

he required help getting in and out of a wheelchair, said former Citrus Commissioner Hank Cohen.

Cohen and his wife, Miriam, visited Mr. Walker in Tampa less than two weeks ago. Mr. Walker's voice was so weak that he wrote his words on paper instead of speaking. Cohen remembered.

Catherine, who is older than Mr. Walker, wheeled him to the window for what turned out to be a last farewell.

"That was a hard," Cohen said, his voice breaking. "We could see him wave through. He waved to us, we waved back. We knew that would be last we saw him."

GOLD STAR AWARDS

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 5, 1998

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, the Matagorda County 4-H will hold an awards program on the 20th of August and this is a very important event. Mr. Speaker I have, in the past, pointed out how important an organization 4-H truly is for those of us who were raised on farms and who represent agricultural communities. As I have said in the past Mr. Speaker, one of the primary missions that this organization undertakes is agricultural education. I believe that this mission is so critical that, earlier this year, I introduced a bill which would exempt the sale of livestock by those involved in educational activities such as FFA and 4-H from federal income taxation. By making young men and women who participate in these activities hire a group of tax accountants and attorney we are sending the wrong message. Young people who sell livestock at county fairs and the like should be rewarded for taking self initiative and allowed to keep the money they've earned to help pay for their education or to re-invest in other animals to raise. My bill would eliminate the current policy of forcing these youngsters to visit the tax man.

Mr. Speaker, I want to commend the following winners of the Gold Star, the highest award possible at the county level, for achievements in competition at state levels, leadership ability, community service and years of service. They are: Kim Evans, Courtney Wallis and Lindsey Kubecka. Again, I want to commend these young people for their achievements.

TO COMMEMORATE THE OPENING
OF CHARTER SCHOOLS IN PEMBROKE PINES, FLORIDA

HON. PETER DEUTSCH

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 5, 1998

Mr. DEUTSCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the City of Pembroke Pines for responding to our community's concerns regarding the education of our youth. In an effort to ease some of the overcrowding and to better prepare students for the challenges they will face in the new millennium, the City of Pembroke Pines has taken the bold initiative of creating the nation's first elementary charter

school owned and operated by a municipality. On August 29, 1998, Mayor Alex Fekete, Vice Mayor Frank Ortis, City Manager Charles Dodge, and Commissioners William Armstrong and Susan Katz will proudly participate in the ribbon cutting ceremony for this innovative educational facility which represents the first fruition of their vision for greater educational opportunity in South Florida.

As members of the school's advisory board, along with the school principal, parents, and business representatives, they will oversee the day-to-day operation of the school in a partnership that will, as Mayor Fekete so nicely states, "bring education back closer to the people." The school will focus on the core disciplines and modern educational technology. Perhaps more importantly, it will emphasize character development as well as parental and community involvement.

To ensure a nurturing ambiance conducive to intellectual, emotional, and social development, class size will be limited to a maximum of 25 students, and a fully accredited teacher as well as a teacher's aide will be assigned to each class. The school will deliver high quality education while being more cost effective than other schools managed by the district. The per student station cost for the Pembroke Pines Charter School comes to \$8,600 in contrast to the \$13,000 per station average for the state schools.

I commend the efforts of these elected officials, Mayor Alex Fekete, Vice Mayor Frank Ortis, City Manager Charles Dodge, and Commissioners William Armstrong and Susan Katz, who dared to take a step in a new direction. The rest of our country will be closely watching the progress of this new educational alternative and may soon follow the innovative lead of these municipal officials. I share in their excitement because this Charter School provides another creative option for public education. Our future resides in our children, and our schools must commit themselves to excellence as they strive to better prepare them for the next century.

F-1 STUDENTS

HON. BILL McCOLLUM

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 5, 1998

Mr. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation to give American high schools the ability to welcome foreign exchange students into their schools without requiring them to charge tuition. I am pleased to be joined by my colleagues, Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts and Mr. PICKETT of Virginia.

It was brought to my attention that individual schools which participate in informal programs to allow foreign exchange students to attend school in the U.S. are required to charge these same students tuition. The F-1 visa is for students who seek to enter the U.S. temporarily and solely to pursue a course of study. Under existing law, even if the school and the local school district do not want to charge the student for accepting an invitation to study in the U.S., the student will not be able to receive an F-1 visa without paying the fee. In some cases, the school, which otherwise would welcome a foreign exchange student, may be deterred from allowing them to

attend due to the administrative burden of administering the fee. In other cases, American schools entering into informal sister-school exchanges with a foreign school may find that they are forced to charge the foreign student tuition while the American student is attending their sister-school for free.

This tuition requirement does not apply to foreign students who come to the U.S. to study in a program designated by the Director of the United States Information Agency (USIA). These students receive a J visa and are not required to reimburse the school for the cost of their attendance. On the other hand, foreign exchange students in the U.S. under an F-1 visa are usually attending school under informal arrangements, with a teacher or parent having invited them to spend time in the U.S. as a gesture of American hospitality and goodwill. Some schools participate in informal sister-school exchanges where one of their students will go abroad and the school in turn will sponsor a foreign student here. Although these are informal, flexible, private arrangements between schools and students that are not designated by the USIA, they are no less valuable in developing goodwill and greater understanding among people of different nations. In many cases, it simply does not make sense to charge tuition to foreign exchange students simply because they have an F-1 visa rather than a J visa.

The legislation I am introducing today will give schools the ability to have the Attorney General waive the F-1 visa tuition fee requirement. Schools that certify that the waiver will promote the educational interest of the local educational agency and will not impose an undue financial burden on the agency will be able to allow foreign exchange students to attend without charging a fee. On the other hand, schools that do not want to waive the fee will still be able to collect it. This legislation will simply give schools added flexibility to sponsor foreign exchange students without limiting the right of schools to collect needed fees. I urge all my colleagues to support this legislation.

MR. STARR DEPARTS HIS PRIVATE PRACTICE FAR TOO LATE

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 5, 1998

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, last Friday, Independent Counsel Kenneth Starr announced his decision to take an unpaid leave of absence from his partnership at the well known law firm of Kirkland & Ellis. This decision has been a long time in coming: Mr. Starr's work with his law firm was often a direct conflict of interest with his work as Independent Counsel.

Mr. Starr had been earning up to one million per year and sometimes more for his services as a partner in the firm. Whether or not this steady source of income from private practice allowed him the luxury to drag on an investigation that is going into its fifth year and has cost American taxpayers more than forty million is a matter that is not entirely clear. In the meantime, Mr. Starr has taken on additional law clients and handled their legal matters notwithstanding criticism from some of his allies