

TRIBUTE TO DONNA GARNETT,
OUTSTANDING COLORADO WOMAN

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 31, 2001

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to congratulate a remarkable woman, Donna Garnett, for her remarkable devotion to her community. Over the last twenty-five years, Donna has lived in Colorado and has worked to improve the quality of life for its children. Through her volunteer work, Donna has helped hundreds of children in our State. Her continued devotion to the underprivileged children of Colorado has earned her the honor of being named Outstanding Colorado Woman. Donna's contributions to the citizens of Colorado are great in number and deserve the recognition of this body.

Donna is an extraordinary citizen. She has not only devoted her life to helping underprivileged children in Colorado, but she has also been a wonderful mother of three—Austin, 22, and twins, Max and Alexis, who just turned six. In addition to being an advocate for underprivileged children, Donna has also had an outstanding professional career. Over the past twenty-five years, Donna has had a parade of professional accomplishments: she has been a faculty member at University of Colorado-Denver, and a Professor of child development at Colorado State University, as well as Director of the Early Childhood Center at Metropolitan State College, Director of the Auraria Child Care Center. Moreover, she's been a contributing columnist at the Rocky Mountain News, and a Policy Director at the Office of the Governor.

As a volunteer, Donna has worked with numerous groups that work toward the betterment of children and families in Colorado. The following are just a few of her service oriented endeavors: Donna created the Work and Family Consortium to assist employers in accommodating work and family issues in the work place; she has been a consultant for the State of Colorado, working to help parents and teachers with troubled children; she has lent her grant writing expertise to many non profit organizations; and, finally, she helped establish the Urban Farm at Stapleton which helps inner-city children who live in at-risk neighborhoods in Denver.

Donna is an inspiration for us all and for all these reason she is deserving of the honor of Outstanding Colorado Woman. It is with this, Mr. Speaker, that I say thank you to Donna for her dedication and service to her community over the years and congratulate her on this recognition. She has worked hard for her community and State and for that we are all grateful.

COMBAT ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION

HON. BOB STUMP

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 31, 2001

Mr. STUMP. Mr. Speaker, on January 3, 2001, I introduced H.R. 190, legislation to

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deny citizenship to the American-born children of illegal aliens.

The 14th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution states, "all persons born in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens." The Federal Government interprets this to grant automatic citizenship to the children of illegal aliens born in the United States. I believe this is a gross misinterpretation and that there is no constitutional requirement to confer citizenship to the U.S.-born children of illegal aliens. Illegal aliens cannot be subject to the jurisdiction of the United States because they are in the United States without legal authority.

Mr. Speaker, few can dispute that the practice of granting automatic-birthright citizenship to the children of illegal aliens is a great incentive for illegal immigration. Citizen children qualify for welfare and other social services, thus illegal parents receive benefits. This raises serious concerns about the use of public assistance by individuals illegally present in the United States. According to a 1997 General Accounting Office report, in FY95 about \$1.1 billion in Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) and Food Stamp benefits were provided to households with an illegal alien parent for the use of his or her citizen child. There can be no mistake that the citizenship grant has significantly contributed to our unprecedented levels of illegal immigration. According to some figures, an estimated 165,000 children are born to illegal aliens in the U.S. annually.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that those individuals who actively defy the laws of the United States by illegal entry or overstaying the terms of their entry should not have the cherished constitutional right to confer citizenship upon their children. As Members of Congress, we have an obligation to ensure that our borders are protected and our immigration laws are followed. Accordingly, I strongly urge my colleagues to cosponsor H.R. 190 to end this injustice.

INTRODUCTION OF THE EDUCATION IMPROVEMENT TAX CUT ACT

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 31, 2001

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce the Education Improvement Tax Cut Act. This act, a companion to my Family Education Freedom Act, takes a further step toward returning control over education resources to private citizens by providing a \$3,000 tax credit for donations to scholarship funds to enable low-income children to attend private schools. It also encourages private citizens to devote more of their resources to helping public schools, by providing a \$3,000 tax credit for cash or in-kind donations to public schools to support academic or extra curricular programs.

I need not remind my colleagues that education is one of, if not the, top priority of the American people. After all, many members of Congress have proposed education reforms and a great deal of time is spent debating

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these proposals. However, most of these proposals either expand Federal control over education or engage in the pseudo-federalism of block grants. Many proposals that claim to increase local control over education actually extend Federal power by holding schools "accountable" to Federal bureaucrats and politicians. Of course, schools should be held accountable for their results, but under the United States Constitution, they should be held accountable to parents and school boards not to Federal officials. Therefore, I propose we move in a different direction and embrace true federalism by returning control over the education dollar to the American people.

