

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

D.C. PUBLIC SCHOOL GUIDES OUTSTANDING STUDENT TO HONORS IN MATH, UNIVERSITY STUDIES WHILE STILL IN JUNIOR HIGH

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 15, 1995

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, on June 6, I personally commended an exceptional 13-year-old boy who has brought honor to himself, his family, and the D.C. public schools through his outstanding academic accomplishments. Gilbert Wang was the third highest scorer in the District in the recent MathCounts competition, and has also triumphed in the citywide Geography Bee, as well as excelling in all his other subjects.

Gilbert Wang is an eighth grader at Thomas Jefferson Junior High School. He completed his first algebra class in the fifth grade (making a special trip to Jefferson for the course) with a perfect score of 100 percent. In the sixth grade, he traveled to Jefferson to study geometry, which he also completed with a 100 percent score. Continuing his advanced coursework in mathematics, Gilbert took trigonometry with ninth-graders while he was in the seventh grade. He recently completed a pre-calculus course at George Washington University with a grade of "A". Next year Gilbert will attend School Without Walls, an innovative public high school where students pursue advanced placement curricula, and attend many special courses off-campus and universities. Gilbert will probably graduate from high school in the tenth grade.

The D.C. public schools recognized Gilbert's talents early on, and offered him the opportunity to excel that he has so wonderfully used. Jefferson principal Vera White has been one of Gilbert's strongest supporters. The D.C. public schools have nurtured Gilbert's talents, while also keeping in mind that although he may be a prodigy, Gilbert is nevertheless a 13-year-old boy with special needs. While Jefferson has assisted Gilbert in obtaining scholarships for his advanced university coursework, the school, and Gilbert's parents, have helped him maintain an environment where he can learn and socialize with his peers as well. This outstanding child has thrived in the D.C. public school system. The schools have provided him with opportunities to make the most of his extraordinary abilities, and with innovative education options have offered him a chance to explore and grow outside of the traditional educational structure, but within the public school system.

Gilbert Wang is truly exceptional, and he has been exceptionally well served by the D.C. public school system. I offered by most heartfelt congratulations and support to Gilbert and his parents, and to Jefferson Junior High School, and its principal and teachers.

HONORING OUR VETERANS

HON. G.V. (SONNY) MONTGOMERY

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 15, 1995

Mr. MONTGOMERY. Mr. Speaker, a constituent of mine and a history buff recently conducted extensive research into various military heroes and notables, mainly involving service in the Pacific Theatre during World War II. I would like to share his findings with my colleagues and recognize these individuals for their accomplishments.

DEAR SONNY: You have the advantage of me in that you have had the luxury of world travel in order to honor and see to the memory and remains-recovery of U.S. veterans. I have been nowhere but to the public library. It is one of the few free hobbies that can be indulged by retired typewriter mechanics with young families. It is interesting what you can find in a public library, even one as small as the Kemper-Newton Regional Library here in Union.

You have done a splendid job of bringing to a climax the honoring of U.S. veterans, both dead and alive at this fiftieth anniversary of the climax of the second world war. The purpose of this letter is to plead for you to bring some publicity on some forgotten people, perhaps some of the earliest victims of that war.

The first one to mention has had some degree of recognition, since he was the first victim of the Japanese, dating all the way back to 1923. His name was Col. Earl Hancock "Pete" Ellis, who was sent into the Pacific to see what was happening out there, in the year 1923, and the best evidence has it that he was poisoned by the Japanese. If your high-paid liars up there in Washington will re-write the Enola Gay story, I am sure they won't mind thinking up a nice cover-up story to keep from offending the Japanese about Col. Ellis, but it would be to your credit to have him remembered as likely to be the first victim of the Pacific theater.

Another veteran who paid a very high price for doing his best job was a Navy carrier pilot named Winfield Scott Cunningham. I am sure that everyone in Washington has Commander Cunningham neatly swept under the rug, but his service is a matter of record. He was in command of Wake Island at the time of the Japanese capture of it. He was placed in a Japanese prison in Shanghai, China, the same one in which the Jimmy Doolittle Tokyo raid survivors were detained in. He had to be telling a true story, because the B-25 crewmen exchanged messages with him before they were released. Both Cunningham's book, and the Tokyo Raid story, back each other up. When Commander Cunningham was released from prison and repatriated, he discovered to his surprise, that the Marine Corps legend, as portrayed by William Bendix and others in the movie "Wake Island," and gently nudged on its way by Capt. Devereaux and other Marine officers had in effect, become "fact" and he was never able to get his story heard or believed during his lifetime. By the time he was seriously trying to do that, Gen. Devereaux was in command of the Marines, and Cunningham was completely left out of the

Wake Island story. Even after his death, his wife was not able to get him properly recognized and believed about it. You can easily read up on him by referencing Winfield Scott Cunningham in the Library of Congress, and by taking a walk down to the National Archives and Records Service and looking at his pay stubs for December, 1941. Surely the Marines did not steal his pay records out of the files. Sonny, he would have had to be in command of the island, because of the military law that only an aviator can command where there are air forces, and there was a Marine squadron of Grumman Wildcats on the island. Capt. Devereaux could not possibly have been command of the island, because he was a "ground pounder" officer and was not entitled to do it. In the movie they had the island commander conveniently lie down and die, so the Marines could do their thing, but in real life, Commander Cunningham spent the war in a Japanese prison. It would be to your credit to have this veteran properly remembered, and an apology extended to his descendants, for the post-war denials of his story. A posthumous medal might even be in order.

