

West Babylon, NY, who spent his career in service to his country and this House, and in doing so has made a real difference in his community.

For the past decade, Randy has served the people of Long Island, first as executive assistant to our former colleague, Norman Lent, 4th district, New York, and most recently district director to PETER KING, 3d district, New York. In these capacities, Randy has helped literally thousands of constituents, from the senior citizen experiencing problems receiving a social security check to the anxious child needing an emergency visa to visit an ailing parent in another country. Randy has taken the time to listen to their concerns and then acted quickly to resolve those problems, which may sound trivial to some, but in reality are quite important to the person needing assistance. In recognition of his dedication and support, Randy has been awarded membership in the National Association of Postmasters of the United States, making him the first congressional staff member in history to be accorded that honor.

Mr. Speaker, too often we forget the fine work that is done on our behalf by our dedicated and professional staff. Their efforts often help make our Government more responsive to the people we serve. So, it is only fitting that I take this time to honor Randy Yunker, who has a distinguished career of service to the people of Long Island.

CLINTON'S READING PLAN

HON. NEWT GINGRICH

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 3, 1996

Mr. GINGRICH. Mr. Speaker, I want to encourage my colleagues to read the following article which appeared in the Marietta Daily Journal September 15, 1996. As we look for ways to improve our country's schools, we would do well to listen to the advice of the teachers and parents who are working with the students every day. While the administration would like to simply spend more money on the wasteful education bureaucracy and curry favor with teachers unions, there is no substitute for individual help from teachers like Kay Vaughn who are working with children on a daily basis to teach them to read and write. [From the Marietta Daily Journal, Sept. 15, 1996]

LOCAL TEACHER SAYS CLINTON'S READING PLAN MISSES THE MARK

(By Jamie Floer)

President Bill Clinton's proposal to send Americorps volunteers into the nation's schools to help teach children to read by the third grade gets a failing mark from Cobb educators.

The president promised during his nomination acceptance speech in August to emphasize reading performance when he proclaimed that "every student in America should be able to read by the third grade."

But when professional reading teacher Kay Vaughn heard about the idea, she knew better.

Surrounded by a table of first-graders at Dunleith Elementary School in Marietta, every day Ms. Vaughn teaches students the skills they need to become literate, and she contends the president's plan is not needed.

"We're really working on reading in kindergarten, first and second grade. . . . They

definitely know how to read by third grade," she said. "The earlier you get them started the easier it is to break them of bad habits."

Sitting down to read an easy-reader book about a cat, 6-year-old Darius Alexander, the son of Frances and Lisa Alexander of Marietta, just started first grade a few weeks ago. "Reading is my favorite thing to do," Darius said.

Seeing the reading process click for students like Darius and his classmates makes Ms. Vaughn's efforts worthwhile.

Dunleith Principal Dr. Emily Lembeck said, "We have a lot of programs in place to support reading in our school." A former first-grade teacher herself, Dr. Lembeck said grasping the basics of reading is important and should definitely be in place well before third grade.

Dunleith uses innovative approaches such as the Partnership in Literacy Program that began last year where volunteers spend 15 minutes a week listening to students read aloud.

Throughout Marietta, at schools such as West Side and A.L. Burruss, which was recognized last year with an international award for reading, reading has long been a focus.

Kelly Henson, assistant superintendent of the 6,000-student school district, said the city system's approaches have changed but the goal has remained the same—teach children to read by the end of first grade.

For three or four years the system used a one-on-one program called Reading Recovery, which was funded federally.

However, this school year the Early Intervention Reading Program was put into place to expand the program and serve more students. Under the new program school principals can choose to continue with one-on-one instruction or use small groups.

"It takes different shapes at every school depending on the needs. . . . We tried to take some of the restrictions off," Henson said.

Henson estimated that 99 percent of the students in Marietta City Schools know how to read by the third grade, except for a few students who speak a foreign language and students with extreme learning difficulties.

"Most of our students are reading easily in the first grade," Henson added.

85TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA

HON. SOLOMAN P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 3, 1996

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, I know that I speak for many of my colleagues in offering my congratulations on the 85th anniversary of the founding of the Republic of China.

Taiwan is a model of 21 million hardworking men and women, who have achieved enormous economic success and political freedom, as well as international admiration and respect.

President Lee Teng-hui and Representatives Jason Hu should be very proud of the achievements of their citizens. I support their continued pragmatic campaign to promote international recognition of the efforts, and successes, of the 21 million men and women living on Taiwan.

