

Wading River, along the rural North Shore of Suffolk County. The site was used to build a residence and school for the homeless, inner-city children of New York.

Little Flower Children's Service continues to reach out and offer hope to thousands of children. The 700-member staff administers high-quality human service programs, including a Residential Treatment Center, family foster care, day care, community group homes, adoption services, care facilities and foster homes for children and adults with physical or mental disabilities. The agency has also pioneered an innovative foster care and adoption program to serve more than 2,000 infants who have been abandoned to languish in city hospitals, babies who require protective care in an hour's notice and infants stricken with the deadly AIDS virus.

Little Flower's guiding philosophical principle is simple: Children grow up best in families. Families make it happen and Little Flower is dedicated to finding loving, nurturing families for children who have lost theirs. The youngsters sent to Little Flower have been separated from their parents by illness, poverty, death or some other tragedy of life. How they got to Little Flower is always much less important than locating a supportive, caring family for them in which to grow and learn. Little Flower's main objective is to reunite each child with their own family, but if that's not possible then they endeavor to find a new family long-in to adopt a child.

In an imperfect world, where infants and children are sometimes left without families, there is a desperate need for Little Flower's services. In this great Nation of ours, no child should ever have to grow up without their parents' love and support. But when a child is left alone in this world, we should all be grateful that the parishioners of St. Peter Claver Church had the foresight to establish Little Flower Children's Services. We are all richer in our souls for their benevolence.

A TRIBUTE TO JOHN DECKER

HON. GERALD B.H. SOLOMON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 1, 1996

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, if you or other Members have ever been in my office, no doubt you've seen the fire helmets lining the walls. I must have hundreds of them. They are symbols of enormous respect and admiration I have for firefighters.

It's not just that I used to be a volunteer firefighter myself in my hometown of Queensburg. It's more than that. I could sum up my feelings about firefighter in two words: John Decker.

John Decker is celebrating his 50th year as a volunteer firefighter. By that yardstick, John Decker is a giant.

Let me tell you a few things about volunteer firefighters in general. These are ordinary citizens from all walks of life who represent the only available fire protection in rural communities like the one I represent. In New York State alone they save countless lives and billions of dollar's worth of property. They surrender much of their time, not only to respond to fires but to upgrade their skills with constant training. Fighting fires is dirty, exhausting, and frequently dangerous work. Volunteer fire-

fighters approach that work with a selfless dedication and the highest degree of professionalism.

Typical of these volunteers, or, I should say, more than typical is John Decker. He joined the Hose Company #1 in Catskill, NY 50 years ago. There is no way to calculate the lives and property he has helped save in those 50 years, the number of hours he has spent in that effort, or the number of younger firemen he has inspired.

He has served on numerous committees, as far back as 1947, John Decker was a delegate to the Greene County Volunteer Firemen's Association. From 1949-1956, he served on the board of directors, in 1959 as financial secretary, and in 1977-1984 and 1991-1992 as the corresponding secretary. His contributions go far beyond his firefighting, he played a more active role in his community.

Mr. Speaker, I've always been one to judge people on what they return to their community. By that measure, John Decker is truly a great American.

Please join me, Mr. Speaker and all Members, in saluting a firefighter's firefighter, John Decker for his 50 years of service, and in wishing him many more years of health.

TRIBUTE TO GEORGE JOHNSON

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 1, 1996

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to bring the accomplishments of Dr. George W. Johnson, former president of George Mason University, to the attention of the House. After 18 years as GMU's fifth president, Dr. Johnson retired 1 month ago today. During Dr. Johnson's tenure as president, the university saw unprecedented growth and earned the respect of the Northern Virginia community in addition to national business and educational leaders.

Named after the Father of the Bill of Rights and one of Virginia's delegates to our Nation's Constitutional Convention, George Mason University was founded in 1972 as the Commonwealth of Virginia's public 4-year university in Northern Virginia.

At the risk of excluding important events at GMU during the past 18 years, I would like to point out a few highlights in which Dr. Johnson should take great pride. They include the addition of campuses in Arlington and Prince William counties and the opening of the George Mason University School of Law which was named as the "Top Up and Coming" law school in the Nation by U.S. News & World Report. Dr. James Buchanan, professor of economics, was awarded the Nobel Prize in 1986 for his work in public choice economics. In addition, enrollment at GMU has more than doubled to over 24,000 in the past two decades.

Datamation, a management magazine for computing professionals, recently cited George Mason's partnerships with Northern Virginia business among the Nation's best with Carnegie Mellon, Stanford University, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and the University of Pennsylvania's Wharton School of Business. Rarely before has an educational institution forged a stronger relationship with

businesses in the community. Together, George Mason and the high technology businesses of the region have constructed a world class educational and professional partnership.

