

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

AWARD-WINNING STUDENTS OF CAESAR RODNEY HIGH SCHOOL

HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 21, 1996

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, on April 27 to April 29, 1996, outstanding young people from 50 schools throughout the Nation came to our Nation's Capital to compete in the national finals of the We the People... The Citizen and the Constitution Program. I am proud to announce that the class from Caesar Rodney High School in Camden represented Delaware. These young scholars worked diligently to reach the national finals by winning local competitions in their home State.

The distinguished members of the team representing Delaware are: Nick Amalfitano, Mark Balfantz, Sondra Bell, Pauletta Brown, Jennifer Cajthum, Allison Chippie, Will Cordeiro, Blair Craven, Ryan Dixon, John Dodd, Tom Dodd, Lee Dunham, Shannan Foskey, Joy Ginter, Ron Hartnett, Kristie Hertz, Bonny Hodges, Jason Hutchins, Nikki McBride, Sean McGinty, Peter Morisseau, Tim Rudis, Dan Schoettinger, Andrew Towle, Jennifer VanHorn, Matt Walsh, and Jeff Whisler.

I would also like to recognize their teacher, Bill Windett, who deserves much of the credit for the success of the team. The district coordinator, Diane Courtney, and the State coordinator, Lewis E. Huffman, also contributed a significant amount of time and effort to help the team reach the national finals.

The We the People... The Citizen and the Constitution Program, supported and funded by Congress, is the most extensive educational program in the country developed specifically to educate young people about the Constitution and the Bill of Rights. The 3-day national competition simulates a congressional hearing in which students' oral presentations are judged on the basis of their knowledge of constitutional principles and their ability to apply them to historical and contemporary issues.

Administered by the Center for Civic Education, the We the People... program, now in its eighth academic year, has provided curricular materials at upper elementary, middle, and high school levels for more than 60,000 teachers, 22,000 schools, and 22 million students nationwide.

The We the People... program provides an excellent opportunity for students to gain an informed perspective about the history and principles of our Nation's constitutional government. I wish these young constitutional experts the best of luck and look forward to their future participation in politics and government. Congratulations again to the team from Caesar Rodney High School of Camden, DE.

A TRIBUTE TO P.S. 230, THE RECIPIENT OF THE STATE-WIDE TITLE 1 AWARD FOR ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AND ACHIEVEMENT

HON. CHARLES E. SCHUMER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 21, 1996

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate P.S. 230 as the recipient of the Title 1 Distinguished School Award—one of the highest honors given to a New York school for their demonstrated commitment to academic excellence. The administrators and teachers of P.S. 230 have been dully recognized for their hard work in exceeding the State's standard performance level in both reading and mathematics. Almost every grade level has earned above-average scores in reading. I am particularly impressed by the specialized instruction and attention given to third graders, as they have successfully learned how to read at the sixth level. When recognized these results, it is no wonder that P.S. 230 has been selected for the Title 1 Distinguished School Award.

I am especially honored to pay tribute to the teachers and administrators of P.S. 230 for providing a solid academic base for each student. The entire student body is as culturally and ethnically diverse as New York, which has often created a unique set of hurdles for many elementary school teachers whose primary job is to provide basic reading and communication skills. Yet, P.S. 230 has established a nurturing environment in which to learn, ensuring the future success of every student. As a parent whose daughter is currently enrolled at P.S. 230, I am extremely proud of the entire faculty and PTA for enabling each child to receive a worthwhile learning experience that will stay with them their entire lives. I hope the families and supporters of P.S. 230 will continue its legacy in educational achievement for future generations.

TRIBUTE TO LOWANDA EMMONS DEEGAN

HON. GERALD B.H. SOLOMON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 21, 1996

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, we all have extraordinary people in our districts, but there is one incredible lady in the 22nd District of New York who stands apart.

Her name is Lowanda Emmons Deegan, and she is 90 years young. Last Sunday, she received her bachelors degree from the State University at Albany. In other words, Mr. Speaker, she was 68 years old when most of her fellow graduates were born. She truly earned the right to lead the graduation procession.

