

Neighborhood Volunteers of the Year Award. Angela Cooper is a schoolteacher who provides mentoring to the students on the team, teaching self-esteem and reading skills. Community Advocate Angeline Morris ensures support from the business community to the ECCC so the operations of the team are properly financed. Rubye Finch is a team mentor who excels in the teaching of conflict resolution.

Neighborhood promotion, preservation, and improvement are the goals of the Bradley Community Council; the Council has three outstanding volunteers nominated for the award. Block Captain Sue Finch devotes her time on a regular basis to ensure the success of events such as the annual Hot Dog Night and Crime Out Night. Susan Hamm served as President of the Bradley Community Council from 1995 to 2000 and currently leads a neighborhood bible study. Stacey Shugart leads the Council in the production of a Community Directory and assists in the printing of newsletters and meeting minutes.

The Booker T. Washington High School Foundation nominated one of their founding members, Susan Brown Freeman, as the Outstanding Neighborhood Volunteer of the Year. Mrs. Freeman was the first African American consultant for Special Education teachers in Richland County, SC School District 1. Mary C. Short of the Bethel Bishop Tenant Association is another nominee for the award. Her dedication to the AmeriCorp organization along with her work as an Education Coordinator for Eau Claire Community Council have earned her a nomination. The HOPE volunteer organization nominated Samuel Gadegbeku for his work with the organization and in his community of the Colony Apartments. Mr. Gadegbeku selflessly gives his time to inspire self-esteem and hard work in the youth of his neighborhood.

The members of the Brandon Acres/Cedar Terrace Neighborhood Association are committed to preserving and improving the community in which they reside; they have nominated Dr. Ramona Lagos, professor at the University of South Carolina. Dr. Lagos organized the Association's first meeting with important city officials; she also serves as Secretary. The Seminar Ridge Neighborhood Organization organizes activities to provide the best living environment to its residents. Dr. Lois Fries served as President of this Organization for seven years, during which time she greatly increased its impact in the community. The Read Street/Edgewood Community Improvement Cooperative Council nominated Georgia Davenport for the Outstanding Neighborhood Volunteer of the Year Award. Mrs. Davenport worked extensively in the Read Street clean up, which led to a reduction in drug traffic and violence in the area.

The Booker Washington Heights Neighborhood Organization is dedicated to the improvement of the community of Columbia, South Carolina and has nominated three individuals. Johnnie Edmonds serves as Treasurer and is very active in this organization despite the fact that he moved out of the neighborhood years ago. The late Beverly Hampton left a legacy of community involvement and dedication to her neighbors when she departed this life on May 21, 2000. Kevin

Speaks has worked to improve a poor section of the Booker Washington Heights neighborhood by giving his time and showing pride in his community.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring each and every one of these wonderful volunteers. They show all of us what can be done if we give back to the neighborhoods and towns we call home. Every one of the nominees for the Outstanding Neighborhood Volunteers of the Year Award deserves the honor along with our appreciation.

HONORING GARY LEE TIMMER

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 4, 2001

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the loyal men and women of the Lapeer County, Michigan, Sheriff's Department. On May 11, the Department will honor one of its own, as friends, family, and colleagues will gather to celebrate the retirement of Officer Gary Lee Timmer, after nearly 30 years of outstanding service.

Born in Almont, MI, in 1946, Gary Timmer's family moved to Imlay City, where he graduated from Imlay City High School in 1965. He entered the Police Academy in 1969 and joined the Imlay City Police Department soon after. He remained there until 1972, where he then became a member of the Lapeer County Sheriff's Department.

During his time with the Department, Gary has excelled in the proper use of firearms. In 1980, he was certified by the Detroit Firearms School as a gun range expert. The Washtenaw Firearms School bestowed the same certification upon him in 1991, along with an expert certification in semiautomatic weapon use. He has taken the responsibility to use these skills to instruct others. As a long time instructor at local gun clubs, as well as a member of the National Rifle Association, Gary teaches and promotes weapon safety and teaches a hunter's safety course.

Mr. Speaker, many people in the Lapeer area have greatly benefitted from Gary Lee Timmer's insight, experience, and commitment to preserving peace and order. He has helped make the streets safe for all its citizens, especially its children. I would also like to recognize his wife Amy, his children Curt and Shelley, and his six grandchildren. He has obviously been as strong a role model for them as he has for the people he protected for three decades. I ask my colleagues in the 107th Congress to join me in congratulating him for his dedication to justice.

