

September 19, 2000

BLUE RIBBON SCHOOL WINNER

**HON. RANDY "DUKE" CUNNINGHAM**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 19, 2000*

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Scripps Ranch High School in Scripps Ranch and its leaders, Principal, David LeMay and Superintendent, Alan Bersin. Scripps Ranch has been designated by the U.S. Department of Education as a National Blue Ribbon School for 2000. I am proud to inform my colleagues that my district had an amazing record of eleven schools selected for that prestigious honor this year. I would also like to note that the Academy of Our Lady of Peace right outside my district in San Diego County was also named a Blue Ribbon School. I applaud the educators, students and communities in each of the San Diego County schools who pulled together in pursuit of educational excellence.

Blue Ribbon Schools are recognized as some of the nation's most successful institutions, and they are exemplary models for achieving educational excellence throughout the nation. Not only have they demonstrated excellence in academic leadership, teaching and teacher development, and school curriculum, but they have demonstrated exceptional levels of community and parental involvement, high student achievement levels and strong safety and discipline.

After schools are nominated by state education agencies for the Blue Ribbon award, they undergo a rigorous review of their programs, plans and activities. That is followed with visits by educational experts for evaluation. Ultimately, those schools which best demonstrate strong leadership, clear vision and mission, excellent teaching and curriculum, policies and practices that keep the schools safe for learning, family involvement and evidence of high standards are selected for this prestigious award. I am pleased that they are now receiving the national recognition they are due.

As school and community leaders head to Washington for the Department of Education awards ceremony, I want to thank them once again for a job well done. More satisfying than any award, these leaders will have the lifelong satisfaction of having provided the best education possible and a better future for thou-

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

sands of children. I am proud of what they have achieved, and want to share their achievements so that more people benefit from their accomplishments. I ask that a summary of Scripps Ranch High School's superior work be included in the record:

Scripps Ranch High School, San Diego, California, opened in 1993, modeling its curriculum on Second to None: A Vision of the New California High School, the 1992 report from the California State Department of Education Task Force. Strong academics, modern technology, a wide variety of electives, block scheduling, advisory periods, and the integration of academic and career curricula are Second to None fundamentals and the foundation of the learning environment at Scripps Ranch High School (SRHS). An innovative and quality staff presently serves an ethnically diverse 2,063 student population.

All students participate in a 23-minute CORE (Career Opportunities, Reading, and Exhibitions) advisory period that meets two days each week. The CORE period is used to mentor students, promote school-to-career activities, and to advance literacy through reading. Staff members keep the same CORE students throughout their high school years. Because of this continual mentoring in a 25 to 1 ratio, each student has a link to a staff member who knows and cares about them and can refer them for assistance when a need arises. The heart and soul of SRHS lies in its staff. Their dedication to teaching and students is obvious to anyone who visits a classroom or attends an extracurricular event. Teachers not only sponsor clubs and coach teams, they attend and support student events and activities throughout the school year. This school began with pride in its foundations, continues to build on its reputation of excellence, and is ever ready to enhance its programs to benefit the students that it serves.

DEBT RELIEF LOCK-BOX RECONCILIATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2001

SPEECH OF

**HON. WALTER B. JONES**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 18, 2000*

Mr. JONES of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, I rise today to urge my colleagues to

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support the Debt Relief Lockbox Reconciliation Act.

According to the Department of Treasury, our national debt stands at over \$5.6 trillion. Every man, woman, and child owes \$21,000 for that debt. Even in these strong economic times, that debt remains an albatross over the prosperity of future generations. This legislation takes steps to correct that problem. It would ensure that the vast majority of the surplus is reserved for two important purposes: (1) to ensure that the Medicare and Social Security are preserved and (2) to reduce the public debt. We have a moral obligation to uphold these principles. Not only are they critical to Americans today, but they will greatly impact American generations of tomorrow.

The bill introduced by my friend and colleague from Kentucky would reduce the publicly held debt by an additional \$240 billion in FY01 and would protect all of the Social Security and Medicare surpluses. By using 90% of the projected FY01 surplus, we are making a good-faith, common-sense effort to put an end to all publicly held debt by 2012, keeping with the promises made when I was first elected in 1994. Instead of spending this money on more unnecessary federal programs in Washington, we are putting a real downpayment on a better future for America. I urge my colleagues to join me this week in voting that future.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. WALTER B. JONES**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 19, 2000*

Mr. JONES of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, last night I was meeting with constituents in North Carolina and unavoidably missed rollcall votes 477 and 478.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on rollcall vote No. 477 and "yes" on rollcall vote No. 478.