Evidence of Dr. Johnson's appreciation for diversity is the completion of a spectacular concert hall and fine arts center a stone's throw from George Mason's 10,000 seat Patriot Center where Washingtonians visit to attend concerts, sporting events, and shows. Co-located on the campus is the athletic field house which plays host to one of the world's annual premiere track and field events—the Mobil 1 track meet. Over the past several years, the world's best track and field athletes have come to Mason and set world records.

Mr. Speaker, in addition to the accomplishments of Dr. Johnson, his wife Joanne's remarkable contribution to the arts and the Northern Virginia community should not be overlooked. Joanne Johnson has been active in organizations such as the Hospice of Northern Virginia, Woodlawn Plantation Council, Partners for Livable Communities, and the Learning in Retirement Institute.

Together, Mr. Speaker, George and Joanne Johnson have left a legacy of dedication and commitment to education in our community for which Virginians will be forever grateful.

SAVING FOR COLLEGE

HON. CONSTANCE A. MORELLA

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 1, 1996

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, in an effort to help families save for college, I am introducing a resolution to encourage States to adopt programs that will allow parents to pay for their child's college education years in advance and at a fixed rate.

Throughout history, American families have believed that a good education provided the path to a better life. Indeed, the earnings advantage of completing college increased between 1970 and 1993 for both males and females. According to the Department of Commerce, a person with a bachelor's degree will average 55 percent more in lifetime earnings than a person with a high school diploma.

However, college costs have risen rapidly in both public and private institutions. Over the past 15 years, the average tuition at private colleges has increased 90 percent, and at public institutions tuition has risen 100 percent. Moreover, the median family income during the same period rose only 5 percent.

For most Americans, student loans are the primary source of education funding. From the G.I. bill to Pell grants and the Stafford Loan Program, financial aid has enabled millions of working class families to send their children to college. While one option in addressing the rising cost of college would be to increase student financial aid, a sensible alternative approach would be to encourage families to save for college.

Several States have adopted "tuition prepayment programs" that offer families a systematic approach to saving for college. These prepaid tuition programs provide families with a plan under which they can set aside a fixed amount each month, based on the number of years remaining before the beneficiary enrolls

in college. Under most of these plans, participation guarantees that tuition will be "locked-in" at today's prices, helping families fight inflation.

The State of Florida has an excellent program that has been operating for eight years with great success. Florida has sold more than 327,000 contracts to residents planning ahead for their children's college education. I am pleased that my own State of Maryland is planning to adopt a prepaid tuition program to help residents who are concerned about preparing for their children's future.

There are several reasons for encouraging more States to adopt plans that promote college savings:

Additional savings might enable some students to consider more expensive public as well as private schools. Consequently, families will have more choice as to which schools their children might attend. Additional savings may enable a student to live on campus rather than at home, and to attend school full-time rather than part-time.

Savings for college encourages parents to begin thinking about their children's education and planning for their future. Planning ahead might encourage parents to set higher educational standards and goals for their children.

Providing plans to encourage college savings reduces the need for student loans, which could reduce student debt and the student default rate.

Mr. Speaker, I have long supported measures to help students pay for college. At present, approximately 500,000 families nationwide participate in tuition prepayment programs that make college more affordable for middle-class families. I believe that all of our States should provide prepaid tuition or other savings plans to give American families everywhere the opportunity to save for their children's college education in advance. Helping our nation's families send their children to school is crucial to the economic strength and the cultural growth of our country.

THE NEWLY INDEPENDENT NATION OF UKRAINE

HON. ROBERT G. TORRICELLI

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 1, 1996

Mr. TORRICELLI. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the newly independent nation of Ukraine which observes the 5th Anniversary of its independence on August 24. Over the past 5 years, the people of Ukraine have made dramatic progress in their struggle to build a free and democratic society. The Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe and other monitoring groups report that Ukraine has the finest human rights record of all former Soviet republics. This summer, the Ukrainian Parliament passed a new Constitution which enshrines the principles of liberty, equal rights and free enterprise. Working with American corporations and private voluntary groups, President Leonid Kuchma has mounted an inspiring campaign to overcome the tragic legacy of the Chornobyl nuclear disaster, to privatize local enterprises and to revitalize the eternal life of ethnic and religious minorities which had long been suppressed under the Soviet system.

I am proud to acknowledge the remarkable accomplishments of the Ukrainian-American community in my home state of New Jersey which kept faith with the people of Ukraine during the long dark years of Soviet rule when hopes of winning freedom seemed to be remote and dim.

