

their biggest challenges are inadequate classroom funding and student discipline problems. More and more excellent teachers are leaving their field due to the stress brought on by school violence and discipline problems."

Henry Young of Muncie, Indiana made this point: "Proximity generally facilitates perception of needs. Accordingly, states may well be better informed of regional exigencies than federal management. However, local management of public schools . . . is the better level of government to direct public schools."

From Anderson, Indiana, Sandra Wilson wrote, "One recruiter, which contracted one of my children, took his red pen out and corrected the letter of reference the high school English teacher had written. I had not pre-read this letter and obviously that was my mistake assuming an English teacher would be grammatically correct as well as being able to spell correctly . . . Teachers need to be accountable. They need an end product accountability. If a teacher is teaching English, should not the students be learning English?"

Mrs. Ann Weldy of Markleville, Indiana asked two insightful questions: "How can teachers discipline well when they are not allowed to teach character building? How can we effectively discipline children, in order to create a better society, when the system is poor at disciplining itself?"

David Shepard, Professor Emeritus at Ball State University in Muncie stated, "The present program of aid to education certainly does not put money into the classroom but into the education bureaucracy and into more and more methods courses at the expense of content courses."

Said David Webster of Hope, Indiana, "I am an elementary teacher in a public school. For 26 years, I have been entrusted with the lives of fifth graders. There are many individuals and groups continually striving to help children have the best education possible; however, I am becoming increasingly concerned about upper elementary class sizes."

Mr. Rufus Cochran states, "If you truly care about the state of education, consult classroom and special education teachers . . . Disruptive children and their parents are running our schools, because schools have been either stripped of their authorities or strongly discouraged from discipline for fear of lawsuits."

Mr. Speaker, although these suggestions come from different areas of the district, they focus on similar themes. To be successful, education reform should drive more dollars to the classroom, strengthen school safety and discipline, enhance local control, and enact accountability measures. I am proud to say that I and my colleagues on the Committee on Education and the Workforce have made great strides in these areas.

To empower teachers to maintain classroom discipline, I introduced legislation to provide limited civil litigation immunity for educators who engage in reasonable actions to maintain an orderly, safe, and positive education environment. As an amendment to the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, the provision passed overwhelmingly.

To strengthen state and local involvement in education, Congress passed the Education Flexibility Act which allows eligible states and

school districts greater flexibility in trying innovative education reforms using federal funds. This bill was signed into law on April 29, 1999.

Building on the success of this law, the House of Representatives also passed the Academic Achievement for All Act which allows even greater state and local flexibility in exchange for greater academic achievement.

On October 12, 1999, the House of Representatives passed the Dollars to the Classroom Resolution which calls for at least 95 percent of federal funds to go directly to classroom expenditures. Currently, as little as 65 cents of every federal tax dollar actually makes it to the classroom!

In the Teacher Empowerment Act and the Student Results Act which fund teacher training and services for disadvantaged children respectively, we successfully included provisions which will ensure greater quality and accountability in our schools. These bills, which passed in the House of Representatives await consideration in the Senate.

Mr. Speaker, as you know, we have worked hard to pass an impressive package of education bills which will empower parents, teachers, administrators, and communities to make needed changes to our education system. We have heard from our constituents whose ideas form the foundation of our legislative agenda. I would like to thank these constituents and others who have written and given me insight into the classroom.

IN RECOGNITION OF GREGORY
PLAGEMAN, JR., OF DAVIE,
FLORIDA

HON. PETER DEUTSCH

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 18, 2000

Mr. DEUTSCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Gregory Plageman, Jr., of Davie, Florida. Gregory was recently honored by the Carnegie Hero Fund Commission after risking his own life to save the life of Pearl Steinberg. Indeed, Gregory committed a tremendous act of heroism of which he should be extremely proud.

The Carnegie Hero Fund Commission awards a bronze medal to individuals throughout the United States and Canada who risk their lives to an extraordinary degree while saving or attempting to save the lives of others. Since the program's inception in 1904 by philanthropist Andrew Carnegie, the Commission has recognized acts of outstanding civilian heroism, providing financial assistance to the awardees and the dependents of those awardees who are killed or disabled by their heroic actions. Gregory's story of bravery truly exemplifies the tenets espoused by the Carnegie Hero Fund Commission.

