

Mr. Speaker, President Bush addressed those brave men and women who spread the light of freedom in the darkest corners of the world when he said in his inaugural address, just a few days ago, "Democratic reformers facing repression, prison, or exile can know: America sees you for who you are: the future leaders of your free country." My Colleagues, we must demand the immediate release of José Miguel Martínez Hernández and every political prisoner languishing in the dungeons of tyrants.

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THANKING AMANDA CONLEY

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**HON. JEFF MILLER**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 26, 2005*

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to extend my thanks to Amanda Conley for her faithful and selfless dedication to our country.

On a daily basis, we are reminded of the tremendous costs that freedom often requires. Throughout the history of the United States of America, men, woman and families have given their all to further our constitutional hopes and dreams.

For 36 years, Amanda Conley has tirelessly supported the men of her family. Born on-base the daughter of a Navy Chaplain, Mrs. Conley grew up in the midst of great men and women that served and protected our Nation from enemies both foreign and domestic. Through three deployments to the Mediterranean and a year-long assignment to the jungles of Vietnam, as well as countless assignments to various destinations, Mrs. Conley endured what seemed like endless separation from her father.

As her father's service in the Navy came to an end, Mrs. Conley re-dedicated her support to the United States military by becoming a Navy wife. She endured the same sporadic deployments and nights alone as had marked her childhood, including a tour in the Persian Gulf and 6 years as a single mother while her husband Steve was assigned to recruiting duty.

Every day United States servicemen and women serve with fervency and zeal due in large part to the continued support of their spouses and loved ones. Troop morale stems from the loyal and endless efforts and sacrifices of their loved ones on the homefront, those who benefit from freedom each day because of what their husbands, wives, daughters and sons contribute through their service.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, we are humbled by and appreciative to men and women like Mrs. Amanda Conley, who are willing to sacrifice and support those that they love to ensure the future of our great Nation.

To military spouses and families everywhere, thank you. We owe you a heartfelt debt of gratitude.

INTRODUCTION OF THE EDUCATION IMPROVEMENT TAX CUT ACT

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**HON. RON PAUL**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 26, 2005*

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce the Education Improvement Tax Cut Act. This act, a companion to my Family Education Freedom Act, takes a further step toward returning control over education resources to private citizens by providing a \$3,000 tax credit for donations to scholarship funds to enable low-income children to attend private schools. It also encourages private citizens to devote more of their resources to helping public schools, by providing a \$3,000 tax credit for cash or in-kind donations to public schools to support academic or extra curricular programs.

I need not remind my colleagues that education is one of the top priorities of the American people. After all, many members of Congress have proposed education reforms and a great deal of time is spent debating these proposals. However, most of these proposals either expand federal control over education or engage in the pseudo-federalism of block grants. Many proposals that claim to increase local control over education actually extend federal power by holding schools "accountable" to federal bureaucrats and politicians. Of course, schools should be held accountable for their results, but they should be held accountable to parents and school boards not to federal officials. Therefore, I propose we move in a different direction and embrace true federalism by returning control over the education dollar to the American people.

One of the major problems with centralized control over education funding is that spending priorities set by Washington-based Representatives, staffers, and bureaucrats do not necessarily match the needs of individual communities. In fact, it would be a miracle if spending priorities determined by the wishes of certain politically powerful representatives or the theories of Education Department functionaries match the priorities of every community in a country as large and diverse as America. Block grants do not solve this problem as they simply allow states and localities to choose the means to reach federally-determined ends.

Returning control over the education dollar for tax credits for parents and for other concerned citizens returns control over both the means and ends of education policy to local communities. People in one community may use this credit to purchase computers, while children in another community may, at last, have access to a quality music program because of community leaders who took advantage of the tax credit contained in this bill.

Children in some communities may benefit most from the opportunity to attend private, parochial, or other religious schools. One of the most encouraging trends in education has been the establishment of private scholarship programs. These scholarship funds use voluntary contributions to open the doors of quality private schools to low-income children. By providing a tax credit for donations to these programs, Congress can widen the edu-

cational opportunities and increase the quality of education for all children. Furthermore, privately-funded scholarships raise none of the concerns of state entanglement raised by publicly-funded vouchers.

There is no doubt that Americans will always spend generously on education, the question is, "who should control the education dollar—politicians and bureaucrats or the American people?" Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in placing control of education back in the hands of citizens and local communities by sponsoring the Education Improvement Tax Cut Act.

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PERSONAL EXPLANATION

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**HON. CHRISTOPHER SHAYS**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 26, 2005*

Mr. SHAYS. Mr. Speaker, on January 25, I was participating in the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland and, therefore, missed two recorded votes.

I take my voting responsibility very seriously and would like the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD to reflect that, had I been present, I would have voted yes on recorded vote number 8 and yes on recorded vote number 9.

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CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF  
ALLAN J. MOLL

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**HON. ROB BISHOP**

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 26, 2005*

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate the life of a man who has done much for journalism, the legal profession, and good government in my home state of Utah. Allan J. Moll passed from this world on December 22nd of last year. He leaves the world a richer and better place for his influence and presence.

I remember as a teenager in Utah watching him on the Evening News on Channel Four. The experienced anchor had a unique delivery style I found fascinating. His art was honed by a lifetime of experience. He began his career in radio news at the age of 19. One of his first assignments in broadcasting was reporting the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor to radio listeners throughout the Intermountain West. He served his country during World War II in the U.S. Army Air Corps.

In 1948, Mr. Moll inaugurated the first commercial television broadcast in Utah. In 1958, he moved to California as the news director at the RKO affiliate, KHJ Radio and Television before returning to Utah in 1968. Mr. Moll was the evening news anchor on KCPX TV in the late 1960's through the 1970's. He interviewed numerous influential Americans, including President Truman, President Kennedy, Senator Goldwater and many Hollywood stars. In 2001, the Utah Radio and Broadcast Association inducted him as "Broadcaster of the Year."

Allan Moll's accomplishments are not limited to the broadcast industry. He received a law