

What if you were one of them? I guess we should just stop and let go. Yeah right!

Anti-war protesters are all followers. You should believe in life, liberty and justice for all. Not some rich fancy celebrity just because you like his/her show. I saw a 16 year old female on the news. She said that sixth period was not as important as protesting. How would she even know? Has she been to other countries? She should see what we have. Children all starving and buildings in ruins. Yes we have it in the U.S. but not nearly as bad. You are all lucky. We all are. At least you can go out and get a job if you need to. Hello, welcome to McDonalds, may I help you?

So here I say: No one really wants to go to war. Sometimes it is the action that we must take. Should we just come home and let the world take us over? Uhhh, NO! Protestors, like yourselves, are the people that get mad if someone cuts a tree down or if we eat a cow. I bet a good number of you drive. STOP! You are polluting the air. I will still drive if I need to be someplace and I like my steak medium-well. Do I care? Yes I do.

Our President will make the decision. What he says goes. I respect that and I am ready to do whatever he says and so are all the men and women in the Armed Forces. This is why we are here. When he says "Go" we are on our way. That is why we are getting a raise and we deserve it. Who cares if you do not like it?

As an Army man said, "We are the ones here fighting, so really you do not have a say so!" I am with him.

I would like to thank all the people that support us. I know that my Mom is very worried about me but I know she loves and misses me. I love you all so much and I miss you more than anything.

To all those who oppose and protest, go ahead and do it, whatever! We know who the real men and women are in the U.S.A.!!

I bleed red, white and blue!!

You are right "God blesses everyone." America is #1 on my list.

I wrote this and it is what I feel. I would like it if you passed it on and maybe write back an opinion or something.

Signed, A disappointed Navy Sailor,

MATTHEW A. ETHERIDGE.

Members of this Congress and the American public should sincerely consider Matt's words. Those who seek the true meaning of duty, honor, and sacrifice will find it in devoted servants like Matt Etheridge. I believe his letter to America makes his point very clearly. Mr. Speaker, it should never be in doubt that our nation's servicemen and women have our support, and remain in our thoughts and prayers.

RECOGNIZING THE VON STEUBEN PANTHERS

HON. RAHM EMANUEL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 20, 2003

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, believe it or not, Von Steuben Metropolitan Science Center's basketball team has a chance at the state title. Now, that might not mean much to many of my colleagues, but for those of us who live on the North Side of Chicago, Von Steuben's appearance in the Elite Eight, their first since 1938, is a big deal.

Von Steuben's season did not begin that well. In fact, they lost four of their first five games, but the Panthers rebounded. On Mon-

day, March 17, 2003, they convincingly defeated Brother Rice 65-56 to secure the Class AA supersectional.

Every student should be proud of Von Steuben, and not only because of their success on the basketball court, but because Von Steuben is truly a great school. There are many different types of Chicago Public Schools. Von Steuben is a "science center," meaning it has stronger math and science curriculums than most of Chicago's public schools. It is this demanding and stimulating college preparatory curriculum, combined with the school's diverse student body, innovative teaching methods and state-of-the-art technological equipment which set it apart. I'm proud to represent Von Steuben and honored to congratulate its basketball team.

Mr. Speaker, tomorrow the Panthers of Von Steuben will play Peoria Central. I wish Von Steuben the very best of luck and know that regardless of the outcome, the residents of Chicago and the Albany Park Neighborhood are proud of their accomplishments.

TAX RELIEF, SIMPLIFICATION, AND EQUITY ACT OF 2003

SPEECH OF

HON. E. CLAY SHAW, JR.

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 19, 2003

Mr. SHAW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 1308, and in particular, a provision I offered in the Ways and Means Committee during consideration of another tax measure. This provision is very simple, and very fair—it will provide tax benefits to the families of the victims of the Columbia Shuttle disaster. In the same manner our government provides benefits to the families of soldiers killed in the line of duty or to victims of terrorist attacks, I offered this provision to honor the spirit and courage of our nation's brave astronauts.

Under current law, when a soldier is killed in the line of duty or a citizen is the victim of terrorism, our government views all income received in the year of their death, or the preceding year, as exempt from income tax. In addition, any death benefits paid by the U.S. Government or employers to the families of the victims are also exempt from taxation. And finally, we reduce the state tax of the heirs to 20%.

H.R. 1308 would extend these modest benefits to all astronauts who die in the line of duty, beginning with the families and victims of the Columbia tragedy. These seven men and women gave their lives exploring the bounds of human experience. For their sacrifice and contributions to our nation and mankind, we wish to honor them by caring for the financial security of their loved ones.

