

The need to strengthen science at the EPA is well-documented. The most recent report, issued by the National Research Council, made two major recommendations. First, that the EPA create a new Deputy Administrator for Science and Technology to serve as an advocate for and reviewer of science at the most senior levels of the Agency. Second, that EPA set a fixed term for the Assistant Administrator of the Office of Research and Development. These changes would help elevate the role of science in the decision-making process at the Agency, as well as provide more stability to existing research efforts inside of the Agency. The legislation I am introducing today captures both of these ideas and will help ensure that science informs and infuses the regulatory work of the EPA.

I urge the Administration not to go too far down the road of "structural changes" and to tightly adhere to their goal of accepting only straightforward ones. This legislation is one of the simplest, straightforward, and yet most effective structural changes Congress can make. It will truly improve the decision-making process at EPA. Additionally, this proposal has already passed the House and garnered the support organizations from the scientific and business community. I look forward to working with the Administration on this legislation and urge my colleagues to support it.

THRIFT SAVINGS IMPROVEMENT ACT

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 16, 2003

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce the Thrift Savings Fund Improvement Act. This legislation to expand the investment options available to congressional and other federal employees by creating a precious metals investment fund in the Thrift Savings Plan (TSP). Adding a precious metals fund to the TSP will enhance the plan's ability to offer congressional employees a wide range of investment options that can provide financial security even during difficult economic conditions.

All of us recognize the importance of maintaining a professional congressional staff and promoting longevity of service in order to enhance stability in the operations of Congress. This is why we have recently enacted legislation authorizing new benefits, such as a student loan forgiveness program, and have taken other measures to improve staff compensation and benefits.

The Thrift Savings Plan is one of the most important benefits offered to congressional employees. A strong TSP can obviously play a key role in attracting and retaining talented individuals to serve in the legislative branch. However, the three stock index funds in the Thrift Savings Plan have not recently performed well, especially when measured against inflation. In 2002, for example, losses from these funds were greater than three, four, and five percent, respectively, in the month of December and, more than 15, 18, and 22 percent, respectively, for the entire year!

In contrast, increases in gold spot prices more than offset the losses experienced by

even the worst performing stock-indexed fund in the Thrift Savings Plan in 2002, with the price of gold increasing by nearly 25 percent in the year and by more than nine percent in December!

Recent gains aside, precious metals have a number of features that make them a sound part of a prudent investment strategy. In particular, inflation does not erode the value of precious metals is not eroded over time. Thus, precious metals can serve as a valuable "inflation hedge." Precious metals also maintain, or even increase, their value during times of stock market instability, such as what the country is currently experiencing. Thus, investments in precious metals can help ensure that an investment portfolio maintains its value during times of economic instability.

Federal employees could greatly benefit from the protection against inflation and economic downturns provided by prudent investments in precious metals. I, therefore, once again urge my colleagues to cosponsor the Thrift Savings Fund Improvement Act.

COMMEMORATING THE RETIRE- MENT OF ANNE S. KIEHLE, PH.D, SUPERINTENDENT OF FORT SAM HOUSTON ISD

HON. CHARLES A. GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 16, 2003

Mr. GONZALEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Dr. Anne S. Kiehle, Superintendent of Fort Sam Houston Independent School District (ISD). Dr. Kiehle's many contributions to education over her distinguished 36 year career has been recognized by her fellow educators. She has served as president of the Texas Elementary Principals and Supervisors Association (TESPA) as well as an active member of numerous educational organizations including the National Association of Federally Impacted School (NAFIS), Military Impacted Schools Association, and American Association of School Administrators (AASA). Additionally, she participates in the National Center for Educational Research and Technology (NCERT), the Association of Supervisors and Curriculum Development (ASCD), and the Texas Association of School Administrators (TASA).

Dr. Kiehle, who assumed top leadership role at Fort Sam Houston ISD in May 1996, has guided the school district to its current "Exemplary" status as designed by the Texas Education Agency which rate student performance, drop-out rates, and attendance.

Dr. Kiehle is also responsible for Fort Sam Houston ISD's involvement in the Military Child Education Coalition, an international organization whose mission is to establish partnerships and provide networking of schools and military installations regarding educational issues related to the military child. She has worked with MCEC officials on local arrangements for a Department of Defense Roundtable Discussion for education of military students.

Technology has been one of Dr. Kiehle's major initiatives beginning with networking of the school district, providing district personnel and students with computer hardware and software for instruction, record keeping, and

increased communication with families both here and overseas. Distance learning capabilities have been added for student and district personnel.

Fort Sam Houston ISD schools have experienced major facility renovations and new construction as part of the Long-Range Facility Plan developed under Dr. Kiehle's leadership. Early in her administration, a new JROTC Building was built on the Cole campus, with the existing building renovated into a multipurpose Professional Development Center.

Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct pleasure to commend Dr. Anne S. Kiehle for her hard work and dedication to Fort Sam ISD. It is the perseverance and dedication of women like her that have made Fort Sam Houston ISD a great institution for students to attend.

IN MEMORY OF ANDREA MARTIN

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 16, 2003

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the inspirational life and work of Andrea Martin, who died peacefully at her home on August 6. A loving wife, devoted mother, and treasured friend, Andrea was a woman of incomparable courage. A champion in the fight against breast cancer both locally and nationally, she used her resources and creativity to expose a national health crisis and fight a critical battle. She fought for all of us by advocating for safer and earlier detection, less toxic treatments and research into environmental causes. Andrea's memory will be cherished by her friends and loved ones and by those countless women whose lives she touched through her relentless advocacy.

Born in New York City and raised in Memphis, Tennessee, Andrea graduated from Tulane University and received her master's degree in French while on a fellowship at Tufts University. She moved to San Francisco in 1969, where she taught French at a local high school. Six years later, Andrea earned a law degree from Hastings College at a time when few women had the opportunity to attend law school. Five years after she joined the law firm of Crosby, Heafey, Roach, and May, Andrea left the practice to open Hog Heaven, a Memphis-style barbeque restaurant.

In 1989, Andrea was diagnosed with breast cancer and told that she had little chance of survival. Andrea's determination and strength of character motivated her to overcome this challenge. After a difficult year of treatment, she joined DIANNE FEINSTEIN's gubernatorial campaign in California and became a top fundraiser for Senator FEINSTEIN.

After being diagnosed with breast cancer for a second time in 1991, Andrea chose to take the offensive. She founded the Breast Cancer Fund in the living room of her San Francisco apartment. Through her dedication and hard work, she transformed the Fund into one of the most influential breast cancer research advocacy group in the nation.

For the rest of her life, she would be an important national leader in the fight against breast cancer. Andrea was a relentless advocate who helped convince elected officials, health officials, and scientists to spend more