

WE THE PEOPLE: THE CITIZEN
AND THE CONSTITUTION**HON. RUSH D. HOLT**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 6, 2003

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, on April 26, 2003, more than 1,200 students from across the country will compete in the national finals of the We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution program in Washington, DC. This program is the most extensive educational program in the country, developed specifically to educate young students about the Constitution and the Bill of Rights. The We the People program, administered by the Center for Civic Education, is funded by the U.S. Department of Education by act of Congress.

I am proud to announce that the class from East Brunswick High School will represent the state of New Jersey in the program's finals. These students have worked conscientiously to reach the national finals by participating at local and statewide competitions. In the past fifteen years, these young scholars have won the state competition fourteen times, an accomplishment that should not go unnoticed. Through their experience, they have gained a deep knowledge and understanding of fundamental principles and values of our constitutional democracy. It is a great honor that students from the 12th District in New Jersey have shown such dedication and interest in our nation's government.

The three-day We the People national competition is modeled after hearings in the United States Congress. The hearings consist of oral presentations by high school students before a panel of adult judges on constitutional topics. The students are given an opportunity to demonstrate their knowledge while they evaluate, take, and defend positions on relevant historical and contemporary issues. Their testimony is followed by a period of challenging questions by the judges who probe the students' depth of understanding and ability to apply their constitutional knowledge.

The We the People program provides curricular materials at upper elementary, middle and high school levels. The curriculum not only enhances students' appreciation of the institutions of American constitutional democracy, it also helps them identify the contemporary relevance of the Constitution and Bill of Rights. Critical thinking exercises, problem-solving activities, and cooperative learning techniques help develop participatory skills necessary to become active, responsible citizens.

The class from East Brunswick High School is currently preparing for their participation in the national competition in Washington, DC. It is inspiring to see these young people advocate the fundamental ideals and principles of our government, ideas that identify us as a people and bind us together as a nation. It is important for future generations to understand the values and principles fundamental to our endeavor to preserve and realize the promise of our constitutional democracy. I wish these young "constitutional experts" the best of luck at the We the People national finals and continued success in their endeavors.

SOCIAL SECURITY PROTECTION
ACT OF 2003

SPEECH OF

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 5, 2003

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I rise in reluctant opposition to H.R. 743, the Social Security Protection Act. While this bill contains many provisions worthy of support, it also removes the only means by which many widowed Texas public school teachers can receive the same spousal social security benefits as every other American. As I am sure my colleagues are aware, widowed public school employees in Texas, like public employees throughout the nation, have their spousal social security reduced if they receive a government pension. The Government Pension Offset even applies if the public employee in question worked all the quarters necessary to qualify for full social security benefits either before or after working in the public school system!

The effect of the Government Pension Offset is to punish people for teaching in public schools! However, current law provides widowed Texas public school teachers a means of collecting the full social security spousal benefits. Unfortunately, this bill removes that option from Texas teachers. Since I believe the Congress should repeal the Government Pension Offset by passing H.R. 524, which repeals both the Government Pension Offset and the Windfall Elimination Provision, another provision that denies public employees full social security benefits, I must oppose this bill.

Instead of punishing public school teachers, Congress should be encouraging good people to enter the education profession by passing my Teacher Tax Cut Act (H.R. 613) which provides every teacher with a \$1,000 tax credit, as well as my Professional Educators Tax Credit Act (H.R. 614), which provides a \$1,000 tax credit to counselors, librarians, and all school personnel. Congress should also act to protect the integrity of the Social Security Trust Fund by passing my Social Security Preservation Act (H.R. 219), which ensures that Social Security monies are not spent on other programs. Congress should also pass my Social Security for American Citizens Only Act (H.R. 489), which ensures that noncitizens who have not worked the required number of quarters and illegal immigrants do not receive social security benefits.

FOR SYBIL CROOKHAM

HON. DENNIS A. CARDOZA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 6, 2003

Mr. CARDOZA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Sybil N. Crookham. Mrs. Crookham was born on an Indian reservation on November 12, 1911. She moved to Merced County and enrolled in Winton School. She graduated from Merced High School in 1930, and received her Bachelor of Arts in education from San Francisco State in 1934.

Mrs. Crookham received a teaching job upon returning to Winton, California in 1934. However, she had to leave her job after

marrying Mr. Paul Crookham in 1937, as the school district had a policy against employing married teachers. Mrs. Crookham then went to work at the Bloss Hospital Sunshine School to teach children suffering from rheumatic fever.

In 1943, the Winton School Board revised its policy on married teachers, and reinstated Mrs. Crookham. Soon after, she began serving as a teacher-principal, and then as principal-superintendent. After receiving an administrative credential from Fresno State University, she served as the district's full-time superintendent until her retirement in 1974.

