

TRIBUTE TO SISTER JANET A.
FITZGERALD

HON. PETER T. KING

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 27, 1996

Mr. KING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to salute one of Long Island's most dedicated and accomplished educators, Sister Janet A. Fitzgerald, O.P., Ph.D. After serving as president of Molloy College in Rockville Centre, NY since 1972, Sister Janet has announced her resignation. Sister Janet's tenure of almost 24 years was longer than that of any other Molloy president. Nearly 85 percent of Molloy's 8,500 graduates earned their degrees during Sister Janet's term in office.

Coming to Molloy 27 years ago, Sister Janet taught in the philosophy department. She became president in 1972 and served in that capacity until this year. Following the completion of a well-deserved sabbatical, Sister Janet will return to Molloy to once again teach philosophy.

Under Sister Janet's leadership, Molloy College grew dramatically. Enrollment has more than doubled and the number of faculty has increased from 73 full-time and 27 part-time in 1972 to 136 full-time and 142 part-time for the 1995-96 academic year. As president, Sister Janet oversaw the construction of three new campus buildings: The Wilbur Arts Center, the Chapel of the Sacred Heart, and the William J. Casey Center. During her presidency, extensive renovation and modernization were done to both Kellenberg and Quealy Halls.

Molloy College also expanded its academic offerings during Sister Janet's administration. Twenty-one majors were created and in 1989, Molloy offered its first graduate program, the M.S. in Nursing. Molloy has also added three additional M.S. programs in nursing.

On a personal level Sister Janet and I both grew up in the Sunnyside/Woodside neighborhood in Queens, NY. Sister Janet certainly epitomizes the qualities which were prized in our neighborhood—courage and strength of purpose.

Sister Janet Fitzgerald is truly one of Long Island's greatest assets and one of our Nation's greatest educators. She compiled an outstanding record as president of Molloy College and deserves a debt of gratitude from all of us. I wish Sister Janet all the best and hope that she enjoys her sabbatical, but I know that she will be eager to get back to the classroom.

COLLEGE COSTS SKYROCKET

HON. JOSEPH P. KENNEDY II

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 27, 1996

Mr. KENNEDY of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, 122 years ago, the great English leader Benjamin Disraeli spoke to the British House of Commons proclaiming the virtues of education. His words, "Upon the education of the people of this country the fate of this country depends", manifested his realization that a knowledgeable population represented a key to continued national success.

Today, with the cost of higher education skyrocketing out of control and threatening

soon to move beyond the reach of the average American family, Disraeli's statement is one that we should remember.

In the 14 years ending in 1993, colleges boosted tuitions over 200 percent. Private school tuitions rose an astonishing 220 percent and public school tuitions increased 218 percent during that same period. The rates of increase represent growth that has outstripped that of medical care by more than 40 percent and the Consumer Price Index [CPI] by over 150 percent, according to a 1993 Business Week magazine article.

Correspondingly, family median income rose only 54 percent during that same 14-year period. What the aforementioned figures indicate, simply, is that the current cost explosion of higher education is quickly threatening to make one of the major institutions that promotes American economic and social strength unaffordable for the average American family.

There are several apparent factors behind the rise in the cost of higher education at a 4-year university or college. Competition for students and faculty alike has jumped considerably, and schools have struggled to keep their campuses in top condition. To remain attractive, colleges and universities are forced to add "quality of life" services to their campuses, such as new athletic equipment or facilities. Colleges are often judged, unfairly or not, on whether there is new construction on campus.

This competition has not, as might have been expected, reduced prices all around, but actually served to sustain them, as universities spent millions trying to upgrade their facilities to be state of the art in order to attract the best.

Tuitions stayed high as the institutions expanded, yet in the opinion of many pundits, the value of the resulting educations declined. Perceptions about the decreased value of higher education are also relevant due to what Dean Breneman of the University of Virginia terms the "Chivas Regal effect". Breneman's theory asserts that many college applicants feel that a high price tag on an education reflects its quality. Consequently, families agreed to pay the exponentially increasing fees for what they believed to be a better education, and what truly amounted to one of decreasing quality.

While the universities were busy hiking prices, the Federal Government was reducing its financial aid to families. The number of Federal grants has been cut, in many cases replaced by loans.

Over half of the \$47 billion in financial aid made available by the Federal Government in 1994-1995 came in the form of loans. In 1994, our Government recorded over \$23 billion in loan and grant requests. Clearly this astronomical amount of requests represented a cry for help from an American people fearful that their chance at the American dream is passing them by.

Most students graduating from college in the latter years of the nineties expect to carry a personal debt burden of between \$15,000 and \$20,000. Such large amounts of debt hinders and discourages workers entering the workforce. Businesses have traditionally offered only nominal and insignificant support for such debt repayment, and thus have encouraged low employee commitment and high employee turnaround.

For example, Nellie Mae, a non-profit student loan organization, promotes cooperation

between businesses and students. The group has developed a Federal bill that seeks to expand so-called "cafeteria-type" benefits plans. Under the plan, students would be able to choose student-loan repayment as an option on their company benefits plan.

I strongly urge Congress to look at the daunting predicament in which America's higher education system now finds itself, realize its responsibility to preserve the education and status of the Nation, and recognize Disraeli's lasting reminder as an urgent call to action.

TRIBUTE TO ELIZABETH S.
O'KEEFE

HON. JAMES M. TALENT

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 27, 1996

Mr. TALENT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge Elizabeth S. O'Keefe of Whitfield School, one of the winners of the 1996 Toyota Tapestry program.

The Toyota Tapestry program, which is administered by the National Science Teachers Association, began 5 years ago and has awarded more than \$1.6 million in grants to teachers in the United States. Each year, 40 outstanding K-12 grade teachers are given grants of up to \$10,000 to implement innovative 1-year programs to enhance science education in their schools. The winning teachers have developed projects that demonstrate creativity, involve risk-taking, possesses visionary qualities, and model a unique way of presenting science.

Ms. O'Keefe's winning project was to develop a unique study on ground water in caves. Because caves are void of photosynthetic organisms and litter, the water contains dissolved nutrients as well as herbicides and pesticides that percolate through rock and soil layers into cave streams. Rivers and springs are tested for pollutants; however, there is no systematic evaluation of pollution in cave water. O'Keefe's seventh grade classes will collect and evaluate water samples from 10 cave sites that were tested over 20 years ago, and determine what environmental and geological changes have occurred over this period.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor and a privilege for me to pay tribute to Elizabeth O'Keefe, and commend her upon her efforts in ensuring the next generation a quality foundation from where they can pursue their ambitions. I join the National Science Teachers's Association in honoring the excellent work that she has been able to accomplish.

IMPROVE THE SAFETY OF OUR
FEDERAL WORKERS

HON. JACK QUINN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 27, 1996

Mr. QUINN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my concern regarding the safety of our Nation's Government workers and urge the Congress to move forward in taking steps to protect these individuals as well as the integrity of our Federal facilities. Government workers, in our Nation's Capital and beyond, are