On June 24, 1999, 85-year-old Pearl Steinberg remained in her car after it had knocked over a gasoline pump at a local service station. Immediately engulfing the car, flames entered the rear of her car through a broken-out window. Upon witnessing this, Gregory forced open the car door, partially entered the automobile, and released Pearl's safety belt, pulling her out of the car and leading her to safe-

ty. The flames grew to 18 feet above the gas pumps within minutes, completely devouring the vehicle. Without Gregory's selfless act of bravery, Pearl Steinberg would likely have sustained fatal injuries.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate Gregory Plageman, Jr., for his heroic efforts in risking his own life to save another's. This was a truly selfless act of courage—an act that Gregory and the entire southern Florida community can be proud of.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MAJOR R. OWENS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 18, 2000

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent on a matter of critical importance and missed the following votes:

On the amendment to H.R. 853, to amend the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, introduced by the gentleman from California, Mr. DREIER, I would have voted "nay."

On the amendment to H.R. 853, to amend the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, introduced by the gentleman from Pennsylvania, Mr. GEKAS, I would have voted "nay."

On the amendment to H.R. 853, to amend the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, introduced by the gentlelady from Texas, Mrs. JACKSON-LEE, I would have voted "yea."

On passage of H.R. 853, to amend the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, introduced by the gentleman from Iowa, Mr. NUSSLE, I would have voted "nay."

IN HONOR OF THE GEORGE K.
ALMIROUDIS CHIAN GERIATRIC
FOUNDATION, LTD. AND HIS EMINENCE
METROPOLITAN
DIONYSIOS OF CHIOS, PSARA,
AND OINOUSSES

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 18, 2000

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, today I pay special tribute to the George K. Almiroudis Chian Geriatric Foundation, Ltd. on the occasion of their first honoree dinner. I also salute their guest of honor, His Eminence Metropolitan Dionysios of Chios, Psara and Oinousses.

The mission of the George Almiroudis Chian Geriatric Foundation, Ltd. is to provide emotional, physical, financial and psychological support to Hellenic American senior citizens residing in senior residences and nursing homes in the United States. This foundation will also support the residents of the Zorzis Mihalinos Nursing Home of Chios.

This year, at their first annual dinner, the Foundation will honor Metropolitan Dionysios of Chios, Psara and Oinousses, born in Kalimeriani in Evoia. In 1952 he was ordained deacon and in 1956 he received his Bachelors Degree in Theology from the Theological University of Athens. For eight years he served

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as Archdeacon at the Metropolis of Athens and in 1960 was ordained a priest.

His Eminence Metropolitan Dionysios chose an eclectic education and mission within the priesthood. He attended Athens Law School and from 1960 to 1978 served in the Navy, teaching at the Training School of Non-Commissioned Officers of Poros and Naustathmos, and Salamina. He also served as the General Director of the Directorate of Religion of the Armed Forces of Greece.

On November 6, 1979 Archbishop Serafim of Greece ordained him Metropolitan of Chios, Psara and Oinousses at the Metropolis of Athens.

Metropolitan Dionysios has participated in various ecclesiastical missions and conferences in Greece and abroad, and was recognized for his services with many awards and medals of honor. He also served as a Supervisor at the Metropolises of Mytilini, Eressos, Plomaria, Samos, Ikaria and Korsei where he developed many diverse activities in the pastoral and philanthropic areas. He has also authored many books on ethic/religious, spiritual and ecclesiastical topics.

Mr. Speaker, I salute the life and work of Metropolitan Dionysios and ask my fellow Members of Congress to join me in recognizing his contributions to humanity.

LUZERNE COUNTY HEAD START
CELEBRATES ITS 35TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 18, 2000

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, today I pay tribute to Luzerne County Head Start, Inc., on the occasion of its 35th anniversary, which will be celebrated May 22.

Luzerne County Head Start opened in 1965 and was one of the first such programs in the nation.

The program has grown from initially serving 90 children in one community, Wilkes-Barre, to serving a total of 692 children today at 11 locations in Luzerne and Wyoming counties.

Mr. Speaker, Luzerne County Head Start's accomplishments are truly impressive. Over the past 35 years, the program has prepared more than 12,000 children to enter kindergarten excited about learning and ready to succeed in school.

Further, four of Luzerne County Head Start's classrooms were accredited in 1999 by the National Association for the Education of Young Children, and other classrooms are being reviewed.

To put that in perspective, only 7 percent of early childhood programs nationwide have received this accreditation.

Head Start provides a high quality education program to children and their families. In addition, the program ensures that children receive nutrition and social services and needed medical services, including immunizations, health check-ups and preventive screenings.