I especially wish to acknowledge the outstanding work of the Children of Chornobyl Relief Fund (CCRF), based in Short Hills, NJ, which over the past 6 years has become the leading provider of medical aid to Ukraine. On a modest budget of under \$3 million, CCRF has leveraged more than \$40 million worth of humanitarian aid to the hospitals which specialize in the treatment of radiation victims. I am pleased to support a new Women's & Children's Health Initiative which CCRF has launched in three provinces in Ukraine with a grant from the Monsanto Company to combat the high rate of infant mortality in rural regions. Monsanto has helped many Ukrainian farmers to quadruple their crop yields with modern agricultural techniques. Its unique partnership with CCRF offers a model for similar initiatives in other developing countries.

We should all do everything in our power to promote the cause of freedom in Ukraine, to build a health future for Ukraine's children and to strengthen the growing friendship between Ukraine and the United States.

CONFERENCE REPORT TO H.R. 3734, BUDGET RECONCILIATION—WEL- FARE REFORM

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 1, 1996

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, yesterday the House passed a welfare reform proposal that I believe will not achieve its stated purpose of breaking the cycle of poverty and return people to the workforce. I voted against the bill because it sacrifices the legitimate needs of legal immigrants, those trying to reenter the workforce, and children who through no fault of their own are in the need of assistance.

I support reforming the welfare system and I have voted for reforms such as those included in the bipartisan proposal by Congressmen TANNER and CASTLE. That proposal would have achieved real reform while keeping children fed and out of poverty, and providing the necessary funding for people to move from welfare into the work force.

In short, the Tanner-Castle legislation represented responsible reform. The conference report did not.

This is billed as "welfare reform." It is a scale back of benefits. It hurts children who have no control over their economic circumstances.

It fails on the issue of legal immigrants who have played by the rules we established for living in the United States. In abdicating this responsibility, the Federal Government places a heavy financial burden on local governments. In California alone, additional costs of as much as \$10 billion could burden counties over the next 6 years.

Finally, the level of financial commitment that States must meet is inadequate to address the job which is being promised. The Tanner-Castle proposal guaranteed an 85 per-

cent maintenance of effort by states. In other words, States must spend at least 85 percent of what they spent in 1994 on welfare programs and yet the conference report allows States to spend only 75 percent on their 1994 welfare budgets. The Congressional Budget Office has stated that under this bill states will have to provide additional services without additional money. Welfare recipients may find new job training opportunities, but at what cost? Less food? Less child care? These are the choices with which Congress has burdened our local governments by passing this bill.

I could not, in good conscience, support a phony reform bill that so clearly fails to provide the resources needed to move individuals from welfare to work. It hurts the innocent—the children—and my Faith, not a party nor a President nor political winds, gives me the foundation on which I cast my vote.

THE FORGOTTEN TIMORESE

HON. JOHN EDWARD PORTER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 1, 1996

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I recently read an article in the Washington Post that discusses the increasing repression of the people of East Timor by a brutal Indonesian Government and accuses the world, including the United States, of just not caring.

Mr. Speaker, the situation in Indonesia is nothing new—since 1975 when Indonesia invaded East Timor and annexed it the following year, the peaceful citizens of East Timor have lived under daily brutal assault. Just 4 years ago, Indonesian troops killed more than 250 peaceful mourners in a cemetery in Dili, the Timorese capital. In response to this reprehensible act, the Congress cut off all military training aid for Indonesia.

Last year, Congress agreed, despite the strong objection of many Members, including myself, to renew military training aid for Indonesia upon the condition that the human rights situation would improve over the course of the year. Mr. Speaker, I am sad to report that instead of improvement, we saw deterioration in the human rights situation throughout 1995. The 1995 State Department Country Report on Human Rights Practices section devoted to Indonesia spells out very clearly Indonesia's lack of progress on the human rights front.

And what do we do in light of deteriorating human rights conditions in East Timor? We vote, unbelievably, to give more military training aid to Indonesia for fiscal year 1997. Mr. Speaker, this sends the wrong message to the Indonesian Government. First, by saying one thing and doing the opposite, we give the impression that we do not mean what we say. This type of behavior gives us little credibility in the future to try to pressure the Indonesian Government to reform its oppressive ways. Second, by giving more military aid to a government whose human rights policies we find unconscionable, we give the Indonesian Government the go ahead to keep committing human rights abuses. Mr. Speaker, we must not continue to send mixed messages. We must send the strong, clear message that we will not tolerate such atrocious behavior. We must let the people of East Timor know that