

Department and the merged Brighton Area Fire Department since September 14, 1950. He retired from General Motors Proving Grounds in Milford, Michigan and served as Deputy Chief since 1988. Deputy Chief Bidwell was recognized by the City of Brighton Fire Department as Firefighter of the Year in 1987 and most recently, by the Michigan State Firemen's Association, as Firefighter of the Year for 2000.

Mr. Speaker, the Brighton area is very fortunate to have benefitted from the leadership, dedication, sacrifice and hard work of Deputy Chief Bidwell throughout his 50 years of service. As the leader in alarm response for the past decade, he has certainly contributed significantly to the safety and well-being of the citizens he has served. It is my honor, and indeed great pleasure, to stand in recognition of a man who has given so selflessly of his time and energy.

On behalf of the 8th district of Michigan, I would like to express my sincere appreciation for Deputy Chief Bidwell's many immeasurable contributions.

LIVIO PALLA, KERN COUNTY'S 2000  
AGRICULTURIST OF THE YEAR

**HON. WILLIAM M. THOMAS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 14, 2000*

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, I want to join my friends in the Kern County farm community in honoring Mr. Livio Palla, this year's recipient of the Agriculturist of the Year 2000.

One of the primary reasons California has been the nation's premier farm state for decades is its people. Today, many outside California are surprised to learn California is the nation's top dairy state, the nation's second largest producer of cotton and the primary source of almonds, pistachios, table grapes and other fruits and vegetables. Americans know Californians have been innovators in trying new industries, in exporting, in creating efficient ways to use land and resources and in marketing new products. Often overlooked is a key part of the development process: the hard work and dedication of California farmers themselves. This year, Kern County agriculture honors Livio Palla because we understand how hard people have had to work to make California what it is today.

Livio Palla has spent over a half century building dairy and livestock businesses in the San Joaquin Valley. Starting with 40 cows and 120 acres, he built a family operation that now includes a family full of farmers, dairy and livestock operations and almonds, cotton, corn, alfalfa and apples. He has served on industry panels that have built infrastructure Kern County farmers have been able to use to make even more progress.

By giving recognition to the lifetime of work and achievement of Mr. Palla, the Kern County farm community recognizes how important individual efforts can be. It is an important message and one I join with many others in acknowledging by extending congratulations to Livio Palla as this year's recipient of the Kern County Agriculturist of the Year.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

SPENDING FOR ARTS PROGRAMS  
IN SCHOOLS

**HON. BERNARD SANDERS**

OF VERMONT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 14, 2000*

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding work done by participants in my Student Congressional Town Meeting held this summer. These participants were part of a group of high school students from around Vermont who testified about the concerns they have as teenagers, and about what they would like to see the government do regarding these concerns.

I am submitting these statements for the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, as I believe that the views of these young persons will benefit my colleagues.

HON. BERNARD SANDERS IN THE HOUSE OF  
REPRESENTATIVES

ON BEHALF OF TOM CHICCARELLI, JOHANNES  
GAMBA AND JAMES GREENOUGH

REGARDING INCREASED SPENDING FOR ARTS  
PROGRAMS IN SCHOOLS—MAY 26, 2000

JAMES GREENOUGH: I would like to start off by saying my partners and I are very happy to be here today to present our topic. It is on art spending in schools. In experiment after experiment educators reported of high school seniors who follow instructions to perform a task, only about one-quarter wrote instructions clear enough for someone else to follow them successfully. In most instances, students left out pertinent details or key information.

Students are currently lacking in arts education. Search Institute and the asset approach giving children what they need to succeed has identified building blocks of healthy development that help young people grow up healthy, caring and responsible. Out of 100,000 6th to 12th grade youth surveyed, only 19 percent spend three or more hours per week in lessons or practicing music, theater or other arts. This is the lowest percentage of the 40 developmental assets surveyed. It reveals the absence of arts in the nation's schools and the need for improved fine arts programs.

With this in mind we recommend that the United States Government institute a fine arts framework and curriculum. The Federal Government should provide resources to schools to encourage the development of effective fine arts programs.

The arts convey knowledge and meaning not learned through the study of other subjects. They represent a form of thinking and a way of knowing that is based in human imagination and judgment. Recent statistics show of students who have taken a fine art credit for four years score 59 points higher in verbal and 44 points higher on the math sections of the SATs, significant increases.

Research also addresses examples of young people who are considered classroom failures, perhaps acting out because these students often become the high achievers in arts learning settings. Success in the arts becomes a bridge to learning and eventual success in other areas of learning.

The world of adult work has changed and the arts learning experience has shown remarkable consistency with the evolving workplace. Ideas are what matter and the ability to generate ideas. To bring ideas to life and communicate them is what matters

*September 14, 2000*

to workplace success. Working in a classroom or a studio as an artist, the young person is learning, practicing future workplace behaviors. These quotes came from Arts Ed's Webpage. "Art in all its distinct forms defines in many ways those qualities that are at the heart of education formed in the 1990s: Creativity, perseverance, a sense of standards, and above all striving for excellence," and the quote came from Richard Reilly, U.S. Secretary of Education.

HON. BERNARD SANDERS IN THE HOUSE OF  
REPRESENTATIVES

ON BEHALF OF REMEMBRANCE (REMY) HENRY  
REGARDING GRADUATED LICENSES—MAY 26, 2000

REMEMBRANCE HENRY: My name is Remembrance Henry. The State of Vermont has passed graduated licenses for teenagers. Last week I went to the Chelsea prom. Under this law my girlfriend would not have been allowed to ride in a car with me and I think this is discrimination against teenagers. Although teens are 8 percent of the population, they account for 15 percent of the motor vehicle accidents. This is a disturbing statistic, but I do not think legislation that will not allow your friends to ride in the car with me will bring down this number. It is underage drinking and peer pressure that cause the accidents.

We need to address this issue as a social, not a licensing problem. We do not empower our teenagers as a society. Of course some do go crazy and do stupid things when finally given a license, but they are in the minority. What about the majority of us that do not speed, do not get in accidents and do not drink and drive?

I lost friends last winter because of peer pressure while driving. The driver lost a dare to outrun a truck through a traffic light. Two of my friends died because of that accident, yet graduated licensing would not have prevented it. The teenager had stolen the car from his parents, and this number is reflected in the statistics. I think drunk driving laws for all citizens of Vermont should be restricted, not just teens.

Empower us as teens. We need more of a voice in our lives. Making good decisions behind the wheel begins by allowing us to make decisions within our communities. Teenagers should sit on school boards, we should have a voice at town meetings and should have the opportunity to practice citizenship before we hit a magic arbitrary age.

I thank you, Representative Sanders, for empowering me for these few minutes. I would like the legislative body of Vermont to rethink graduated licenses.

HON. BERNARD SANDERS IN THE HOUSE OF  
REPRESENTATIVES

ON BEHALF OF CASEY HUIZENGA AND LUCAS  
SMITH

REGARDING SCHOOL DRESS CODE—MAY 26, 2000

LUCAS SMITH: Our topic is school dress codes and in our age legality class that we have in high school we have kind of talked about this topic quite a bit lately. We have been talking about it quite a bit; discussing it and everything. Casey and I both feel that we should not have dress codes because we just think that it is better for children to wear what they want to wear. It is kind of a statement for them to wear their clothes. They chose them, they wear them, so I think it is a good thing that we can chose our own clothes.

CASEY HUIZENGA: I agree with Lucas. It kind of tells us about the person, what they