Even after her retirement in 1974, Mrs. Crookham stayed very active in the local community. She was elected to the Merced County Board of Education on which she served seven terms. Mrs. Crookham was instrumental in the Virginia Smith Scholarship Program, and was involved with well over fifty organizations in Merced County. When the Bloss House, a historical landmark in Atwater, California, was threatened, Mrs. Crookham helped to found the Atwater Historical Society to save and preserve the home. She remained on the Historical Society board until 2001.

In 1986, the first elementary school she attended was renamed "Sybil N. Crookham Elementary School." Mrs. Crookham's main priority was to ensure every student in Merced County receive a quality education. She played a vital role in locating the tenth University of California campus to be built in Merced. Her friends and coworkers described Mrs. Crookham as a tireless worker, and a champion of the youth.

Our community has been greatly strengthened by the efforts of Paul and Sybil Crookham. She never ceased to work on behalf of the children even after her retirement. Sybil was always called upon by community leaders for advice and counsel. Sybil set an example for others to follow. I am honored to have called Sybil Crookham my friend and am saddened for our community's loss. May God Bless Paul and the entire Crookham family.

TRIBUTE TO BUD GORDON—IRA D.
CALVERT DISTINGUISHED SERVICE
AWARD RECIPIENT**HON. KEN CALVERT**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 6, 2003

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to an individual whose dedication contributions to the community of Corona, California are exceptional. Corona, and surrounding communities, has been fortunate to have dynamic and dedicated business and community leaders who willingly and unselfishly give their time and talent and make their communities a better place to live and work. Bud Gordon is one of these individuals. On March 22, 2003, Bud will be honored at the annual YMCA Ira D "Cal" Calvert Distinguished Service Awards Dinner.

For the past several years, Bud has volunteered and supported many of our most recognizable civic projects in Corona. He has served as the Executive Chairman of the Happy Hairston Youth Foundation and with late Happy Hairston, chaired the golf tournament for many years. Over the past seven years, Bud also has raised over one million

dollars for local charities while serving as the Chairman for numerous golf tournaments that benefited local groups such as the Fender Museum Foundation, the Boy Scouts, the ARC Angel Foundation and the Happy Hairston Youth Foundation. He has also served as a committee member on several other charity golf tournaments such as the American Cancer Societies, The Boys and Girls Club of Temecula, and the Corona Regional Medical Center.

In addition to his service on established charitable organizations, Bud initiated a new program called "The Cool Down Corona Program". During the hot summer months, senior citizens without air conditioning were suffering needlessly. Bud decided to go down to the local hardware store and purchase 30 window air conditioners. He then contacted the Corona Police Department, the Corona Fire Department and the Corona Senior Center and obtained the names of seniors in our community that did not have air conditioners. Over the past few years the program has grown and every year more seniors are helped during the summer months with much needed relief.

Bud also co-founded the At Risk Children Foundation, or ARC Angel Foundation and has raised and given back to the community over half a million dollars in goods and services. One of the first activities organized by ARC Angel was to take 700 children from low-income families to an Anaheim Angels ballgame at Edison Field, many of whom had never been out outside the city of Corona. Bud personally funded the tickets, food, souvenirs, and a mobile disc jockey.

One of the defining moments in Bud's charitable record, was his involvement after September 11, 2001. On the weekend following the tragedy, Bud gave away United States flags to anyone who came into his car dealership requesting a flag. He also offered to donate \$100 to the New York Relief Fund for each car that was sold in the name of that customer. On the week anniversary of September 11th, Bud closed the dealership at noon to have a brief program in remembrance of the victims. Local firefighters and police were honored and Bud announced he would match funds for anyone who would like to donate money to the relief efforts.

Bud has set a standard of excellence and commitment in his work with charity. His tireless passion for community service has contributed immensely to the betterment of the community of Corona, California. His involvement in the community makes me proud to call him a fellow community member, American and friend. I know that many community members are grateful for his service and salute him as he receives the "Ira D. Calvert Distinguished Service Award".

HONORING KEN GOODWIN

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 6, 2003

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize Ken Goodwin for exemplary service on the occasion of his retirement from Otero Junior College. Ken served in the college's technology department for thirty-two years, taking over as Director of

Computer Services in 1979. His leadership has kept OJC on the cutting edge of technology for over three decades.

Ken was born and raised in the Arkansas Valley. He graduated from Otero Junior College with an Associate's degree and completed his Bachelor's degree at Southern Colorado State College, now the University of Southern Colorado in Pueblo. He returned to OJC as a computer operator in 1971.