I would also like to congratulate Dr. Lyushun Shen on his transfer back to Taiwan for a promotion as the Director of the North American Affairs at the Republic of China Foreign Min-

istry. As an outstanding diplomat, his services in the past 3 years as the congressional liaison director at the Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office in Washington, DC has strengthened our bilateral relations. I wish him the best in his new position.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in offering best wishes to the Republic of China on the 85th anniversary of its creation, and thanking Dr. Lyushun Shen for his contribution to a greater understanding of the issues relating to Taiwan.

CONGREGATION SHIR TIKVAH GROUNDBREAKING

HON. SANDER M. LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 3, 1996

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, on Sunday, October 20, Congregation Shir Tikvah will break ground for their permanent home, a house of worship in the heart of Troy.

Congregation Shir Tikvah was founded 14 years ago when Pam Spitzer and Phyllis Wenig met in an elementary school parking lot. Recognizing the need for a worship community for Jewish families in the area, 18 families came together and the number quickly grew to 70. Today, Congregation Shir Tikvah has a membership of 240 families. Until now, the congregation has held its services in the Mormon, Catholic, Lutheran, Presbyterian, Unitarian, and Methodist Churches. The cross-cultural enrichment from these exchanges of hospitality fostered outreach to people of other faiths.

Shir Tikvah's Ark houses a sacred Torah which was seized after World War II in Nazi Germany. It travelled from Germany to England and then to Detroit. Led by Rabbi Arnie Sleutelberg, the congregation is open and welcome to all. It is a place to gather for spiritual growth, education, and socialization. Rabbi Arnie and his congregants are an active presence in the faith community of the area.

Shir Takvah translates as "Son of Hope," and the congregation's groundbreaking on October 20 is, indeed, a symbol of their hope for the future. Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the members of Congregation Shir Tikvah on the realization of their dream, and I wish them continued success.

A TRIBUTE TO CONGRESSMAN JOHN T. MYERS

HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 3, 1996

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, one of my very good friends in Congress is JOHN MYERS. JOHN has represented Indiana's 7th District which is adjacent to mine.

JOHN is retiring at the end of this Congress, and he is really going to be missed by everyone who appreciates a warm smile and cheery greeting.

Throughout JOHN's career in the House of Representatives he has the reputation of being a staunch fiscal conservative. He consistently voted against higher spending and never voted for a tax increase.

JOHN has been an institution on the Appropriations Committee. He has served as chairman of the Energy and Water Development Subcommittee during the 104th Congress, after being ranking Republican on the full committee for several years. He also has served as ranking Republican on the Ethics Committee and on the old Post Office and Civil Service Committee.

JOHN's intelligence, fairness, and integrity are unquestionable. JOHN is known to be an independent thinker and is one of those congressmen who really thought hard about an issue before deciding how he should vote. His record of achievement has earned him the respect of everyone on both sides of the aisle.

JOHN has served the 7th District and the State of Indiana in an exemplary manner these past 30 years. I'm really going to miss him. This place won't be the same without him. I wish JOHN and Carol a very long and happy retirement.

LET'S HEAR IT FOR FIRE SAFETY: TEST YOUR DETECTORS

HON. ROBERT E. WISE, JR.

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 3, 1996

Mr. WISE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to pay tribute to Fire Prevention Week. This year's Fire Prevention Week theme is "Let's Hear it for Fire Safety: Test Your Detectors."

One life lost to fire is a great tragedy. When that tragedy could have been prevented, it compounds the loss. Smoke detectors are necessary equipment in every home to prevent tragedies from occurring. Every home in West Virginia should be equipped with properly installed and maintained smoke detectors outside sleeping areas as well as one on each level of the house, basement included.

Statistics show that 13 out of every 14 homes have at least one smoke detector, but far too many are not working. I am trying to raise that statistic in West Virginia to 100 percent. With the assistance of the Berkeley County Office of Emergency Services and State Farm Insurance, I have made a fire prevention video which teaches children how smoke detectors operate and how to maintain them. This video is distributed to every elementary school in West Virginia.

Obtaining a smoke detector can be as easy as contacting the local fire department. Many fire departments and local organizations participate in free give-aways of smoke detectors.

Over the past 2 weeks the Congressional Fire Services Institute hand delivered to every Member of Congress, a Fire Prevention Week Community Awareness Kit, courtesy of the National Fire Protection Association. I urge all my colleagues to use the information contained in those kits.

USTR ANNOUNCEMENT ON ARGENTINEAN FOOTWEAR

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 3, 1996

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I support the action taken by United States

Trade Representative Charlene Barshefsky on October 1, 1996, concerning Argentinean footwear. USTR announced the United States has filed a section 301 complaint with the World Trade Organization [WTO] against Argentina due to their practices concerning footwear and textiles. This action is necessary to curb Argentina's unfair trade practices.

Argentina maintains specific import duties on textiles, apparel, and footwear that are above the 35-percent ad valorem tariff rate to which Argentina committed under the WTO agreements. USTR has decided to invoke WTO dispute settlement procedure. The WTO should take action to make Argentina comply with the WTO agreement.

