

We must not forget what war can do,
A shattered family—of men so true;
Helping the helpless that did come back,
To work on in life with a joyous knack.

LEGISLATION TO AUTHORIZE A LAND TRANSFER BY THE CLINT AND FABENS INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICTS

HON. RONALD D. COLEMAN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 16, 1995

Mr. COLEMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to announce that I am introducing legislation to remove from existing Federal law an obstacle which prevents two school districts from making important decisions regarding land which they were granted by the Federal Government 38 years ago. Through minor changes in existing legislation, this Congress can give the Fabens and Clint independent school districts the power to determine how to make the most effective use of land they have been capably utilizing for almost four decades.

Since 1957, Clint and Fabens independent school districts in Texas have used federally bestowed land to enhance their agricultural and vocational curriculum. Placing an educational farm on land which the Federal Government had previously ignored for 23 years, the Clint school district has been able to add another dimension to their educational programming, and teach valuable skills to their students.

Over the years, however, getting students to the educational farm has grown increasingly problematic. Located 2 miles beyond the outermost boundaries of the Clint independent school district, school officials and teachers must daily confront the difficulties and dangers of getting students safely from Clint schools to a farm which now lies in another district. Students and teachers must hope that a considerable trip through busy streets will not tragically alter the progress these students are making. It would make sense, some argue, for Clint to sell the land and use the proceeds to enhance its other vocational and technological programs. Unfortunately, such a sensible course of action is not allowed by current law.

As existing law is written, the ability of the school districts to make decisions in regard to that land have been bracketed by a reversionary clause in the law. This clause states that any attempt to dispose of the land would result in making the land property of the Federal Government once again. Clinton and Fabens are, therefore, confined by a 38-year-old strait-jacket. They can either keep the land no matter how greatly local circumstances change, or they can surrender it to the Government and leave their students with even fewer vocational resources than they currently possess.

At a time when we are all appreciating the complexities and virtues of a Federal system that gives localities important decisionmaking powers, I am confident that most of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle understand the importance of letting school districts decide how to best utilize property that has been under their supervision for close to 40 years.

Therefore, today I am introducing legislation which would waive the reversionary right stipulated in Public Law 85-42, and untie the

hands of Fabens and Clint. Passage of this legislation would signal that this Congress is capable of recognizing instances when we can help our schools and students by intelligently scaling back the reach of the Federal Government.

Before the 85th Congress granted these districts the right to use this land, the Federal Government said for 23 years that it would soon build something on the land. After those two decades of inactivity, Clint, Fabens, and the Congress finally realized that the people of the community could make better use of the land than the Federal Government had. I urge my colleagues not to return to those years of inactivity and require the land to disappear into the labyrinthian maze of Federal bureaucracy.

Waiving the reversionary right is a simple and straightforward way to help the young people in my district in Texas. The language in the proposed legislation is narrowly tailored to ensure that any proceeds which come from any sale of land go to improving the education of students in two school districts. Moreover, by passing this bill, Congress can demonstrate that empowering localities is not a blind leap of faith, but a definite process which requires the Members of this body to be sensitive to local realities and local solutions. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

THE CRUSADE FOR CHILDREN: OUR COMMUNITY AT ITS BEST

HON. MIKE WARD

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 16, 1995

Mr. WARD. Mr. Speaker, year after year, the WHAS Crusade for Children shows us what a community working together can achieve. The crusade did it again this past weekend.

Rick Larkins, the chief of the Highview Fire Department, summed up the crusade when he said, "We're like a collection point for the goodness of everyone in Jefferson County."

The Crusade for Children has collected that goodness for 42 years. I know of no other cause which, year in and year out, brings together so many volunteers, working long hours, to truly make a community statement that we will stand behind children and families with special needs.

The volunteer fire departments of my community have made the crusade their cause. In doing so, they have given all of us a concrete example that a real community is people helping people.

My thanks and commendations go to the men and women of WHAS, the volunteer firefighters, the churches, the veterans' groups, and so many individuals who give their time and energy to this annual endeavor to help children.

I'm proud to represent in the U.S. Congress a community which really cares about people, and the Crusade for Children is one of the best statements of our caring.

THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF
BELVIDERE AMBULANCE CORPS
INC.

