

achievements earned them medals in a scholastic competition held at the NAACP national convention earlier this month.

Byron won a second-place silver medal and \$750 in scholarship money for his entry in the film making-video category at the NAACP-sponsored Afro-Academic, Cultural, Technological and Scientific Olympics (ACT SO) competition. Byron beat out more than 20 other students from across the country with his three-minute documentary cartoon about Bill Pickett, a Texas cowboy who pioneered the process of "bulldogging."

Candace won a \$500 scholarship and a third-place bronze medal in the vocal contemporary music category. Not only did Candace demonstrate her tremendous vocal skills, but she performed an original song, "A Thing Called Love."

Congratulations again to Byron Smith and Candace Guyton and the proud parents of these wonderfully talented teenagers. Your tremendous achievements in Baltimore have made our North Texas community proud. Your success in the ACT SO competition is proof that you can succeed in anything you choose.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 27, 2000

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall no. 255, I was unable to vote because of a family commitment. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye"; on rollcall no. 256, I was unable to vote because of a family commitment. Had I been present, I would have voted 'aye'; and on rollcall no. 298, I was unable to vote because of a scheduling conflict. Had I been present, I would have voted 'aye.'

RECOGNIZING RICHARD SCHWARTZ

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 27, 2000

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Richard Schwartz for the significant contributions he has made throughout the United States through his commitment to Goodwill Industries.

Richard Schwartz serves as a member of the Board of Governors of Goodwill Industries in Santa Clara County, CA, and has served on religious, organizational, and government boards in Boston, MA, and professional and health care organizations in New Jersey.

In addition to serving in the U.S. Army in Korea from 1953-1954, Richard has worked in interior design, insurance sales, and pharmaceuticals, and served as director of Government and Trade Operations and vice president of Customer and Industry Affairs for Syntex Laboratories Inc.

Richard Schwartz chaired the National Wholesale Druggist's Association health care awareness event and produced and co-directed a major health care conference at the

University of Southern California Center of Excellence in Health Care Management.

Not only has Richard Schwartz served as a member of the board and chairman of the Government Affairs Committee of Goodwill and served Santa Clara County, but he also represented 13 communities throughout the State by serving on the Council of California Goodwill Industries. After dedicated service to both the State and Goodwill Industries, Richard received the Chairman's Award by Goodwill Industries International for outstanding leadership in a volunteer capability.

Mr. Speaker, Richard Schwartz has been an active volunteer who has greatly increased the visibility of the Goodwill mission. It is appropriate that we recognize Richard at this time for his commitment and devotion to community service, the Goodwill organization and to our Nation.

DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES ASSISTANCE AND BILL OF RIGHTS ACT OF 2000

SPEECH OF

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 25, 2000

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, today we are commemorating the 10th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). This law has proven to make a tremendous impact on the lives of 54 million individuals in our country.

In the past decade, Americans with disabilities have been provided protection in employment, public services, public accommodations, as well as services operated by private entities, and transportation, telecommunications providers.

Since the passage of the ADA, millions of Americans have had the opportunity to contribute to society by being able to work in all fields of employment.

This monumental law has also allowed disabled Americans to enjoy life by increasing their access to recreational activities as well as removing obstacles to business and leisure travel.

Because of the ADA more and more individuals are able to travel with their families or guide dogs with better accommodations and less barriers. People with disabilities now have more access to shopping areas, dining facilities, theaters, travel services, and much more.

The ADA has helped to ensure equal employment opportunity as well as allowed individuals to materialize their educational and professional goals.

This law has opened up many doors to millions of Americans by allowing them to lead independent and self-sufficient lives. The ADA has been an important tool in the fight to eliminate all forms of discrimination. The ADA has provided reasonable accommodations in the workplace. The ADA has made major differences in the lives of many individuals.

Let's all celebrate the anniversary of the passage of this important law and celebrate the lives of millions of Americans.

LETTER FROM CARMEN SABRIA

HON. HOWARD P. "BUCK" McKEON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 27, 2000

Mr. McKEON. Mr. Speaker, this letter was brought to my attention by a constituent of mine in the 25th district of California, and I find it fitting to include it in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. I believe Ms. Sabria sheds a whole new light on the Elian Gonzalez case, in retrospect, and highlights many of the freedoms Americans take for granted.

LETTER TO THOSE WHO MAY NOT UNDERSTAND: Elianated yet? I am. And duly so. It seems like an unending saga and we're all sick of it by now. But after Holy Saturday's events, even I, a pretty impartial Cuban-American, feel obligated to at least help you, my Anglo-American and African-American friends understand why the Cuban community is so outraged!

To reunite a little boy with his father is a beautiful thing. To do it with a gun at his head is not! If I can remember the small trauma when I was only two years old and my father put me and my mother in the bathroom while he nailed the ironing board to the front door to protect us from a big hurricane, I am certain this six year old will never forget this day! To take a little boy back to his real home is wonderful. But Elian is not going home to Cardenas, his home town, oh no . . . He's going to an 11-room mansion in Havana where he is going to live with his parents, yes, but also with other children and some "teachers" . . . Is that "home" or an indoctrination camp?

To some of you, most of the impassioned Cubans you have seen on T.V. today may seem irrational in their desire to keep that little boy in this free land. To us who see a child miraculously saved from the treacherous, shark-filled waters of the Florida strait, after his mother risked his life and lost hers to bring him to a place where he could be raised as a free man, where his wonderful spirit could develop and his ideas find expression, it seems criminal to send him back to a country where individual thought is an abomination, and free speech a crime.

A beautiful, fertile land that could still be as it was four decades ago, the most prosperous and advanced of all Latin America, where now children can only drink milk for a few years before their "quota" is removed, where medical doctors give up their practice to work as taxi drivers so they can earn U.S. dollars to feed their families because the peso has no value anymore; where young women prostitute themselves to tourists as the only way to earn that precious "dollar" that will buy their children some shoes; where children must join the communist "pioneros" movement with their red berets and are taught to sing communist songs and hate Americans, and youngsters grow to be "Communist Youth" members and are kept from dreaming dreams by being fed stories of upcoming invasions from "the enemy"; a country where artists and writers can only produce art that follows the government line; and fathers like Juan Miguel must obey what Fidel Castro orders him to say and do rather than do what is best for his child.

Do you know that Elian's father asked for a U.S. visa twice before little Elian came, and that he called his relatives here to let them know his child was coming here with his mom?