

Meadows Elementary is successful today largely because of the dedication of its parents and teachers. Every day teachers begin the school day before any other school in the district so that they can, have time to share ideas and train one another. Parents provide additional support in whatever form that they can, be it at home or school. One weekend several parents and teachers volunteered their time to help wire the school so that every classroom could have internet access. It is that extra effort to strive for scholastic achievement which has made Meadows a Blue Ribbon School.

I join the parents, teachers, staff, and students of Meadows Elementary and the city of Thousand Oaks in recognizing Meadows Elementary for its contributions toward teaching and the development of future leaders for our Nation. As a Blue Ribbon School, Meadows Elementary stands as an example for other schools in our community and our Nation.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CASS BALLENGER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 4, 1997

Mr. BALLENGER. Mr. Speaker, had I been present for rollcall votes 137 and 138 on May 16, 1997, I would have voted "no" on rollcall vote 137, an amendment to separate the Summer Youth Employment Program from the Disadvantaged Youth Block Grant Program included in the bill. I would have voted "yea" on rollcall vote 138, a vote on final passage of the Employment, Training, and Literacy Enhancement Act of 1997. As a cosponsor of this legislation, I support this program consolidation measure.

IN MEMORY OF BRIDGET SWEENEY

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 4, 1997

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the memory of Bridget Sweeney, an active citizen and participant in the political process, wife and mother.

Bridget was born in Carrickmacross, County Monaghan, Ireland. She came to the United States after graduating from high school in 1930. She worked as a domestic servant during the Depression. Later, she worked as a customer service representative for the Cleveland Division of Water.

Bridget was active in Cleveland's civic life. She made countless telephone calls, handed out reams of leaflets, and spoke with scores of her peers to promote a better community.

She raised three children and worked to elect her son, State Senator Patrick Sweeney of Cleveland.

She also volunteered with her church, St. Ignatius. She was a member of the Altar and Rosary Society, as well as the St. Ignatius Citizens Group.

Bridget leaves behind eight grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. We will all miss her.

THE PRESIDENT'S GRADUATION REMARKS AT WEST POINT

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 4, 1997

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, last weekend I had the honor and privilege of welcoming the President of the United States to the graduation ceremony at our Nation's military academy at West Point, NY, just outside of my congressional district.

The President's graduation remarks to the 896 graduates of the West Point class of 1997 was an inspirational and encouraging clarion call to our Nation's military leaders of tomorrow.

Many of us especially welcomed the President's underscoring the importance of NATO expansion, an issue which I have championed for many years because it will help ensure not only our Nation's own security, but also that of our allies and those nations struggling to achieve democracy.

Mr. Speaker, I welcome this opportunity to insert the President's remarks in full at this point in the RECORD:

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT AT THE U.S. MILITARY ACADEMY COMMENCEMENT

The President: Thank you very much. Please be seated, relax. Thank you, General Christman, for those kind introductory remarks and for your truly extraordinary service to your nation throughout your military career. Here at West Point, and before, when we had more opportunities to work together on a daily basis, I have constantly admired your dedication and your ability.

General Reimer, Secretary West, Senator Reed, Chairman Gilman, Congressman Shimkus, Congresswoman Kelly, Congressman Sessions, former Congressman Bilbray, parents and families and friends of the cadets, and especially, to the Class of 1997, I extend my heartfelt congratulations.

This has been a truly remarkable class. As General Christman said, you wrote an unparalleled record of academic achievement in the classroom. I congratulate you all, and particularly your number one honor graduate and valedictorian, Adam Ake. Congratulations to all of you on your accomplishments. (Applause.)

Now, General Christman also outlined the extraordinary accomplishments of your athletic teams, and he mentioned that I had the privilege of seeing Army win its first 10-win season in football and reclaim the Commander in Chiefs Trophy in Philadelphia. And he thanked me for that. But, actually, as a lifelong football fan, I deserve no thanks. It was a terrific game, and I'm quite sure it was the first time in the field of any endeavor of conflict where the Army defeated the navy not on land, but on water. (Laughter and applause.)

I know that in spite of all of your achievements as a class and in teams, a few of you also upheld West Point's enduring tradition of independence. It began in 1796 when President Adams' War Department ordered the first classes in fortification. And the troops here thought they already knew all about that, so they burned the classroom to the ground, postponing the start of instruction by five years. (Laughter.)

Today, I am reliably informed that though your spirits are equally high, your infractions are more modest. Therefore, I hereby exercise my prerogative to grant amnesty for minor offenses to the Corps of Cadets.

