

achievements of the Deerfield Beach High School Concert and Jazz Band. Under the direction and guidance of Mr. Dean Calmer and with the assistance of Deerfield Beach High principal, Dr. Joe Melita, these young people have illustrated skill accompanied by an unyielding work ethic and commitment. As a result of their perseverance, the Deerfield High Band became the only musicians selected from the State of Florida to participate in the "American Musical Salute to DC" which commemorated the 75th anniversary of the dedication of the Lincoln Memorial. The band preformed superbly and represented the State of Florida in an honorable fashion. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the achievements of the Deerfield Beach Concert and Jazz Band, and the young people involved who in an era of violence and disparity have still managed to remain focused and as a result make beautiful music.

HONORING THE LITTLE HAITI
HOUSING ASSOCIATION, INC.

HON. CARRIE P. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 3, 1997

Mrs. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Little Haiti Housing Association, Inc. [LHHA], for its receipt of the *Maxwell Award of Excellence* from the Fannie Mae Foundation. Mr. David Harder, executive director of LHHA accepted the award Tuesday, May 20, during the foundation's ninth annual awards ceremony.

The Fannie Mae Foundation recognized LHHA for its scattered site home ownership project which is a model for the Nation. The program renovates abandoned houses that have become havens for drug dealers and redevelops vacant lots used as trash dumps. Between July 1995 and June 1996, the project successfully renovated 10 homes and built 1 new home. Since the project's inception in 1987, LHHA's dedicated workers renovated or built 48 homes, thus enabling 48 families to become homeowners.

Mr. Harder regards LHHA as more than a housing program; it is, "a tool to restore stability in communities." LHHA's contribution to that philosophy is illustrated by the array of services offered to homeowners and persons qualifying for home ownership.

LHHA designs services and programs to strengthen members of the Dade community. Home buyers complete the association's 8-week home ownership training program. Classes are offered in Haitian-Creole, Spanish, and English. LHHA also offers classes in English for Speakers of Other Languages; post-purchase counseling; the banking system; citizenship preparation; and job skills training.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud the work of Executive Director Harder and his team, Jules LaBossiere, president of the board of directors and Jacques Saint-Louis, assistant director. Their tireless efforts to provide safe affordable housing to this community in Dade County is much appreciated. Little Haiti Housing Association, Inc., sends a strong message to drug dealers and others, that we will take our communities back.

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON
THE BUDGET, FISCAL YEAR 1998

SPEECH OF

HON. HARRIS W. FAWELL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 20, 1997

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the concurrent resolution (H. Con Res. 84) establishing the Congressional budget for the U.S. Government for the fiscal year 1998 and setting forth appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 1999, 2000, 2001, and 2002:

Mr. FAWELL. Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong support of the balanced budget agreement, embodied in the budget resolution. For the first time since I came to Congress, in fact for the first time since 1969, we shall hopefully balance the Federal budget under a 5-year plan. While I would prefer a balanced budget for fiscal year 1998, nevertheless this is a blueprint which if followed by subsequent Congresses and the President, will finally result in a balanced budget in 2002. This agreement also provides for significant tax relief that will allow working Americans to keep more of their hard earned dollars and it takes significant steps to restrain the growth of entitlement spending. Of particular importance, it will insure that Medicare will remain solvent for another 10 years.

The budget compromise we consider today is, however, by definition imperfect. It was achieved through laborious and lengthy negotiations that were conducted by congressional leaders and the President. Both sides made compromises and had to give up points that were of great importance to them. I for one would have liked to see greater efforts at reforming entitlements and deficit reduction. However, the nature of compromise requires that both sides give up goals that they value highly, in order to achieve something of even greater value. The road to a balanced budget agreement is unquestionably of such great value.

Tinkering with the terms of the agreement may potentially cause the entire budget deal to collapse. An amendment offered by Congressman SHUSTER, which would designate that moneys taken from the transportation trust fund should go towards increased transportation spending, is basically sound. But it would upset the carefully balanced terms that were agreed to by congressional leaders and the President. I do oppose the practice of using taxes levied for an express purpose—such as taxes levied for transportation purposes—for uses other than the purpose for which such taxes were levied. In this case however, I reluctantly oppose the Shuster amendment, which would disrupt the carefully negotiated terms of the budget agreement, potentially leading to the collapse of the entire agreement. The amendment also would take moneys from education, defense and other important spending priorities. If adopted, the Shuster amendment would have reduced defense spending by \$5.65 billion, education by \$980 million, criminal justice by \$510 million and housing and child health programs by \$860 million.

