

However, I don't dispute that the perception of "racial profiling" exists within both the minority community and society at large, not only here in Boardman and the Mahoning Valley, but throughout the U.S. And this perception has been given credence from anecdotal evidence in reports of systematic race-based enforcement by the New Jersey State Police, among others, although valid statistical data on the problem has proven difficult to gather and analyze. We, as law enforcement professionals, are truly troubled by both the perception and—to the extent it exists—the practice of racial profiling. In response, both the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) and the Ohio Association of Chiefs of Police (OACP), as well as chiefs' and sheriffs' organizations in other states, have developed model policies and training curricula to address the issue. State legislatures have proposed or adopted laws requiring policies and data collection, and the U.S. Department of Justice has taken action against not only the Los Angeles Police Department, but also, in our area, Pittsburgh and Steubenville police.

I assure you, as Boardman's police chief, I have been—and will continue to be—alert for any indications of discriminatory practices by my organization or any of its members. I believe I have an experienced, educated, and enlightened management staff, and a corps of intelligent, well-trained, and highly motivated police officers, all of them professionals dedicated to serving their community. Nonetheless, I routinely monitor statistical data, read arrest reports, review official transactions of all kinds, and pay attention to informal conversations and offhand remarks for indicators of discriminatory conduct. I also receive frequent feedback from the public on the performance of my agency and individual officers through correspondence, phone calls, and personal contacts. Thus far—other than your letter—I have had no cause for concern.

However, prior to your letter, we had already undertaken some proactive steps to further ensure that discriminatory conduct is neither practiced nor condoned by Boardman police. In March of this year, every Boardman police officer was required to watch a 16-minute training video jointly produced by the OACP, the Buckeye Sheriffs Association, and the Ohio State Highway Patrol, to reinforce the unacceptability of racial profiling. We have also been reviewing and revising our policies to explicitly prohibit discriminatory profiling of any kind. Among the draft provisions are the following policy statements:

Racial or bias-based profiling of any kind is totally unacceptable and will not be condoned. The department will utilize various management tools to ensure that racial or other prejudice is not used by officers in deciding whether to take official action.

Officers are expected to enforce the traffic laws when violations are observed, and to stop and detain motorists or pedestrians when there is reasonable suspicion that they have committed, are committing, or are about to commit a criminal act.

Officers are prohibited from stopping, detaining, searching, or arresting anyone on the basis of discriminatory profiling. This policy does not prohibit officers from stopping or detaining individuals who reasonably match the description of a specific suspect in connection with a specific crime, when race, gender, ethnic origin, or age are among the identifying attributes in the suspect's description.

I am sorry your contacts with Boardman police have not all been positive ones, but I am pleased you have had positive experiences as well. I sincerely hope I have adequately addressed your overall concerns. If you would like an investigation into any specific incident, please don't hesitate to contact me for an appointment. By law, such investigations must be handled through the proper procedures, and are not made public until they are concluded.

As Mr. Mangino read your letter aloud on his Friday program, and Congressman Traficant has taken it for inclusion in the Congressional Record and distribution to other law enforcement agencies in the 17th Congressional District, I have taken the liberty of sharing a copy of this response with them.

Sincerely,

JEFFREY L. PATTERSON,
Chief of Police.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO JOAN SINDLER

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 4, 2001

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize Joan Sindler and thank her for her dedication to our educational system. She has contributed much of her time and effort to the Skyline Elementary Parent Teacher Organization as well as to other educational programs. She was recently named the Parent of the Year by the Colorado Association of Gifted and Talented and her efforts certainly deserve the praise and admiration of this body.

In addition to serving on the PTO, Joan has also been a member of the Accountability committee and the School Improvement committee. Perhaps the majority of her time is consumed by contributing a great deal of effort to the Colorado Gifted and Talented Enrichment (GATE) program in Canon City. As a member of GATE, Joan is involved in attending monthly meetings and assists with district events and special projects that ensure the continuing operation of the program.

Mr. Speaker, it is a great privilege to honor Joan Sindler and recognize her contributions to the educational system. Through people like Joan, children can rely on a quality education that focuses on their special needs and desires to excel in their education. Joan's dedication has brought great credit to herself, her family and her community and I would like to congratulate her for being named Parent of the Year.

PARMA HEIGHTS CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 4, 2001

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Parma Heights Christian Academy, which has been named a 2000–2001 Blue Ribbon School of Excellence by the U.S. Department of Education.

Parma Heights Christian Academy is the only private Christian school in the nation to receive the Blue Ribbon School of Excellence Award this year. In all, only 264 schools in the country earned this prestigious award this year. Blue Ribbon Schools are considered to be models of both excellence and equity where educational excellence for all students is a high priority. Parma Heights Christian Academy had to demonstrate its effectiveness in meeting local, state and national educational goals and had to successfully complete a rigorous application process. Blue Ribbon Schools must offer instructional programs that meet the highest academic standards, have supportive and learning-centered school environments, and demonstrate student outcome results that are significantly above average.

Parma Heights Christian Academy is an outstanding school that is well deserving of this national recognition. Its academic programs and environment will serve as a model for schools across the country. My fellow colleagues, please join me in congratulating the students, teachers and administration of Parma Heights Christian Academy for their commitment to excellence.

HONORING MR. CHESTER WIL- LIAMS OF STATESBORO UPON HIS 90TH BIRTHDAY

HON. JACK KINGSTON

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 4, 2001

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to honor Mr. Chester Williams of Statesboro, GA on the occasion of his 90th birthday. Chester has truly led a remarkable life, and I am proud to be able to celebrate his accomplishments with you today.

Chester Williams was born on December 4, 1911 in Stapleton, GA. He earned a bachelors degree in education from Georgia Teachers College in 1935 and a masters from the University of Georgia in 1950. Throughout his career, he has served as headmaster at four Georgia high schools; they include Reidsville High School, Folkston High School, North Habersham High School, and Metter High School. In addition he served as president of the District High School Principals' Association. Through his life as an educator, Chester has been able to expose young people to the benefits of a strong system of values and a well-rounded life. He continues to maintain daily interactions with the students from Georgia Southern University.

Mr. Williams was also a Lieutenant in the US Naval Reserve, seeing active duty in the Atlantic and Pacific War theaters. During this time he was a recognition and gunnery officer on the USS General W.G. Hann. Williams was a four-sport athlete and letterman at South Georgia Teacher's College, which is now Georgia Southern University. He is best known for earning all conference honors as a basketball guard in 1931 and 1932. He was also a member of the track team for three years, competing in the vault, high jump, and high hurdle events. In 1991 Mr. Williams was inducted into the Georgia Southern University Sports Hall of Fame.