One of the major problems with centralized control over education funding is that spending priorities set by Washington-based Representatives, staffers, and bureaucrats do not necessarily match the needs of individual communities. In fact, it would be a miracle if spending priorities determined by the wishes of certain politically powerful Representatives or the theories of Education Department functionaries match the priorities of every community in a country as large and diverse as America. Block grants do not solve this problem as they simply allow states and localities to choose the means to reach federally-determined ends.

Returning control over the education dollar for tax credits for parents and for other concerned citizens returns control over both the means and ends of education policy to local communities. People in one community may use this credit to purchase computers, while children in another community may, at last, have access to a quality music program because of community leaders who took advantage of the tax credit contained in this bill.

Children in some communities may benefit most from the opportunity to attend private, parochial, or other religious schools. One of the most encouraging trends in education has been the establishment of private scholarship programs. These scholarship funds use voluntary contributions to open the doors of quality private schools to low-income children. By providing a tax credit for donations to these programs, Congress can widen the educational opportunities and increase the quality of education for all children. Furthermore, privately-funded scholarships raise none of the concerns of state entanglement raised by publicly-funded vouchers.

There is no doubt that Americans will always spend generously on education, the question is, "who should control the education dollar—politicians and bureaucrats or the American people?" Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in placing control of education back in the hands of citizens and local communities by sponsoring the Education Improvement Tax Cut Act.

HONORING LARRY WILLEY

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 31, 2001

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Larry Willey, the outgoing

President of the Greater Fresno Area Chamber of Commerce. The Greater Fresno Area Chamber of Commerce is the largest business organization in California's Central Valley.

Larry served as President of the Fresno Chamber during the past year. His leadership has set an example of positive influence that business can have on the improvement of the community.

Larry started his tile company as a one-man operation in the late 1970's. His hard work, business ethics, and talent for the tile industry have built Willey Tile Company into one of the largest tile contractors in the state. His company has won several awards, including the Building Industry Association's highest honor, Associate of the Year, and the State of California's Mid-Sized Employer of the Year for People with Disabilities.

Mr. Willey has been highly active in his community. His membership in community organizations, committees, and commissions include: Building Industry Association Scholarship Committee; the Coalition for Urban Renewal Excellence; Capital Building Campaign for the Roland McDonald House; Past-Chairman of Fresno Political Action Committee; C.E.O. of Jobs 2000 Board; Vice-Chair of the Work Force Development Education Committee; ARC Advisory Business Board; Business Spokesman of the All-American City Competition; Liaison with Jerry Cook Community Stadium Plan; Mayor's Task Force; and Leadership Fresno Alumnus of the Year 2000.

The Greater Fresno Area Chamber of Commerce is the second largest Chamber in California. They currently have over 2,300 members. Their sole mission is to promote business and enhance the economic and cultural well-being of the people in Fresno County.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Larry Willey as the outgoing President of the Greater Fresno Area Chamber of Commerce. I urge my colleagues to join me in wishing Larry Willey many more years of continued success.

TRIBUTE TO TEXACO QUIZ KIDS

HON. KAREN MCCARTHY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 31, 2001

Ms. MCCARTHY of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I wish today to recognize three outstanding young women from my community, and the ongoing efforts of the Lyric Opera of Kansas City to heighten the awareness of the importance of art and culture by sponsoring dozens of programs for young people. Katherine Lorenz, Rebecca Mozley, and Amber Woodward were the three regional finalists chosen to participate in the 2000–2001 Texaco Quiz Kids Program at Kansas City, Missouri's historic Lyric Opera.

The Texaco Quiz Kids Program is a distinguished nationwide competition that brings together talented youth performing arts scholars from six regions of North America. Students take part in a rigorous quiz show format in which they are tested upon their knowledge and understanding of selected operas that they have studied in depth. At the regional round their expertise was called upon to inter-

pret "Aida," "Carmen," and "The Magic Flute."

All three of the young women chosen to represent the Greater Kansas City Area have demonstrated exceptional musical scholarship and dedication to the appreciation of the performing arts. During the regional finals, each of these young scholars demonstrated a comprehensive understanding and knowledge of legendary operas from the 19th Century. Each of their loves for the performing arts radiated from their impressive answers. They are representatives of the best our community has to offer.

