On Flag Day, I rise in recognition of a day that would not exist without the sacrifices endured by brave men and women throughout our country's distinguished history. Although today is known as Flag Day, it symbolizes much more.

Well, over 200 years later, our flag continues to symbolize the independence fought for by Washington as well as countless others.

From the Revolutionary War to the Gulf War, our men and women in uniform risked—and lost—their lives to promote democracy, and defend the liberties we cherish. These brave men and women defended the most basic belief which our flag symbolizes—that freedom is worth putting our lives in harm's way to preserve.

These were real people, not simply statistics in a history book or names chiseled in stone. They were young men and women with mothers, fathers, dreams and fears just like the rest of us.

When I visit schools back home, and children ask me questions about the American flag or Pledge of Allegiance, I tell them there is more to the flag than pretty colors. If you look behind those stars and stripes you unveil a story of determination and sacrifice.

As we take time out of our lives to honor those who fought to protect our flag, we must never forget that we stand together as a great, proud, and free Nation because of their sacrifices.

The American flag is a fitting reminder of their devotion.

HON. NICK SMITH OF MICHIGAN
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, June 14, 2000

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, let it be known that it is with great respect for the outstanding record of excellence he has compiled in academics, leadership and community service, that I am proud to salute Andrew Poenicke, 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, Andrew 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.

Andrew is an exceptional student at Lenawee Christian High School and possesses an impressive high school record.

Andrew has received numerous awards for his excellence in academics as well as his involvement in soccer. Outside of school, he has been active in many volunteer programs such as Meals on Wheels for Lenawee County.

Therefore, I am proud to join with his many admirers in extending my highest praise and congratulations to Andrew Poenicke for his 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 his success. To this remarkable young man, I extend my most heartfelt good wishes for all his future endeavors.

HON. HEATHER WILSON OF NEW MEXICO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, June 14, 2000

Mrs. Wilson. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to bring to your attention Elwar "Ruben" LaCour, Jr., a student in my district. As a mid-die schooler, he was awarded the U.S. National Award in mathematics. His commitment to learning is an indication of great future success.

Ruben's recognition from the U.S. Achievement Academy is a great honor. We all know of the studies and reports that say that students in the United States are falling behind in math performance. Ruben's skills, abilities, and success provides evidence of students excelling in math.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating Elwar "Ruben" LaCour on his achievement in and dedication to mathematics. We must celebrate achievements and encourage our children to do their very best.

HON. SUE WILKINS MYRICK OF NORTH CAROLINA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, June 14, 2000

Mrs. MYRICK. Mr. Speaker, I was not present for the following vote. If I had been present, I would have voted as follows: June 8, 2000, rollover vote 247, on agreeing to the rule H. Res. 518, providing consideration of H.R. 4577, the FY2000 Labor, Health & Human Services and Education bill, I would have voted "yea."

HON. JOHN RUSSELL BLANDFORD OF SOUTH CAROLINA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, June 14, 2000

Mr. SPENCE. Mr. Speaker, I was saddened to learn recently of the death of Major General John Russell Blandford, who was an outstanding American. General Blandford joined the staff of the Committee on Armed Services in the House of Representatives upon its formation in January 1947. He was appointed the Chief Counsel of the Committee in December 1963, and he served in that position until his retirement from the House in 1972.

On behalf of the Members and the staff of the Committee on Armed Services, I would like to extend our deepest sympathy to his wife, Betty, and to the other members of his family. I submit for the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD the obituary of this remarkable man.

[From the State, Columbia, SC, May 18, 2000]

CAROLINA CHITKARISH
JOHN BLANDFORD
CHARLESTON.—Memorial services for John Russell Blandford, 82, will be held at 11 a.m. Saturday at Johns Island Presbyterian Church. Burial services will be conducted 11 a.m. Wednesday, May 24, 2000 in Arlington National Cemetery with full military honors. In lieu of flowers memorials may be made to the First Marine Division Association Scholarship Fund, 14220 Willard Road, Ste. 197, Chantilly, VA 20151-2110 and/or Johns Island Presbyterian Church, 2550 Bohickett Road, Johns Island, SC 29455.

