top high school newspapers in the nation. Dixon also helped his students win many Colorado High School Press Association sweepstakes awards which gave them the opportunity to have lunch at the Governor's Mansion. Though students changed each year, Dixon remained consistent in his drive and dedication, and continued to inspire greatness in his staff. His strength and presence at Salida High School will truly be missed.

Mr. Dixon not only taught, but for 12 years he also worked for the Pueblo Chieftain as the Salida correspondent. His lessons came to life as students heard his words of wisdom on covering the news, and then were able to read his bylines and see his photographs in the Chieftain. Mr. Dixon led by example and his work and lessons will continue to inspire.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to say thank you to Mr. Dick Dixon for touching the lives of many and for inspiring the youth of Salida. Individuals such as Mr. Dixon who dedicate so much time and energy into shaping the minds of students and ensuring a bright future for all are to be appreciated. I would like to congratulate Mr. Dixon on a job well done and wish him the best of luck in all his future endeavors.