

The B-2 is a vital part of our bomber modernization program. And until a final disposition is made on the future procurement of additional bombers, we must preserve the industrial base with short-term funding action, action most appropriately taken by the Secretary of Defense.

It is important to note that all of the procurement priorities authorized in this legislation fit within the balanced budget the new majority has sent to the President. If this President will continue to expect so much from our military men and women, he must be prepared to give them the very best we can afford and sign this authorization when presented. As leaders, we owe them that.

#### TRIBUTE TO LYNETTE FREEMAN

HON. WILLIAM (BILL) CLAY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 19, 1995*

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, We often read stories about young people across America who possess remarkable talent and ability. Most impressive are the stories we read about school students who have set goals for themselves, and exhibit the determination to reach those goals. I rise today to salute a young student who is one such individual.

Lynette Freeman is 12 years old, and a seventh grade student at Andrews School in Willoughby OH. Lynette is president of her seventh grade class and a member of the Environmental Club, the Literary Magazine, the Language Club and the Riding Club. These extracurricular activities are in addition to a challenging academic schedule, which includes life science, honors algebra, French and Spanish. For Lynette, however, her first love is the theater. She started acting at the age of three. Her stage credits include *Annie Get Your Gun*, *Penelope*, *Pride of the Pickle Factory*, as well as productions at Cuyahoga Community College.

Mr. Speaker, the Plain Dealer newspaper in Cleveland, OH, recently profiled Lynette Freeman. The paper examined how this young student has developed effective time-management skills that enable her to succeed academically and socially. In whatever field she pursues, it is obvious that this young woman is headed for success. I take pride in saluting Lynette Freeman. I am also pleased to share the Plain Dealer profile with my colleagues. The article is certainly worthwhile reading.

[From the Plain Dealer, Dec. 11, 1995]

SEVENTH GRADER AHEAD OF HER TIME AT

JUGGLING SCHOOL, ACTIVITIES

(By April McClellan-Copeland)

WILLOUGHBY.—Twelve-year-old Lynette Freeman talks about time management as if she is the CEO of a major corporation.

That's because it takes the time-management skills of an executive for the Andrews School seventh-grader to fit all of her extracurricular activities into a 24-hour day.

Lynette is president of the seventh-grade class and a member of the Environmental Club, the literary magazine, the Language Club and the Riding Club.

She plays tennis with her mother, Ruth; takes piano, singing and ballet lessons; and even makes time to write poetry and short stories in a journal.

Lynette, an East Cleveland resident, also reserves enough time to take part in her fa-

vorite hobby: performing in plays at the East Cleveland Theater, where she has studied for several years.

And she fits all of these activities around a challenging academic schedule, which includes life science, honors algebra, French and Spanish.

"I do some of my school work ahead of time," said Lynette, as she used her lunch period to talk to a visitor and munch on onion rings and a cheeseburger in the Andrews cafeteria. "I do as much in class as I can and in study hall. I manage my time. All of my activities are like studying for school. This is all a commitment I make."

Lynette said her parents, Ruth and Linton, don't push her to participate in so many activities. She said these are all things in which she has shown a natural interest.

But when the going gets tough, as sometimes it does when she has to finish an English paper at 1 a.m., Lynette's parents give her the pep talks that keep her motivated.

"This is all my choice," Lynette said. "Sometimes I want to quit. But my parents say, 'You made this commitment.' They give me this extra boost."

Lynette grins as she talks about how ballet makes her feel strong and about her trip to Europe next summer through the U.S. government-sponsored People Program student ambassadorship.

But mention the theater and a smile spreads across Lynette's face so broad it makes her squint.

"My favorite activity is when I'm acting in the theater," Lynette said. "I get to be someone else and I get to go into character. I like drama and theater because of opening night. I get to put on a costume and make-up."

Lynette most recently played the character Jessie, the sister of Annie Oakley, in a production of "Annie Get Your Gun" at the East Cleveland Theater.

She talks incessantly about her stage successes, as well as some of her blunders. The experiences are funny to her, but they remind her that drama is hard work.

But perhaps her fondest memories are reserved for humorous scenes like the one in the East Cleveland Theater production "Penelope, Pride of the Pickle Factory."

Reciting some of the tongue-twisting alliterations in her favorite scene in "Penelope" reduced her maturity to a gaggle of giggles only a child could appreciate.

"In the first scene, we are talking about what we had for lunch," Lynette said, pausing to let out a hearty laugh. "I had to say I had a pickled peanut butter sandwich."

Lynette started acting when she was 3 years old. She has also performed in productions at Cuyahoga Community College.

"My parents would take me to see different plays. I'd say, 'Gee, I want to have that lead part.' As I cleaned my room, I would be acting like I was in a play. My cat was my audience."

