

our nation's children, it has assisted the agriculture community through commodity purchases.

The Secretary of Agriculture uses funds authorized by the School Lunch Act to purchase entitlement commodities, such as fruits and vegetables, which are needed by our nation's schools in order to provide balanced meals. In addition, schools receive bonus commodities that the Secretary purchases in order to reduce a surplus in the marketplace. Both the children and the agriculture community benefit from these purchases.

Since the 103rd Congress, 12 percent of the cost of school lunches was to be in the form of agricultural products purchased for schools. Last session, this law was modified at the suggestion of the Clinton Administration to allow the 12 percent commodity requirement to be met through a combination of entitlement and bonus commodities. The savings achieved as a result of this revision were used to help fund the Ticket to Work and Work Incentives Improvement Act of 1999. As a result, schools will be receiving fewer commodities because bonus commodities will be counted as part of the 12 percent commodity requirement rather than as additional commodities over and above this requirement. At the same time, purchases of agriculture commodities will also be reduced.

Mr. Speaker, there are no winners here. Schools lose, kids lose, and farmers lose. The bill I am introducing today will restore the original 12 percent commodity requirements and clarify that the only commodities to be used to fulfill this requirement are those authorized under the School Lunch Act. The Ticket to Work and Work Incentives Improvement Act of 1999 should not have been funded at the expense of an important program like the School Lunch Act.

For our children, our schools and our farmers, I encourage my colleagues to support this legislation.

---

HONORING THE MEN AND WOMEN  
OF THE FAIRFAX COUNTY POLICE  
DEPARTMENT

**HON. THOMAS M. DAVIS**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 10, 2000*

Mr. DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor those of the Fairfax County Police Department who have gone above and beyond the call of duty to serve our community. The Fairfax Chamber of Commerce is hosting the 22nd Annual Valor Awards today, Friday, February 11, 2000. The Chamber will recognize law enforcement and emergency response personnel for their acts of bravery. A Valor Award is the highest honor Fairfax County bestows upon its public safety employees.

The Valor Award recipients are selected by a committee that designates honorees for a Lifesaving Award, a Certificate of Valor, or a Gold, Silver, or Bronze Medal of Valor. This year, it is expected that 37 agency personnel will be honored for acts of bravery that demonstrated extraordinary ingenuity, judgement or zeal.

Mr. Speaker, I would be honored today to read the names of the 22 officers of the Fairfax County Police Department who will receive the 1999 Valor Awards. Receiving the Lifesaving Award: Police Officer First Class John E. Alford, Police Officer First Class Timothy C. Benedict, Second Lieutenant Michael E. Proffitt, Police Officer First Class Michael Twomey, Police Officer First Class Jeffrey L. Gossett, Sergeant Bruce K. Blechl, Police Officer First Class Scott C. Bates, Police Officer First Class Ronald H. Burke, and Police Officer First Class Aniello A. Desantis; Certificate of Valor: Police Officer First Class John R. Chadwick, Police Officer First Class Frank J. Stecco, Public Safety Communicator III Wrentree S. Kelly, Sergeant Mark S. Culin, and Police Officer First Class Christopher M. Kindelan; Bronze Medal of Valor: Auxiliary Police Officer Gary D. Treadway, Police Officer First Class Robert M. Cornell, Police Officer William A. Giger, Master Police Officer James D. Call, Lieutenant Scott C. Durham, Second Lieutenant Jack T. Hardin, and Police Officer First Class Donald E. McAuliffe; Silver Medal of Valor: Master Police Officer Robert Wahl.

In 1989, the Fairfax County Chamber of Commerce established a special fund to award scholarships to the children of Valor Award medal winners who wish to pursue post-secondary education. Support of the Scholarship Fund demonstrates the sincere appreciation of our County's public safety officers. Over the past ten years, more than one hundred generous businesses and individuals have contributed to this worthy fund, and numerous scholarships have been awarded.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I wish to thank all those who serve the Fairfax County Police Department. Since 1979, more than 250 members of the Fairfax County Police Department, Fire and Rescue Department, and the Office of the Sheriff have received Gold, Silver or Bronze Medals of Valor. I recognize the professionalism of the men and women who are honored here today. I applaud the heroic efforts the members of the Fairfax Police Department make on our behalf as we extend our appreciation to these exceptional individuals today. I commend these individuals and their colleagues for their undaunted commitment to the citizenry.

---

TRIBUTE TO GENEVA BERRIEN

**HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 10, 2000*

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor one of Brooklyn's finest entrepreneurs, Geneva Berrien.

A native of Texas, Mrs. Berrien migrated to Brooklyn, New York after spending several years in Chicago. She worked for Gimbel's Department Store before pursuing a career in hat design. She graduated from McDowell School of Design in 1948 after completing a course in millinery design. Geneva became one of Brooklyn's most popular and outstanding milliners known for her unique designs throughout New York State and the nation. It was not a "Hat Show" until "Geneva's

Originals" were shown. "Geneva's Millinery Shop" was opened in 1950 and remained a lucrative business until 1968 when she decided to operate from her home on a part-time basis. Even today, her hats are still being worn and are just as stylish as when Geneva created them.

Geneva Berrien is also known for her long service as a member of Cornerstone Baptist Church which she joined in 1947. She was active in the Victory Club and the Business and Professional Women's Division of the Missionary Society. Additionally, she served as a teacher in the Cornerstone Vacation Bible School; she participated as a Board Member of the Isaiah Whitehurst School and the Cornerstone Day Care Center. Geneva also was a faithful member of the Senior Choir and Chairlady of Women's Day in 1964. As a member of the National Council of American Baptist Women, she received citations for outstanding Christian work in the church and the Standard Leadership and Curriculum Card for her involvement in Christian Education Week activities in 1970, 1972, and 1975.

Please join me in honoring one of Brooklyn's pioneering businesswomen, Geneva Berrien.

---

HONORING MARCUS HOUSTON OF  
DENVER

**HON. DIANA DeGETTE**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 10, 2000*

Ms. DEGETTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and honor Marcus Houston, a young student from Thomas Jefferson High School in Denver who has achieved national recognition for exemplary volunteer service to his community. Mr. Houston was named one of Colorado's top honorees in the 2000 Prudential Spirit of Community Awards Program, an annual honor conferred on the most impressive student volunteers in each state, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico.

Marcus developed the "Just Say Know" program that educates middle level students about what is necessary to succeed academically, socially, and athletically in high school. Noticing the numbers of fellow students who were ineligible for participation in athletics due to poor grades or conduct, Marcus developed a motivational presentation based on his own successes. The "Just Say Know" program demonstrates how a student's personal presentation can influence his or her performance both in school and on the field. In addition to his motivational speeches, Mr. Houston developed an essay contest, which he funds out of his own pocket, that encourages students to write about what success means to them and how they plan to personally succeed.

Mr. Houston should be extremely proud to have been selected from such a large group of volunteers. I heartily applaud him for his initiative in seeking to make his community a better place to live, and for the positive impact he has had on the lives of others. Marcus has demonstrated a level of commitment and accomplishment that is truly extraordinary in today's world, and deserves our sincere admiration and respect. His actions show that young