

HONORING MARY JEAN O'REILLY
MILLER, MAHTOMEDI'S 1995
TEACHER OF THE YEAR, ON HER
RETIREMENT

HON. CHRISTOPHER COX

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 11, 1996

Mr. COX of California. Mr. Speaker, the people of Minnesota have on several occasions recognized the enormous contributions of Mary Jean O'Reilly Miller to the education and cultural betterment of that State, and it is appropriate that the U.S. Congress now do so as well. This week, after 43 years as a teacher, Mary Miller will retire from a distinguished career that will shine as an enduring model for years to come.

Perhaps it is true that teachers are made, not born, but Mary Jean O'Reilly came from a family of educators. Her grandfather served on the school board. Her aunt and uncle were teachers. Her brothers, sisters, nephews, and nieces are teachers and school administrators. As a child in Goodhue, MN, she grew up playing teacher in a make-believe school with her playmates, and she has dedicated her life to that passion ever since.

Mary's own education reflects a lifelong commitment to scholarship and the improvement of her professional skills. She is thoroughly a product of Minnesota schools, and an alumna in whom all of her graduating institutions now take especial pride. Following her graduation from Goodhue High School, she earned advanced degrees at no fewer than three institutions of higher learning: Winona State College, the University of Minnesota, and St. Thomas College—which awarded her a master of arts in education. But her education did not stop there, and it has never stopped to this day. She has pursued continuing studies at the University of Minnesota, St. Thomas, Mankato State College, Southwest State College, and Hamline University. Among her many other professional qualifications, she holds a lifetime certificate in elementary education.

Teaching is a delicate art. Far more than knowledge, it requires understanding—and above all, understanding of people, their concerns, their lives, and their community. Mary Miller took her first teaching position almost half a century ago in the town of Mahtomedi. In 1996, she was a teacher there still, 43 years after that first commitment. No one better understands and cares for her community, her neighbors, and her students than Mary.

Whether leading school activities or student bus tours, contributing her time to community projects, or helping a local family in time of need, Mary has shown by her living example that we all need teachers, and that education does not end but rather begins at the schoolhouse walls. Three generations of Minnesotans have grown and prospered with her help. Many of former students, now adults, still come to her classroom to see her. It would be difficult to write Mahtomedi's history and that of its citizens in the four decades since World War II without in the process taking full stock of her significant contributions.

Long before Federal and State laws made provision for special education, Mary Miller was a leader in the field. She earned professional degrees in special education, and has

taught children with special needs throughout her career. As she looks back on her own achievements, it is this contribution above all others that stands out as most meaningful.

The Mahtomedi School District honored her as Teacher of the Year in 1995, and again as Teacher of Distinction in 1996. Last year, she was among only 10 honorees selected statewide as finalists for the Minnesota Teacher of the Year. Today, it is appropriate that we recognize her here, in the U.S. Congress, for her lifetime of achievement for our country.

Many of us who are not teachers by profession understand, nonetheless, the responsibilities that teaching entails, because we are spouses and parents. The same individual care and concern that we hope a good teacher will show for our children is the measure of our success at home as mothers and fathers, husbands and wives. Not surprisingly, Mary Miller's four uninterrupted decades of commitment and success as a teacher are matched by her steadfast devotion as mother and wife. Later this year, she and her husband, Frederick P. "Bud" Miller, will celebrate their 40th wedding anniversary.

Mary and Bud have raised three grown sons, Michael, Patrick, and Kevin—who served with distinction in Operation Desert Storm—and are now deservedly proud grandparents. As she retires from the responsibilities of teaching that she loves so well, can anyone doubt that Mary will redouble her devotions and attentions to these young children—or that they will not inherit her love of learning?

In this way, and in her exploration of the many new frontiers that now await her, Mary Miller will continue to improve the lives of everyone around her. Her retirement from teaching, like a graduation ceremony, is more accurately called a commencement: It is the beginning of a new chapter in a most remarkable life.

Plato observed that "the direction in which education starts a man will determine his future life." Mr. Speaker, Mary Miller has been a positive influence not only in the lives of her family and friends, but of thousands of boys and girls, men and women, whose lives she has turned in a positive direction by her energy and effort. For her contributions to her native Minnesota and to our Nation, I know that all of my colleagues will wish to join me in extending the congratulations and best wishes of the House of Representatives to Mary Jean O'Reilly Miller on the occasion of her retirement.

A TRIBUTE TO THOMAS "ARCHIE" STEWART

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 11, 1996

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, It gives me great pleasure to honor Mr. Thomas Stewart, affectionately known as "Archie." I wish to extend this recognition to Mr. Stewart, for his invaluable contribution to New York's 20th Congressional District, and the greater Hudson Valley. It was through Mr. Stewart's leadership, vision, and generosity, that Stewart Airport, in Newburgh, NY, was built.

