

As a member of the Committee on Economic and Educational Opportunities, and as the Representative from one of the most technologically literate congressional districts, I know that technology is the future of education in America.

Education technology has the potential to ensure that every student in America achieves the highest learning goals. However, education technology can accomplish this goal only if every student has access to technology and all educators know how to use it.

President Clinton has endorsed this goal in his Technology Literacy Challenge. The Technology Literacy Challenge asks public and private resources to join together to ensure that all children in America are technologically literate by the 21st century. The BEST Act supports the Technology Literacy Challenge by recognizing businesses which show an exemplary commitment to joining with local schools to improve the teaching and use of education technology.

Members of the House and Senate who choose to participate in this program ask local and State education agencies and schools for nominations. The business to be honored is then chosen by a board of qualified individuals. All the businesses which are chosen are honored locally by the participating Member of the House or Senate. In addition, each year the White House holds a national ceremony to give recognition to these businesses. It is important to note, however, that no taxpayer funds are used for this ceremony. My bill specifically states that the ceremony does not take place unless all costs are donated by private contributions.

Mr. Speaker, education has always been a bipartisan issue in Congress. Last year, when the Committee on Economic and Educational Opportunities and the Science Committee held a joint hearing on education technology, Members on both sides of the aisle were excited to hear about the ways education technology is being used in many schools right now to help students achieve the kind of critical thinking they need to perform in the high skill jobs of today. But, it is not enough for a few lucky schools to offer education technology to their students. The BEST Act will encourage public/private partnerships in every community and every State that will ensure that all of our students and their teachers have the equipment and the know-how they need today to learn to the standards of tomorrow.

I hope my colleagues from both sides of the aisle will cosponsor the BEST Act. Join with me, schools, and businesses across the Nation to make sure that every school in America has the education technology it needs to make American students the best in the world.

NEW WEAPON FOR FIGHTING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

HON. NEWT GINGRICH

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 30, 1996

Mr. GINGRICH. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to inform my colleagues of a new initiative in the fight against domestic violence.

Six municipal police departments in Cobb County, which is in the 6th District of Georgia,

are being equipped with special instant camera packages for use in their police cars. The camera packages, which are being purchased with donations as part of a public/private partnership, will be used to document cases of domestic violence, leading to undeniable proof of abusive activity.

As we are all aware, domestic violence can cause irreparable harm with the most devastating effects on our children. Children who grow up in an abusive home environment often demonstrate abusive relationships later in life with their spouses or children. It's important that we break the cycle of violence that is so damaging to the families of America.

I believe that the use of the camera packages will be of great assistance to police officers in their fight against domestic violence, and I commend Solicitor General Ben Smith, the Polaroid Corp., and citizens and civic groups like the Acworth Carrie Dyer Woman's Club for their efforts in this endeavor. I would encourage all of my colleagues to support similar programs in their own districts.

[From the Marietta Daily Journal, Apr. 25, 1996]

USING PICTURES TO PROSECUTE POLICE USE CAMERAS TO BATTLE ABUSE

(By Dennis Smith)

In the early morning of July 20, 1994, Glen Troy Bramlett entered the Paulding County home of his estranged wife, Nancy, and their three children, bent on making good on a previous threat to kill his wife.

Armed with a shotgun, a .44-magnum pistol, a knife and nearly three gallons of gasoline, the Smyrna man murdered his wife of 22 years with two 12-gauge shotgun blasts as the victim slept next to their 2-year-old daughter.

The slaying occurred just days after Nancy Bramlett filed for divorce, seeking an end to a long and abusive marriage. The toddler was not injured, but evidence at the scene indicated Bramlett intended to kill his children as well. But those plans changed, and Bramlett shot and killed himself instead.

On Wednesday morning, 16-year-old Jessica Bramlett recounted the story of her shattered family to about 20 elected officials and about 30 city and county police officers, as well as a handful of domestic violence victims.

The group had gathered in a Cobb County courtroom to kick off a fundraising campaign, as both county and municipal officials are focusing their efforts on domestic violence with plans to equip every police cruiser in the county with a new weapon—a Polaroid Instamatic camera.

Through a public/private partnership with Polaroid, officials hope to raise funds to buy the cameras through donations.

In honor of Mrs. Bramlett and other victims of domestic violence, authorities are hoping both individuals and businesses will contribute to the Nancy Bramlett Domestic Violence Memorial Fund—which is set up to fund the purchase of at least 230 Polaroid police packages.

The price tag for each camera package—which includes special lenses, film and other tools for police to gather domestic violence evidence—has been reduced from more than \$200 to \$59.95.

The Polaroid Corp. also has agreed to train officers in use of the cameras, which officials say will be used to take pictures of battered women to be used in the prosecution of the men who inflicted the wounds.

The officers present Wednesday got a crash course in use of the cameras and were allowed to practice their skills on models,

whose faces were made up with fake bruises and bloody cuts.