The next veteran I would have you to honor at this perfect time in history is perhaps the one who contributed the most personal valor of the war, outside of the contribution of being maimed or killed in action. I am referring to Gen. Claire Lee Chennault. He entered the war against Japan as commander of the Chinese Air Force under Madame Chiang Kai-shek's direction, and was credited with 37 victories against the Japanese in the air, even before the U.S. began involvement as the American Volunteer Group in China. Under Chennault's leadership, more was done with greater success, with the least people and equipment, for the longest time, than in any air war in history, and sadly, with the least amount of credit. After fighting an almost single-handed war, for eight years, Chennault was finally convinced that he had more enemies in Washington than in Tokyo, and retired. His story is well-documented in several books, and you can read every word of it. I think it a blight on the record of the U.S. military, that after being first to take command against the Japs, he was not even invited to the final surrender ceremony. Gen. MacArthur verified the size of the oversight, forever, by looking around the battleship Missouri, and saying: "Where's Chennault?"

The last two veterans I would have you recognize and honor, if the government will admit that any honor be due, were perhaps the second and third casualties of the Pacific war, namely Amelia Earhart and Fred Noonan, who "disappeared" on their famous "around the world flight." Sonny, I have read every book I can get my hands on, to date, and hoping to find more about the last flight of these two people. In light of the tons of evidence, and entire lifetimes spent by researchers on the subject, there seems to be little doubt that these two people were working in some sort of espionage role for the U.S. government when they disappeared on that mission. The Amelia Earhart story, in my opinion, sets a world record for the most duplicity, the most lies, many of them in the highest places, the most "fishy" identities of people, the most people claiming to do one thing and then doing another, from her husband George Putnam to the President

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of the United States, that it honestly, as stated by Admiral Nimitz, "staggers the imagination."

Thank you and sincerely,
BOB VAN DEVENDER.

ARTHUR LEVITT'S GRADUATION SPEECH

HON. BILL RICHARDSON

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 15, 1995

Mr. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, this is the time of year when each of us spends a great deal of time addressing high school graduation classes. We offer our wisdom and experience to these young graduates who are entering a new phase in their lives.

Students graduating from Pojoaque High School in my home county of Santa Fe had the unique opportunity to hear from the Chairman of the Securities and Exchange Commission, Arthur Levitt. Chairman Levitt offered a magnificent commencement address that deserves to be shared with more than just the 101 member graduating class.

I urge my colleagues to review Chairman Levitt's speech and share it with young people all across this great country.

REMARKS BY ARTHUR LEVITT, CHAIRMAN, U.S. SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION—POJOAQUE HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION, POJOAQUE PUEBLO, NM

I am really proud to be here—almost as proud as the families and friends of the seniors who are graduating today. Congratulations to each of you. You've worked hard to reach this day—enjoy it.

I don't think I ever wanted to speak at a graduation any more than this one. I've seen you through the eyes of my friend, John Rivera Dirks and his four classmates, Antonio Gonzalez, George Gonzalez, Ronald Noybal and Melissa Martinez, who honored me by your invitation. And I like what I see—(101) men and women who have worked hard—played and prayed together—respected their families, their community and their country, and are now going to take the risks of jobs or college in a world of uncertainty, challenge and opportunity.

I guess I'm here partly as a Vecino who has a home about 13 miles south of here. And I'm here partly because John invited me, and because I so admire the values of his family and their devotion to one another and to their community.

But there's one other reason I'm here today, and that is because I identify with this community. I grew up in a neighborhood called Crown Heights, which is in Brooklyn, New York. And my mother, like John's, was a school teacher. And believe it or not, Pojoaque and the Crown Heights I remember have a lot in common. Both are very closely-knit communities, where everyone knows everyone else. Both are home to many members of the same family, so that your butcher or baker or even your high school teacher might also be your uncle or aunt.

And, most important, Crown Heights and Pojoaque are both equally part of America, a nation that offers its citizens more opportunities than any nation in the world—no matter whether you are a man or a woman, whether you are Hispanic, Native America or Jewish, whether you live in New Mexico or New York.

That's not to say things come easy in this country. I've had all kinds of jobs—I worked for a newspaper, served in the Air Force,

raised a family, worked on a ranch and in offices. From time to time, I also encountered prejudice and overcame it.

I never went to graduate school or even took an economic course. I nearly flunked out of grammar school and had lots of doubts about my choice of jobs. I must confess to you that in each of the five jobs I've held, including the present one—without exception I started out by being terrified that I was not up to it.