HON. MARGE ROUKEMA

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 16, 1995

Mrs. ROUKEMA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the Belvidere Ambulance Corps Inc. on the 50th anniversary of its dedicated service to the people of Belvidere, NJ. I am certain you realize how difficult it is to find people who are willing to invest their time and energy to become an emergency medical technician, answer calls at all hours of the day and night, and keep up with the continuing education required for this skill. Yet the men and women of the Belvidere Ambulance Corps have accepted this challenge and perform their arduous duties gladly. They truly care about the fellow members of their community.

The history of the Belvidere Ambulance Corps is one that began with a sad, unfortunate, and avoidable tragedy. On June 28, 1945, Belvidere merchant Matthew Hains was pushing his stalled car when he became pinned between the door and a utility pole and was seriously injured. A local doctor rushed to the scene and immediately called for an ambulance, but it took more than an hour for one to arrive from out of town. Mr. Hains made it 15 miles to the Easton [Pennsylvania] Hospital but died 2 days later. Belvidere had lost one of its most valued young citizens for lack of an ambulance.

The citizens of Belvidere responded swiftly. On July 2, 1945—only 4 days after the accident—the mayor appointed an ambulance fund committee and an ambulance was shortly in service. Over the years, the ambulance service has grown considerably, gaining its own building in 1946, a crash truck and boat in 1963, a jaws-of-life tool in 1976, Med-Evac helicopter flights in 1983 and 911 emergency calling in 1994.

Since that fateful day in 1945, the Belvidere Ambulance Corps has answered roughly 27,000 calls, an average of 11 a week, put in more than 115,000 person hours, an average of 45 hours a week, and put nearly 700,000 miles on its vehicles—the equivalent of crossing the United States 224 times. These figures do not include time spent on education, drills, or equipment maintenance.

The ambulance corps will celebrate its 50th anniversary with a parade on Saturday. More than 1,000 participants and spectators are expected to participate and show ambulance workers their support. I wish them continued success in their next 50 years.

RECOGNITION OF MAYOR ROBERT PHINNEY AND POPULACE OF SOUTH GLENS FALLS

HON. GERALD B.H. SOLOMON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 16, 1995

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, every day when I'm home I have the privilege of driving through one of the most appealing communities on my way to and from my house in Glens Falls and main district office in Saratoga.

One important community between those two cities is the Village of South Glens Falls, which will celebrate its centennial this year. It's a village with an interesting heritage and, at the same time, all the resources needed for an equally exciting future. I'd like to say a few words this morning about South Glens Falls.

Like the city across the river, South Glens Falls takes its name, and has built its life, around the falls in a bend of the Hudson River. There, also, is the site of the famous cave mentioned in James Fenimore Cooper's "Last of the Mohicans."

And like many other communities in the area, the birth of South Glens Falls was intimately tied to the lumber and paper-making industries. Its official beginning as a distinct entity was on August 8, 1895. Voters petitioned the formation of the village to find a source of wholesome water for its inhabitants. Funding was approved by a local bond vote in early 1896, and the village began building a water system fed by a series of springs, pumps, standpipes, and distribution piping.

A new sewer system was constructed during the twenties and thirties, but more stringent regulations in the seventies and eighties led to major reconstruction projects.

The village is justifiably proud of its success in cleaning up the Hudson River for future generations to enjoy. Adding to the quality of life was the inclusion of a walk/bike trail along the river and refurbishing the old brick treatment plant into a museum, which will be dedicated this summer.

The village is also known for its excellent school system, and other amenities that enhance living, but it has never lost its small-town character. Mr. Speaker, the character of America was forged in exactly such small towns and villages, where such virtues as thrift, hard work, and care for one's neighbors abound.

All summer long those small-town virtues and 100 years of existence will be celebrated in South Glens Falls. The highlight will be the week of August 7 to 13, featuring a parade and museum dedication.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all Members to join me in saluting Mayor Robert Phinney, other village officials, and the entire populace of South Glens Falls, with all our best wishes toward a second century of growth and prosperity.

SPECIAL TRIBUTE TO MR. W.C. HELVESTON

HON. SONNY CALLAHAN

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 16, 1995

Mr. CALLAHAN. Mr. Speaker, I am here today to pay special tribute to a man who has for years been a dedicated and faithful public servant in Mobile County, AL. This gentleman is only the second person to have served as administrator of Alabama's second largest county in more than 70 years, and is owed an enormous debt of gratitude by the people of that area. Mr. Speaker, it is for this reason that I, on behalf of the citizens of Mobile County, recognize Mr. W.C. Helveston.