Cobb Solicitor General Ben Smith, whose office prosecutes most cases of domestic violence and is spearheading the fundraising effort, said the cameras are an important tool in making the case against a wife beater.

"Cases of domestic violence are the most difficult to prosecute," said Smith, referring to victims who often refuse to cooperate with authorities after the initial incident.

As an assistant district attorney in 1991, Smith prosecuted Bramlett for making terroristic threats, as the man told his wife he would shoot her when she picked up their children from an elementary school in Smyrna. When Bramlett was arrested at that time, he was armed with two handguns.

Smyrna police had also investigated incidents of spousal abuse at the couple's home.

"Nancy did not want to prosecute," Smith said. "All she would tell me was, 'Mr. Smith, you simply don't understand.'"

"Hard evidence is the way to solve these problems," Superior Court Judge Mary Staley told the group of officers. "When you show [the pictures] to a person and say, 'You did this!,' it's a very powerful message."

Once each police car in Cobb and its six cities is equipped with a camera, Cobb County will be the first community in Georgia and one of only 15 nationwide which have cameras in every police cruiser, said Barbara Poremba, a marketing representative with Polaroid.

Only a handful of other Georgia communities use instant photography in documenting domestic violence injuries, she said.

Angela Straker, who survived a gunshot wound to the head that was inflicted by her husband, suffered years of torment at the hands of Charles B. Straker. She told the officers that victims are often reluctant to come forward because they are in an embarrassing situation.

"It's very difficult. It's much different than trying to stop a cigarette habit . . . it's like brainwashing," said Ms. Straker, who was nearly paralyzed and still has a bullet lodged in her head.

"Whenever you're in a situation where you're being choked, beaten," she said, "it's humiliating. It has destroyed my whole life, my whole family".

Mrs. Straker, choking back tears, added that when her husband is released from his 20-year prison sentence, her "nightmare" will begin all over again.

Those who wish to contribute to the camera fund can call Jennifer Christian in the Cobb Solicitor's Office at 528-8554. Smith said those purchasing a camera can dedicate that purchase in memory or honor of a family member or friend, and an inscription will be placed on that camera.

TRIBUTE TO DR. LEO CORBIE AND DR. CAROLYN GRUBBS WILLIAMS

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 30, 1996

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Dr. Leo Corbie for his dedicated service as acting president of Bronx Community College. I will also like to honor Dr. Carolyn Grubbs Williams, who is succeeding Dr. Corbie as president of Bronx Community College.

Dr. Corbie was born in New York City. He moved to the Bronx after spending his early childhood in Harlem. He received a bachelor

of arts from Central State College and then went on to earn a master's degree in social work from Fordham University and a doctoral degree in social welfare policy and planning from Columbia University.

Dr. Corbie joined The City University of New York in 1969 as a counselor in the Seek program at Lehman college and became director of the program that same year. The Seek program provides financial and academic assistance to students in need. Dr. Corbie has served as the vice chancellor for student affairs for the City University, from 1981 to 1991.

In June 1993, Dr. Corbie was named acting president of the Bronx Community College. He took over the college at a time of instability and uncertainty. Through his leadership and dedication, Dr. Corbie managed to continue the Bronx Community College tradition of excellence and educational opportunity for all who seek to improve themselves.

Today, Bronx Community College welcomes their new president, Dr. Carolyn Grubbs Williams. Dr. Williams has been president of Los Angeles Southwest College of the Los Angeles Community College district since 1992. In her first year, she eliminated a budget deficit of \$1.6 million and increased student enrollment by 9 percent. She was able to obtain funding and State approval for three major construction projects.

Dr. Williams earned her bachelor's degree in sociology, master's degree in urban planning/social planning and her doctoral degree in higher education from Wayne State University in Detroit.

Dr. Williams leadership has shaped Los Angeles Southwest Community College into an outstanding institution. Her outstanding record has earned her numerous accolades and has been elected to the board of directors of the American Association of Community Colleges and the AACC's National Council on Black American Affairs.

Bronx Community College has benefited from the expertise and outstanding record of Dr. Corbie, and will surely continue to prosper under President Williams. Mr. Speaker I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Dr. Leo Corbie and Dr. Carolyn Grubbs Williams for their commitment to the advancement of higher education.

PROUD TO BE AN AMERICAN

HON. HOWARD P. "BUCK" McKEON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 30, 1996

Mr. McKEON. Mr. Speaker, I recently completed my latest series of town meetings across California's 25th Congressional District. These meetings not only provide my constituents the opportunity to discuss issues of national and local concern, but they give me the chance to meet and interact with the citizens I represent as well. Recently, I had the honor of meeting Mr. Howard F. Simmon of Lancaster, CA. Mr. Simon had never before been to a town hall meeting, yet managed to attend this latest round of discussions. His dedication to this Nation is embodied in a poem he presented me at this latest series of meetings. I would like to read that poem today.

