

What is even more disturbing is the simple fact that for a small 3–5% add-on cost to the manufacturers for flame-retardant measures (on average, the cost of three pizzas, \$20–\$30) a sofa can be made safe and potentially save lives. Even more telling is the fact that price studies have revealed that flame-resistant sofas purchased at retail outlets in California were priced equal to, or in some cases less, than identical, non-flame-resistant products purchased from that same furniture retailer at a location outside of California.

This legislation would save lives. The time has come to take action. We can not allow one more person to die unnecessarily from an upholstered furniture fire. I urge my colleagues to support this effort.

RETIREMENT OF MCEACHERN
HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPAL RALPH
WILLIAMS

HON. BOB BARR

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 3, 2000

Mr. BARR of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, it is with great admiration—and some sadness—that I honor Principal Ralph Williams, as he plans for his announced retirement from the Cobb County School system and McEachern High School. Principal Ralph Williams came to Cobb County from Tennessee in 1972, to serve as administrative assistant for Pebblebrook High School. He later served as an administrator for Pebblebrook, Wheeler and North Cobb, before accepting his current position as principal of McEachern High School in 1982. For the past 18 years he has served the students of McEachern with honor and integrity; tirelessly devoting himself to the west Cobb community and this outstanding school.

McEachern High School has an extensive history in the community. It was founded in 1908 as an Agricultural and Mechanical School, with financial support and donated land from John Newton McEachern, co-founder of the Life of Georgia Insurance Company. In 1933, when A & M schools were abandoned, the community opened the Macland Consolidated School to continue to serve the educational needs of the community. In 1938 the school was renamed John McEachern Schools, providing educational opportunities to students from first through eleventh grade.

In 1980, McEachern became a comprehensive high school, and is widely recognized as one of the very top high schools in the entire state of Georgia. Enrollment now approaches 3,000 students. The presence of Principal Williams on campus of McEachern High School will be greatly missed. His dedication and commitment to educating the young people of his community has made a lasting impression on two decades of Cobb citizens. We will miss him greatly and wish him the best as he moves into this new phase of his life.

CONGRATULATING BRITTANY
HEATH OF THE 19TH DISTRICT
OF TEXAS

HON. LARRY COMBEST

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 3, 2000

Mr. COMBEST. Mr. Speaker, today, I congratulate a young lady from the 19th District of Texas who has earned national recognition for her outstanding volunteer service. Miss Brittany Heath, a 13-year-old student from Lubbock, has been named one of Texas' top two youth volunteers for the year 2000 in The Prudential Spirit of Community Awards program, a national initiative honoring young people for exemplary acts of service.

Brittany, an eighth grade student at Evans Junior High School, initiated a chapter of "Suitcase for Kids" which collects, cleans, and distributes used suitcases to children in foster care. During her program's first year, more than 400 suitcases were given to children within the community. The Lubbock Children's Protective Services program and the Community Partnership Program Sponsored Brittany by providing a storage facility for donations. Brittany set up a voice mailbox for donor calls, designed business cards, composed a brochure, and contacted the local newspaper. During the first two days of operation, more than 100 messages were received from individuals offering donations and assistance. Community support has been overwhelming, and Brittany plans to expand "Suitcases for Kids" to other counties around Luddock. She says as long as children are in foster care, there will be a need for this program.

The Prudential Spirit of Community Awards was created by The Prudential Insurance Company of America in partnership with the National Association of Secondary School Principals in 1995 to encourage youth volunteers and emphasize the importance and value of their contributions. Brittany was nominated by Evans Junior High School and selected from more than 20,000 high school and middle school students. She has received \$1,000, an engraved silver medallion, and an all-expense paid trip to Washington, D.C. This program is the nation's largest youth recognition effort based solely on community service.

At a time when our nation has seen a lack of community involvement from our youth and violence in our schools, it is good to be reminded that many young people are actively contributing to our society and working to make a difference where they live. We can learn a great deal from Brittany's exceptional act of volunteerism. We should all reflect upon how we, as individuals, can work together in our own communities to improve the lives of others and establish a brighter tomorrow.

IN RECOGNITION OF MS. DONNA
OSBORN

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 3, 2000

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ms. Donna Osborn, who has

worked in my office as an Albert Einstein fellow since July 1999. The Albert Einstein Distinguished Educator Fellowship Program offers elementary and secondary teachers with demonstrated excellence in teaching an opportunity to serve in the national public policy arena.

Since Donna's arrival in my office, she has handled all education issues—elementary, secondary, and higher education—as well as children's issues. She researches legislation, updates me on changing information, and answers constituent mail on these topics. Donna has also been invaluable in other areas of my office. I can guarantee you that she now knows more about steel manufacturing and bulletproof vests than she ever imagined she would. She is the first person to volunteer for any task, and greets every visitor with a warm welcome. Her enthusiasm is contagious.

Donna has not been a passive member of my staff, rather she has taken initiative and vigorously pursued projects that she believed would be valuable to my constituents. First, she organized and planned a grants workshop for all of the schools in Indiana's First Congressional District. Several Einstein Fellows and other individuals from Washington and Indiana provided educators with information on obtaining grants and other educational opportunities for students. She also reached out to our community, working with local businesses and organizations to include them in the event, and securing their place as stakeholders in the education of our children. This workshop was a very successful event, and would not have been possible without Donna's initiative and hard work.

Donna was also integral to the implementation of the Missing Child Alert Plan in Indiana's First Congressional District. The Missing Child Alert Plan gives detailed information about a missing child and the suspected abductor utilizing a joint police-media effort to alert the public when a child has been abducted. Donna worked closely with my staff and local police departments and media outlets, to get this program off to a successful start. The Missing Child Alert Plan has been successful in recovering missing children in other areas of the country. Thanks to Donna's hard work, Northwest Indiana is one of only 11 areas of the country with such a program. Activating the alert often receives considerable press attention, which increases the reach of the emergency announcement—enlisting hundreds of thousands of people in their search parties. Leads usually pour into police departments within hours. In addition to the Missing Child Alert Program, Donna saw to it that a picture of a missing child from the First Congressional District appears on each of my office envelopes. The first set features five children, one each from Gary and Hebron, and three from Hammond.

The zeal that Donna brought to my office must be even more apparent to her classroom. Donna has taught mathematics in Lafayette School Corporation in Lafayette, Indiana since 1972, and is currently a mathematics teacher at Jefferson High School. She is a graduate from Anderson College, with a degree in mathematics. Her master's degree is from Purdue University. She was a Christa McAuliffe fellow in 1998 and a Tandy scholar