

people who best know the needs of the children: local communities and parents. The key to doing so is to return control of the education dollar back to the American people.

In order to give control of education back to the people I have introduced the Family Education Freedom Act (HR 935). This bill provides parents with a \$3,000 per child tax credit for K-12 education expenses.

The Family Education Freedom Act fulfills the American people's goal of greater control over their children's education by simply allowing parents to keep more of their hard-earned money to spend on education rather than force them to send it to Washington to support education programs reflective of the values and priorities of Congress and the federal bureaucracy.

The Family Education Freedom Act will help parents strengthen their child's public education. Parents may use the credit to improve schools by helping to finance the purchase of education tools such as computers or extra-curricular activities such as music programs. Parents of public school students may also wish to use the credit to pay for special services for their children.

I have also introduced the Teacher Tax Cut (HR 937), which provides a \$1,000 tax credit for every teacher in America. Quality education is impossible without quality teaching. Yet, America's teachers remain underpaid compared to other professionals. Adding insult to injury, teachers often have to use their own money to purchase supplies for their classroom. For example, according to the Association of Texas Professional Educators, many Texas teachers spent between \$50-300 of their own money on school supplies during the 1998-99 school year!

Because America's teachers are underpaid because they are overtaxed, the best way to raise teacher take-home pay is to reduce their taxes. Raising teachers' take-home pay via a \$1,000 tax credit lets teachers know the American people and the Congress respect their work and encourages high-quality people to enter, and remain in, the teaching profession. I have also introduced the Education Improvement Tax Cut (HR 936), which provides a \$3,000 tax credit for cash or in-kind donations to public schools to support academic or extra-curricular programs. This legislation encourages local-citizens and community leaders to help strengthen local public schools. The Education Improvement Tax Cut Act also ensures that education funding matches the needs of individual communities. People in one community may use this credit to purchase computers, while children in another community may, at last, have access to a quality music program because of community leaders who took advantage of the tax credit contained in this bill.

Mr. Speaker, my education agenda of returning control over the education dollar to the American people is the best way to strengthen public education. First of all, unlike plans to expand the federal education bureaucracy, my bills are free of "guidelines" and restrictions that dilute the actual number of dollars spent to educate a child. In addition, the money does not have to go through federal and state bureaucrats, each of whom get a cut, before it reaches the classroom. Returning power

over the education dollar to the American people will also free public school teachers, administrators and principals from having to comply with numerous federal mandates. Therefore, school personnel will be able to devote their time to working with parents and other concerned citizens to make sure all children are receiving the best possible education.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, I once again extend my thanks to all those who are involved in the education of our nation's children. I also call upon my colleagues to help strengthen public schools by returning control over the education dollar to parents and other concerned citizens, as well as raising teacher take-home pay by cutting their taxes, so that the American people can once again make the American education system the envy of the world.

IN HONOR OF LONNIE R. ANDERSON—WHITLEY COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS AND WINNER OF F.L. DUPREE AWARD FOR EXEMPLARY CONTRIBUTIONS TO EDUCATION

HON. HAROLD ROGERS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 9, 2000

Mr. ROGERS. Mr. Speaker, we often hear about grand, universal plans for making positive changes in our nation's public education system. None of these plans, however, can substitute for the daily effort of educators working at the local level. It is these dedicated professionals, in tens of thousands of local school districts across the nation, who bear the responsibility for touching the lives of the students in their communities. These educators hold the key to the transformation of our nation's system of education—one student at a time.

Today, I want to honor one such professional in Whitley County, Kentucky. The Kentucky School Boards Association (KSBA) has recognized my constituent, Whitley School Superintendent Lonnie R. Anderson, for his distinguished service to the field of education. He has been awarded the KBSA's annual F.L. Dupree Award for exemplary contributions to education. The family of the late F.L. Dupree, Sr., a Lexington businessman and supporter of Kentucky public schools sponsors the award.

Superintendent Anderson has worked tirelessly for the parents and students served by the Whitley County School District over the past nine years. Through his hard work and dedication, he has been a driving force in bringing about positive changes in the school district, as well as the surrounding community.

Lonnie Anderson accepted the school district's top job in 1991 when the district ranked last among Kentucky's 176 public school districts and the county schools were required to be under state management. In 1999, after nearly a decade of Superintendent Anderson's leadership, the Whitley County School District was measured as one of the top districts in the state for academic improvement. During this period, the district has twice earned "re-

wards" rankings through the state's system of school assessment and accountability.

Superintendent Anderson is an alumnus of Cumberland College, Union College, and Eastern Kentucky University. He began his education career as a classroom teacher and coordinator of the gifted and talented program in Whitley County. Through a total of 17 years with the school district, he has also served as athletic director, food service director, Chapter I coordinator, and public relations coordinator.

In a recent article in the Corbin (KY) News-Journal, Anderson is credited with the following achievements for the Whitley County School District:

Augmented the district's reading curriculum with the Accelerated Reader Program and the Reading Coaches Program, which pairs high school students with at-risk second and third-graders. Anderson also employs a district reading specialist, established the Even Start Family Literacy Program for parents of young children and initiated a summer reading program.

Directed a school facility modernization effort that built three new elementary schools and established an alternative school. The program also resulted in a new science wing, library and kitchen at Whitley County High School and renovated a middle school and four elementary schools.

Developed the Parents as Volunteer Educators Program (PAVE), in which 600 parents now participate.

Implemented a cash management program that increased earnings on investments from \$52,545 in 1990 to \$332,986 in 1999.

Introduced an energy program with a utilities cost avoidance of over \$150,000 since its implementation in 1998.

Established a newspaper for the school district, The District Ed News, that spotlights student and school achievements and is distributed to every household in the district.

Initiated HEROES (Honoring Educators/Staff Recognizing Outstanding and Extraordinary Services) to honor staff members for years of service to the district.

United five separate adult education providers into one comprehensive program now serving twice the number of people.

One principal who supported Superintendent Anderson's nomination of this prestigious award correctly described him as "an agent of positive change" for the Whitley County School District.

I join educators, parents and students in Whitley County and across Kentucky in congratulating Superintendent Lonnie R. Anderson for being selected for this distinguished award and recognize his outstanding leadership and continued contribution to public education.

"A SOLDIERS STORY" TRIBUTE TO MR. WILLIAM ELLIS

HON. DAVE CAMP

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 9, 2000

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. William Ellis, a decorated soldier