Justly be proud of America,

"Tis all that it is, and more,
The land of the free,
And the home of the brave,
As 'twas said in the olden lore;
So justly be proud of America,
And rest on it, it's true,
Where the sky spans o'er,
From shore to shore
It's a beautiful land,
A wonderful land,
The land of the free, and more.

IN HONOR OF HENRY LEGRAND SMITH

HON. NICK SMITH

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 26, 1996

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, my wife Bonnie and I were blessed with a new grandson on July 20 at 12:29 a.m. His name is Henry LeGrand Smith. He weighed 8 lbs. 6 oz. He is the fifth child of Bradley LeGrand Smith and Margaret Diane Smith. My namesake, Nick Smith is 9, Emily is 7 years old. Claire is 4 years old, and George is 2 years old.

Bonnie and I join Henry's other grandparents, Neville and Jennifer Monteith from Orillia, ON, in welcoming Henry to this world.

Like his brothers and sisters, Henry is going to have a tough time paying back all the money the Federal Government is borrowing. If we don't change our ways, Henry will have to pay \$187,000 in taxes over his lifetime just to cover his share of the interest on the national debt.

I would conclude by asking all the parents and grandparents now in Congress to work with me to minimize the debt which our children and grandchildren will have to pay back for our undisciplined deficit spending.

THANK YOU, CYNDY WILKINSON, FOR YOUR LOYAL SERVICE

HON. JACK FIELDS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 30, 1996

Mr. FIELDS of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it was with mixed emotions that I announced last December 11 my decision to retire from the House at the conclusion of my current term. As I explained at the time, the decision to retire was made more difficult because of the loyalty and dedication of my staff, and because of the genuine friendship I feel for each of them. They have served the men and women of Texas' 8th Congressional District in an extraordinary way.

Today, I want to thank one member of my staff—Cyndy Wilkinson, a counsel with the House Telecommunications and Finance Subcommittee, who formerly served as chief minority counsel on the House Merchant Marine and Fisheries Committee, on which I was the ranking minority member.

A native of Galveston, TX, Cyndy is a 1970 graduate of Lamar University. She graduated with honors from the Potomac School of Law, where she attended classes at night while working on Capitol Hill during the day.

Cyndy has a long and distinguished record of service on Capitol Hill, having served on the

staffs of U.S. Reps, Jack Brooks, D-TX, from 1970 to 1971, and Mario Biaggi D-NY, from 1971 to 1978 prior to joining the staff of the Merchant Marine and Fisheries Committee.

On the Merchant Marine and Fisheries Committee, Cyndy's knowledge of, and advice on, maritime and environmental issues was widely respected by Democratic and Republican members of the committee. Indeed, she served as a member of the Democratic committee staff in a variety of capacities from 1978 to 1993. In 1993, she joined the Republican staff as minority chief counsel.

In her various capacities, she worked to pass the Oil Pollution Act of 1990, which greatly enhanced the Nation's ability to prevent and respond to oil spills and other threats to our maritime environment. She also worked to reform the Endangered Species Act, enhance private property rights related to Federal wetlands regulations, and promote cruise ship safety. Her breadth of knowledge of maritime and maritime-related issues, her keen political acumen, and her eagerness to achieve consensus on vital issues affecting the maritime industry won her many friends in the merchant marine industry, including management and labor, and among Coast Guard officials.

In the 104th Congress, when I assumed the chairmanship of the House Telecommunications and Finance Subcommittee, I asked Cyndy to become a counsel on the House Commerce Committee. In that position she has worked on legislation to reform public broadcasting, and reduce its reliance on Federal funding. Due to Cyndy's hard work, public broadcasters reached an agreement for the first time ever on a legislative proposal to make their industry more financially self-reliant.

Cyndy is one of those hard-working men and women who make all of us in this institution look better than we deserve. I know she has done that for me, and I appreciate this opportunity to publicly thank her for the dedication, loyalty, and professionalism she has exhibited throughout the time I have worked with her.

Cyndy's future plans after I retire are as yet uncertain, but knowing her as well as I do, I am confident that the skills and professionalism she has demonstrated in the past will lead to continued success in the future.

Mr. Speaker, I know you join with me in saying thank you to Cyndy Wilkinson for her loyal service to me, to the men and women of Texas' 8th Congressional District, and to this great institution. And I know you join with me today in wishing Cyndy a very happy birthday.

TRIBUTE TO DONALD MATTEO

HON. SAM GEJDENSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 30, 1996

Mr. GEJDENSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay special tribute to Mr. Donald Matteo, the executive director of the submarine directorate of the Naval Sea Systems Command. On the occasion of his retirement, I ask that you and the other Members of this distinguished body, join me to pay special tribute to his extraordinary achievements in the service of our great Nation.

Don Matteo manages our Nation's most critical strategic, tactical, and special purpose