

It is critical that those seeking visas from such nations receive extensive background checks before they enter the United States. Some may see this as racial profiling. It is actually nation profiling, and it is necessary for public security. Thorough background checks need not prevent the United States from accepting large numbers of foreign students, even from countries where terrorism is a problem.

It simply means that the United States must enforce its visa laws to reduce the chance of terrorism and to get a better grip on controlling its borders.

To accomplish this goal in a humane manner, the INS is going to have to increase its work force so that those wishing to spend extended periods of time in the United States are carefully screened, are easily able to renew visas for legitimate purposes and are deported when they violate the terms of their visas.

TRIBUTE TO MS. MELINDA DAY

HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 18, 2001

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Ms. Melinda Day of Lenoir City, Tennessee, in my District. She was recently chosen as Tennessee Teacher of the Year 2002. Ms. Day teaches fifth grade at Lenoir City Elementary School.

This honor is well deserved for Ms. Day, who has been teaching for six years. Even when she was a child, Ms. Day would practice being a teacher in the basement of her parents' home.

Her students enjoy learning in her classroom. She teaches with enthusiasm and a real love for educating children.

Ms. Day has traveled to Japan on two occasions to teach as a part of the Fulbright Memorial Fund Teacher Program and the Fulbright Master Fund Teacher Program.

This Nation would be a much better place and our students would be better educated if there were more people and teachers like Melinda Day.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate Ms. Day on a job well done. She serves as an inspiration for educators all over the Country. I have included an article from the Knoxville News-Sentinel that highlights the accomplishments of Ms. Day that I would like to call to the attention of my fellow Members and other readers of the RECORD.

[From the Knoxville (TN) News-Sentinel,
Nov. 19, 2001]

TENNESSEE'S TOP TEACHER

MELINDA K. DAY IS NOW VYING FOR NATIONAL HONOR

(By Jennifer Lawson)

Lenoir City Elementary School fifth-grader Alexis Lawson thinks she knows why her teacher, Miss Day, was chosen the Tennessee Teacher of the Year 2002.

"She's a good teacher because she listens to people," Alexis said as she led a visitor to Melinda K. Day's classroom.

Day was recently chosen to represent Tennessee in the competition for National Teacher of the Year, which will culminate next April in a ceremony at the White House.

At 28, Day's been teaching for six years officially, but she actually started teaching at age 6 when she set up a classroom complete with a row of antique desks in her parents' basement or in the back of the family horse trailer.

"Every day after school I would rush home to 'teach' what I learned that day and model my teacher's actions in my play classroom," Day wrote in her state competition essay. "This love of learning and teaching has always been an integral part of me. My mom and dad instilled the value of education in me at a very early age."

It only takes a few minutes spent in Day's classroom to feel the enthusiasm and energy she spreads to her students. Her classroom is decorated with fish and palm trees, and a tank of goldfish sits on one counter. She loves things tropical and through her fiancé, Chris Webster, she's become a fan of Jimmy Buffett and his ocean-inspired music.

"Your life is so precious you can't be replaced by anyone," is written across the top of the blackboard.

Her age belies her experience, which includes summers teaching in Japan and Wales as well as bachelor's, master's and education specialist's degrees from the University of Tennessee. She also traveled to Japan to teach as part of the Fulbright Memorial Fund Teacher Program in 1998 and again last year as a recipient of the Fulbright Master Teacher Program.

She said spending time in Japan and not speaking the language made her understand the frustration Spanish speaking children feel when they come to Lenoir City Elementary. Over the past few years, the school has taught a growing population of Mexican immigrants.

"She has served as an inspiration to more experienced teachers and helped to change the attitudes of some teachers with less enthusiasm," wrote Lenoir City Schools Superintendent Wayne Miller in a letter supporting Day's nomination. "Another point which makes Ms. Day an exemplary teacher."

The Alabama native, who grew up in Lenoir City, Iowa and South Carolina, said she's like her father who "has to have change constantly." She channels that need for change into her teaching.

"Teaching to her is 24-7," said Lenoir Elementary Principal Patricia Jones. "She's got a unique quality about her that creates an environment for the children where they feel safe to learn."

Day credits three elementary teachers for cultivating her natural love of teaching: Melanie Amburn and Donna Langley (now Zukjowski) of Eaton Elementary School in Loudon County and Julia Pratt, who teaches in Marion, Iowa. More than the subject matter she learned, she remembers how the teachers made her feel about learning and her potential.

"Not only did these teachers set high expectations for students (to) learn the basic skills, but (they) also wanted each child to gain confidence and develop a sense of humor to enjoy life," she wrote in her essay. "The small acts of kindness exhibited by these teachers still make me realize the importance of personally knowing all of my students and learning what encouragements they need to make them feel better about themselves each day."

Her toughest decision after winning the \$3,500 prize accompanied by a crystal award and a certificate signed by Gov. Don Sundquist, was deciding whom to take to Washington with her—her mother, her father or her fiancé.

"I'm taking my mom with me." Day said. "She's a big Republican. When I told her, she jumped up and down like a little girl."

COMMENDING THE WORK OF THE UNITED STATES COAST GUARD'S MARINE SAFETY OFFICE OF HUNTINGTON, WEST VIRGINIA

HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 18, 2001

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, the events of September 11th demanded a great deal from all those involved in ensuring the safety and security of our Nation. Countless individuals and organizations were called upon to aid our country in this time of need, and many answered this call with a great amount of effort and dedication to the American cause.

I would like to take this opportunity to commend the United States Coast Guard's Marine Safety Office of Huntington, West Virginia, the recent recipients of the Commandant's Quality Award for 2001. This honor rewards the leadership, strategic planning, customer focus, information and analysis, human resource focus, process management and business results produced by individual U.S. Coast Guard offices. In addition, the Huntington office was specifically recognized for their development of efficient business practices after the tragedy our Nation suffered on September 11th. Despite the fact that this office is one of the smallest of the 45 marine safety offices nationwide, their newly developed risk assessment plan was praised in Washington for their invaluable contributions to the Coast Guard as a whole in this area.

I would also like to recognize the achievements of United States Coast Guard Auxiliary member James Perry of Huntington, WV. As the communications director for his local office, he was singled out for improving that particular office's pager, cell phone and voice mail systems, all of which have proven to be crucial for operations in the post-September 11th era.

The article in the Herald Dispatch is included on this hero.

COAST GUARD OFFICE HONORED FOR BUSINESS PRACTICES

(By Bob Withers)

HUNTINGTON.—The local U.S. Coast Guard's Marine Safety Office was honored Tuesday for developing efficient business practices that influenced the entire Coast Guard after the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11.

Master Chief Petty Officer Vincent W. Patton III of Washington, D.C., the Coast Guard's highest-ranking enlisted member, presented the unit with the Commandant's Quality Award for 2001 during a ceremony at the local headquarters.

The annual honor—patterned after the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award, the nation's premier award for performance in business and industry—recognizes commands and major staff elements that, through commitment to customer and employee satisfaction and continuous improvement, serve as examples for other Coast Guard organizations.