(Applause.) The cheering was a little disconcerting—now, the operative word there was "minor." (Laughter.)

Men and women of the Class of '97, today you join the Long Gray Line, the Long Gray Line that stretches across two centuries of unstinting devotion to America and the freedom that is our greatest treasure. From the defense of Fort Erie in the War of 1812 to the fury of Antietam, from the trenches of Argonne to the Anzio in Okinawa, to Heartbreak Ridge, the Mekong Delta, the fiery desert of the Gulf War, the officers of West Point have served and sacrificed for our nation.

In just the four years since I last spoke here, your graduates have helped to restore democracy to Haiti, to save hundreds of thousands of lives from genocide and famine in Rwanda, to end the bloodshed in Bosnia. Throughout our history, whenever duty called, the men and women of West Point have never failed us. And I speak for all Americans when I say, I know you never will.

I'd like to say a special word of appreciation to West Point and a special word of congratulations to the students in this class from other countries. We welcome you here; we are proud to have you as a part of our military service tradition. And we wish you well as you go back home. We hope you, too, can advance freedom's cause, for in the 21st century that is something we must do together.

Two days ago I returned from Europe on a mission to look back to one of the proudest chapters in America's history and to look forward to the history we all will seek to shape for our children and grandchildren. This week is the 50th anniversary of the Marshall Plan, what Winston Churchill described as the most unsordid act in all history.

In 1947, Americans, exhausted by war and anxious to get on with their lives at home, were summoned to embrace another leadership role by a generation of remarkable leaders—General George Marshall, Senator Arthur Vandenberg, President Harry Truman—leaders who knew there could be no lasting peace and security for an America that withdrew behind its borders and withdrew from the world and its responsibilities. They provided the indispensable leadership to create the Marshall Plan, NATO, and the first global financial institutions. They, in effect, organized America and our allies to meet the challenges of their time—to build unparalleled prosperity, to stand firm against Soviet expansionism until the light of freedom shown all across Europe.

The second purpose of my journey was inextricably tied to the first. It was to look to the future, to the possibility of achieving what Marshall's generation could only dream of—a democratic, peaceful and undivided Europe for the first time in all of history; and to the necessity of America and its allies once again organizing ourselves to meet the challenges of our time, to secure peace and prosperity for the next 50 years and beyond.

To build and secure a new Europe, peaceful, democratic and undivided at last, there must be a new NATO, with new missions, new members and new partners. We have been building that kind of NATO for the last three years with new partners in the Partnership for Peace and NATO's first out-of-area mission in Bosnia. In Paris last week, we took another giant stride forward when Russia entered a new partnership with NATO, choosing cooperation over confrontation, as both sides affirmed that the world is different now. European security is no longer a zero-sum contest between Russia and NATO; but a cherished, common goal.

In a little more than a month, I will join with other NATO leaders in Madrid to invite

the first of Europe's new democracies in Central Europe to join our Alliance, with the consent of the Senate, by 1999—the 50th anniversary of NATO's founding.

I firmly believe NATO enlargement is in our national interests. But because it is not without cost and risk, it is appropriate to have an open, full, national discussion before proceeding. I want to further that discussion here today in no small measure because it is especially important to those of you in this class. For, after all, as the sentinels of our security in the years ahead, your work will be easier and safer if we do the right thing—and riskier and much more difficult if we do not.

Europe's fate and America's future are joined. Twice in half a century, Americans have given their lives to defend liberty and peace in world wars that began in Europe. And we have stayed in Europe in very large numbers for a long time throughout the Cold War. Taking wise steps now to strengthen our common security when we have the opportunity to do so will help to build a future without the mistakes and the divisions of the past, and will enable us to organize ourselves to meet the new security challenges of the new century. In this task, NATO should be our sharpest sword and strongest shield.

Some say we no longer need NATO because there is no powerful threat to our security now. I say there is no powerful threat in part because NATO is there. And enlargement will help make it stronger.

I believe we should take in new members to NATO for four reasons. First, it will strengthen our Alliance in meeting the security challenges of the 21st century, addressing conflicts that threaten the common peace of all.

Consider Bosnia—already the Czech Republic, Poland, Romania, the Baltic nations and other Central European countries are contributing troops and bases to NATO's peace-keeping mission in Bosnia. We in the United States could not have deployed our troops to Bosnia as safely, smoothly and swiftly as we did without the help of Hungary and our staging ground at Tazsar, which I personally visited. The new democracies we invite to join NATO are ready and able to share the burdens of defending freedom in no small measure because they know the cost of losing freedom.

