

Phil Kent is now entering a new phase in his career. He was recently recruited by the Southeastern Legal Foundation to serve as its President. I have every confidence this vital, public interest legal foundation will benefit greatly from Phil's conservative vision and penchant for bold action as he takes the helm there.

I hope other Members of this body will join me in celebrating the arrival of such an effective activist at such an important legal foundation.

CONGRATULATIONS, KID WITNESS
NEWS AWARD WINNERS

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 15, 2001

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask my colleagues here in the United States House of Representatives to join me in paying special tribute to a very talented group of students at the Gordon Parks Academy, located in my Congressional district in East Orange, New Jersey. On May 15th, they will be honored at the 11th annual Panasonic Kid Witness News Vision Awards Ceremony, to be held in our own Newark Museum in Newark, New Jersey.

The Gordon Parks Academy, K-8, is this year's special Technical Vision Award winner for producing a video with the best special effects. This winning video, "Reading: Destination Unlimited", used especially creative and innovative special effects to create its message that books can transport the mind and the imagination. Two students wander into their school's book fair looking for a recommendation. They are invited by the mysterious librarian to take a trip across the United States. To the tune of Nat King Cole's "Route 66," the students experience a fulfilled cross-country odyssey. The special effects reinforce the point that reading a good book can be as vivid as living what you are reading. Mrs. Sharman Howe Nittoli, the TV Production Teacher and KWN coordinator, should be commended for her outstanding work with the very talented young people who produced this video. Kid Witness News is a hands-on video education program in more than 200 primarily inner-city schools in 120 U.S. cities. Using Panasonic-supplied equipment to create video projects, young people are encouraged to develop their creative, communication and technical skills through video production. Annual awards are presented to student teams in various categories, including Best Video, Documentary, Local Hero, Multiculturalism and News at a special program held in New Jersey each spring. It is apparent that The Gordon Parks Academy is proud to be a participant in Panasonic's KWN student news program. I know Ms. Joyce F. Howard, the school's principal, clearly recognizes the importance for young people of diverse backgrounds to seek new experiences and examine themselves in different roles as they prepare for their own future. I truly am proud to say congratulations to her, to the program advisors, and especially to the students

of Gordon Parks Academy for a job well done. As a former teacher and lifelong advocate of youth, I am pleased to support Panasonic's Kid Witness News program. I commend Don Iwatani, Panasonic's Chairman and CEO of North American operations, for his support and leadership of such a commendable program. The excitement surrounding this program is that we actually will see "The World Through Their Eyes" in years to come as the participants become the future newsmakers of tomorrow. The 2001 New Vision Awards are a testament to the great future of today's youth as they prepare for the 21st Century. I am proud that Panasonic is in New Jersey and proud of its efforts to make a difference in the lives of children both in New Jersey and across the country.

THE 42ND ANNUAL CASTROVILLE
ARTICHOKE FESTIVAL

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 15, 2001

Mr. FARR of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 42nd Annual Castroville Artichoke Festival, taking place May 19th and 20th. While quite unknown to many people outside of my district in California, Castroville is the self-declared "Artichoke Capital of the World," and this delicious thistle is one of the largest crops in northern Monterey County.

The Artichoke Festival is an annual two-day event that celebrates the culture of the Salinas Valley, specifically the growing, harvesting and many uses of the artichoke itself. Every year new events are planned, but the most popular ones include a classic car show, a parade, and, of course, the food. This year will surely be more exciting, with the addition of a 10K/ half marathon race and an artichoke recipe contest.

The artichoke first came to central California in 1921, when four families with close ties to Italy decided to grow the thistle that was so popular in Europe right in Castroville. With a climate that is perfect for this crop, the artichoke has become a rich part of the heritage and culture of our area.

Because of this importance in the life and economy of my district, and because it is such a delicious treat for anyone familiar with this thistle, I am pleased to be able to honor the 42nd Annual Castroville Artichoke Festival.

TRIBUTE TO JIMMIE LOU FISHER

HON. MARION BERRY

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 15, 2001

Mr. BERRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a great American, and I am proud to recognize Jimmie Lou Fisher in the Congress for her invaluable contributions and service to our state and nation.

I have known Jimmie Lou for years, and I can testify from experience to her public service and the example she has set for others.

Jimmie Lou has served longer than any other state treasurer in Arkansas history. As one of the first female office holders in our state, she has been a positive role-model and trailblazer for young women. Most importantly, she executes her responsibilities effectively, and combines her obvious competence with a passion for politics. This explains why the citizens of Arkansas have elected her so many times, and why she has inspired so many others to become involved in our political system.

Clearly Jimmie Lou has mastered her job, and has shown creativity and ingenuity in the process. In 1990 she was named the president of the National Association of State Treasurers. Recently she was the only state treasurer in the nation to employ a state-of-the-art investment and general ledger system, which has cut paperwork and processing in half, and dramatically reduced maintenance costs.

Her many awards and nominations indicate the degree to which she has touched the lives of people in communities large and small. President Bill Clinton was lucky to have her as a district coordinator when he first ran for governor; the Democratic party was lucky to have her in all of the capacities she accepted in its behalf; the citizens of Arkansas were lucky to have her through almost eighteen years of public service; and the women in our state have been lucky to have her as a role model and inspiration.

Jimmie Lou decided to retire from politics this year, which came as a surprise to many people in our state. We all wish she could have served forever. On behalf of the citizens of the state of Arkansas and this nation, with great love and respect, I thank her for everything she has done to improve the lives of others. I am very proud to call her my friend.

INTRODUCTION OF THE SMALL
BUSINESS LIABILITY PROTECTION
ACT

HON. PAUL E. GILLMOR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 15, 2001

Mr. GILLMOR. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to introduce the Small Business Liability Protection Act. This bill, which has cosponsors from both sides of the aisle, represents the successful negotiations of Republicans and Democrats on both the House Energy and Commerce Committee and the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee. This bill is long overdue and will provide liability protection to small businesses that disposed of very small amounts of waste or ordinary garbage and shelter small businesses from serious financial hardship by offering those affected businesses expedited settlements. It does not save any businesses from Superfund liability if their waste stream caused serious environmental harm. This bill provides an appropriate helping hand while keeping the onus on all businesses to be responsible stewards of our environment. I would urge all members of this House to support this bill, without amendment.