

October 25, 2000

OLDER AMERICANS ACT
AMENDMENTS OF 2000

SPEECH OF

HON. PATSY T. MINK

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 24, 2000

Mrs. MINK of Hawaii. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 782, the Older Americans Act Amendments of 2000. I am delighted that we are at long last reauthorizing this very popular program that has helped to improve the lives of America's seniors since it was first established in 1965, my first year in Congress.

Reauthorization of the Older Americans Act (OAA) is long overdue. Authorization of programs under OAA expired at the end of fiscal year 1995. Nonetheless, Congress has continued to appropriate funds for OAA programs. These programs have earned broad bipartisan support.

H.R. 782 contains several provisions that will strengthen the Older Americans Act, including establishment of the National Caregiver Program to aid families in caring for frail elders and for grandparents caring for grandchildren. This program, authorized at \$125 million, provides grants to states for a multi-faceted system of supportive services including information, assistance, counseling, and respite services.

The bill also provides new demonstration programs on domestic violence, rural health, computer training, and transportation. H.R. 782 authorizes as permanent two current demonstration programs—the Eldercare Locator Service and the Pension Rights and Counseling Program.

These are in addition to the mainstays of the Older Americans Act: elderly nutrition programs that provide congregate and home-delivered meals to over 3 million older persons annually; the Senior Community Service Employment Program, which provides opportunities for part-time employment in community service activities for unemployed, low-income older persons; and elder abuse prevention and long-term care ombudsman programs.

I am very pleased to be given an opportunity to reauthorize this vital legislation, which makes a tremendous difference in the lives of our senior citizens.

TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE TOM
EWING ON HIS RETIREMENT
FROM CONGRESS

SPEECH OF

HON. PHILIP M. CRANE

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 24, 2000

Mr. CRANE. Mr. Speaker, I have served with TOM EWING since he was elected in a special election on July 2, 1991. TOM is one of a handful of members who serve on four committees: Agriculture; Transportation and Infrastructure; Science; and Administration. He is also a member of the President's Export Council. TOM represents the 15th District of Illinois, which covers the east central portion of

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our great state. Before his election to Congress, TOM served 17 years in the Illinois House of Representatives. He was the Assistant Republican Leader of the House from 1982 to 1990 and was named Deputy Minority Leader in 1990. During his tenure in the Illinois General Assembly and as a member of the U.S. House of Representatives, TOM has received numerous state and national awards from business, education, environmental, senior citizens and agricultural organizations. He has been recognized for his leadership in the areas of crime prevention, welfare reform, economic growth and health care.

TOM's emphasis on fiscal integrity and personal responsibility has earned him praise from such groups as the United States Chamber of Commerce, the 60/Plus Senior Citizens Association, the United Seniors Association, the Council for Citizens Against Government Waste, and Americans for Tax Reform. In Congress, TOM has made balancing the budget, reducing the national debt, preserving Social Security, sending more money directly to the classroom and healthcare his top priorities. I know first hand from visiting with farmers in TOM's district that he has been a stalwart champion of agriculture issues and the opening of new, foreign markets for United States agriculture products. I want to wish TOM and his wife Connie all the best as they head toward their golden years.

TURN ON THE LIGHTS! MAKE
EVERY SCHOOL A COMMUNITY
SCHOOL

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 25, 2000

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, "Turn on the Lights! Make Every School a Community School," is the theme of the 19th annual National Community Education Day to be observed in communities across the country on Tuesday, November 14, 2000.

Sponsored by the National Community Education Association (NCEA), this special day was established in 1982 to recognize and promote strong working partnerships between schools and communities. In my hometown of Flint, Michigan the day will be celebrated with a Community Education Breakfast for 250 people representing school districts and communities across Genesee County. The featured speaker will be John Windom, the Director of Community Education in St. Louis, Missouri.

Community Education Day in 2000 calls attention to the benefits of the community school, a school that is open beyond the regular school day—in the evenings, on the weekends, during the summer—to all members of the community.

The 20,000 community schools across the country focus on meeting community needs with community resources. Differing from community to community, needs range from health and nutrition services, to literacy training, social services, school-age care, extended day programs, career retraining, workforce preparation, continuing education, and recreation opportunities.

Community schools foster community involvement. They are places where community members can meet to learn, to have fun, to tackle issues. They provide safe, nurturing environments for children and youth.

Schools can serve their communities beyond the traditional six hour day and 180-day school year. Located in most neighborhoods, they're easily accessible, they belong to the public, they have good resources, and their traditional hours leave lots of time for other uses.

National Community Education Day is co-sponsored by over 35 organizations, including the Alliance for Children and Families, the Childrens Defense Fund, the Council of Chief State School Officers, the National PTA, the National Assembly of Health and Human Service Organizations, and the U.S. Department of Education.

I am pleased to stand before you today to support our community schools and the fine work being done by the National Center for Community Education in Flint, Michigan. The contributions that community education has made to millions of children and families deserve the recognition of the United States Congress.

BEVERLY SAN AGUSTIN: GUAM'S
2001 TEACHER OF THE YEAR

HON. ROBERT A. UNDERWOOD

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 25, 2000

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to announce the winner of Guam's 2001 Teacher of the Year Award, Beverly San Agustín.

Beverly teaches Social Studies and American Government at Simon Sanchez High School. Her unique educational and motivational techniques as well as her desire to reach out to every student have distinguished her among her hard working colleagues. Her selection was based on interviews and classroom observations. Beverly also makes extra efforts to see that her classes are learning to their potential and preparing themselves for the demands of the 21st century. A 22-year veteran in the field of education, Beverly's efforts to increase the credibility of teaching as a profession is designed to entice and encourage a new generation of students into following her in this most honorable profession.

As Teacher of the Year, she will be visiting us here in Washington, D.C. while representing Guam at the National Teacher of the Year announcement ceremony. In addition, she will also be the island's representative in a number of Teacher of the Year activities throughout the 2000–2001 school year. These include Space Camp and the National Teacher of the Year Forum.

Also worth mentioning are the finalists: Monina Sunga of Vicente Benavente Middle School, Cheryle Jenson of Price Elementary School, John Randolph Coffman of P.C. Lujan Elementary School, and Alvaro Abaday of my alma mater, John F. Kennedy High School. Ms. Jenson, a first grade teacher, was the runner-up.