#### A FRIEND OF MORE THAN THE COURT

HON. JAMES A. BARCIA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 19, 1995*

Mr. BARCIA. Mr. Speaker, our judicial system is critically dependent upon the people who toil on behalf of the public interest. This is certainly true in our criminal justice system, and is equally true in our civil justice system, particularly in our family courts. Nothing can be more traumatic than the intervention of the

courts in our day-to-day activities, but in some matters there is no choice but the court's involvement. It is at times like these that we should be particularly thankful that caring and skilled people, like Leonard Portnoy, have spent their careers on behalf of those who must deal with our court system.

After 20 years of serving as friend of the court, Leonard Portnoy of Bay City, MI, is retiring next week. A thoughtful gentleman who never spared in his generous consideration of the difficulties faced by people dealing with the court, he is known by many as a patient, helpful, and dedicated individual who has the delicate task of dealing with people at a very tense time in their lives. He is in charge of making recommendations to the court about child custody, visitation rights, and support payments. He also has to operate as a mediator regarding the safeguarding of these rights. And he also must serve as the enforcer who must deal with any violation of the court's orders.

Leonard Portnoy has been in our community since 1969 in response to an ad for a staff attorney position at the Bay-Midland Legal Aid Society. He then became assistant Bay County prosecutor for Eugene Penzien, who himself is retiring as a Bay County circuit court judge next month. He became acting friend of the court in 1974, and then was officially appointed by Governor Milliken in 1975 following the death of Maxine Clarey, the prior friend of the court.

Over the years, friend of the Court Portnoy had to deal with a never-ending and demanding caseload. He had to deal with the likely stresses associated with having to sort out difficult situations at often less than friendly and objective times. He has had to administer an office that annually must oversee millions of dollars in support payments for the people under the court's jurisdiction.

Even in this important and often trying profession, Leonard Portnoy is known for having maintained his sense of humor, and for being perhaps the best target for April Fool's Day jokes in the friend of the court system. That spirit, along with the balance of convictions, has made him among the best of friends of the court that I have ever encountered.

Mr. Speaker, I urge you and all of our colleagues to join me in wishing Leonard and his wife Irene the very best as he enters retirement. His career has been of great value to thousands of people. He leaves big shoes to fill.

#### TRIBUTE TO ANDREW GIBBS

HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 19, 1995*

Mr. HALL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an outstanding East Texan, Andrew James Gibbs of Mabank, TX, who died recently at the age of 79. Andrew Gibbs was a dear friend and long-time business and civic leader of Mabank who devoted a lifetime to the betterment of his community.

Born on January 11, 1916, in Elm Grove, to J. Cullen and Ella Higginbotham, Andrew grew up in Elm Grove and married his hometown sweetheart, Arlene McAfee. At the age of 19, he began working at Tri-County Ford and at

his father's bank. During World War II he served in the U.S. Navy and then returned to Mabank, where he purchased Tri-County Ford and raised cattle.

During the following years and until his death, he was a prosperous businessman who also devoted much of his time and energy to his community. He was active in virtually every civic activity in the region. He served as president of the Chamber of Commerce, Mabank Industrial Foundation, and Cedar Creek Hospital Board; member of the Mabank Independent School District Board of Trustees and the Trinity River Improvement Association; chairman of the board of Elm Grove Methodist Church and Elm Grove Cemetery Committee; president of Mabank Roping and Riding Club and organizer and president of the Cedar Creek Country Club and was a Mason with Roddy Blue Lodge. In 1977 he was named Citizen of the Year by Henderson, Kaufman, and Van Zandt counties in recognition of his extraordinary contributions.

Andrew also was an ardent supporter of higher education in the area. In 1970 he was appointed to the Board of Trustees of Henderson County Junior College, now Trinity Valley Community College. During his 20-year tenure and as board president, he saw enrollment grow from 1,000 to almost 5,000 students and the college expand from the Athens campus to Palestine, Terrell, and Kaufman campuses. On April 6, 1995, the Andrew Gibbs Academic Building was dedicated—a fitting tribute to his leadership, dedication, and countless hours of service on behalf of the college.

Andrew is survived by his wife, Alene; daughters, Andrea and Bettie, sons-in-law, and grandchildren, plus numerous friends and associates. He also leaves behind a powerful legacy of public service—a legacy of generosity and dedication to his family and his community. As the local newspaper, *The Monitor*, stated, "Men of his stature are often referred to as 'pillars of the community.' Andrew Gibbs was more than that, he was the foundation."

Mr. Speaker, I am honored today to pay a final tribute to this outstanding American and my good friend, Andrew Gibbs, whose life was an inspiration to all those who knew him and whose memory will survive for future generations.

#### IN HONOR OF DAISY VONDRAK

HON. WILLIAM O. LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 19, 1995*

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a fine resident of the Third Congressional District who passed away on Sunday, December 17, 1996. Mrs. Daisy Vondrak, 80, a resident of the Chicago Lawn neighborhood, died on Sunday in the Brentwood Nursing Center in Burbank, IL.

