Mr. Speaker, I support this Resolution in the hope that children of all ages across this nation will have access to quality music education programs. If we foster the creative impulses of our children, the possibilities of their success in life will be boundless.

TRIBUTE TO GEN. ANTHONY C. ZINNI
HON. IKE SKELETON
OF MISSOURI
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, June 14, 2000

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and pay tribute to Gen. Anthony C. Zinni, who will retire from the U.S. Marine Corps on August 11, 2000, after more than 35 years of devoted service to the United States.

General Zinni was commissioned a second lieutenant upon graduation from Villanova University in 1965. After completion of The Basic School, he was assigned to the 2d Marine Division. In 1967, General Zinni served in Vietnam as an Infantry Battalion commander of the Vietnamese Marine Corps. Following his tour in Vietnam, he was ordered to The Basic School as a Tactics Instructor and Platoon Commander. In 1970, he returned to Vietnam where he was wounded and subsequently assigned to the 3d Force Service Regiment on Okinawa. One year later, General Zinni was again assigned to the 2d Marine Division as a Company Commander. In 1974, he was assigned to the Manpower Department at Headquarters, Marine Corps.

Following the Vietnam war, General Zinni served in succession of influential staff and command positions, including: Commanding Officer of the 2d Battalion, 8th Marines; Operations and Tactics Instructor at the Marine Corps Command and Staff College; Head of the Special Operations and Terrorism Counteraction Section; Chief of Naval Operations Strategic Studies Group fellow; Regimental Commander of the 9th Marines; Commanding Officer of the 35th Marine Expeditionary Unit; and Chief of Staff of the Marine Air-Ground Training and Education Center.

Upon promotion to flag rank in 1991, General Zinni was named the Deputy Director of Operations at the United States European Command. In 1991, he served as the Chief of Staff and Deputy Commanding General during the Kurdish relief effort in Turkey and Iraq and also acted as the Military Coordinator for the relief effort for the former Soviet Union. From 1992 to 1993, he served as the Director for Operations for the Unified Task Force Somalia and as the Assistant to the Special Envoy to Somalia. His next assignment was as the Deputy Commanding General, United States Marine Corps Combat Development Command. After that, he assumed command of the I Marine Expeditionary Force, during which he served as Commander of the Combined Task Force responsible for protecting the withdrawal of United Nations forces from Somalia. In September 1996, General Zinni was assigned to the United States Central Command and subsequently assumed command in 1997. In addition to continuing no-fly and maritime interdiction operations over Iraq, General Zinni
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conducted humanitarian operations in response to flooding in Kenya and demining efforts in Ethiopia, Eritrea, Yemen and Jordan.

The continued inspections over United Nations weapons inspections resulted in General Zinni leading several military operations against Iraq. Operation DESERT FOX set Iraq's ballistic missile program back several years by destroying key facilities and specialized equipment during several days of combat operations. General Zinni activated a joint task force in Kenya to assist in recovery support after the 1998 terrorist bombing of the embassies in Nairobi and Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, while also taking military action against the terrorist infrastructure in Sudan and Afghanistan.

During his command, General Zinni participated in numerous diplomatic efforts within the Central Command area of responsibility. In the fall of 1998, he worked directly with the National Security Advisor to prevent Ethiopia and Eritrea from resorting to armed conflict over a border dispute. He also was instrumental in efforts to engage the Pakistani government after its nuclear tests. His two trips to Pakistan reinforced objections to Pakistan's nuclear tests and stressed the importance of avoiding a nuclear arms race between Pakistan and India.

Additionally, General Zinni orchestrated the command's large-scale overseas exercise. Conducted in Egypt, this exercise involved not only United States forces but also eleven participating countries, 33 observer nations, and 70,000 troops. This field training exercise emphasized coalition operations, interoperability, and computer simulation of exercise events. It also exhibited regional stability and cultural interaction.

General Zinni's decorations include: the Defense Distinguished Service Medal; the Defense Superior Service Medal with two oak leaf clusters; the Bronze Star Medal with combat V and gold star; the Purple Heart; the Meritorious Service Medal with gold star; the Navy Commendation Medal with Combat V and gold star; the National Security Medal with combat V and gold star; the Combat Action Ribbon; the Vietnamese Honor Medal; the French National Order of Merit, and the Order of Merit of the Italian Republic.

Mr. Speaker, I want to recognize General Zinni for serving the Marine Corps with honor and distinction for 35 years. He has provided a significant and lasting contribution to the Nation's security. I want to wish him and his wife, Debbie, best wishes in the days ahead. The Marine Corps will lose not one, but two exceptional people upon General Zinni's retirement. I know the Members of the House will join me in expressing our appreciation for their distinguished and faithful service to the country.

Ms. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to address an issue that we have been working on for almost five years. I am speaking about the funding question for the Conservation Trust Fund of Puerto Rico. As my colleagues may recall, in last year's Ticket to Work and Work Improvement Act tax bill, we included language that increased the amount of excise tax on rum covered over to Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands from $10.50 to $13.25. We have written statutory language that mandated one-sixth of the increase go to Puerto Rico.

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 Aaron Baker, 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, Aaron 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.

Aaron is an exceptional student at Hudson High School and possesses an impressive high school record.

Aaron has received numerous awards for his excellence in academics. Outside of school, he has received many awards for his involvement in the Jackson, Hillsdale, and Adrian Youth Symphony Orchestras.

Therefore, I am proud to join with his many admirers in extending my highest praise and congratulations to Aaron Baker 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 of his future endeavors.

HONORING GOVERNOR BENT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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 the national recognition received by Governor Bent Elementary School in Carlsbad, New Mexico. The team at Governor Bent Elementary is highlighted in a report by the Fordham Foundation for their effective teaching techniques.

Governor Bent is known for expecting a lot from all their students. There are no excuses, all students can do quality work. Creativity is fostered for the success of the students, parents, teachers and all staff. The results are high student test scores and student enrollment from outside their attendance area.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring the Principal Marilyn Davenport and the team at Governor Bent Elementary School for their contributions to students and to the future of our community.

CONSERVATION TRUST FUND OF PUERTO RICO

HON. PHILIP M. CRANE

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 14, 2000

Mr. CRANE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to address an issue that we have been working on for almost five years. I am speaking about the funding question for the Conservation Trust Fund of Puerto Rico. As my colleagues may recall, in last year’s Ticket to Work and Work Improvement Act tax bill, we included language that increased the amount of excise tax on rum covered over to Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands from $10.50 to $13.25. We have written statutory language that mandated one-sixth of the increase go to Puerto Rico.

Recently we passed the Africa-CBI Trade bill and inserted language that will accelerate the payments of the rum tax cover over to Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. I want to