In 1930, Mr. Stewart and his family donated a 220-acre parcel of land known as Stony

Lonesome Farm, in memory of his grandfather Lachlan Stewart, for the development of an airport. It is truly remarkable that in these early years of aviation, Mr. Stewart had the vision to foresee the need for an airport in Orange County. But even he could not have predicted the impact that Stewart Airport has had over the years. Prior to World War II, partly through Mr. Stewart's own efforts, the U.S. Military Academy established Stewart Field for the flight training of West Point Cadets. The airport served as the first wings of West Point to serve cadets, and was later expanded for Army Air Corps operations and subsequently as a major U.S. Air Force Base. It served as an important airfield during World War II for the defense of the Eastern sector of the United States.

After the Air Force base was closed in 1970, Stewart Airport converted to commercial use. Today, Stewart International Airport offers service to eight airlines, carrying over 800,000 travelers in and out of Stewart each year. It is rapidly becoming the fourth major airport for the New York metropolitan area.

Mr. Stewart and his wife Mary, who have been married for 72 years, have spent their lives and raised their family in the Newburgh area. Today at 94 years of age, Mr. Stewart's presence remains an inspiration to his community. Recently, the members of the Stewart Airport Commission declared May 28, 1996, as "Archie Stewart Day" at Stewart International Airport.

I was pleased and proud to have personally participated in this ceremony, at which I stated:

Mr. Stewart and his family made a decision over sixty years ago which has impacted the lives of countless Americans by providing the land which became Stewart Airport, and then Stewart Air Force Base, and finally Stewart International Airport. Archie and his family helped make eastern Orange County a hub of the Northeast. None of us will ever know how many lives were saved by the Stewart family providing the land for the airport which provided the training for our cadets at West Point prior to and during WWII. No one will ever know how many lives were impacted by the young men and women coming to the area during the war to serve at Stewart, and then staying and settling in the region, serving their communities and contributing to the betterment of the Hudson Valley. No one can measure the benefit that the hundreds of commercial flights have had on Americans in recent years.

Mr. Speaker, history is full of dynamic people who helped make a difference, but historians will tell us that our lives are shaped just as much by those individuals who do not necessarily appear in the pages of history books. This is why I am pleased to take this opportunity to formally recognize Mr. Stewart, whose efforts through the years have positively affected so many. Mr. Speaker, Thomas "Archie" Stewart has dedicated his life and land to serving his community and I ask that his efforts not be forgotten.

HONORING THE LAVERGNE RESCUE SQUAD

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 11, 1996

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I am taking this opportunity to applaud the invaluable services

provided by the La Vergne Rescue Squad. These brave, civic-minded people give freely of their time so that should disaster strike, we know that our friends and neighbors are there to help.

Few realize the depth of training and hard work that goes into being a member of the rescue squad. Rescue squad members undergo a training series over a four- to six-month period which includes instruction in Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation [CPR], vehicle extrication, emergency driving, and rescue orientation. In addition to this training, rescue squad members also meet monthly to address business concerns as well as hear guest speakers.

Rescue squad members are volunteers. They receive no pay for what they do. What also makes their service especially outstanding is that the organizations themselves receive no funding. They receive no funding from the city, the county, or the Federal Government.

Rescue squads are funded in the same spirit of community volunteerism which moves them to serve. Family, friends, and neighbors pitch in at bake sales, road blocks, and fish fries to help those who sacrifice their time for the benefit of the whole community.

Committing such an amount of spare time and energy to a job so emotionally and physically taxing requires a sense of devotion and duty for which we are all grateful.

EXTENDING PERMANENT MFN STATUS TO ROMANIA

HON. AMO HOUGHTON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 11, 1996

Mr. HOUGHTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 3161, a bill to grant permanent most favored nation [MFN] status to Romania.

I have to believe that Romania certainly meets the test for permanent MFN status. The administration has certified Romania on several occasions as meeting the freedom of emigration requirements under the Jackson-Vanik law.

From what I understand, Romania has also fully implemented its obligations under its bilateral commercial agreements and is a founding member of the World Trade Organization [WTO]. In fact, Romania is the only United States trading partner that is a member of the WTO but still receiving conditional MFN status from the United States.

By not granting permanent MFN to Romania, we really injure Romania and ourselves. Failure to act on this measure would deny United States firms their full rights under existing multilateral trade agreements, and would pose a continuing obstacle to the further development of Romania's economy and democratic institutions.

This measure has been endorsed by a bipartisan group of House Members and has been vigorously supported by the administration. In response to a request for public comments by the House Ways and Means Committee, over 38 firms, associations, ethnic groups, and individuals—including several former United States Ambassadors to Romania—recommended swift passage of H.R. 3161.