Second, NATO enlargement will help to secure the historic gains of democracy in Europe. NATO can do for Europe's East what it did for Europe's West at the end of World War II—provide a secure climate where freedom, democracy and prosperity can flourish. Joining NATO once helped Italy, Germany and Spain to consolidate their democracies. Now the opening of NATO's doors has led the Central European nations already—already—to deepen democratic reform, to strengthen civilian control of their military, to open their economies. Membership and its future prospect will give them the confidence to stay the course.

Third, enlarging NATO will encourage prospective members to resolve their differences peacefully. We see all over the world the terrible curse of people who are imprisoned by their own ethnic, regional and nationalist hatreds, who rob themselves and their children of the lives they might have because of their primitive, destructive impulses that they cannot control.

When he signed the NATO Treaty in 1949, President Truman said that if NATO had simply existed in 1914 or 1939, it would have prevented the world wars that tore the world apart. The experience of the last 50 years supports that view. NATO helped to reconcile age-old adversaries like France and Germany, how fast friends and allies; and clearly has reduced tensions between Greece

and Turkey over all these decades. Already the very prospect of NATO membership has helped to convince countries in Central Europe to settle more than half a dozen border and ethnic disputes, any one of which could have led to future conflicts. That, in turn, makes it less likely that you will ever be called to fight in another war across the Atlantic. (Applause.)

Fourth, enlarging NATO, along with its Partnership for Peace with many other nations and its special agreement with Russia and its soon-to-be-signed partnership with Ukraine, will erase the artificial line in Europe that Stalin drew, and bring Europe together in security, not keep it apart in instability.

NATO expansion does not mean a differently divided Europe. It is part of unifying Europe. NATO's first members should not be its last. NATO's doors will remain open to all those willing and able to shoulder the responsibilities of membership, and we must continue to strengthen our partnerships with non-members.

Now, let me be clear to all of you, these benefits are not cost- or risk-free. Enlargement will require the United States to pay an estimated \$200 million a year for the next decade. Our allies in Canada and Western Europe are prepared to do their part; so are NATO's new members. So must we.

More important, enlargement requires that we extend to new members our Alliance's most solemn security pledge, to treat an attack against one as an attack against all. We have always made the pledge credible through the deployment of our troops and the deterrence of our nuclear weapons. In the years ahead, it means that you could be asked to put your lives on the line for a new NATO member, just as today you can be called upon to defend the freedom of our allies in Western Europe.

In leading NATO over the past three years to open its doors to Europe's new democracies, I weighed these costs very carefully. I concluded that the benefits of enlargement, strengthening NATO for the future, locking in democracy's gains in Central Europe, building stability across the Atlantic, uniting Europe, not dividing it—these gains decisively outweigh the burdens. The bottom line to me is clear: Expanding NATO will enhance our security. It is the right thing to do. We must not fail history's challenge at this moment to build a Europe peaceful, democratic, and undivided, allied with us to face the new security threats of the new century. A Europe that will avoid repeating the darkest moments of the 20th century and fulfill the brilliant possibilities of the 21st.

This vision for a new Europe is central to our larger security strategy, which you will be called upon to implement and enforce. But our agenda must go beyond it because, with all of our power and wealth, we are living in a world in which increasingly our influence depends upon our recognizing that our future is interdependent with other nations, and we must work with them all across the globe; because we see the threats we face tomorrow will cross national boundaries. They are amplified by modern technology, communication, and travel. They must be faced by like-minded nations, working together. Whether we're talking about terrorism, the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, or environmental degradation.

Therefore, we must pursue five other objectives. First, we must build a community of Asia Pacific nations bound by a common commitment to stability and prosperity. We fought three wars in Asia in half a century; Asia's stability affects our peace, and Asia's explosive growth affects our prosperity. That's why we've strengthened our security

ties to Japan and Korea, why we now meet every year with the Asian Pacific leaders, why we must work with and not isolate ourselves from China.

One of the great questions that will define the future for your generation of Americans is how China will define its own greatness as a nation. We have worked with China because we believe it is important to cooperate in ways that will shape the definition of that great nation in positive, not negative, ways. We need not agree with China on all issues to maintain normal trade relations, but we do need normal trade relations to have a chance of eventually reaching agreement with China on matters of vital importance to America and the world.

Second, we are building coalitions across the world to confront these new security threats that know no borders: weapons proliferation, terrorism, drug trafficking, environmental degradation. We have to lead in constructing global arrangements that provide us the tools to deal with these common threats: the Chemical Weapons Convention, the Nonproliferation Treaty, the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty, and our efforts to further reduce nuclear weapons with Russia.

