

Council on Children and Youth and the Rutherford County Early Childhood Task Force, organizations that advocate improvement in the lives of children and families.

"Sister Frierson" serves the Lord in several capacities at First Baptist Church in Murfreesboro, the Mothers' Board assistant secretary, church clerk, Ardent Workers Missionary Society teacher, General Mission treasurer, Membership Committee chairman, and senior choir member. She has previously been president, secretary, and treasurer of the mass choir.

Mrs. Frierson is an alumni of Tennessee State University. She has five children and four grandchildren.

We honor Mrs. Frierson today for her service with the Mid-Cumberland Community Action Agency Head Start Program, to the local community and First Baptist Church. She is a positive role model in an era where such models are rare. The citizens of Rutherford County are grateful for the many ways she has touched their lives.

Again, Mrs. Frierson, congratulations on your retirement. May the days to come be filled with the happiness of family and friends. Thank you for all the happiness and joy you have given to us.

#### THE MUSICAL TALENT OF ROBERTO TORRES

#### HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 15, 1997*

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to congratulate Mr. Roberto Torres, a constituent from my congressional district and a leading exponent of Cuban music who is to be recognized for his outstanding talents and for all of the stellar contributions work that he has done for south Florida. Roberto Torres is to receive his much deserved recognition by having his star placed on Miami's renowned star walk on SW eighth street this upcoming Saturday, September 13th.

Roberto has blessed the Latin community in the United States with his excellent compositions and beats filled with Latin flavor that take us all back to the rhythms of the island of Cuba. His first hit in the United States was *El Caminante*, but he is most renowned for his hit single *El Caballo Viejo* that every Cuban-American and many a Hispanic have enjoyed and can sing along to regardless of their age. *El Caballo Viejo*, a song that was listened to worldwide, has always been a sure fire guarantee of filling up a dance floor at any Cuban-American celebration.

I applaud Roberto for his outstanding musical talent, his contributions to the music industry and most important, his ability to maintain in our minds the soulful and upbeat sounds of Salsa music. Music is an art that Roberto has mastered and blessed our lives with. His compositions will transcend many a generation and will repeatedly remind us of the yearnings of the Cuban people to live in freedom and democracy.

#### CONGRATULATIONS TO BRITTANY GOFF

#### HON. MICHAEL D. CRAPO

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 15, 1997*

Mr. CRAPO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring to your attention an award-winning essay written by a constituent of mine on a subject I know is near to your heart—the importance of freedom and democracy.

I'm pleased to announce that Brittany Goff of Pocatello, ID, has been honored by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States with a VFW 1997 Voice of Democracy Scholarship Award. Brittany's broadcast script is a poignant reminder of the sacrifices and commitments our forefathers made to ensure that we enjoy the rights and freedoms we have today. With all of today's headlines bemoaning the lack of appreciation America's youth has for civics, it is encouraging to know that those as young as Brittany understand the importance of democracy and freedom.

I would like to submit that award-winning script into the RECORD at this time.

"DEMOCRACY—ABOVE AND BEYOND"—1996-97  
VFW VOICE OF DEMOCRACY SCHOLARSHIP  
PROGRAM

(By Brittany Goff)

America came with a high price tag attached. No one person or groups of people could have paid the price to gain what we now enjoy today. It took many pilgrims, Indians, pioneers, soldiers, and all races of people with mixed ideals to accomplish this enormous feat. There were many tears, sweat, blood, families, friends, and lives sacrificed for the accomplishing a single glory: FREEDOM!!! All of these labors were just a foundation of a great fortress. This firm and unchanging foundation, which we call America's heritage, was the beginning of a wonderful government called—DEMOCRACY!!! After all the trials and sacrifices endured by our fathers it is no wonder why democracy is so strong and pure in its motives.

Democracy is government that is run by the people who live under it. In a democracy people rule either directly through meetings that all may attend or directly through the election of certain representatives to attend to the business.

Imagine the fear and anticipation of the pilgrims as they left their mother country to come to a strange and savage land, leaving everything behind just for a chance to make their own choices and not live under a dictatorship! Little would they know that in 1776 Thomas Jefferson's Declaration of Independence would be accepted on the memorable July fourth and change all of our lives forever. The framers of the Constitution worked primarily to maintain a division of power between federal and state government to preserve an overall balance of federal government.

Democracy accepts all individuals' point of views but traditionally, it is associated with the ideals of liberty and equality. In the United States especially it has been identified with the special concern for the common man, but the equality that is relevant to democracy is the equalizing of liberty, not property or of people. As R.N. Mac Iver said, "True democracy respects not the average man, but the common in man; the moral worth of personality, and its power to achieve independence, integrity, and dignity." From this point of view, democracy declares that any group of people from what-

ever ancestry or status, has a monopoly of wisdom, importance, and virtue. In this sense, democracy's ultimate goal is respect of human personality and potential. It also guarantees personal freedom for all who choose to live under its direction.

