Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, let it be known, that it is with great respect for the outstanding record of excellence she has compiled in academics, leadership and community service, that I am proud to salute Rachael Jankowski, winner of the 2000 LeGrand Smith Scholarship. This award is made to young adults who have demonstrated that they are truly committed to playing important roles in our Nation’s future.

As a winner of the LeGrand Smith Scholarship, Rachael is being honored for demonstrating that same generosity of spirit, intelligence, responsible citizenship, and capacity for human service that distinguished the late LeGrand Smith of Somerset, Michigan.

Rachael is an exceptional student at Deerpield High School and possesses an impressive high school record.

Rachael has received numerous awards for her excellence in academics and has held many leadership positions throughout her high school career. Outside of school, she is an active member of her community’s church.

Therefore, I am proud to join with her many admirers in extending my highest praise and congratulations to Rachael Jankowski for her selection as a winner of a LeGrand Smith Scholarship. This honor is also a testament to the parents, teachers, and others whose personal interest, strong support and active participation contributed to her success. To this remarkable young woman, I extend my most heartfelt good wishes for all her future endeavors.

EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE CONGRESS REGARDING BENEFITS OF MUSIC EDUCATION

SPEECH OF
HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO
OF CONNECTICUT

Tuesday, June 13, 2000

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Con. Res. 266, recognizing the benefits of music education. This is an important expression of our Nation’s support for the arts and the tangible benefits the arts, and particularly music, provide for our children and for all Americans.

Music education not only opens a door for a new way of self-expression for young students, but it also trains the brain to organize information in a way that improves abilities in math and science. In fact, studies show that students with music training perform an average of almost 100 points higher on the SAT college entrance examination.

According to the National Association for Music Education, skills learned through the discipline of music transfer to study skills, communication skills, and cognitive skills useful in every part of the curriculum. Students who play in a band or orchestra more effectively learn to work with their teachers and classmates in the school environment without resorting to violent or inappropriate behavior.

I’ve heard from the music teachers in my district and my State—they are experiencing a teacher shortage that is serious. In some cases, they are forced to conduct the high school band in an old locker room or teach the violin in a broom closet. These are talented and dedicated professionals who just want to share the joy of music with their students, and we must show them that Congress supports them in their goal.

I am pleased that today we can stand united in our recognition and commendation of music education, the benefits it provides students—from their knowledge of other subject areas and to their overall self-esteem, and to the talented music teachers who often work without the resources their curriculum deserves.

Let’s continue this spirit of support. When it comes time to put our money and our laws where our priorities are, let’s make sure music education—and all arts education—remains an essential part of our public education system.