While it is not perfect, the balanced budget agreement represents an important step to-

ward ultimately having Congress pass annual balanced budgets. It is therefore an important first step in finally eliminating annual deficits and moving Congress towards a reduction of our Nation's large national debt. I therefore urge Members to join in support of the bipartisan budget agreement.

TRIBUTE TO THE BEACHWOOD
BOROUGH VOLUNTEER FIRE CO.
NO. 1 ON THEIR 75TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. JIM SAXTON

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 3, 1997

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, on June 7, 1997, the Beachwood Borough Volunteer Fire Company No. 1 will celebrate its 75th anniversary.

Beachwood, NJ, established in 1917, is a sleepy hamlet located on the Toms River far removed from the hustle and bustle of the Jersey Shore tourist area. The residents of Beachwood have a long history of being friendly, open, and giving to those in need within their community. Nothing exemplifies this more than the volunteers who have given their time to help Beachwood fight fires within the town.

Firefighters serve a unique and extremely important role in our society. Many of us take the duties performed by volunteer firefighters for granted. Each day, these individuals put their lives at risk in order to protect the public from tragedy.

What is unique about volunteer firefighters is that they protect us without any financial compensation. Across the country, almost 90 percent of the firefighters are volunteers. These volunteers spend many hours away from their families and jobs in order to protect us and our families. They do not fight fires for financial rewards. They fight fires for the love of their community.

It is for this reason, Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the residents of Beachwood, I would like to thank the brave volunteers of the Beachwood Borough Volunteer Fire Company No. 1 for their service to their community and congratulate them on their 75th anniversary.

RECOGNIZING MICHAEL T.
GONZALES ON THE OCCASION OF
HIS RETIREMENT AFTER 30
YEARS OF DEDICATED SERVICE
TO THE MONTEBELLO POLICE
DEPARTMENT

HON. ESTEBAN EDWARD TORRES

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 3, 1997

Mr. TORRES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Montebello Police Captain Michael T. Gonzales on the occasion of his retirement after 30 years of dedicated service to the community of Montebello.

Captain Gonzales was born in Los Angeles, CA, and attended St. Alphonsus Elementary School, Eastmont Junior High School, and Montebello High School. He earned his bachelor's degree in public administration from the

University of La Verne, and began his career in law enforcement with the Montebello Police Department on July 24, 1967, as a police officer. He quickly rose through the ranks, becoming sergeant on January 1, 1974, assigned to the Training Unit; lieutenant in the Patrol Division on March 24, 1987, captain on December 18, 1988; and served as bureau commander for both the Support Services Division and Field Services Division.

Through his guidance and leadership, Captain Gonzales was instrumental in the formation and implementation of the department's explorer program in 1971. He also served as coordinator for the Montebello police reserve officer program from 1977 through 1987, and as a member of the advisory committee of the Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training [POST] since 1979. Throughout his career, he has represented the California Association of Police Training Officers with distinction, and has demonstrated leadership and diligence in his service as chairman of the POST Advisory Committee. Additionally, he served as State and local president for the California Association of Police Training Officers, and as a member of the Hispanic American Police Command Officer's Association, the Boy Scouts of America's Exploring Program, and was executive vice president of the California Asian Peace Officer's Association.

Captain Gonzales has received numerous awards and commendations throughout his distinguished career in Montebello law enforcement. He is a role model for our community, and serves as a model officer for his colleagues in law enforcement. I proudly ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Montebello Police Captain Michael T. Gonzales as he retires from 30 years of dedicated service to the Montebello community.

A TRIBUTE TO FAITH AND
JONATHAN COOKLER

HON. BRAD SHERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 3, 1997

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to honor an extraordinary couple who has given an abundant amount of their precious time and energy to forwarding the ideals of community service and education. I join our community in honoring Faith and Jonathan Cookler.

Faith and Jon have dedicated themselves to the preservation of Jewish ethics and family values. They have served Abraham Joshua Heschel Day School in many capacities promoting Judaic education in a community school setting. In doing so they have strengthened our community's values at its roots.

Zohar wrote in the Talmud that "Each man should aid his fellow man according to his talent." The Cookler's exemplify this ideal by promoting Jewish values through their own strengths. Jon serves as the capital funds vice-president utilizing his financial and fundraising expertise while Faith serves as the executive vice-president employing her organizational talents, each serving the community in his or her own unique way.