Many of you have shared such uncertainties. You certainly know that careers and relationships have bumps and curves. But if one quality more than any other predicts success that quality is perseverance. And if there is one characteristic which will make success meaningful rather than just a cheap or hollow attainment, that characteristic is integrity.

I don't have to tell you about the problems of our society that may impede or distract you—crime, injustice, drugs, prejudice, and many more. You've gotten this far by overcoming them. You'll need to stay tough—to fight for what you want and believe in and resist the easy, fast, or thoughtless paths.

You'll also need to be smart and willing to take risks. The best in our society have failed, made mistakes, or had bad breaks but they didn't turn back, blame others, or remain indecisive.

Don't believe the myth that opportunity strikes only once in a lifetime. You will be exposed to opportunities much more than that—maybe once a day if you'll be receptive. What a good education—either formal or by experience—will do is equip you to recognize opportunities.

Most of you know what it means to work hard. And you've received a good education here at Pojoaque. So you already have a solid foundation on which to build your lives.

But more than half of you will take a step further and go to college; if you can do it, that's really the best foundation of all—especially in the 1990s.

You may have friends or relatives who did fine without college—in fact, the Prime Minister of England, John Major, never finished college. But in most cases, those people belong to a generation that came before you; your generation, and those that come after you, will find the most opportunities by going to college. So please do that if you can—either now or later.

But no matter what you do next, don't settle for whatever life give you—instead—reach for the stars. You are undoubtedly better than you think you are. You are probably smarter. Try to make your fate rather than just going with the flow.

Sure it's easy for me to tell you what to do and what it's all about. I know that it's tough to be 17 and, believe it or not, I was once there. If I can leave this wonderful class with anything today, it's to preserve your spirit, nurture the values that brought your families to rejoice with you as you graduate, and don't accept the path of least resistance.

Take chances. Go out on a limb, for your job or your dream. Laugh at yourself.

Let someone in. Comfort a friend. Give, and give in. Observe miracles—make them happen. Forgive an enemy. Take time for people—make time for yourself.

Write a song. Challenge someone in power. Say no. Climb a mountain. Change your mind. Fail, feel, love, But above all—grow. Don't ever look back and say what might have been. Enjoy life, and share you joys with others.

Compassion, integrity and a sense of humor will make it easier. The belief and pride I see in the eyes of your parents and friends should get you off to a great start. And know that I join the others in this room

rooting and praying for the Pojoaque High School Class of '95. And now, after so many years of listening to adults talk, it's time for you to make some noise, too. This is your day. Congratulations, and good luck. Buena Suerte.

A POINT-OF-LIGHT FOR ALL AMERICANS: THE CLARA BARTON HIGH SCHOOL BILL OF RIGHTS TEAM

HON. MAJOR R. OWENS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 15, 1995

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to salute the 36 students and their teachers from Clara Barton High School whose efforts represent a Point-of-Light for all Americans. Brooklyn and the 11th Congressional District are particularly proud of the team from Clara Barton High School who won the New York State Championship and finished fourth among the 50 States in the "We the People . . . the Citizens and the Constitution" competition.

The team of students and their teachers at Clara Barton High School competed against some of the best, brightest, and wealthiest students from New York State to secure the State championship. They further persevered in the national "We the People" competition—a debate-style mock congressional hearing which judges students' knowledge and critical understanding of the Bill of Rights. In preparation for the competition, students undertook an intensive study of the Bill of Rights. At the competition, students were required to take a position on current constitutional issues and to defend their position elaborately.

Located in the heart of the Crown Heights neighborhood, it is evident that the students from Clara Barton are quite capable of overcoming many feats amid an environment too often characterized by doubt, negative peer pressure, and modest economic means. They fought against a problem-ridden education system and achieved excellence for themselves and their community.

The names of the victorious students are: Carl Abbot, Afaf Abdur Rahman, Maatra Akbar, Jasmine Ali, LaToya Andrews, Lourdes Baez, Alesha Bovell, Faithlyn Brown, Eva Gordon, Kevin Grant, Quincy Grigsby, Chevonne Hall, Kevin Johnson, Zulema Jones, Charmaine King, Marsha Lewis, Rosevelie Marquez, Dwayne Mason, Antoinette McKenzie, Dameon Ming, Cynthia Morales, David Morisset, Sheila Morisset, Cecil Orji, Felix Pacheco, Gary Pagan, Sherita Perry, Carline Petit, Travis Sampson, Karen Sanchez, Crystal Sheard, Kestia St. Juste, Stacy Taitt, Kaydean West, Arnise Williams, and Vaughn Wilson.

The tireless efforts of many adults also contributed to the victory of the Clara Barton students. Their coaches were Mr. Leo Casey and Ms. Randi Weingarten. Also, for the past 5 years Mrs. Florence Smith served as a special liaison to the Clara Barton team from the office of Congressman MAJOR OWENS. The MLK Commission chaired by Mrs. Lorrelle Henry provided moral, spiritual, and financial support for the team. Many additional friends including Judge Thomas R. Jones adopted the team and became cosponsors.

With the war on our children's future being waged by the Republicans in Washington and