Moreover, in the past few days, both Houses of the Romanian Parliament passed resolutions endorsing the establishment of permanent MFN status between our two countries. A statement on the resolution that was passed by the Chamber of Deputies follows:

STATEMENT OF THE CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES

(By Adrian Nastase, President)

The members of the Chamber of Deputies have been pleased to note that bills to authorize the extension of nondiscriminatory (Most Favored Nation) treatment to the products originating in Romania were introduced in the United States Congress on March 26, 1996 (S. 1644 and H.R. 3161). They appreciate that this initiative is of utmost importance for the development of the Romanian-American relationship and support the reform process and transition to market economy.

Taking into account the significance of this major action for the bilateral Romanian-American relationship, the members of the Chamber of Deputies of Romania reaffirm that, after the December 1989 Revolution, the majority of the main political parties, whether represented or not in the Parliament, have unequivocally favored a speedy integration of Romania into the Euro-Atlantic economic, political and security structures, particularly NATO and the EU.

With a view to reaching this objective, the leadership of the main Romanian parties agreed and reiterated, on various occasions, the basic orientation and the main directions of the Romanian foreign policy, to be promoted, in a consistent manner, by the Government. The development of a privileged partnership and alliance with the United States of America remains one of the essential directions of the foreign policy of Romania which enjoy the consensus of the majority of the Romanian political parties.

The consensus of the main parties represented in the Romanian Chamber of Deputies with respect to this priority of the entire foreign policy of Romania was eloquently expressed in the statements made by the leaders of the aforementioned parties in 1993, when Romania was conditionally granted the Most Favored Nations status by the United States.

The evolution recorded in the commercial Romanian-American exchanges in the two years and a half elapsed since the re-extension of the MFN status have fully confirmed the soundness of this measure. In 1994 and 1995 Romania's exports to the United States reached an annual level close to \$200 m., nearly 2.8 times higher than the level recorded in 1993, while the amount of the imports of American commodities increased from \$373 m. to \$465 m. in 1994. In 1995, the amount of imports from the United States was \$392 m.

The re-extension of the Most Favored Nations status has stimulated the American investment in Romania, reaching at present \$144.5 m., as compared to only \$72 m. in 1993.

Granting permanent MFN status will provide significant incentive for US companies to increase their investment in Romania and make the United States the largest trading partner of Romania.

The members of the Romanian Chamber of Deputies appreciate the fact that the United States ranks among the most important investors in Romania, along with Germany, South Korea and Italy.

The significant increase in the Romanian-American commercial exchanges and in the American investment will support the advancement of the economic activities in Romania, will encourage the transition to market economy and the speeding up of the proc-

ess of privatization of the state enterprises, contributes to the emergence of new mutually beneficial business.

At present, the firm resolve to develop close cooperation, partnership and alliance with the United States and, in connection to this, the belief that Romania is entitled to benefit of MFN permanent status are fully shared by the leading political parties and the Romanian people.

Under these circumstances, the view that granting MFN permanent status would influence the national election in Romania is not in accordance with our perception on this issue.

The members of the Romanian Chamber of Deputies have reaffirmed the political will of the parties represented in the Parliament to further develop the democracy and market economy and to ensure that this year elections are free and fair. They urge the members of the United States Congress to continue and to conclude the procedures aiming at granting the Most Favored Nation status to Romania, as soon as possible. The permanent extension of MFN is in Romania's national interest and it is granted to Romania and not to any political party.

The Romanian Chamber of Deputies considers that granting permanent Most Favored Nation status now would better serve the interests of the Romanian society, the political stability in the country as well as the strengthening of the bilateral relationship with the United States.

The members of the Romanian Chamber of Deputies take their opportunity to convey to the U.S. Congressmen the best wishes for success in their endeavors.

This Statement has been approved by the Chamber of Deputies at its session of May 23, 1996.

Mr. Speaker, I hope all of my colleagues will support the effort to grant permanent MFN status to Romania.

OUTSTANDING SCIENCE EDUCATION IS ALIVE AND WELL IN MIKE MINNEMA'S CLASSROOM

HON. BRUCE F. VENTO

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 11, 1996

Mr. VENTO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a fellow Minnesotan, and a friend, who was recently awarded the Presidential Award for Excellence in Science Teaching, Mike Minnema.

Mike teaches chemistry at North Community High School, which is part of the Minneapolis School System, where I once taught science myself. I had the pleasure of working with Mike during those years in a special setting, a Minnesota camp attended by young adults from the Minneapolis area. It was a summer long task for Mike but just a couple weeks assignment for me; however, it was an experience and relationship that was truly the essence of teaching life sciences. In some respects, I feel very much connected to the role of teaching. Even though the responsibilities and role in a policymaking task are different, it is simply a different focus on the same challenge.

Presidential Awards are given to outstanding educators in the fields of science and mathematics, and they represent the Nation's highest honor in these fields of education. Only one secondary school science teacher in