Mr. Speaker, studies have shown that one-third more at-risk children who attended a quality early childhood program such as Head

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

Start graduated from high school compared to those who did not attend.

Studies also show that at-risk children who have been enrolled in Head Start or other quality early childhood programs are 25 percent less likely to repeat a grade.

Since the current cost of public education averages \$5,200 per student, per year nationally, programs like Luzerne County Head Start save taxpayers a significant amount of money in the long run.

Head Start is a proven program that helps to give children a strong beginning in life. I am proud to support it and proud of the good work of the Head Start centers throughout my district.

Under the Clinton-Gore Administration, funding for Head Start has doubled and I strongly support President Clinton's goal of increasing the number of children served nationally by Head Start from 793,807 in 1997 to 1 million in 2002.

Lynn Evans Biga is the very capable director of Luzerne County Head Start. She is aided by the board, including the executive committee of President John Hogan, Vice President Carl Goeringer Jr., Secretary Joanne Coolbaugh and Treasurer Gene Caprio, all of whom volunteer their time for this fine program, as does every member of the board.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to honor Luzerne County Head Start on the occasion of its 35th anniversary, and I send my best wishes for continued success to the employees and the many children and families whom they serve so well.

THE IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION SERVICE DATA MANAGEMENT IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2000

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 18, 2000

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to be an original cosponsor of the Immigration and Naturalization Service Data Management Improvement Act of 2000.

This bill would eliminate the present provisions of section 110 of the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996, which requires the establishment of a new entry-exit data collection system at land, sea, and air borders to our country. The bill replaces the requirement for the implementation of a new data collection system with the implementation of an "integrated entry and exit data system" using currently available data.

I welcome this important change in the provisions of section 110. This is an issue of great concern to the people and businesses of Michigan and other border states. Studies have revealed that carrying out the mandate of section 110 to create a new entry-exit data collection system would cause massive traffic congestion along our borders, bringing personal and business travel at many border points to a halt. This would have a crippling effect on trade and tourism.

I also would like to note for the record my understanding of a technical issue. The bill in-

cludes an implementation deadline for high-traffic land border ports of entry. With regard to land border crossings, I have been assured that the implementation provision in the deadline only refers to the "Arrival-Departure Records" (Form I-94) that already are issued to some foreign nationals when they enter the United States and that the deadline provision does not in any way impose a requirement on the Attorney General to develop a new system for collecting exit data at land borders.

The Immigration and Naturalization Service Data Management Improvement Act of 2000 is a far preferable alternative to the onerous data collection requirements of the existing version of section 110 of IIRIRA. I look forward to working with Representative LAMAR SMITH in seeing that this important change is passed into law this Congress.

IN HONOR OF MRS. H. BERT
(RUTH) MACK

HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 18, 2000

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, today I pay tribute to Mrs. H. Bert Mack, who will be honored by The Hillcrest Jewish Center at their 60th Anniversary dinner dance on Sunday, May 21st, 2000.

Ruth Mack has devoted over 50 years of her life to maintaining the high standards of excellence for which The Hillcrest Jewish Center is known throughout the Jewish communities of Queens County and New York. Ruth and her late husband, H. Bert Mack, have both been major benefactors to The Hillcrest Jewish Center. In fact, Mr. Mack was a guarantor of the original mortgage to construct The Hillcrest Jewish Center youth building. It comes as no surprise that The Hillcrest Jewish Center's main building has been named after H. Bert and Ruth Mack.

Mr. Speaker, Ruth Mack continues to carry on the philanthropic legacy that she and her husband valued so greatly. She is a generous contributor to many Jewish organizations including: The Eldridge Street Synagogue and the Museum of Jewish Heritage in Battery Park. She is also a benefactor of the esteemed Long Island Jewish Hospital. In addition, Ruth Mack has given generously of her own time, and she has spent many years teaching Hebrew to adults.

Growing up in the community, I can personally attest to the high esteem in which Ruth and her entire family are held by the multitudes who know and love her. On this special day it is also a privilege to be able to acknowledge Ruth Mack's four children: William, David, Earle and Frederick, as well as her six grandchildren: Steven, Richard, Andrew, Beatrice, Jason and Haley.

During my eighteen years of service in the U.S. Congress, I have been honored to speak and attend services at The Hillcrest Jewish Center on numerous occasions. The friendly and spiritual environment that I associate with The Hillcrest Jewish Center could not be possible were it not for the charitable contributions provided unselfishly by Ruth Mack.