

CELEBRATING BRAILLE
PROVISIONS OF IDEA

HON. WILLIAM F. GOODLING

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 24, 1997

Mr. GOODLING. Mr. Speaker, Helen Keller, the moving spirit of the American Foundation for the Blind, once said, " * * * when I hold a beloved [braille] book in my hand my limitations fall from me, my spirit is free."

During the recent reauthorization of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act it was my pleasure to work with the American Foundation for the Blind and other advocates to include a provision for the teaching of braille for all blind or visually impaired students for whom it is appropriate as part of the IEP process. Now every blind or visually impaired child can have the chance to experience the same freedom enjoyed by Helen Keller.

Specialized instruction in braille enables children who are blind or visually impaired to participate equally with their sighted peers in school and ultimately to compete in the workplace.

Additionally, for those who cannot use print, braille provides an excellent means for accomplishing necessary daily activities such as reading confidential material, taking notes at meetings and giving presentations, record-keeping, studying and reviewing critical information, and performing household management functions.

I am pleased to report that in my State, 39,500 braille books were circulated by the Regional Libraries for the Blind in Pittsburgh and Philadelphia in fiscal year 1996.

The mission of the American Foundation for the Blind is to enable persons who are blind or visually impaired to achieve equality of access and opportunity that will ensure freedom of choice in their lives. I am delighted that the braille provisions of the recently reauthorized Individuals with Disabilities Education Act will help all children who are blind or visually impaired to achieve this goal.

UNIFORMED SERVICES FORMER
SPOUSES EQUITY ACT OF 1997

HON. BOB STUMP

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 24, 1997

Mr. STUMP. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing H.R. 2537, a bill to restore a small measure of balance to the way military retired pay is handled during a divorce.

Under the Uniformed Services Former Spouses Protection Act, courts were given the authority to divide military retirement pay as property. Since then, the courts have almost uniformly taken advantage of that provision. However, this has resulted in certain injustices to military retirees. Chief among them is the fact that former spouses continue to receive a share of the retired pay even after one or more remarriages, regardless of the respective financial positions of the former spouse and the retiree. Moreover, there is no limitation on when former spouses can seek a division of retired pay.

My bill has three principal components. First, it would terminate payments made as a

division of property from retired pay upon remarriage of the former spouse. Second, it would require computation of the former spouse's portion of retired pay based on the rank and longevity of the individual at the time of divorce, not at the time of retirement. Third, it would limit the time in which a former spouse may seek a division of retired pay.

I urge my colleagues to join me in seeking equity for military retirees.

TRIBUTE TO PRESIDENT LEE
TENG-HUI AND DR. JASON HU

HON. CORRINE BROWN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 24, 1997

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, on the eve of Taiwan's 86th National Day, I wish to pay tribute to President Lee Teng-hui, who has recently completed an arduous Latin-American trip to shore up his country's relations with a number of Latin-American countries. President Lee is one of the hardest working heads of state in our time. Also, I would like to commend President Lee for having selected Dr. Jason Hu as his new Foreign Minister.

Dr. Hu is currently Taiwan's representative in Washington. During his tenure in Washington, Dr. Hu has impressed us with his diplomatic skills. In his new capacity as Taiwan's Foreign Minister, Dr. Hu will no doubt use his talents to the utmost in promoting his country's diplomatic interests around the world.

Taiwan faces a number of diplomatic challenges, but with President Lee's leadership and Dr. Hu's stewardship in the Foreign Ministry, I trust Taiwan's diplomatic fortunes will soon improve.

IN HONOR OF DR. ALEX H. MARK

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 24, 1997

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Alex Mark, who will receive an award this week for outstanding contributions to the Greater Cleveland community from International Services Center [ISC] in Cleveland, OH.

International Services Center is an agency that assists refugees, immigrants, and other newcomers to the United States to overcome social and economic barriers and adjust to a new culture and way of life. The organization is honoring four individuals this year for their exceptional work on intercultural and interracial issues. These individuals have been chosen because of their commitment to the community and their lifelong achievements which reflect the spirit and the mission of ISC.

Dr. Mark was brought up in Canada. He earned his bachelors degree from the University of Toronto and later, a doctorate from Purdue University. In 1978, he moved to Cleveland where he has held executive positions in several multinational companies such as Rockwell International Corp. and Massey-Ferguson Co. He retired from Eaton Corp. in 1990.

Mr. Mark has always been involved in community related nonprofit organizations. He was the cofounder of the national Organization of Chinese Americans [OCA] and served as its national president from 1977 to 1979. During this time, he was active in a program to pass a bill through Congress to celebrate Asian Pacific American Heritage Week. The bill passed and was signed by President Carter. Mr. Mark served as president of the Chinese Association of Greater Cleveland from 1982 to 1986. In 1991, he founded the Cleveland Chinese Senior Citizens Association and now, although he is officially retired, is the acting president of the nonprofit Asian Evergreen Housing Corp.

Mr. Mark has also been active outside of the Chinese American Community. He was president of the International Services Center of Greater Cleveland and a board member of the Cleveland Council of World Affairs and an Hispanic organization, El Barrio. In addition, he served on the Import-Export Committee of the Cleveland World Trade Council and on the Cultural Heritage Advisory Committee of the Cuyahoga Community College.

My fellow colleagues, please join me in congratulating Dr. Mark on a lifetime of wonderful work for the multicultural community in the Greater Cleveland area.

RECOGNIZING ROSEMONT COLLEGE FOR EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION

HON. CURT WELDON

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 24, 1997

Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise to bring to the attention of my colleagues a significant honor that was bestowed today upon Rosemont College in Rosemont, PA. Today Rosemont College was named by the John Templeton Foundation as one of only 134 colleges nationwide on the foundation's 1997-98 honor roll for character-building colleges.

Founded more than 70 years ago as a women's college, Rosemont has repeatedly earned national recognition as one of the country's premiere liberal arts colleges. To prepare women for the 21st century, Rosemont has achieved a remarkable balance, combining the traditional liberal arts education with a variety of pre-professional studies and experiences.

As a Catholic college, Rosemont encourages character building among its students by urging them to explore and define the values that will provide them both stability and direction later in life. Other aspects of Rosemont College that contributed to its being named to the John Templeton Foundation's honor roll include the school's emphasis on developing and strengthening of its students moral reasoning skills, its encouragement of spiritual growth and moral values, and its promotion of character-building programs and activities.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in congratulating Rosemont College on achieving this outstanding recognition from the John Templeton Foundation. And I thank both the administrators and faculty for emphasizing the importance of character building as a daily part of student life at Rosemont College.