

Paul is not only an exceptional athlete, he is also a role model for the young people of America. Despite squeezing two daily practices in between his classes, he is an honor student at Waukesha South High School. Even though he has missed the entire fall semester, he intends to graduate with the rest of his class next spring. Paul's successes, both in the gym and in the classroom, prove just how much can be accomplished through hard work and dedication.

And so it is with great pleasure that I congratulate Paul Hamm on his Olympic accomplishments, and wish him all the best as he looks forward to a long career leading the U.S. men's gymnastics team into the new century.

TRIBUTE TO CONGRESSMAN TOM
BLILEY

SPEECH OF

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 12, 2000

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I am going to miss TOM BLILEY. He has been wonderful to work with—always a man of his word, always a gentleman, consistent and honorable in his philosophical approach to government.

We worked together as Chairman and Ranking Member of the old House District of Columbia Committee on a bipartisan basis, reflecting the joint agreement among liberal and the conservative ideas that there should be minimal interference in the internal, local affairs of a group of U.S. citizens who do not have all the rights and privileges of the rest of the nation.

This year, we have worked together to expose the outrageous behavior of some of the nation's largest pharmaceutical manufacturers in abusing Medicare, Medicaid, private insurers, and patients through falsified pricing data. The drug companies are huge contributors to both parties, but Chairman BLILEY has subpoenaed and exposed internal company documents that describe a conspiracy against the American people by companies like Glaxo, Pharmacia, and others. I know there was tremendous pressure not to expose these documents, but Chairman BLILEY did the right thing.

The Nation will miss, I will miss Chairman BLILEY's courtly, quiet presence, and I hope he will stay in contact with us in the years ahead.

HONORING THE CALIFORNIA CONSERVATION CORPS AND THE CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 17, 2000

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the California Conservation Corps and the California Department of Conservation.

The partnership between these agencies have spawned the Salmon Restoration Pro-

gram. Since 1980 the Salmon Restoration Program has improved more than 1,000 stream miles, presented more than 65,000 hours of watershed curricula to tens of thousands of Californians, worked in hundreds of watersheds, and planted well over one million trees.

The California Conservation Corps and the California Department of Conservation are at the forefront of the science of stream salmonid habitat restoration. The Salmon Restoration Program is the largest and longest running project of its kind in the country.

Mr. Speaker, because salmon restoration is an issue of national importance, and because the Salmon Restoration Project has reduced the decline in salmon population, it is appropriate at this time that we acknowledge the outstanding efforts and twenty-year anniversary of California's Salmon Restoration Project.

BUILDING SKILLS FOR AMERICA

HON. TOM SAWYER

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 17, 2000

Mr. SAWYER. Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday September 20, 2000, more than 300 students from across the country converged to support the Skills USA-VICA's "Building Skills for America" campaign.

These students collected more than 200,000 signatures from business and industry in support of worker training. The enclosed letter, which was signed by forty members of Congress, recognizes the fine work of the students of Skills USA-VICA. I submit the following letter into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
Washington, DC, September 26, 2000.

SKILLS USA-VICA,
*P.O. Box 3000,
Leesburg, VA.*

DEAR STUDENTS: The undersigned Members of Congress applaud and congratulate your participation in the "Building Skills for America" campaign.

America is projected to have 50.6 million job openings between now and 2006, most of which will require highly developed skills. Unfortunately, employers across the country are experiencing difficulty finding enough qualified, skilled employees. This shortage is a threat to our strong economy and hampers the ability of American businesses to compete successfully.

Our nation can do more to promote careers in skilled occupations. Programs such as Skills USA-VICA's "Building Skills for America" demonstrate the strong support for vocational and technical education, as students were able to collect more than 200,000 signatures from business and industry that support worker training.

The "Building Skills for America" campaign is also important because it brings students together with the business and industry that will be their future employers. These partnerships provide students with the occupational and professional experience they need to succeed in the workplace, while at the same time increasing the pool from which industry can draw capable employees.

All of you who have participated in the "Building Skills for America" campaign

should be proud of your accomplishment. We congratulate you for this impressive achievement, and look forward to working with you to ensure that we continue to build a strong and productive American workforce.

Sincerely,

Tom Sawyer, John Peterson, and 43 other
Members of Congress.

CONGRATULATIONS TO MORGAN
HAMM OF WAUKESHA, WIS-
CONSIN, ON HIS OLYMPIC PER-
FORMANCE

HON. GERALD D. KLECKZA

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 17, 2000

Mr. KLECKZA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor 18 year-old Morgan Hamm of Waukesha, Wisconsin, on his accomplishments in the 2000 Summer Olympics in Sydney, Australia. In August Morgan and his brother Paul became the second youngest gymnasts to ever qualify for the United States' men's team. The Hamms are also the first set of twins in U.S. Olympic gymnastics history.

Morgan beat out stiff competition to earn an at-large berth onto the team. He returned from Sydney with a 7th place finish in the floor competition. In southeastern Wisconsin the excitement of the Olympics was heightened this year by the knowledge that we would have two home town heroes competing half way around the world.

Morgan's accomplishments are not confined to the gymnasium. Despite squeezing two daily practices in between his classes, he is an honor student at Waukesha South High School. After missing a full semester to tour with the Olympic team, Morgan still intends to graduate with the rest of his class next spring.

As much work as Morgan has put into reaching his goals, he could not have made it on his own. Competing with Paul pushed both twins to be their very best. The sacrifices of their parents, Sandy and Cecily, have provided the Hamms with the opportunity to excel.

The years of work with his brother, their sister Betsy and their coach, Stacy Maloney, has earned Morgan the right to compete with the best in the world. To reach the Olympic stature at such a young age and with relatively little experience in major events is truly amazing.

And so it is with great pleasure that I congratulate Morgan Hamm on all that he accomplished thus far, and wish him all the best in his Olympic endeavors still to come.

RAISING AWARENESS FOR
ANGELMAN'S SYNDROME

HON. RANDY "DUKE" CUNNINGHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 17, 2000

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss Angelman's Syndrome after a tragic circumstance in my district illustrated the need for greater awareness of this little known and often misunderstood disease.