Lowanda Emmons Deegan could say, as the song goes, "I did it my way." She took

one course a semester for the last 20 years. In recent years, since a fall injured her knee, she has had some trouble getting around and has done much of her studying over the phone.

But that's been one of the few concessions she had made to her age. In fact, the remarkable thing about her, as far as I'm concerned, is her attitude. She is truly young at heart, and spends her time dwelling on the future, not on the past.

It isn't though her past isn't interesting, Mr. Speaker. She graduated from high school in the early 1920's, finished fifth in the "Miss Schenectady" contest shortly after graduation, and then worked in a number of positions until retiring in 1975. She was a social worker during the Depression, a switchboard operator and accountant for General Electric Co., and, finally, a clerk at the New York State Library. Her husband and only son are both deceased.

She was determined to make the most of those retirement years. She remembered getting good grades in writing projects in high school, so she began writing a family story titled "Susie's Chronicles," named for her grandmother, Susie Emmons. Her ancestors included some of New York State's earliest settlers. Her English teachers have been impressed by the first drafts of the book, and have expressed confidence that the book will find a publisher. I'm looking forward to its publication, and I'm sure it will be popular with the general reading public.

Lowanda Emmons Deegan reads two newspapers a day and often writes to me about issues of interest to older Americans.

Mr. Speaker, her attitude is what has made this the greatest country on Earth. Many people stop trying to improve themselves after a certain age and settle into a comfortable routine. She has not, and her story is an inspiration to us all.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and this entire body to rise with me in tribute to an extraordinary lady and great American, Lowanda Emmons Deegan of Ballston Lake, NY, on the occasion of her long-awaited graduation from college.

HONORING THE ALLONS VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 21, 1996

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I am taking this opportunity to applaud the invaluable services provided by the Allons Volunteer Fire Department. These brave, civic-minded people give freely of their time so that we may all feel safer at night.

Few realize the depth of training and hard work that goes into being a volunteer firefighter. To quote one of my local volunteers, "These firemen must have an overwhelming desire to do for others while expecting nothing in return."

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

Preparation includes twice-monthly training programs in which they have live drills, study the latest videos featuring the latest in firefighting tactics, as well as attend seminars where they can obtain the knowledge they need to save lives. Within a year of becoming a volunteer firefighter, most attend the Tennessee fire training school in Murfreesboro where they undergo further, intensified training.

When the residents of my district go to bed at night, they know that should disaster strike and their home catch fire, well-trained and qualified volunteer fire departments are ready and willing to give so graciously and generously of themselves. This peace of mind should not be taken for granted.

By selflessly giving of themselves, they ensure a safer future for us all. We owe these volunteer fire departments a debt of gratitude for their service and sacrifice.

A TRIBUTE TO JACK MERELMAN

HON. VIC FAZIO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 21, 1996

Mr. FAZIO of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Jack Merelman. Mr. Merelman is retiring from his position as director of Federal Research Membership Services to the California Counties Foundation.

Jack Merelman was raised in our Nation's capital, served in the U.S. Army and attended the University of Maryland for his bachelor and law degrees. He embarked on his public service career in 1953 when he joined the staff of the Organization of City Attorneys. In 1958, he became the general counsel for the National Association of Counties.

Mr. Merelman has participated in the development of major program policies in Sacramento and Washington, DC. He was legal counsel for the County Supervisors Association of California and the director of legislation for the National Association of Counties in Washington, DC. The California State Association of Counties engaged his service as both executive director and Washington representative, through which he received the California State Association of Counties President's Award.

Jack Merelman is closing a career of public service that spans five decades. His many accomplishments are to be commended, and best wishes extended for a rewarding and gratifying retirement.

EXCELLENCE IN ARTS EDUCATION—A LEGACY OF INTEGRATION

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 21, 1996

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased today to be able to add my congratulations for the recent naming of Dallas' Booker T. Washington High School

for the Performing and Visual Arts as a "Blue Ribbon" school. In addition to the "Blue Ribbon" designation, this special school has also received national acclaim as a prototype for subsequent magnet schools through the United States.