J. Henry Stuhrl, Downtown Funeral Chapel is in charge.

Mr. Blandford was born in Buffalo, N.Y., Feb. 20, 1918, a son of the late Raymond and
Mary Blandford. He graduated from Lafayette High School in 1930 and was awarded a scholarship to Hobart College of Geneva, N.Y. While in college, he enlisted in the P.L.C. Program in the U.S. Marine Corps in 1937. He graduated from college with Kappa Alpha in 1939. He was commissioned a 2nd Lt. in the marine corps reserve until graduation. He was admitted to Yale Law School in Sept. 1941 and attended marine corps schools at Quantico, Va., and in April 1942 reported for duty as an Artillery Officer in the First Marine Division. He participated in the Guadalcanal Campaign Aug. 7, 1942 to Dec. 1942 and there after was with that division in New Guinea, Cape Gloucester, Willimaze Peninsula and the Russells Island. He served as a Forward Observer, Artillery Liaison Officer Provost Marshall and Regimental Judge Advocate.

Mr. Blandford was released from active duty in March 1946 and returned to Yale Law School graduating with Pristics Honor in Nov. 1946. He was with the law firm of Hodgson, Russ, Andrews, Woods and Goodyear in Buffalo. In January he was appointed counsel to the House Armed Services Committee where he served becoming Chief Council Dec. 1, 1963 and served in this capacity for 25 years. He was promoted successively from 2nd Lt. to Major General in the marine corps finally retiring in 1976. He retired from the congress on July 1, 1972. He received numerous awards including Legion of Merrit Medals from the marine corps and the army, the navy Distinguished Public Service Award, the air force Exceptional Civilian Award, and the prestigious Rockefller Public Award in 1966. Following his retirement from congress in 1972, he became a legal consultant with an office in Virginia. He was admitted to practice in New York, the District of Columbia, Virginia, the U.S. Supreme Court and the Court of Military Appeals. He was a former member of the Washington Golf and Country Club, the Burning Tree Club of Bethesda, Md., the Carliton Club and the Capitol Hill Club. He was a member of Who’s Who and was a pioneer of Seabrook Island and a board member where he served in many capacities.

Surviving are his wife, Betty Blakely Blandford of Seabrook Island; daughter, Marcia Ann Hoener of Norcross, Ga.; brother, Blandford of Seabrook Island; daughter, Island and a board member where he served and the Capitol Hill Club. He was a member Washington Golf and Country Club, the Burning
peals. He was a former member of the Wash-
tellite Office in the First Marine Division.

A RESOLUTION HONORING BETH
ANN JOHNSTON, LEGRAND SMITH
SCHOLARSHIP WINNER OF JACKSON,
MI

HON. NICK SMITH
OF MICHIGAN
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, June 14, 2000

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 Beth Ann Johnston, 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, Beth Ann 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 Somersett, Michigan. Beth Ann is an exceptional student at Vandercook Lake High School and possesses an impressive high school record. Beth Ann has received numerous awards for her excellence in academics as well as her involvement in band. Outside of school, she is an active member of her church community and a conscientious volunteer. Therefore, I am proud to join with her many admirers in extending my highest praise and congratulations to Beth Ann Johnston 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.

HONORING DR. ANDREW HSI
HON. HEATHER WILSON
OF NEW MEXICO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, June 14, 2000

Mrs. WILSON, Mr. Speaker, today I would like to bring to your attention Dr. Andrew Hsi, a pediatrician at the University of New Mexico in Albuquerque. He was honored as the first recipient of the Humanism in Medicine Award because of his many strengths, focusing on community service, ethics in medicine, and treating people with dignity. He understands the importance of respect for colleagues and patients as well as showing compassion and consideration to others.

Dr. Hsi has found purpose and fulfillment in serving the public. He is nonjudgmental of the pregnant women who come to him for help—despite the fact that many of them abuse illegal substances. Thomas Weiser, a medical student at UNM, nominated Dr. Hsi because "[his] fairness, sensitivity, and nonjudgmental attitude have inspired students and faculty to be more compassionate to their own patients. And, most importantly, it has provided an impetus to many of his patients to change their own lives."

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring the compassion and team skills of Dr. Andrew Hsi. He exemplifies patience, acceptance, and the courage to help his community. The help he offers to those in need does not just come in the form of medicine: he encourages and inspires people to take charge and change their lives.

EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING BENEFITS OF MUSIC EDUCATION
SPEECH OF
HON. STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES
OF OHIO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, June 13, 2000

Mrs. JONES of Ohio, Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of music education. Recently, I had an opportunity to speak at the commencement exercises of the Cleveland School of the Arts in the Eleventh Congressional District of Ohio. Those graduates were a wonderful example of the beneficial effects of music education and of the arts in general.

The arts are inseparable from education throughout a young person’s life. Brain research is now showing that stimuli provided by music—song, movement, play acting—are essential for the young child to develop to the fullest potential. These activities are the “languages” of children, which help them to understand and interpret the world. Active use of music also paves the way for children to use verbal language, to read and to write.