In addition to supporting Jewish foundations in the local community, Faith and Jon have

also dedicated their services to broader regions. Faith has been deeply involved with the Anti-Defamation League serving as president of the Pacific Southwest Regional Board and as president of the Women's Division. Jon has also served the greater community through his work on the Boards of Valley Beth Shalom Synagogue and the Pacific Southwest Region of the Anti-Defamation League.

As Faith and Jon's Congressman I am deeply honored to recognize them for their dedication to our community. I congratulate them on their successes thus far and wish them luck in the future.

AMERICAN DREAM CHALLENGE
AWARDS

HON. JAMES P. McGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 3, 1997

Mr. McGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, Dr. Irving A. Fradkin and the Committee of the Citizens Scholarship Foundation of Fall River, MA, have initiated and nurtured an educational movement that has benefited children not only in my own Third Congressional District of Massachusetts, but throughout the country. By working with individuals and businesses in a community, scholarships are presented to children that will motivate and enable them to go to college. These children, who are students in elementary school, promise to adhere to good behavior and high scholarship. They take a pledge to do their best in school and to take advantage of the opportunities of a good education. They promise to respect their classmates and teachers and to learn about and appreciate different religious and ethnic backgrounds. They pledge to stay away from drugs, violence, and weapons of any kind. They volunteer to perform service in their communities and to be caring and responsible young citizens. Certainly these are the actions and values we would like to instill in our children.

I would like to enter into the RECORD letters of commendation from President Clinton and Secretaries Riley and Shalala praising the American Dream Challenge Scholarship Program. I am also pleased to include essays from elementary school children who live in the southern part of my congressional district and who are participants in this program. They have written about how education has shaped their dreams of the future and I believe their words should inspire as all.

THE WHITE HOUSE,
Washington, January 3, 1996.

Dr. IRVING FRADKIN,
American Dream Challenges, Citizens Scholarship Foundation of America, Fall River, MA

I am delighted to commend the participants and supporters of the American Dream Challenge scholarship program.

Education is one of the most effective tools that individuals can use to create a brighter tomorrow for themselves and for our nation. By studying hard and working to improve their school communities, young Americans can look forward to the time when their generation will help to lead this country.

Initiatives like the American Dream Challenge emphasize the importance of a good

education, encouraging young people to invest in their future by preparing for college and exciting career opportunities. I commend the program's supporters for your dedication to helping young people fulfill their dreams, and I wish the scholarship recipients every happiness and success.

BILL CLINTON.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION,
Washington, DC, May 18, 1997.

To the Participants in the American Dream Challenge, Fall River, MA.

It is a pleasure to greet the students participating in the Fall River American Dream Challenge. I am grateful for this opportunity to emphasize to you how important it is that you meet the challenge by staying in school and striving for excellence.

As President Clinton has said, "The fight for education is the fight for the American Dream." Through your academic efforts, you are working toward realizing that dream for yourselves. As I hope you have discovered, although you may face many obstacles in your achievement of that dream, you may overcome those obstacles through hard work and dedication.

As our world becomes more complicated and our economy more competitive, education becomes more and more important. I commend you for resolving to stay in school, stay out of trouble and work hard to excel academically. However, education today must not end with high school graduation. The constantly changing demands of new technologies and of the world economy mean that for today's citizens education must be a lifelong endeavor. I hope that you will use your scholarships to continue your studies after your graduate.

America is counting on each of you to make a special contribution to our nation. By being here today, you have taken an important step toward making this contribution. I commend you for setting your sights high and wish you all the best as you strive to reach the goals you have set for yourselves.

RICHARD W. RILEY.

THE SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES,
Washington, DC, April 3, 1996.

Dr. IRVING FRADKIN,
*American Dream Challenge,
Fall River, MA.*

DEAR DR. FRADKIN: I appreciated receiving information about the American Dream Challenge Program. As you know, the education of our youth is of great concern to me, especially as we look at new ways to break the cycle of poverty and give our children a strong foundation for the future.

I commend the efforts of your program to motivate and inspire our youth and provide them the opportunity to participate in higher education. Also, I commend the students who participate in the program. Their commitment to excellence and their achievements in this program surely will inspire other young people.

The Fall River Chapter of the Citizens Scholarship Foundation has a long-standing track record of helping young people finance their education. Initiatives like the American Dream Challenge program reflect the commitment of the organizers to education, and promoting access and excellence in education.

My best wishes for your continued success.
Sincerely,

DONNA E. SHALALA.