

SUPPORT OF CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH AND THE NATIONAL CHILDREN'S MEMORIAL FLAG DAY

**HON. JUANITA MILLENDER-McDONALD**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 3, 2001*

Ms. MILLENDER-McDONALD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to advise my colleagues that every day in the United States, three children die from physical abuse or chronic neglect. Additionally, I remind my fellow House Members that ten children die each day as a result of firearm use. It is important for us to remember the lives of children lost due to physical abuse, and to commemorate those youth who have died as a result of violence. As a mother, the issue of child abuse and neglect evokes strong and negative emotions within me. My maternal instincts and my sworn duty as a Member of the House dictate that I wage a vigorous fight to protect our society's most vulnerable segment, our children.

Unfortunately, child abuse has many faces. Mistreatment occurs in a variety of ways such as physical, emotional, sexual abuse or by neglect. In 1997, almost 300,000 children in the United States were subjected to abuse, and over half a million more were found by child protective services to be neglected. Unreported cases of maltreatment are estimated to be as high as three million a year. Abusive behavior threatens and imperils entire families. An alarming and startling statistic is that in approximately 60 to 75 percent of families in which a woman is battered, the children are also battered. The effects of abuse reverberate throughout the lives of victims. Studies indicate that abused children are 53 percent more likely to be arrested as a juvenile offender and are 38 percent more likely to commit a violent crime. Furthermore, children who are abused or neglected are far more likely to abuse their own children later in life.

As co-chair of the Congressional Caucus for Women's issues, I am committed to combating this pervasive and horrific problem in order to protect the lives of children and strengthen women and families. Mr. Speaker, that is why it is crucial for there to be safe havens for children. Ideally our communities, schools and homes should be places of refuge for them. Today, more and more of our children are victims of abuse, and far too many children live in fear; a fear that is compounded by the prospect of violence occurring in their own classroom and homes.

Mr. Speaker, violence is learned behavior. Our children witness aggressive behavior, anger, and hatred to others as a matter of routine and often to a parent as a matter of course. Is there any wonder then, why children demonstrate anti-social behavior that they learn from those closest to them when they commit violent acts? For this reason, it is important to learn the signs and patterns that lead to violent behavior and address them before lives are lost. I am saddened and appalled by the extent of youth violence that has proliferated into an epidemic. The consequences of abuse are now being equated with the impact of war. The fact of the matter

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

is, violence and neglect are more devastating than polio, AIDS, or motor vehicle crashes. The problem of violence in the United States is especially acute because we have the highest youth homicide and suicide rates among the 26 wealthiest nations. I am committed to protecting the lives of our children by: Introducing H.R. 233, the "Child Safety-Lock Act"—meaningful gun control legislation designed to limit children's access to firearms; encouraging collaboration and coordination among education, mental health, social service, and juvenile justice agencies; creating legislation that will re-establish and strengthen the mandate of juvenile judges to use discretion and creativity in sentencing children and adolescents; and by supporting any legislation that brings us closer to an end to youth violence and protects the interests of our children.

Violence of any kind weakens families and especially hurts our children. Regardless of its form, youth violence and violence against children must be stopped. Tragically, children die as we contemplate recommendations. We must act quickly and responsibly to reestablish safe havens in our communities. Our children and our nation deserve nothing less.

CONGRATULATING JOHN F. KEANE ON THE 35TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF KEANE, INC.

**HON. MICHAEL E. CAPUANO**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 3, 2001*

Mr. CAPUANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize John F. Keane, a true American success story. This Saturday Keane, Inc. will host their annual employee recognition dinner. John Keane will be recognized, along with other employees who are celebrating significant milestones with the company. John Keane has dedicated 35 years of service and has successfully built Keane, Inc., headquartered in Charlestown, Massachusetts, into one of the world's most successful information technology consulting companies.

John Keane began building his consulting business above a doughnut shop, with one employee. From those humble beginnings Keane, Inc. has grown into a \$1 billion international powerhouse. I am proud to acknowledge the fact that John's monumental business success has not hampered his ability to personally make a significant, positive impact in the community.

Many businesses in this country do make efforts to be good neighbors. Keane, Inc. however, takes community involvement to a higher level. For instance, Keane has adopted the Edwards Middle School in Charlestown as their business partner. This is not merely a symbolic gesture by a big company to show they care about the community. It is truly a working relationship that has witnessed extreme success in the lives of students. An Annual Spelling Bee, sponsored by Keane, gives adults the opportunity to show to students what they have learned over the years, while also raising money for after-school programs.

Although John's accolades include serving on the President's Commission for Y2K, the

*May 4, 2001*

Coalition for H-1B Visas and other high profile posts, it is his smaller scale, local efforts that impress me as his most important work. John himself has at times become personally involved in some of the many programs that take place at the Edwards school. When students were taking part in a program to teach peer mediation and negotiation skills, Mr. Keane himself participated in these sessions. It is this type of personal touch that makes John Keane the type of businessman you want to have headquartered in your community.

Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate John Keane on his 35 years at Keane, Inc. and thank him for the manner in which he has conducted business during his tenure. He is truly an asset to our community. I'm honored to have Keane, Inc. in my congressional district.

GRADE-A: GOVERNMENT RESERVATION ACCELERATED DEVELOPMENT FOR EDUCATION ACT—ASSISTANCE FOR EDUCATION OF MILITARY FAMILIES

**HON. MARK STEVEN KIRK**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 3, 2001*

Mr. KIRK. Mr. Speaker, today 21 of my bipartisan colleagues and I are introducing a bill—entitled the GRADE-A Act, the Government Reservation Accelerated Development for Education Act. This is major legislation intended to improve education around the nation.

In the average \$10 million American school district, \$9.3 million are raised from state and local taxes. This system works well when the children attending the local school live on property subject to local tax.

This system does not work well when the federal government houses many children on land not subject to tax—such as a military base or Indian reservation. In these schools, the children report to class without financial backing—too many of these kids and the school district can go bankrupt.

For many years, the federal government has made payments through a program called "Impact Aid," intended to mitigate the impact of the federal presence on local schools.

Between 1950 and 1969, the Impact Aid Program was fully funded. Since that time the funding level has not kept pace with the amount required to cover the Federal Government's tax obligation. In Fiscal Year 2001, the program will pay only 46% of the total amount required to cover the cost of the two formula driven provisions of the Impact Aid Program—Section 8002 (Federal Property) and 8003 (Federal Connected Children).

While school administrators and teachers across the country appreciate Impact Aid payments, they are usually paid late and fail to cover the cost of the children who enter school. For example, the Highland Park, Illinois, school district pays approximately \$11,000 a year to educate a student. The Impact Aid program provides just \$500 per child. Local taxpayers living on civilian property must