

families should be recertified no more frequently than every six months, not every quarter. It is an extreme hardship for people who are working, disabled or elderly to go to an office every three months to provide additional documentation. The paperwork should be reduced and simplified to conform with other federal assistance programs. Ohio would greatly benefit from a universal application form, instead of the current 34-page, 700-question application.

Sixth, food stamp benefits should be restored for all 18–50 year old unemployed adults without dependents, especially in regions of high unemployment. In this area of Appalachia where laborers have lost their lucrative jobs in coal mines or factories, they are now unable to access food stamp benefits.

Finally, states need to do a much better job in assisting those who are eligible for food stamps to participate. During my visits, it was clear that states are not insuring those who are eligible are able to apply and participate in the program. While recognizing the need to reduce waste, fraud and abuse, those who apply for food stamps should not be made to feel like criminals or treated as less than human. These are people in need and should be treated with compassion and dignity. Office hours and procedures should be expanded to accommodate those who are working full-time or more than one job. It is apparent that states are overly focused on quality control compliance, instead of serving those who are categorically eligible for food stamps.

#### SUMMATION

It is unconscionable that the richest country in the world's history cannot find the resources to feed its most vulnerable citizens. We find the money we need to pay for new weapons systems, tax cuts for those who are already wealthy, and everything else that we think is important.

Congress has an obligation to include those in need in its focus. And all Americans have a responsibility to do what they can in the struggle to end hunger.

I wish that I did not take this trip because there was no hunger in Appalachia or anywhere else in America. I wish that I did not have to focus so much of my time and energy on these humanitarian issues because there weren't any problems. I wish that we could declare hunger solved and move on to something else. But these are only wishes because hunger still stalks our proud land. Our economy and our promises are hollow. We must do better to care for the least of these among us.

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### EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING BENEFITS OF MUSIC EDUCATION

SPEECH OF

**HON. KAREN MCCARTHY**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 13, 2000*

Ms. MCCARTHY of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to voice my strong support of H. Con. Res. 266, expressing the sense of the Congress regarding the benefits of music education.

Music education has a long history, dating back to Ancient Greece. As part of a standard education, music was used to teach math and deemed equally important to forming a balanced individual. As a former educator, I know that an important component to youth development and a key solution to youth violence is access to art and music education in our schools. College Board studies have shown that students who play an instrument score significantly higher on their Scholastic Aptitude Tests than those who do not. High risk elementary students who participated in an arts program for one year gained eight percentile points on standardized language arts tests. Those who have exposure to music and art are less likely to have discipline problems. If we are serious about improving student achievement and curtailing youth violence in our schools, we must find adequate funding to bring music and art education to our children.

Missouri's fifth district has taken major steps toward integrating arts education into the daily routine in schools. Magnet schools such as the Paseo Academy of Visual and Performing Arts and the Kansas City Middle School of the Arts teach children more than just reading, writing, and arithmetic. Students also learn how to create and appreciate music, painting, and dancing through hands-on experience. The Kansas City Symphony established an orchestral residency at the Paseo Academy to provide professional mentors to aspiring musicians. The results of programs like this are astounding. These schools have improved student test scores well above the district average and greatly increased parental satisfaction. Students enjoy attending school more than ever because of personal interest with the subject matter. I urge my distinguished colleagues to support this measure.

Because of the vast amount of research proving the benefits of music education, we need to invest in more programs which will spark student interest in music such as the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) sponsored "Challenge America" initiative which would provide \$50 million to more than 1,100 communities, bringing the arts and music to regions previously underserved by cultural programming.

Music and art education remains important in the lives of children. From infants listening to classical music to facilitate brain development, to elementary students learning about music related careers from their favorite musicians, to high school instrument students who achieve above average SAT scores, the importance of music education cannot be denied. I urge my distinguished colleagues to continue to support music and art education programs such as "Challenge America" which contribute to the success of students as they become members of our democracy.

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IN TRIBUTE TO EARL T.  
SHINHOSTER

**HON. EVA M. CLAYTON**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 14, 2000*

Mrs. CLAYTON. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sadness that I rise to express my condolences

to the family of Mr. Earl T. Shinhoster, whose tragic and untimely passing we mourn. His wife, Ruby, and his son, Michael Omar, should know, that while their grief is heavy, comfort may be found in those close to them, friends and family, who will gather on Friday morning, June 16th, to acclaim his life. This husband and father was indeed an American hero, the Wind beneath the Wings of a reborn and revitalized NAACP.

For more than 30 years, Earl T. Shinhoster gave of himself to the NAACP, serving in a range of roles and assuming the highest staff position when that organization was at its lowest. With the same dedication and determination that typified his tenure, in 1996, he grabbed the reins of the NAACP and, as Executive Director, brought it from the brink of bankruptcy to a bastion of brightness. Whether in Africa, his birth state of Georgia or across the Nation, he reminded us that voting is the most important because all other rights grow from that right.

Earl has now been called to rest and to reside in a place of total peace. God's finger has gently touched him and he now sleeps. I am confident that he has left a lasting impression on those who came to know him, and the principles that guided him will now serve as guideposts for those he leaves behind. I am also certain that throughout his life, he remained a caring friend, a devoted and loving family member, and a committed and dedicated father and husband. He shall surely be missed. I feel certain, however, that he would want all of us to rejoice in his life and the time he spent on this earth.

The passing of a loved one is always very hard to understand, but God has the situation in-hand. Ecclesiastes, Chapter 3, Verses 1 through 8 is instructive. It reads in part, "To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven. . . . A time to be born, and a time to die." And while his friends and family will greatly miss Earl, I want to remind them that strength can be found in their continued support of one another. That is what he worked for all of his life. That is what he would want.

And, a special word for Ruby and Michael Omar. It is my hope that your family will be comforted by the fact that God in His infinite wisdom does not make mistakes. Your husband and father will live on forever in your hearts and minds through your cherished memories of his life and the time you had with him. Please continue to support one another, and I will pray for God's rich blessings on each of you. May God comfort and help your family and friends and help all of you to hold on to treasured yesterdays; and reach out with courage and hope to tomorrow, knowing that your beloved is with God. Death is not the end of life. It is the beginning of an eternal sleep. Earl T. Shinhoster lived his life in sacrifice so that millions of us could live our lives in pride. He has labored long. He now rests.