Now our great task is also to build these kinds of arrangements fighting terrorism, drug traffickers and organized crime. Three weeks from now in Denver I will use the summit of the eight leading nations to press this agenda.

The third thing we have to do is to build an open trading system. Our security is tied to the stake other nations have in the prosperity of staying free and open and working with others, not working against them. In no small measure because of the trade agreements we have negotiated, we have not only regained our position as the world's number one exporter, we have increased our influence in ways that are good for our security. To continue that progress it is important that I have the authority to conclude smart, new market-opening agreements that every President in 20 years has had.

Some of our fellow Americans do not believe that the President should have this authority anymore; they believe that somehow the global economy presents a threat to us—but I believe it's here to say, and I think the evidence is that Americans, just as we can have the world's strongest and best military, we have the strongest and best economy in the world—the American people can out-work and out-compete anyone given a free and fair chance. (Applause.)

Not only that, but this is about more than money and jobs. This is about security. The world, especially our democratic neighbors to the south of us, are looking to us. If we don't build economic bridges to them, someone else will. We must make it clear that America supports free people and fair, open trade.

Fourth, we have to embrace our role as the decisive force for peace. You cannot and you should not go everywhere. But when our values and interests are at stake, our mission is crystal clear and achievable—America should stand with our allies around the world who seek to bring peace and prevent slaughter. From the Middle East to Bosnia, from Haiti to Northern Ireland, we have worked to contain conflict, to support peace, to give children a brighter future, and it has enhanced our security.

Finally, we have to have the tools to do these jobs. Those are the most powerful and best-trained military in the world and a fully funded diplomacy to minimize the chances that military force will be necessary.

The long-term defense plan we have just completed will increase your readiness, capabilities, and technological edge. In a world of persistent dangers, you must and you will be

able to dominate the conflicts of the future as you did the battlefields of the past.

Fifty-five years ago, in the early days of World War II, General George Marshall, the man we honored this week, spoke here at your commencement about the need to organize our nation for the ordeal of war. He said, we are determined that before the sun sets on this terrible struggle, our flag will be recognized as a symbol of freedom on the one hand and of overwhelming power on the other.

Today, our flag of freedom and power flies higher than ever, but because our nation stands at the pinnacle of its power, it also stands at the pinnacle of its responsibility. Therefore, as you carry our flag into this new era, we must organize ourselves to meet the challenges of the next 50 years. We must shape the peace for a new and better century about to dawn so that you can give your children and your grandchildren the America and the world they deserve.

God bless you and God bless America. (Applause.)

TRIBUTE TO GIRL SCOUT JUNIOR/ CADETTE TROOP 659

HON. CHARLES F. BASS

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 4, 1997

Mr. BASS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Girl Scout Junior/Cadet Troop 659 of Lebanon, NH. On April 23, 1997, as part of their trip to our Nation's Capital, the girls of Troop 659 performed their Girl Scout American Flag Ceremony for me in my office in the Cannon House Office Building. These girls and their leaders, Suzi Madison and Mary Ames, represented their town, State, and country with the respect and class that the Girl Scout laws strive to uphold. Hence, I respectfully request that the copy of their ceremony, with the girls' names, be placed into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

GIRL SCOUT AMERICAN FLAG CEREMONY

Anne Friedman: Red for Valor—For the courage of all women who, with a dream in their hearts, crossed the ocean to begin life anew in a free land. For the bravery of women who, with hope and faith, crossed the prairie and mountains of our vast land. For the steadfastness of these women who, through all adversities, shouldered the country's burdens to emerge as strong individuals. (Places red stripes into pot)

Sarah Ames: White for Purity—For the integrity of all women whose fortitude wove the strands of diverse cultures into an integral national heritage. For the piety of all women whose faith formed the foundation upon which our country was built and continues to grow. (Places white stripes into pot)

Kate Polito: Blue for Justice—For the foresight of all those women who created an atmosphere in which each of their children would develop to their fullest potential. For the perseverance of all those women who contributed their talents to further the development of our country. (Places blue rectangle into pot)

Elaine Morlock: Stars for Dreams—For the dreams of the future so that the generations of tomorrow may fulfill the promise of the past 200 plus years; so that the visions of our forebears will be revitalized and the future will hold hope and promise for all generations to come. (Places white stars into pot)

Lea McBain: Stirring are the stories of my stars and stripes. I symbolize the soul of

America, typifying her ideals and aspirations, her institutions and traditions. (Stirs pot with spoon)

Christie Wentworth: (Pulls flag out from pot) This flag, which we honor and under which we serve, is the emblem of our unity, our power, thought and purpose as a nation. Please join us in saying the Pledge of Allegiance.