The Booker T. Washington High School for the Performing and Visual Arts was created about 20 years ago, as a result of a court order mandating that the Dallas schools desegregate and the realization by the Dallas Independent School District of the specific need to educate gifted artists with both the potential and aspiration for careers in the arts. Located in the Dallas Arts District, near the heart of the city, the magnet school attracts students from throughout the metropolitan Dallas area. The multiethnic student body includes approximately 650 students in grades 9 through 12. The instructional staff consists of 54 teachers. Approximately 88 percent of the faculty have more than 10 years of teaching experience while more than 83 percent have advanced degrees. The school is accredited by the Texas Education Agency and the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.

The arts school was created to provide a program of excellence in the arts which meets the needs of the students and the community. Intensive training in the performing or visual arts allows students to explore the demands of an artistic career. A rigorous academic program offers all courses required for the State's three graduation plans. Students are selected through audition, interview, portfolio, or other demonstration of artistic aptitude.

Congratulations to the Booker T. Washington High School for the Performing and Visual Arts in Dallas on the 20-year evolution of a great idea.

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON THE BUDGET, FISCAL YEAR 1997

SPEECH OF

HON. LOUIS STOKES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 16, 1996

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 178) establishing the congressional budget for the U.S. Government for fiscal year 1997 and setting forth appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, and 2002:

Mr. STOKES. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in strong opposition to House Concurrent Resolution 178, the Fiscal Year 1997 Republican Budget Resolution. The American people must clearly understand that the Republicans' Fiscal Year 1997 Budget Resolution, House Concurrent Resolution 178, which eliminates 130 programs and the Department of Commerce and the Department of Energy, is a continuation of their attack on the most vulnerable among us, children, seniors, veterans, and hard working families across the country.

My colleagues on the other side of the aisle have decided to ignore the message of the American people to protect the quality of life, to protect the environment, and to protect education.

Instead, they have intensified their attack on those in the dawn of life, our children and those in the twilight of life our seniors. Programs and services that are critical to helping to ensure a reasonable quality of life for the most vulnerable are being gutted, once again, so that the GOP can give a tax cut to the wealthy.

Medicare is cut \$158 billion threatening access to quality health care for millions of seniors. Provisions that were designed to help control the escalating cost of health care services for seniors are being repealed. Medicaid is cut \$72 billion. Poor children, disabled persons, and low-income seniors are at risk of losing their health care coverage. Medicaid is converted to a block grant, and States are left to determine eligibility, and the duration and scope of health services to be provided. In addition, State funding match requirements are reduced.

By cutting over \$4 billion from financial aid, the Republican budget reduces the opportunity for hard working families to help their children get a college education. In addition to eliminating, student aid funding provided by the State incentive grant program, and fellowships and scholarships, the direct lending program is also eliminated.

By dramatically cutting funding for housing and the earned income tax credit, the Republican budget will make it increasingly difficult for low-income hard working families to make ends meet. These families are already struggling, the added burden could destroy them.

Banking and housing programs are cut \$5.3 billion. Welfare-related programs are cut \$53 billion and converted to a block grant. The job opportunities and basic skills program and the child care services program are among the programs slated for elimination.

Mr. Chairman, the Republican budget threatens the stability of families across the country. Families do not want a handout, all they need, from time to time, is a helping hand to help them get back on their feet.

Mr. Chairman, these GOP budget tactics and misplaced priorities should come as no surprise to the American people. The Republicans touted last year that if they did not get the cuts in funding that they needed in the fiscal year 1996 budget, to give a \$245 billion tax cut to the rich, the crown jewel in the GOP's Contract With America, they would shut the Government down. And, as each of us recalls, they did just that, our Republican colleagues held the American people hostage, shut the Government down, and denied them access to critical services. That GOP tantrum cost the American people \$1.5 billion, and it needlessly increased the deficit.

The GOP touted last year that if they did not get the cuts they wanted in fiscal year 1996, they would cut programs and services further in fiscal year 1997, and they are doing just that. You may also recall that our Republican colleagues emphasized throughout the fiscal year 1996 appropriations process, that the fiscal year 1996 cuts were just a downpayment on their budget gutting mission to give a tax cut to the rich.

This outrageous fiscal year 1997 budget is extremely harmful to America's families and citizens, no one is safe from the tre-