I would add that this provision was adopted in Committee without dissent. Although it would provide much needed, meaningful relief to the families of our astronauts, its revenue impact is negligible.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I would be remiss if I didn't commend our colleague CHET EDWARDS of Texas who originally filed legislation extending these benefits to astronauts. I appreciate his leadership on this most solemn and important measure.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to demonstrate their support for our astronauts by voting for H.R. 1308. Our nation is forever in their debt.

AMERICAN CITIZENSHIP AMENDMENT

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 20, 2003

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce the American Citizenship Amendment. Under current U.S. laws, any person born on American soil can claim American citizenship, regardless of the citizenship of that child's parents. This means that any alien who happens to give birth in the United States has just given birth to an American citizen, eligible for all the benefits and privileges afforded to citizens.

Mr. Speaker, this is unacceptable and is far from what our Founders intended when they drafted the Constitution. It undermines the very concept of citizenship as enshrined in the United States Constitution: to be constitutionally entitled to U.S. citizenship one must be "born . . . in the United States" and "subject to the jurisdiction thereof." This second, and most important, part means that in order to gain U.S. citizenship one must owe and actively express allegiance to the United States in addition to the act of being born on United States soil.

What the current state of events has led to is a booming business in smuggling pregnant mothers over the border to give birth to new "American" citizens, who in turn become eligible for all the benefits thereof. Practically, what this does is cheapen citizenship: rather than impart all the obligations and responsibilities of being an American it becomes merely a ticket to welfare and other benefits. The history of the United States is that of immigrants: individuals from diverse backgrounds accepted the obligations of citizenship in exchange for the great benefits of living in the freest nation on earth.

This proposed Constitutional amendment restores the concept of American citizenship to that of our Founders. This legislation simply states that no child born in the United States whose mother and father do not possess citizenship or owe permanent allegiance to the United States shall be a citizen of the United States. It is essential to the future of our constitutional republic that citizenship be something of value, something to be cherished. It cannot be viewed as merely an express train into the welfare state.

NATIONAL BOARD-CERTIFIED TEACHERS IN LOW-PERFORMING SCHOOLS ACT OF 2003

HON. SUSAN A. DAVIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 20, 2003

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to introduce the National Board-Certified Teacher in Low-Performing Schools Act of 2003 to place these highly skilled teachers

as facilitators in low-income low-performing schools.

A huge challenge for our schools is to help low-achieving students improve their academic performance. How do we make this happen? Many studies have shown that the single most critical component for a child's success is the quality of each teacher.

Districts across the country are struggling with ways to comply with The Elementary and Secondary Education Act, H.R. 1, known as the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001. It requires that every classroom will have a highly-qualified teacher, but the definition of "highly-qualified" is not clear. The road to creating more highly skilled teachers is also unclear.

However, we do know that teachers who have successfully completed the rigorous, standards-based teaching evaluation and testing program run by the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards are 'highly qualified.' What we need to do is to encourage more of these highly accomplished teachers to seek positions in the most needy schools. Low-income, low-performing schools typically have newly hired teachers, many of whom are not fully credentialed or trained in teaching skills.

In California, I authored legislation to reward successful National Board candidates with a \$10,000 merit award. One result of this recognition has been that this year the number of successful candidates was ten times the number in 1998, when the legislation was passed. In addition, the state gives an annual \$5000 pay incentive for four years to each National Board Certified Teacher who seeks assignment to a low-performing school.

I propose to build on this method of providing incentives to urge these highly accomplished teachers to provide not only their fine teaching skills but also their availability as peers for the many new teachers assigned to these schools.

Both beginning teachers and experienced teachers can grow in their teaching skills and can be inspired to accept the challenge of the certification process to demonstrate this growth if they have the opportunity to work as a peer with a National Board Certified Teacher. Many teachers who have become certified report that the process itself improves their skills, as they must prepare standards-based, self-reflective portfolios of their teaching practices to submit for evaluation.

Therefore, I propose a pilot program for five years to pay up to 100 National Board Certified Teachers, each of whom is teaching in a low-income, low-performing school, \$5000 per year to act as a resident facilitator to introduce the members of the faculty to the National Board evaluation progress. As a teacher must have taught for three years before applying for Board certification, the five-year period is needed to allow time for new teachers to be exposed to the process through the outreach program initiated by the facilitator.

The responsibilities of the facilitator would be to promote peer teacher participation and to work with the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards to recommend ways to encourage teachers to aspire to Board certification.

The facilitator would also receive a \$1000 bonus stipend for each teacher who completes the process for becoming Board-certified at the school for which the recipient is the resident facilitator.