Mrs. Daisy Vondrak was the cofounder of Vondrak Publications. For almost 40 years, she coowned and operated with her husband, Edward, the Southwest News Herald and four other local community newspapers. Mrs. Vondrak handled the bookkeeping and finances of the newspaper, while her husband was in charge of the editorial operation. She watched the books closely; her attention to detail and strong work ethic pulled both the cou-

ple and the newspaper through many tough times.

During the Depression, Mrs. Vondrak and her husband purchased a small paper, the Gage Park Herald, that primarily provided neighborhood news to servicemen away from home. Deciding to broaden their publishing efforts in 1946, they attempted to purchase the Southwest News. Her husband was then an editor for the Life newspapers. They had to borrow all they could from friends and relatives and neighbors. It was a big chance for two young adults to take but they did it. Mr. and Mrs. Vondrak started out with just the two of them and ended up with 52 employees. The Vondraks retired in 1987 and initiated a humorous publication, the Chuckle Town Times.

The weekly newspapers the Vondraks copublished covered such southwest side communities as Chicago Lawn, Gage Park, Clearing, and Marquette Manor and the suburbs of Oak Lawn, Evergreen Park, Justice, Bridgeview, and Hickory Hills. The newspapers provide both national and neighborhood news to their subscribers. By faithfully watching the books and taking care of business, Mrs. Vondrak guaranteed that her neighbors would know what was going on around them in the community, the Nation, and the world. She provided a wonderful community service and will be sorely missed.

I first met Mrs. Vondrak in 1959, when I worked as the physical education instructor at Marquette Park. Every Monday night, I would submit stories to her or her husband Ed about activities at the park that would appear in the Thursday edition of the Southwest News Herald. I knew her personally and saw each week how dedicated she was to keeping the local publications up and running.

Mrs. Vondrak is survived by her two sons, James and Edward, a sister, a brother, and six grandchildren. I would like my colleagues to join me in offering sincere condolences to Mrs. Daisy Vondrak's family. She was a hard worker and strong businesswoman who will be missed by the entire community.

#### TAX RELIEF AND THE RIGHT TO WORK FOR OLDER AMERICANS

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 19, 1995*

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to commend the House of Representatives for passing H.R. 2684, the Senior Citizens' Right to Work Act of 1995, which ends the practice of punishing older Americans who want to work.

Earlier this year, I promised the one million working, older Americans financial relief from the punitive Social Security earnings limit which is wrongly imposed on them. H.R. 2684, fulfills my promise by increasing the earnings limit to \$30,000 by the year 2002. Today, many people across the Nation want or need to work beyond the age of 64 because a fixed Social Security income alone cannot provide adequate financial resources.

This Nation has a tremendous amount of talent available in its older Americans. Younger people in the workplace gain a lot through the experience of these individuals who continue to work. Simply put, lifting the earnings

limit is the right thing to do because it is good for all of us.

When fully phased in, the Senior Citizens' Right to Work Act will exempt about 50 percent of the people who currently have to comply with the earnings limit. These individuals have worked hard to pay into the Social Security trust fund. This legislation keeps our promise to lift the earnings limit for older people so they can continue to contribute to our Nation.

#### ENFORCING THE PUBLIC DEBT LIMIT AND PROTECTING SOCIAL SECURITY TRUST FUND AND OTHER FEDERAL TRUST FUNDS

SPEECH OF

HON. J.C. WATTS, JR.

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 14, 1995*

Mr. WATTS of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, article I, section 8 of the Constitution clearly states that it is the Congress who has the power "to borrow money on the credit of the United States," not the President or the executive branch. The problem that continues to trigger increases in the debt limit is the failure to balance the Federal budget. Balancing the budget is the first step in paying off the ever-mounting debts that have accumulated for future generations.

Passing the Balanced Budget Act of 1995 could be the best gift we ever give our children but this cannot be done without the President's help. We offered the President a balanced budget which included a raised debt ceiling but the President vetoed it.

Instead of negotiating a balanced budget plan, the President permitted the Treasury to raid two Federal trust funds—taking a total of \$61.3 billion from the Civil Service Retirement and Disability Fund and the Federal Employees Thrift Savings Fund [G-fund]. By shifting these funds, the President bought more time to allow the Government to skirt the debt limit and avoid a default.

While no one wants a default, disinvesting retirement funds to free up room under the debt ceiling circumvents the debt limit as well as Congress' role in authorizing Federal borrowing. Moreover it allows the administration to avoid having to change its spending habits—a change which the American people have demanded.

The administration says that those funds will be repaid with interest but that interest is going to have to come from somewhere. Every dollar the administration removes from the trust funds can then be spent by issuing new debt to the public. Again, we are left with another Government bill with more interest payments at taxpayers' expense.

To better envision the significance of the debt limit and balancing the budget, I like to use the analogy of a credit care limit. When one has spent one's maximum spending/credit limit, one cannot keep on spending. Instead, one must take steps to balance his or her budget so that the output does not exceed the input. In other words they must change their spending habits.

Living within one's means is the financial reality that individual Americans confront every day. People cannot simply keep calling the credit card company asking it to raise their