In his thirty-two years at OJC, Ken oversaw tremendous changes, watching his computers shrink from the size of a room to the size of his hand. Ken helped to connect OJC's computer network to the Colorado Community College System and expand the role played by technology in the daily life of the campus and its students. He also took the lead on technology issues on a region-wide basis. In 1998, the Colorado legislature established the Connect Colorado project to develop technology in rural Colorado by networking schools and non-profit organizations. Originally serving as a representative of OJC to the larger project, Ken eventually agreed to take over as project manager himself.

Mr. Speaker, it is a great privilege to recognize Ken Goodwin for his service to Otero Junior College and southeastern Colorado. Ken's efforts have provided the foundation for the continuing expansion of technology to students and citizens in rural Colorado. I wish him well in his retirement.

TRIBUTE TO WASHINGTON REDSKINS CORNERBACK DARRELL GREEN

HON. RUBÉN HINOJOSA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 6, 2003

Mr. HINOJOSA. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to honor Darrell Green. Mr. Green recently retired after 20 years, as a star cornerback, with the Washington Redskins. During that time he became one of the National Football League's all-time best, and most honored, players.

As a native of Houston, Texas, Darrell Green began his athletic career at Jones High School. From 1978–1983, he attended Texas A&I University, which is now Texas A&M Kingsville and is located in the 15th district. There he was an Associated Press Little All-America and American Football Coaches Association All-America first-team honoree. Mr. Green was on the All-Lone Star Conference first team as a junior and senior and was selected as the Lone Star Conference's most valuable player in 1982. He was selected to the Lone Star Conference Team of the Decade for the 1980s.

Much of Darrell Green's collegiate stardom came from his accomplishments not on the football field, but on the track, where his phenomenal speed as a sprinter made him one of the world's fastest runners. His mark in the 100-meter dash still stands as the all-time best in the Lone Star Conference. Mr. Green was named to the NCAA Division I All-America roster in 1981 and 1982, was on the NCAA Division II All-America team in five events in 1981 and 1982, was NAIA All-America in 1981 and 1982 in four events, and was named the most valuable track performer at the 1982 and 1983

Lone Star Conference Championships. He has been inducted into the Lone Star Conference Hall of Honor and the Javelina Hall of Fame.

In the spring of 1983, Darrell Green was a first-round draft choice of the Washington Redskins. During his first regular-season game with the Redskins, he electrified football fans everywhere when he crossed the field to chase down and tackle the legendary Dallas Cowboy running back, Tony Dorsett, preventing a sure touchdown. Similar exploits on the field that year earned him the title of NFL Rookie of the Year. Since then, he has been a seven-time All-Pro defensive back, four-time NFL Fastest Man honoree and two-time Super Bowl championship team member. Mr. Green holds a remarkable number of NFL and Redskins records, including first NFL player to make at least one interception in 19 consecutive seasons; first NFL player to return an interception for a touchdown at age 37; first NFL player to play cornerback at the age of 42; first Redskin to play 20 consecutive seasons, start in 254 games and play 279 games; first Redskin to have 54 interceptions; first Redskin to return a fumble 78 yards for a touchdown—the longest in Redskin history; and the first Redskin to return six interceptions for touchdowns in a season.

Darrell Green has also been a shining star off the field through his dedicated efforts to help at-risk youth. In 1988, he founded the Darrell Green Youth Life Foundation, which opens doors of opportunity for neglected children living in unsafe environments. The mission was accomplished through community-based, value-driven learning centers operating in urban, suburban and rural neighborhoods throughout America. The first Darrell Green Youth Life Learning Center was established in 1993 and has grown to six operating centers in three states. For his extraordinary humanitarian endeavors, Green has received an honorary doctorate from Marymount University. He has also received honorary doctorate degrees from George Washington University and American University. Darrell currently serves on the board for the Baltimore-Washington 2012 Olympic Games bid, NFL/NFLPA Sept. 11 Relief Fund and the Loudon Education Foundation. He has received numerous awards and was recently inducted into the Texas Sports Hall of Fame in 2001.

Mr. Speaker, I call upon my colleagues to join me in honoring my fellow Texan, Darrell Green, for his extraordinary accomplishments both on and off the football field. His alma mater, Texas A&M Kingsville, and I are justifiably proud not only of his fabulous football career, but of his long-standing commitment to help at-risk children reach their fullest potential and achieve their dreams.

TRIBUTE TO MAJOR JOSE RAMON BACA

HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 6, 2003

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, I would like to pay tribute to Major Jose Ramon Baca, who is a very special individual to me. He was truly appreciated and loved by all who were fortunate enough to know him.

Jose "Ray" Baca was born in Las Nutrias, New Mexico, to Alberto and Josefita Peralta