

York's resurrecting spirit and perhaps that knowledge will energize flagging feet as they cover the great length of New York City. The sense of unity among the human family will be invincible when over 30,000 runners from around the world join in New York City to bond with it as only runners can do.

I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Fred Lebow's life achievements and the permanent endowment of his statue in Central Park, as well as commending the continued efforts of Daniel Mitrovich to preserve the integrity and excellence of the New York City Marathon.

COLLIER ELEMENTARY EXCELS
AS BLUE RIBBON SCHOOL

HON. CIRO D. RODRIGUEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 1, 2001

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. Mr. Speaker, educators from Collier Elementary School, which is located in my congressional district, recently visited Washington, D.C. to accept the 2000-2001 Blue Ribbon School of Excellence Award. At this time, in particular, we must remember and honor the many men and women who daily are entrusted to enrich the lives of our children. Collier earned this prestigious award because of its unique dedication to academic excellence, quality teaching, parental involvement, and community support.

Collier Elementary is located in the heart of a working class community in the Harlandale Independent School District in southeast San Antonio. As a former Harlandale school board member, I understand the social and economic challenges facing students, teachers, and administrators. I am greatly pleased that Collier is a model neighborhood school where children can master the basics with adequate textbooks and equipment in an environment that is safe, disciplined, and drug-free.

Schools are a reflection of our community and it takes everyone working together to make them quality institutions. The administration, teachers, staff, students and their families should be commended for their hard work and dedication to making Collier an exemplary school. The entire Collier Elementary community deserves due praise for being designated by the Department of Education as a Blue Ribbon School of Excellence.

HONORING MS. JENNIFER RICHARDS OF VISTA, CA, FOR COMPLETING BACK-TO-BACK VOYAGES AS A NOAA/NSF TEACHER AT SEA

HON. RANDY "DUKE" CUNNINGHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 1, 2001

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to rise today to recognize one of my

constituents, Ms. Jennifer Richards of Vista, CA, for recently completing back-to-back voyages as a National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration/National Science Foundation Teacher at Sea (NOAA/NSF Teacher at Sea).

The NOAA/NSF Teacher at Sea program places a school teacher on a NOAA research vessel to participate in the scientific research being conducted on board and to record their experience. Jennifer is a High School Earth Science Teacher at Guajome Park Academy, Vista, California, who recently participated in the first leg of the EPIC Research Cruise on the NOAA vessel, the *Ronald H. Brown*. She departed from San Diego, California on September 5, 2001, and sailed to the Galapagos Islands completing her cruise on October 6, 2001. She then stayed in the Galapagos Islands conducting research until October 11, 2001. Throughout her cruise Jennifer provided lessons concerning her cruise varying in topics from longitude and latitude to signal flags. Jennifer also kept daily logs describing her trip to her students back home in Vista.

The Teacher at Sea program receives an average of 165 applications for 35 voyages, which is approximately the same ratio of competitive grants that are funded by NOAA and NSF. Jennifer was selected from a competitive pool of approximately 35 elementary and secondary education teachers who were interested in this particular voyage. To qualify, Jennifer was required to complete an application which includes 2 professional recommendations and questions regarding the applicant's ability to use this voyage as a teaching tool to benefit her students and colleagues.

As a former teacher, I understand how tough it is to engage children as active participants in their lessons. Jennifer's proven creative ability to communicate science and research to her students was the reason that she was selected for this research voyage. I applaud Jennifer Richards for dedication to her students and her efforts to improve science education.

THE CHARITY ACCOUNTABILITY
ACT, H.R. 3192

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 1, 2001

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce H.R. 3192, the Disaster Relief Charities Accountability Act.

Mr. Speaker, seven weeks have passed since the barbaric attacks on the World Trade Center, the Pentagon, and the thwarted hijacking attempt in Pennsylvania, yet victims and their families have not received the funding they desperately need.

Initial reports have indicated that more than \$1.2 billion has been collected by 196 charitable organizations.

While this overwhelming support by Americans has been gratifying, there is a great deal

of concern that the funds raised may not be going directly to the intended beneficiaries—the victims and their families—and instead are being diverted or, worse yet, miss their intended goal.

More than 100 families in my congressional district have been affected by the horror of the September 11th attack in New York. Many of these families have been calling my office requesting information and assistance on how and where to go to receive these donated funds.

Accordingly, I am introducing H.R. 3192 to provide a full accounting of:

All funds received to date;

The amount spent and distributed and for what purpose;

The criteria used for disseminating these funds;

The percentage of funds donated that will actually go to the victims; and

The administrative costs for allocating these funds.

In addition, the Charity Accountability Act will provide both the victims and their families, as well as those wanting to donate, with a clearinghouse of all charitable organizations participating in this important fund-raising initiative.

It is my intention that this legislation will insure that the money raised to assist Americans during any disaster event will go to the intended beneficiary.

Specifically, this legislation will establish a five member board to: (1) Collect and provide information to assist both the victims and those wishing to contribute to various disaster funds; (2) collect and maintain an on-going accounting of all funds collected and disbursed; (3) obtain and review the criteria used by the various relief funds to pay out these funds; and (4) report to both the President and the Congress on the status of these funds.

The outpouring by the American people to the disastrous events of September 11th should not be wrought with confusion or cynicism on how the funds are being distributed or possibly misdirected. It is obvious that Americans want their donated funds to go directly to the victims and their families. Any funds collected for this intended purpose and spent otherwise would place a black mark on the entire philanthropic community, dissuading and jeopardizing any future donations.

Accordingly I encourage my colleagues to review this important legislation and welcome their support.