Mr. Helveston was educated in the Mobile County public school system. He then went on to attend the University of Alabama and Spring Hill College, graduating with a degree

in business administration. Mr. Helveston worked for a period of time with the Louisville and Nashville Railroad before becoming an administrative assistant with the Mobile City Commission in 1961. It was 10 years later that W.C. Helveston made his entrance into local government as the administrator of Mobile County.

During his tenure in this office, Mobile County has flourished beyond expectation, and Mr. Helveston has made a very important contribution to this growth. He has seen the county's general fund budget go from \$4 million in the early seventies to more than \$104 million today. He has overseen a highway construction program that is one of the largest and best in our State. In addition, through untiring efforts with the U.S. marshal service, Mr. Helveston secured \$1 million in Federal funds for the construction of the Metro Jail.

Mr. Speaker, I could go on for hours listing W.C. Helveston's various accomplishments and contributions to Mobile County. However, it is his undying commitment to make county government professional and responsive to the people that has been his greatest gift to the people of this county.

Mr. Helveston's commitment to Mobile County has always reached far beyond his position as administrator. At a time when many find it difficult to make time to give something back to the community, W.C. Helveston has been an outstanding exception. One of his most notable areas of community involvement has been with the Mobile County Mental Health Association, where he served on the executive board. The gentleman is a civil servant in the truest sense.

Oftentimes, many in this great Nation are eager to point the finger of blame or find fault with our leaders. Rarely do we take the opportunity to recognize the dedicated and faithful public service of many of our officials. It is for this reason that I take such great pleasure in honoring one such outstanding individual, W.C. Helveston, for all he has given to the citizens of Mobile County, AL.

TRIBUTE TO DR. ERWIN HOWARD BRAFF

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 16, 1995

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Erwin Howard Braff, who passed away on May 21, 1995. He was 71 years of age.

Dr. Braff was director of communicable diseases in San Francisco when the AIDS epidemic reached the Nation's consciousness. In fact, Dr. Braff supervised the individual who first alerted the gay community to the public health threat of AIDS. Erwin Braff served the department of health for 29 years until his retirement in 1984, as director of communicable diseases. Later, Dr. Braff played a leading role in passage of an anti-HIV/AIDS discrimination ordinance in Tiburon.

Erwin Braff served in the Army Air Corps during World War II, attended the University of California, Los Angeles, and began medical school at the University of California, San Francisco. After finishing medical school, he received a master's degree in public health

from Johns Hopkins University and worked for the department of health in Tacoma, WA.

Erwin Braff was an active volunteer on the American Civil Liberties Union's San Francisco Hotline; a member of the California Democratic Central Committee; a member of the Health Council of Marin; Marin AIDS Advisory Commission; American Jewish Committee; and Marin Interfaith Council; board member of the Jewish Community Relations Council and treasurer of the Marin AIDS Political Action Committee. He was twice nominated for the Human Rights Commission's Martin Luther King Award.

Mr. Speaker, Marin County, and this Nation owes a great deal of gratitude for the tireless efforts of Dr. Erwin Howard Braff over the years. He was a friend and will be missed by all of us who knew him. I extend my condolences to his wife, Janet and his two sons Mitch and David.

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO BARBARA AND NICK CARTER

HON. ALBERT RUSSELL WYNN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 16, 1995

Mr. WYNN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate a very special couple who will celebrate a milestone wedding anniversary on June 26, 1995.

In these turbulent times, it is so wonderful to recognize Barbara and Nick Carter, a couple who have honored their vows to each other for 50 years.

Their romance began at Blair High School in Silver Spring, MD. He was a football star; she was a cheerleader. After Nick served in the Army Air Force during World War II, where he was a prisoner of war, Nick and Barbara wed on June 26, 1945.

In 1969, they left many family and friends in Maryland and moved to Elkins, WV, where Nick managed the Davis & Elkins College Bookstore. In 1975, Nick became city clerk, a position he held until his retirement in 1988. Barbara also worked at Davis & Elkins College, in the admissions office, for 18 years. They are now retired and enjoying their hobbies. They are avid bridge players. Nick enjoys golfing while Barbara enjoys gardening and tole painting.

They are also devoted to their children and grandchildren. They raised four children: Denise Carter O'Gorman of San Diego, CA; Melanie Carter-Maguire of Catharpin, VA; Lauren Cater Campbell of Brattleboro, VT; and Ernest (Tad) Carter III of New York City. They are the proud grandparents of Andrew, Alison, Katherine, Ian, and Colin. their family and friends, many of whom live in my district, will gather on June 24 to wish them well.

I would like to add my best wishes to this special couple for the years to come and to commend them for their inspiring life together.