Argentina has taken action in the past and this action is unacceptable. USTR realizes the actions taken by Argentina are insufficient and inappropriate. Consultation with the WTO has become necessary. I commend Ambassador Barshefsky for taking the appropriate action.

For companies in Massachusetts, this action by Argentina is dangerous. The action taken by USTR will help those businesses who have been discriminated against because of the unfair trade practices of Argentina. In Massachusetts, companies such as Reebok and thousands of Massachusetts employees, depend upon fair access to foreign consumer markets for their livelihoods.

Once again, I congratulate Ambassador Barshefsky and offer my continuing support for firm steps to enforce our international trade treaties to benefit U.S. interests.

STATEMENT OF THE HONORABLE DON RITTER

HON. EDWARD R. ROYCE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 3, 1996

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I insert the following for the RECORD:

STATEMENT OF THE HONORABLE DON RITTER—FORMER CO-CHAIRMAN, U.S. CONGRESSIONAL TASK FORCE ON AFGHANISTAN, JUNE 6, 1996, NEAR EAST AND SOUTH ASIAN AFFAIRS SUBCOMMITTEE, SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE

I want to thank you Chairman Brown and the other distinguished Members of this Committee for holding this important and timely hearing on Afghanistan. I would also like to express my appreciation to my former colleagues, Congressman Dana Rohrabacher and Congressman Charles Wilson, as well as the other witnesses offering testimony today before this Committee. Congressional leadership on this issue has always played an important and historic role.

We are gathered here today out of concern for the people of Afghanistan and that war-torn country that has suffered unspeakable brutality and neglect. Clearly, the United States, so active over so many crucial years, needs to place a higher priority now on the agony and devastation of Afghanistan and its people.

Mr. Chairman, the United States has a moral obligation to the people of Afghanistan because of their pivotal role in defeating the Red Army at a time when Communism was on the march around the globe. This seems like ancient history sometimes but, ultimately, Afghanistan proved to be the Achilles Heel of the Soviet Communism and military expansion. One can make a

strong case that the Soviet Empire would not have met its demise, nor would the Berlin Wall have come down and the people of eastern Europe and the former U.S.S.R. made free, if the people of Afghanistan had not had the courage to fight the Red Army when it invaded. For over a decade, the Afghan people paid a heavy and horrible price fighting the Soviet Union for their beloved country—mass executions, chemical attacks, cities destroyed, villages burned, the countryside mined, children orphaned. Millions of Afghans fled or were murdered by the communists. The point is this Mr. Chairman: Freedom loving people in the United States and around the world thus owe an important debt to the Afghans for helping to win the Cold War and the course of world history.

The bipartisan Congressional Task Force on Afghanistan that I helped lead with Senator Gordon Humphrey, Congressman Charles Wilson, Congressman Bob Latham and others pressed for U.S. humanitarian and military support for the Afghan people during some of the darkest and most brutal periods of Soviet military operations in Afghanistan. In recent years, after the Soviet withdrawal and the communist defeat, I have grown increasingly troubled by the tragic fate that has overtaken Afghanistan. The United States must again reassert a leadership role to help the people of Afghanistan.

The point is this: We fought together with the Afghan people to win the war. In a very real sense they served on the front lines for us. Now is the time to fight together to win the peace. Its the right thing to do. We have the responsibility.

Although I no longer serve in Congress, I am willing to step forward once again to join you, Mr. Chairman, along with Congressman Wilson, Congressman Rohrabacher and others committed to helping to find solutions to the situation in Afghanistan. I would encourage others to join me in this effort—Americans and Afghans, those in government as well as in the private sector. Now is the hour. Now is the time for the United States to launch a new initiative to help bring peace, stability and prosperity to the war-weary and suffering people of Afghanistan.

Finally, the United States, as this Committee well knows and will explore today, ignores the situation in Afghanistan at great peril. Afghanistan remains important to the national interest of the United States for geostrategic and national security reasons because of its pivotal role regarding Central Asia, the Middle East, and South Asia. If the United States will not take a leadership role in Afghanistan, Iran and other hostile terrorist forces will. In a world that for us grows ever smaller and more integrated all the time, this prospect in South Asia is more threatening to the United States. America must act with resolve and courage to help the people of Afghanistan while there is yet time.

TRIBUTE TO THE CIRCLES OF SERBIAN SISTERS OF NORTHWEST INDIANA

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 3, 1996

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is my great honor to commend the Circles of Serbian Sisters of Northwest Indiana. This distinguished organization is holding its fourth annual benefit at St. George Serbian Orthodox Church in East Chicago, IN this Sunday, October 6, 1996.