

secondary school math. What he and his fellow panelists want is a watered-down program that all American students—as currently trained—can master.

Mathematics professor David Klein of California State University at Northridge is a proponent of solid content. He is quoted in the Chronicle of Higher Education as saying that algebra is the key course for students, the gateway to success in mathematics and to success in college in general. Leinward says that Klein's algebra-for-all position is elitist.

Here we have the central difference between the two sides. The rigorous curriculum side says that, like Japan, Taiwan, and Singapore, we can have algebra for all, preparing students for technical careers and college-level work. The water-it-down side says U.S. teachers and students aren't capable of teaching and learning algebra.

These federal recommendations are for kindergarten through high school, which has serious consequences. In essence, the U.S. Department of Education, by making these endorsements, is closing the gate on going to college or even on technical blue-collar jobs for many students. And it is closing that gate as early as kindergarten.

IN HONOR OF ALFRED RASCON

HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 10, 2000

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor a hero, former Army medic Alfred Rascon.

After a delay of nearly 3 1/2 decades, Alfred this week finally received the nation's highest military honor, the Medal of Honor.

Mr. Speaker, Alfred was born in Mexico, and moved to Oxnard, California, in my district, with his family when he was a small child. His family raised him there and instilled in him the values of honor, integrity, a love of his adopted land and a reverence for life and his fellow human beings.

At age 17, he left Oxnard and joined the Army. He trained to be a medic and a paratrooper. On March 16, 1966, in the jungles of Vietnam, Alfred was severely and repeatedly wounded as he crawled from comrade to comrade to render aid, to protect his comrades and to retrieve weapons and ammunition needed in the firefight they were in.

By the time Alfred was loaded into a helicopter, he was near death. A chaplain gave him last rites. He survived. Because of his efforts, so did his sergeant and at least one other in his platoon.

But the medal Alfred was due was lost in red tape, until this week, when the record was corrected.

During the intervening 34 years, Alfred left the Army, completed his college education, because U.S. citizen, returned to the Army, returned to Vietnam, and left the Army as a lieutenant. Now married with two children, Alfred is an inspector general for the U.S. Selective Service.

When President Clinton presented the Medal of Honor to Alfred, the hero downplayed his actions in Vietnam as "common valor that was done every day." We know differently. We know that Alfred is spe-

cial. We know we would do well to emulate his values and his humility. We honor him to remind us of the ideal American: someone who works hard, is willing to risk everything in times of crisis, and who shrugs it off as just the right thing to do.

Mr. Speaker, I know my colleagues will join me in honoring Alfred Rascon for his heroism in Vietnam 34 years ago and for being the role model he remains today.

TRIBUTE TO DR. W. LEE IRVING

HON. VERNON J. EHLERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 10, 2000

Mr. EHLERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. W. Lee Irving, who is ending his term as President of the American College of Osteopathic Obstetricians and Gynecologists. Dr. Irving has held the position since March 1999 and will relinquish his duties in April 2000 at the organization's annual meeting in Nashville, Tennessee.

Throughout his career, Dr. Irving has had a tremendous impact on the advancement of professional opportunities for obstetricians and gynecologists around the country. In addition to his role as President, Dr. Irving has worn many different hats during his career. From 1993 to 1999 he served as the College's Chairman of the Residency Evaluation Committee. From 1990 to the present he has served as a member of the College's Certifying Board and Board of Trustees. At Metropolitan Hospital in his hometown of Grand Rapids, Michigan, he served as Program Director from 1985 through 1999. He currently serves as Chairman of the Obstetrics-Gynecology Department at Metropolitan Hospital.

Contributions to his profession do not end there. He was recently appointed to the Council for Resident Education in Obstetrics and Gynecology, a national organization that oversees the training of all OB-GYN residents for both the Osteopathic and Allopathic professions. During his tenure as President, he has also been credited with fostering a closer working relationship between the American College of Osteopathic Obstetricians and Gynecologists and the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists.

Mr. Speaker, I commend Dr. Irving for the countless contributions he has made to his profession. As you can see, Mr. Speaker, Dr. Irving has had a tremendous impact in his field of expertise. I applaud him and thank him for his work as President of the American College of Osteopathic Obstetricians and Gynecologists, and wish him continued success in his work in medical and educational programs. I ask my colleagues to join me in saluting Dr. Irving for his outstanding contributions.