HONORING THE HOPKINTON HIGH SCHOOL GIRL'S INDOOR TRACK TEAM

HON. JAMES P. MCGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 4, 2001

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join the community of Hopkinton, Massa-

chusetts in celebrating the achievements and accomplishments of the Hopkinton High School Girl's Indoor Track Team. On Saturday, February 24, 2001 at the Reggie Lewis Center in Boston, the Hillers won their second consecutive state championship.

This accomplishment is impressive in and of itself, but when one considers the obstacles that these outstanding young female athletes had to overcome in their season-long pursuit of the title, their victory is all the more remarkable. Despite construction delays at their practice venue that kept meets from starting until halfway through the season, they remained focused. Despite season-ending injuries to essential runners Vicky Henderson and Melissa Sprachman, they were able to remain positive. And despite illnesses that affected some team members at important meets, they were able to pull together and earn victories.

At the championship, senior co-captain Christine Moschella led the Hillers' charge. She not only won the 300-meter, but set a new state record in the event as well. Freshman Tiana Riel also earned critical points for placing third in the 55-meter high hurdles. Moschella and Riel then joined with senior co-captain Jen McCowan and sophomore Emily Campbell to win the 4200 meter relay. These three placements earned the Hillers 26 points—enough to capture the title.

I would be remiss not to acknowledge the contributions of the other members of the Hillers team without whose hard work, dedication and support this outstanding season would not have been possible: senior Meghan DiNapoli, juniors Alyssa Corsini, Elena Frank, Margo Pyne and Joanna Wood, sophomores Chelsea Keiller, Jess Curran, freshmen Lauren Craft, Lindsay Ferkler, Katie Henderson, Katelyn Mitsock, Marissa Parrish, Alex Savell, and Katie Hoppe, and eighth-graders Stephanie Camille, Louise Cashman, Emily Daly, Kristen Garvey, Kristen Knox, Liz Morgan, Katie Nicol, Lauren Philbrook, Vanessa Wilson, Danielle Corey, Jess Costantino, Lindsay Flieger, Hailley French, Lauren Helstocky, Sarah Kinney, Laurie Monahan, Kirsten Norby, Joelle Pecci, Marie Rivers, Cassic Seery, and Meghan Stewart. Recognition must also be extended to head coach Mike Scanlon and assistant coaches Chris Shea, Martha Thompson and Eric Lammi who guided this team to the Tri Valley League, Class D and State Championships.

Mr. Speaker, it is with tremendous pride that I recognize the exceptional student-athletes of the Hopkinton High School Girl's Indoor Track Team for a remarkable season. I congratulate them on their accomplishments and wish them the best of luck in years to come.

IN RECOGNITION OF WLADYSLAW BARTOSZEWSKI THE FOREIGN MINISTER OF POLAND

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 4, 2001

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Polish Foreign Minister Wladyslaw Bartoszewski for his contributions

to the political and social freedoms enjoyed by the citizens of Poland today, after enduring decades of Soviet domination.

From September 1940 until April 1941, Wladyslaw Bartoszewski was imprisoned in Auschwitz. During World War II, he was active in the Polish military; secretly founded the Zegota Council for Aid to Jews; participated in the Rebirth of the Poland clandestine movement; and proudly took part in the Warsaw Uprising as a Home Army soldier.

Minister Bartoszewski's activism did not stop at the end of the war. He became involved in the Polish Peasant Party and became the co-editor of *Gazeta Ludowa* (Peasant's Daily). His work with these groups landed him in communist jails twice during that period. After his incarceration, throughout the 1960s and 1970s, Minister Bartoszewski continued to fight for the freedom of Poland by participating in Radio Free Europe and the Polish Independence Alliance. In November of 1980, he founded the Committee for the Defense of Those Harassed for Their Beliefs. Once again, the Minister was arrested for his efforts and placed in the Jaworze Internment Center.

In addition to his dedication to Poland's independence movement, Minister Bartoszewski has spent a great deal of his life in the field of education. He taught at the Catholic University in Lublin, and at universities in Munich, Eichstadt, and Augsburg. In addition to writing 1,000 papers and 40 books, Wladyslaw Bartoszewski holds many honorary academic titles from universities all over the world.

Wladyslaw Bartoszewski reached his position of Minister of Foreign Affairs in December of 1995. During the 1990s, he also served as a Senator and as the Polish Ambassador to Austria.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Foreign Minister Wladyslaw Bartoszewski for his great struggle to bring freedom to Poland and its people and for his many years of service to his country.

CALLING UPON THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA TO END ITS HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN CHINA AND TIBET

HON. JOE SCARBOROUGH

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 4, 2001

Mr. SCARBOROUGH. Mr. Speaker, today I call upon the government of the People's Republic of China to immediately end its continuing human rights violations in China and Tibet.