Katherine is a senior at Lawrence High School who is involved in a number of organizations. She is Co-Vice President of the FYI Club, Treasurer of the Key Club, and is also an active member of the French Club, National Honor Society, and the cultural heritage panel. She is a teacher's aide for AP European history this year and sings with the Concert Choir. She played basketball through her sophomore year, and is an avid basketball fan. Katherine has studied piano for nine years with Eric Sakamura, and is currently a lesson assistant at Lawrence Piano Studio. Katherine is a National Merit Semifinalist who will begin college this fall, who hopes to major in History, French, and Music.

Rebecca Mozley is a senior at Raytown South High School. Rebecca loves to sing. She has been a member of Raytown South's Cardinal Choral her junior and senior years and has also sung in the Kansas City All District Choir both years. She is a 2-year member of the National Honor Society, Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD), and Future Teachers of America. This year she is President of SADD and is the cadet teacher for the Concert Choir Class. She is maintaining a 3.8+ GPA and plays the flute and French horn in the school band. Rebecca is also involved in church activities. She plays a handbell in the choir and sings in the teen choir. She also works in the nursery. Through her church, Rebecca has had the opportunity to go on mission trips to different parts of the country to paint and repair homes in low-income neighborhoods for the past four summers. At present, her plans are to attend Central Missouri State University next fall and major in either music education or elementary education.

Amber Woodward is a dedicated student who is maintaining a 4.3 GPA while taking all honors courses in her freshman year at Blue Valley North High School in Overland Park, Kansas. Throughout her academic career she has won numerous good citizen and student awards. Through her participation in musical theater she has contributed time and effort to many charities. Amber has a love for the performing arts. She studies voice, dance, acting, and plays the clarinet and piano. Amber's devotion to the performing arts has led her to a detailed study of Opera. Amber is a coloratura soprano and hopes someday to pursue a career in Opera.

It is an honor for me to recognize Katherine, Rebecca, and Amber on this notable accomplishment. I wish all three of these young women continued success in all of their personal and academic endeavors. Each of the two semi-finalists received \$500 scholarships

from Texaco. During Round II in Kansas City, Katherine Lorenz was selected to represent our region in the final round in Toronto at Canadian Broadcasting Center next month.

Mr. Speaker please join me in congratulating Kansas City's 2000–2001 Texaco Quiz Kids, Katherine Lorenz, Rebecca Mozley, and Amber Woodward. Also Mr. Speaker, please join me in saluting the Lyric Opera of Kansas City, Texaco, and each of these student's dedicated teachers: Cathy Crispino, Mary Bodney, and Judy Bowser for investing in our youth to help instill the heritage and value which the performing arts have played in shaping our society.

THE CHILDREN'S ACCESS TO TECHNOLOGY ACT

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 31, 2001

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Children's Access to Technology Act to provide the disadvantaged children of this country with the technology they need to succeed in life. My legislation is intended to provide Title I schools with additional financial resources to modernize their Internet delivery tools. Specifically, this legislation will utilize up to \$100 million in unspent e-rate funding to provide Title I schools with a maximum \$25,000 award to modernize their Internet labs.

Mr. Speaker, the e-rate program has been very effective in bringing the Internet to libraries and classrooms across America. As a strong supporter of that program, I was disturbed to learn that crucial e-rate funding was going unspent because recipients were not following through with their paperwork confirming receipt of service. According to a recent General Accounting Office (GAO) report, almost \$1.3 billion has gone unspent during the first two e-rate program years. The Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) has not yet been able to explain this discrepancy between funds authorized and funds allocated.

Because any unspent e-rate funding is lost at the end of each program year, my legislation will create a new funding mechanism, up to \$100 million using any unspent monies, that will allow Title I schools to update their computer hardware. Specifically, the legislation directs the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to establish a lottery system for Title I schools to enter and be eligible to receive up to \$25,000 to modernize their computer hardware.

In light of President Bush's commitment to strengthen and streamline the e-rate program, I believe we must ensure that all funding made available through the USAC be spent on improving our children's access to new and innovative technology. While I intend to seek clarification from the USAC concerning the large amount of unspent funds and the reason for these problems, I believe there will always be some unallocated funding at the end of each program year. In these instances, my legislation will provide an additional benefit to truly needy schools that are struggling to improve the delivery of Internet services to their students.