HONORING LOS ANGELES COUNTY UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA MEDICAL CENTER

HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 10, 2000

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Los Angeles County University of Southern California Medical Center (LAC+USC) for its outstanding commitment to community service, as recognized by the Baxter Allegiance and the American Hospital Association. Only one institution each year is awarded the prestigious Foster G. McGraw prize for innovative health-care programs and expedited access to care. LAC+USC earned that recognition this year, an especially impressive achievement given that just a few years ago this hospital was on the brink of closure.

The LAC+USC Healthcare Network has successfully identified the unique needs of its surrounding population and found creative solutions to address those needs. For example, learning that childhood asthma represented the number one cause of school absenteeism in the Los Angeles Unified School District, LAC+USC's Healthcare Network formed a partnership with the school district and the Allergy and Asthma Foundation of America to establish a Mobile Asthma Clinic. The Mobile Asthma Clinic has since reduced absenteeism by more than 20 percent for children seen by the clinic, nearly 65 percent of the children served has gained control of their asthma, and related emergency room use has declined by 18 percent. This program is just one of many innovative approaches the LAC+USC Healthcare Network has implemented to deliver top-notch health care to hard-to-serve population, others include: the Violence Intervention program, the Day Care Center, the Trauma Outreach Program and the Safe Kids program.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the Los Angeles County University of Southern California Medical Center for the extraordinary and commitment it has demonstrated in bridging the health care gap for Los Angelenos.

IN RECOGNITION OF DR. JEWELLE TAYLOR GIBBS FOR OUTSTANDING SERVICE TO THE SOCIAL WORK PROFESSION AND THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA AT BERKELEY

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 10, 2000

Mrs. LEE. Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege and an honor to stand before you today and pay tribute to an outstanding educator from the great State of California and my congressional district, Dr. Jewelle Taylor Gibbs.

After a distinguished 20 year career in teaching and research, Dr. Gibbs is retiring from the University of California at Berkeley's

School of Social Welfare, where she has served as the Zellerbach Family Fund Professor of Community Change and Practice.

Dr. Gibbs, who graduated from Radcliffe College with honors, received her M.S.W., M.A., and PhD degrees from the University of California at Berkeley. She is a licensed clinical psychologist whose areas of specialization focus on the psychosocial problems of adolescent, social and mental health issues of low-income and minority populations.

Dr. Gibbs is the authority of *Young, Black and Male in America: An Endangered Species* (1988) and co-author of *Children of Color: Psychological Interventions with Minority Youth* (1989), as well as numerous book chapters, articles and essays. In Fall of 1994, she was a Visiting Professor at the University of Toronto (Canada). She has also been a Visiting Scholar at the University of London, the National Institute of Social Work in England, McGill University (Canada), Wayne State University, and the Claremont College system.

Dr. Gibbs is a Fellow of the American Psychological Association (Div. 27) and of the American Orthopsychiatric Association. She has also served on the Board of Directors and Editorial Board of the American Orthopsychiatric Association, The Publications Board of the National Association of Social Workers and is a founding member of the Advisory Council of the National Center for Children in Poverty. She has also served as a member of the Board of Regents of Santa Clara University in Santa Clara, California and has been a consultant to the Carnegie Foundation and the Ford Foundation. From 1977-79 she served as a member of the Special Populations Task Panel of the President's Commission on Mental Health.

In 1987, Dr. Gibbs was the recipient of the McCormick Award from the American Association of Suicidology for her research on minority youth suicide. In 1990, she received an Alumnae Achievement Award from Radcliffe College, where she currently serves on the Board of Trustees. She has also received numerous other awards for her research and advocacy on behalf of African-American youth from national, state and local groups including the Northern California Chapter of the NAACP-Legal Defense and Educational Fund, the National Association for Equal Opportunity in Higher Education, the National Black Child Development Institute, the city of Detroit and the Michigan State Legislature.

In 1985, Dr. Gibbs was a Fellow at the Bunting Research Institute at Radcliffe College and from 1991-92 she was a Distinguished Visiting Scholar at the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies in Washington, D.C. In 1991, she was also selected as a Scholar for the 21st Century Commission on Black Males in Washington, D.C. She currently serves on the Presidio Advisory Council in San Francisco.