I also endorse H. Res. 56, that strongly supports an American resolution at the 57th Session of the United Nations Human Rights Commission in Geneva, Switzerland, calling upon the government of the People's Republic of China to end its human rights abuses in China and Tibet. As the leader of the free world, we must always encourage the same basic rights we enjoy, for all people, everywhere.

The State Department recently reported that China's human rights record has worsened.

We know that several thousand prisoners are detained today for exercising freedoms of belief and expression, and members of the Falun Gong spiritual movement and Tibetan Buddhists suffer increasing opposition from Beijing for their peaceful practices. We must not tolerate widespread violations of internationally recognized human rights standards, like the persecution and torture of people worshipping outside official churches, that occurs in China to this day.

In addition, the Tibetan people are hardly better off now than they were forty years ago. Since 1950, the communist government of China has actively controlled Tibet and has repressed the Tibetan people. During the 1966 to 1976 Cultural Revolution, most monasteries, palaces, and other aspects of Tibetan Buddhism were damaged and destroyed. The Dalai Lama, the highest and most revered leader within Tibet's former government, has been exiled in India since 1959. Today, Tibet's unique cultural fabric is irreparably being torn by the oppressive practices of old guard communists in Beijing.

Mr. Speaker, China must learn to abide by internationally accepted norms of freedom of association, belief, and expression. It must change its laws and the decrees that restrict freedom, and it must stop criminalizing groups it arbitrarily labels as cults or heretical organizations.

Chinese authorities must hear a loud and clear message: the United States, the rest of the world, and the Chinese and Tibetan people themselves, have waited long enough. China should quit throwing tantrums like an unruly child; it needs to grow up, act its age, and learn to take its place at the table for adults.

BON TON SHOPPE ANNIVERSARY

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 4, 2001

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Stella Wingerter and her family on the 40th anniversary of the Bon Ton Shoppe Inc.

Stella Wingerter founded the company in 1961 with the first store opening in Farmington, Michigan. That first store was only 1200 square feet. Now, however, Stella and her family own and operate four stores, all totaling more than 6,000 square feet, with locations in Farmington, Livonia, Milford and Brighton, Michigan. Forty years of enterprise in southeast Michigan is a strong testament of the Wingerter's dedication to their business, their employees and their community.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Stella Wingerter and her family on 40 years of success and wish them many more in the future.

TAX CREDITS FOR SCHOOL TEACHERS

HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 4, 2001

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, today I introduced legislation that will provide elementary and secondary school teachers with a \$500 refundable tax credit when they purchase books, supplies, and equipment out of their own pockets.

With limited resources being stretched to the limit in many public schools, teachers have been incurring out-of-pocket expenses averaging \$448 to \$1,000 a year. According to the National School Supply and Equipment Association, more than half the money teachers spend in this manner is on instructional materials such as flashcards and workbooks, while the remainder is spent on supplies such as chalk, paper, and pens.

Although current law allows teachers a tax deduction for the school supplies they purchase but for which are not reimbursed by their schools, this provision can be very complicated and does not serve the majority of teachers.

To receive the tax benefit, teachers need to file a Schedule A for itemized deductions, and they must have incurred expenses that exceed a full 2 percent of their adjusted gross income. For example, let's say a teacher earned \$50,000 in adjusted gross income, and spent \$1,100 on out-of-pocket expenses; with the current formula, the actual deduction would only be \$100.

Under my proposal, teachers who incur out-of-pocket expenses but do not meet the current income stipulations would still receive a tax credit. A tax credit is more beneficial than the current deduction because it will allow teachers to utilize the benefit, particularly teachers with low salaries and those in disadvantaged schools.

My Congressional district in western Wisconsin is home to no less than 75 public school districts. I find it unconscionable that teachers must supplement school needs with their own hard earned income to ensure every student receives the same quality education. This bill represents much needed short-term relief, but also renews our long-term commitment to maintaining America's excellence in education. By supporting our teachers in their efforts to provide a quality education to all of our children, we support the very future of our country. Without a doubt, education is the cornerstone of a healthy, productive society, and today's investment represents tomorrow's future success. As we continue the federal government's role in guaranteeing affordable educational opportunities, our commitment to our teachers is one step in the right direction.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to support this measure and the scores of dedicated teachers across the nation who spend their own money on classroom materials needed to educate our children. Their sacrifices to alleviate a problem in the structure of education funding should not go without some benefit. I would encourage my colleagues to support this legislation and give our nation's teachers the credit they deserve.