I believe that this pilot program can be a triple winner. The children of the low-performing school have another teacher who is clearly a highly qualified teacher. The faculty of that school has a peer teacher with identifiable teaching skills as a resource. And the school may grow its own crop of National Board Certified Teachers thus changing the image of being a low-performing school to the image of being a school with a highly-accomplished faculty.

PROPOSING A GREAT LAKES
TRUST FUND

HON. RAHM EMANUEL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 20, 2003

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, today is Great Lakes Day on Capitol Hill. This annual event provides Great Lakes policymakers and opinion leaders with an opportunity to report on the current and future state of the Lakes. Holding one-fifth of the planet's fresh surface water, the Great Lakes are the source of drinking water for 28 million Americans, including 2.8 million Chicagoans. Today it is my sad duty to inform the Members of this body who are not already aware, that the Great Lakes are in grave danger.

Thirty years after passage of the Clean Water Act, water quality has improved, yet the Lakes remain unhealthy and there is clear and convincing evidence that the ecosystem is deteriorating. In the past few years, state and local authorities have issued more than 1,500 fish consumption advisories. In 2001, bacteria from sewage overflows led to a record 599 beach closings. In Chicago, my home, there have been 152 beach closings since 1994.

Mr. Speaker, the Great Lakes, the largest freshwater system on Earth, are clearly in danger. In the mid-1990s, the Everglades, the source of freshwater for much of the state of Florida, faced a similar crisis. Congress responded with an \$8 billion plan to restore the Everglades. I ask this body, are the Great Lakes, one of our nation's most valued national treasures, not worthy of a similar effort? I know they are.

This spring I will introduce legislation to create a Great Lakes Trust Fund. My bill will fund the Administration's "Great Lakes Strategy 2002." Additionally, it would establish a dedicated funding source for Lakes restoration and revitalization. My proposal would also create an advisory board consisting of the governors of the eight Great Lakes states, representatives of the Federal Government, and members of the scientific and business communities. Further, the advisory panel would be tasked with developing a comprehensive Lakes management plan, a biennial report to Congress.

Mr. Speaker, the United States is blessed with tremendous resources. The Great Lakes undoubtedly rank among the most treasured of these resources, but if this body allows them to deteriorate further—if we can no longer drink the water, and no longer swim at our beaches—we will have failed the people of this nation. I refuse to let this happen. My plan will begin to heal the damage done by years of neglect. I urge my colleagues to support me in this important national endeavor and I strongly encourage them to cosponsor my bill.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO GARY OSIER

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 20, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to Gary Osier of Rifle, Colorado for his contributions to the health of our Nation's forests as a ranger in the United States Forest Service. Gary has lived and worked in Colorado for over twenty years and, as he celebrates his retirement, I would like to rise before you today to thank Gary for his service before this body of Congress and this Nation.

Gary studied forestry under the GI Bill and first accepted a U.S. Forest Service assignment in North Dakota. Spending thirty-two years in the Forest Service, he clearly made a home as Rifle's assistant district ranger. He became an official specialist in forest minerals and an unofficial historian in local Forest Service history. Throughout his career, Gary never shied away from difficult issues as a charter member of the Northwest Colorado Oil and Gas Forum.

Though Gary may be retiring from the Forest Service, he will continue his involvement in issues vital to Colorado. Based out of Rifle, Gary and his wife Mary will supply potable water during fire season to active fire camps on national forest lands from Arizona to Wyoming. Filling a need that became evident last summer during the worst fire season in Colorado history, Gary's company, H2Osiers, will also supply water to municipalities and other entities on a case-by-case basis.

Mr. Speaker, Gary Osier has served as a steward of this country's forests for over thirty years. The pride and enthusiasm of foresters like Gary are vital to the important role of the Forest Service. Today I stand before this body of Congress and this nation to recognize one of the Forest Service's best. Gary's dedication to serving the forests and communities of the West is a credit to himself and to Colorado. I thank him for his service.

TEXAS MOURNS THE LOSS OF
STATE REPRESENTATIVE IRMA
RANGEL

HON. CIRO D. RODRIGUEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 20, 2003

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. Mr. Speaker, this week, the State of Texas lost one of its great voices, a leader with passion and energy working to improve the lives of the people she represented. We mourn the death of Texas Representative Irma Rangel who served nobly in the Texas Legislature for more than 25 years. She was a trailblazer as the first Hispanic woman to be elected to the Texas House of Representatives and the first woman to serve as chair of the Mexican American Legislative Caucus. We will miss her strength, courage, vision, and her straight talk.

A close friend, an advocate for poor families and women in South Texas, Representative Rangel consistently fought to improve the quality and accessibility of education for her constituents. Her advocacy helped create the