This great fortress of democracy was built upon the foundation of our forefathers and their sacrifices. Although America is still young, no other government can challenge such a strong and stable republic. That is because daily thousands of people across America are speaking out and exercising those freedoms which we have inherited. Each time we do this, we add a brick to our fortress; building it higher and higher until no earthquake or thunderstorm can tear it down. Our children will one day climb the ladder leading to the top of our mighty fortress. They will remember the steps it took of laying such a firm foundation, and then they will be able to follow our example by exercising these freedoms. Once they reach the top and look on the others below, they'll know why DEMOCRACY is above and beyond all other forms of government!!!

#### A TRUST FUND INVESTMENT IN AMERICA'S FUTURE

#### HON. THOMAS E. PETRI

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 15, 1997*

Mr. PETRI. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to call my colleagues' attention to an article published in today's Washington Post, written by Congressman BUD SHUSTER, chairman of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee. Chairman SHUSTER makes a compelling case not only for the need to invest in our Nation's infrastructure but to do so by utilizing the highway trust fund, into which Americans pay their gas taxes. By unlocking the trust fund, as Chairman SHUSTER notes, we can make our highways and transit systems safer and more efficient.

As we undertake our reauthorization of the Nation's surface transportation program, Chairman SHUSTER's article is necessary reading.

[From the Washington Post, Sept. 15, 1997]

MONEY TO GET AMERICA MOVING

(By Bud Shuster)

The Post can't have it both ways—disdaining the spending of gas-tax dollars to build America's highways ["The Highway Bill," editorial, Sept. 7] while decrying in numerous news stories the growing congestion on the region's highways, the looming crisis of Washington's transit system and the need for a billion-dollar replacement of the Woodrow Wilson bridge. Beyond the Beltway, America is also growing and prospering, but our transportation infrastructure is crumbling.

A 70 percent increase in Asian trade is jamming Seattle's port and snarling traffic at 45 railroad crossings. The antiquated roads of the no-longer sleepy Rio Grande valley are clogged by a 250 percent increase in Mexican-Texan trade. Miami is exploding, with traffic on its main east-west corridor projected to increase by 120 percent and its population projected to increase by 60 percent by the year 2010.

In the past decade, New York has had a 2 percent increase in population but a 27 percent increase in vehicle miles traveled; Illinois, a 3 percent increase in population but a

33 percent increase in vehicle miles traveled; Virginia, a 16 percent increase in population but a 46 percent increase in vehicle miles traveled; and, California, a 20 percent increase in population but a 33 percent increase in vehicle miles traveled. Comparable population-to-transportation growth ratios exist in almost every state.

Urban congestion costs \$43 billion annually, our 23 largest airports each experience more than 200,000 hours in delays annually and 30 percent of our 42,000 annual highway fatalities are caused by unsafe roads and bridges. According to the U.S. Department of Transportation, we need to invest \$16 billion more annually in our highways, \$10 billion more in our airports and \$13 billion more in transit. The good news is the gas, airline ticket and related taxes Americans are paying into transportation trust funds are adequate to begin meeting these needs.

The bad news is that the money is not being spent as promised when the transportation trust funds were established.

The transportation trust funds have \$32 billion in unspent balances, and those balances will increase to more than \$105 billion in five years if nothing changes. And by law, the trust fund revenues can be spent only on transportation infrastructure.

The Building Efficient Surface Transportation & Equity Act of 1997 (BESTEA) will put the trust back into the transportation trust funds by unlocking those funds to be spent as they were intended. Annual gas taxes and related user fees going into the Highway Trust Fund support increasing highway spending from \$4 billion to \$6 billion annually, without touching the \$32 billion balance in the transportation trust funds. In fact, the spending levels in BESTEA will cause the trust fund balances to rise to \$59 billion in five years. But that's a battle for the future.

BESTEA is also good transportation policy and has the widespread support of environmentalists, the National League of Cities,

the National Association of State Legislatures and hundreds of others groups. Moreover, the National Governors' Association has urged us to go even further than BESTEA spend the surplus and all future revenue flowing into the Highway Trust Fund.

We can keep faith with the American people by spending their trust fund gas taxes to improve roads, bridges and transit systems while balancing the budget. Both the Office of Management and Budget and the Congressional Budget Office have indicated that the five-year budget plan underestimated federal revenues by \$135 billion. Fully funding BESTEA transportation trust funds spending by about \$25 billion over five years—only 18 percent of the assumed revenues—so no other programs will need to be cut to stay within the five-year deficit-reduction plan. This is an investment in our future that can and should be made.