

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

QUALITY TEACHER RECRUITMENT ACT OF 2000

HON. LINDSEY O. GRAHAM

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 15, 2000

Mr. GRAHAM. Mr. Speaker, last week Representative GEORGE MILLER, Representative DALE KILDEE and I introduced the Quality Teacher Recruitment Act of 2000. This bipartisan bill will help recruit high-quality teachers for the low income school districts that need them most.

The Quality Teacher Recruitment Act of 2000 will allow new teachers to have their federal education loans forgiven up to \$17,750 after teaching in an eligible school for five consecutive years. This bill is a win for everyone: school districts will have an easier time recruiting high-quality teachers and new teachers will have their commitment to high-need schools rewarded by allowing them to significantly reduce their student loan debt. Most importantly, students will benefit from having highly qualified teachers in their classrooms.

In 1998, Congress passed and the President signed into law the Higher Education Amendments. This bill provided up to \$5,000 in student loan forgiveness for teachers that taught for five years in a Title I school with 30 percent or higher poverty. In addition, this provision required that eligible secondary teachers have a relevant major to the area in which they were teaching and that eligible elementary school teachers were certified in reading, writing, math and other areas of curriculum as determined by the local school officials.

The \$5,000 in loan forgiveness now offered is helpful, however, education majors graduate with an average of \$17,750 in federal student loans. The Quality Teacher Recruitment Act of 2000 will improve on the existing loan forgiveness in the Higher Education Amendments by allowing qualifying teachers to have their loans forgiven up to this higher amount.

The Quality Teacher Recruitment Act of 2000 will benefit teachers, students, and school districts across the country. Whether it is a low income school in rural America, or a high poverty urban district, schools who have had historically difficult times recruiting teachers will profit from the Quality Teacher Recruitment Act of 2000.

TRIBUTE TO JUDGE NICHOLAS H. POLITAN

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 15, 2000

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to call to your attention the deeds of an important

member of my district, Nicholas Politan of West Orange, New Jersey. Nicholas is being honored tonight with the 58th Annual Humanitarian Award from the Columbian Foundation, because of his years of service to the community. It is only fitting that he is honored, for he epitomizes caring and generosity of spirit.

Judge Politan, a life-long resident of Essex County, is a graduate of Arts High School and Rutgers University, Newark, New Jersey. He furthered his education at Rutgers Law School, where he served as Managing Editor of its Law Review.

Nicholas has always been a community leader. In 1960, he served as a Law Clerk to the Honorable Gerald McLaughlin, a Judge on the United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit. Following this trend in civic awareness Nicholas decided to open a law practice with his friend and partner James Cecchi in 1961. The time spent working in his practice instilled in him the attributes necessary for him to become the stellar force in the community he has now become. It was the small steps in the beginning of his career that taught him the fundamentals that would make him a role model to the people that he now serves.

Known for a questioning mind and an ability to get things done, Nicholas Politan worked in Lyndhurst, and practiced in many areas of the law. Along with his partner, he has served as both Director and Principal of the County Trust Company from 1980 through 1987. Politan's rise to higher office came with a personal call from President Ronald Reagan, who nominated him to the United States District Court.

On December 14, 1987 Judge Politan was sworn as United States District Court Judge. He has since presided over many significant and controversial cases. He has always served the people well, and remained fair and impartial. Described as affable and disarming by his colleagues, Judge Politan has proven that he has the intellectual integrity and fortitude to make difficult decisions.

Receiving the Columbian Foundation's Annual Humanitarian Award is a prestigious honor. The organization was founded in 1941 by business and professional men of Italian descent from Newark and the surrounding communities. The group's Annual Awards Dinner honors individual achievements. The Humanitarian Award is bestowed upon a man or woman that displays outstanding accomplishments, while supporting the works of the Foundation. These works include college scholarships for needy students, contributions to children's welfare and charitable organizations, donations to Columbus Hospital, the establishment of the Italian Institute of Seton Hall University and the support of similar programs at other colleges, universities and hospitals.

Nicholas, a native of Newark, was born on the city's West Side. A current resident of West Orange, he lives with his wife for forty years, Marian. The couple has two sons, Nick and Vincent and five grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join me, our colleagues, Nicholas' family and friends, the members of the Columbian Foundation, and the State of New Jersey in recognizing Nicholas H. Politan as a Columbian Foundation 1999 Honoree.

TRIBUTE TO LOIS KOENIG

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 15, 2000

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Lois Koenig, a dedicated citizen and employee of San Mateo County, CA, who is retiring after more than 20 years of service to her community as Manager in the Human Services Agency.

Lois Koenig's distinguished career in public service is exceptional. During her tenure at the Human Services Agency, Lois designed many special projects including Intake Process, GAIN, and the GIS automation system. As Assistant to the Director, Lois was instrumental in bringing together the implementation of SUCCESS, San Mateo County's version of the California welfare reform program, CalWORK's. She also played a key role in developing the Human Services Strategic Plan which identified three outcomes which were used to measure the success of SUCCESS.

Lois Koenig has also served as a leader and mentor to other volunteers and has inspired many in her community to volunteer. Her leadership and exemplary work in volunteer services earned her outstanding and deserving recognition from the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors. In 1998, she was chosen for the Outstanding Community Service by Women Award in Management and also voted Volunteer of the Year by the Mid-Peninsula YMCA.

Lois Koenig's contributions and accomplishments include working with ten major non-profit organizations in the County of San Mateo, Assisting them in raising funds, training their staff in budgeting and financial strategy skills, and helping to raise more than a quarter of a million dollars a year for the citizens of San Mateo County. Lois cochaired the Crystal Springs Trail Day Fundraising Events in 1997 and 1998 and raised funds for the upkeep of trails and the expansion of Sawyer Camp Trail in San Mateo County. She was also a member of the 1994 Tenth Annual San Mateo County Women's Hall of Fame Committee.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in paying tribute to an exceptional person who has given much for the betterment of her community and our country.

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.