Dr. Gibbs is listed in the Who's Who of American Women, Who's Who Among Human Service Professionals, Who's Who in Education and Who's Who Among Black Americans. She has lectured in Canada, England, Japan and Hawaii and is a frequent guest on radio and television programs about youth and inner-city issues.

The above reflects just a sampling of Dr. Gibbs' illustrious career. As a trailblazer in the

area of social work, she has provided outstanding service to our nation and I am sure she will continue to do so throughout the years to come.

In closing, I congratulate Dr. Gibbs, once again, on her retirement and wish her the very best in all of her future endeavors.

30 YEARS OF THE HOUR OF POWER

HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 10, 2000

Ms. SANCHEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of a great American, Dr. Robert H. Schuller. For 30 years, The Rev. Schuller has brought his message of hope and positive thinking to the world.

The Hour of Power is now broadcast all over the world, on each and every continent, to over 30 million people in more than 200 countries. Dr. Schuller has preached in Russia and in a Damascus mosque. His show was the first ministry available to Christians in the Soviet Union in 1989.

But my friend the Rev. Schuller will tell you that his future was not so certain once upon a time. In 1955 he was preaching at a drive-in theater. He once doubted whether there was enough support for his program.

But like he constantly reminds me, "God loves you." He loves the Reverend too. And Dr. Schuller found himself blessed with the generosity he needed to begin his ministry.

On September 14, 1980, Dr. Schuller dedicated the Crystal Cathedral in Garden Grove—located in my Congressional District in Orange County, California—to the glory of man for the greater glory of God. It is now home to the worldwide Crystal Cathedral Ministries, and hosts a congregation more than 10,000 members strong as well as the Hour of Power.

The Rev. Schuller's faith saw him through those early years, and our community is not only stronger and better for it, but also closer to God. I salute Dr. Schuller today in honor of the 30th anniversary of the Hour of Power.

OPENING OF THE ARMENIAN EDUCATION, ART & COMMUNICATION CENTER IN SCOTTSDALE, ARIZONA

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 10, 2000

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, on Saturday, February 12, 2000, a ribbon cutting ceremony will be held for the opening of the Armenian Educational, Art & Communication Center and the Nikit and Eleanora Ordjanian Library-Museum, including the Personal Library of Reverend Father and Arafelian and the ACYO Computer Karam Center. This event will be held at the Armenian Apostolic Church of Arizona in Scottsdale, AZ.

This ceremony will be followed by a concert by George Mgrdichian, the world-renowned

virtuoso of the oud, a traditional Armenian instrument. Mr. Mgrdichian is the writer and performer of the Broadway musical "Nine Armenians."

Mr. Speaker, it is always a matter of great pride for me to join with the Armenian-American community in welcoming a new center for the celebration and advancement of Armenian culture. The Armenian-American community, over one million strong, has contributed in countless ways to the economy and the culture of the United States. While embodying the American Dream, the sons and daughters of Armenia who have settled in the United States have for generations striven to maintain their links to one of the most ancient and enduring cultures in the human race.

Next year, the Republic of Armenia will be the site of celebrations for the 1,700th anniversary of Christianity. Armenia is, in fact, the first nation to have embraced Christianity as its national religion. And the history of the Armenian nation, language and people goes back many centuries earlier. In the years since, despite terrible periods of war, conquest and oppression, the Armenian people have endured and preserved. Today, Armenians the world over can take pride in the tremendous strides made by the Republic of Armenia and the Republic of Nagorno Karabagh, emerging democracies that seek to establish their rightful place as members of the family of nations. The sense of pride in being Armenian can be felt in many parts of the world, from Yerevan to Stepanakert to Scottsdale, Arizona, to my hometown of Long Branch, New Jersey.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor and a privilege for me to congratulate the Armenian-American community of Scottsdale on the opening of this new facility, and to pay tribute to this important event in the pages of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JIM DeMINT

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 10, 2000

Mr. DEMINT. Mr. Speaker, I regret that I was unavoidably detained from missing votes on Tuesday of this week. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on rollcall vote 8, 9, and 10.

50TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

HON. ALBERT RUSSELL WYNN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 10, 2000

Mr. WYNN. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to bring to the attention of my colleagues an exemplary couple from the Fourth Congressional District of Maryland, Thomas and Audrey Johnson. They are celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary today Thursday, February 10th, and a role model of family strength and solidity, which has made America great.

Their commitment to each other, their family, especially Tommie, T.J., and Darius, and