Holding pot: Crissa Owen.

Humming "America, the Beautiful" in the background were: Nicole Dolloph, Jessi Madison, and Nia Perkins.

FAITH AND LOVE MINISTRIES

HON. RON PACKARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 4, 1997

Mr. PACKARD. Mr. Speaker, in March, I became a member of the Renewal Alliance, a group of 28 Congressmen and Senators committed to promoting local volunteer-driven, faith-based solutions to problems associated with poverty and cultural decline. While at home in California for Memorial Day recess, I was able to further my efforts with the Renewal Alliance by joining forces with Faith and Love Ministries, a volunteer group that networks with several churches in my district to feed impoverished families while helping them regain self-sufficiency.

I served meals to needy families in the community because I believe that there are no limits to what a caring community can do to touch lives. Faith and Love Ministries in Vista, CA, is a wonderful example of what can result from a compassionate heart and a helping hand.

Mr. Speaker, Washington simply never had an answer or replacement for the family, community, or church. For 30 years, we have watched poverty rates rise and the quality of life decline, despite billions of Federal dollars and hundreds of programs. We must now refocus and empower families, churches, and community groups to heal broken spirits and restore hope.

Faith and Love Ministries is powered by volunteers from several local religious organizations and depends entirely on donated surplus foods and other items to meet the needs of the community. Last year, the group provided over 36,000 hot meals, as well as job-assistance, laundry service, haircuts, and showers to several hundred. This year, their food pantry is experiencing severe shortages which threaten the operation.

Mr. Speaker, many of us think of can-drives and other charitable causes only around the holidays. Unfortunately, hunger is a yearlong problem. Most groups that serve the needy, including Faith and Love Ministries, find themselves short on donations and volunteers through the long summer months. If we are going to heed Gen. Colin Powell's call in Philadelphia to become active in volunteering and serving others, this is where it must begin.

CONGRATULATIONS ON AN OUTSTANDING JOB BY LOUISVILLE MALE HIGH SCHOOL IN THE WE THE PEOPLE CONTEST

HON. ANNE M. NORTHUP

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 4, 1997

Mrs. NORTHUP. Mr. Speaker, on April 26–28, 1997 the We the People . . . The Citizen and the Constitution national finals were held here in Washington. More than 50 classes were represented by high schools around the Nation, and I would like to take this time to congratulate Louisville's Male High School on their outstanding job. These students showed a remarkable understanding of fundamental ideas and values of American constitutional government. The recognition of Male High School's accomplishments is a vital one, because it is important we encourage constitutional understanding in our Nation's schools.

Louisville Male High School teacher Sandy Hoover, brought to Washington the amazing talent of students: Alexander Cherise, Jessica Berry, Ryan Bigg, Matt Blanford, Christine Bowman, Carrie Cahill, Yvette Clay, Samantha Cline, Amy Elzy, Candice Faulkner, Crystal Haynes, Lisa Knight, Tia Mitchell, Trivis Newman, Katherine O'Neil, Emily Pittard, Tyra Redus, Dara Shirley, John Sponcil, Zach Storer, Kieth Thomson, Joyce Walker, Scott Walker, and Angie Wielage.

They are to be congratulated on a job well done.

IN HONOR OF DAVID LYNCH

HON. THOMAS M. DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 4, 1997

Mr. DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to rise today and pay tribute to one of northern Virginia's outstanding citizens, David Lynch. David is retiring after 50 years of Federal service to the U.S. Marine Corps and the Postal Service.

David Joined the U.S. Marine Corps in January 1947 and served 21 years in posts throughout the world including China, Korea, Vietnam, the Mediterranean region, and Puerto Rico. He served in the Korean war at Inchon where he was awarded the Navy Commendation Medal with Combat V recognition. Dave's entire military career was with the Fleet Marine Force except for his one tour of duty at Marine Corps Headquarters. He retired from the Marines in December 1967 and settled in the Woodbridge area.

Dave is a longtime resident of Dale City and has been very active in his community. In 1968 Dave joined the U.S. Postal Service as a letter carrier. He took this position because it allowed him to keep in close contact with the people in his community. The greatest testimony to his friendliness is exemplified by the children of Dale City. When Dave appears on his route, children rush to greet him with, "Hi, Mr. Sunshine." During his time as a letter carrier Dave has helped rescue small puppies from storm drains, helped lost children find their way home, and has fortunately not been bitten by a dog.