

TRIBUTE TO COURT STREET
SCHOOL

HON. MICHAEL PAPPAS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 25, 1997

Mr. PAPPAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call attention to an open house celebration for the Court Street School Education Community Center, Inc. [CSSECC] in Freehold, NJ.

The Court Street School was established in 1915 for the sole purpose of educating the African-American children in the area. The school remained open until 1974. In April 1990, the CSSECC began the planning and renovation of the school. Now, the CSSECC is ready to open the doors of this historical landmark for the entire Freehold community to see. This new community center will provide needed programs and support to area youth and their families.

Community centers, like the one in Freehold, are important infrastructures that help facilitate a stronger, compassionate community. It is in this spirit that the CSSECC has stated its mission: "To inspire hope in our children with a team of parents, teachers, volunteers, and CSSECC support staff, singularly dedicated to instill in each child the belief that he or she is a unique gift of perfect love."

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to announce the Open House Celebration for the new Court Street School Education Community Center on Saturday, September 27, 1997.

SUPPORT OF THE 21ST CENTURY
STUDENT FINANCIAL AID SYS-
TEM IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 1997

HON. WILLIAM F. GOODLING

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 25, 1997

Mr. GOODLING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the leadership efforts of Mr. McKEON in moving the Department's management of the student aid delivery system into the 21st century. After 18 hearings on the upcoming authorization of the Higher Education Act, it is safe to say that there is a clear consensus on the need for improved management of the student aid delivery system, except in the minds of the people currently managing those systems.

Currently, the Department of Education has a dozen or so computer systems and contracts which aid in the delivery of more than \$40 billion in student financial aid every year. Timely delivery of these funds are vital to ensuring that every American has the ability to pursue a postsecondary education. We all recognize that this is no small task. However, the concerns that the Department's computer systems are out of date, vulnerable to fraud and abuse, and inordinately expensive to run cannot be ignored. The General Accounting Office, the Department's inspector general, the Advisory Committee on Student Financial Assistance, and a majority of the higher education community have all called for a fundamental restructuring of the way the Department manages the current student aid delivery system. Yet incredulously, the Department seems to think that it is on the road to becoming

the Microsoft of the higher education community, at least that was the opinion of one senior Department of Education official at a hearing before Mr. McKEON's subcommittee.

It's time to stop talking about delivery system improvements and system integration and to start doing something about it. Last year, students and parents suffered through horrendous processing delays when the Federal student aid application processing system failed. Earlier this year, students wishing to consolidate their student loans submitted applications only to encounter lengthy delays in processing. Now students wishing to consolidate their student loans are told not to bother applying, since the Department has shut down the entire processing system. And just last week, our colleague, Representative HORN, chairman of the Subcommittee on Government Management, Information and Technology, gave the Department a failing grade for its efforts to address the year 2000 computer changes needed to keep the financial aid systems running after the Office of Management and Budget included the Education Department on its list of troubled agencies. Less than 2 months ago, in testimony at our system modernization hearing, a Department official stated "I would probably disagree if you say there are major bugs or problems because we have been able to continue to keep the trains running." Well, the train just stopped and it's the students who suffer as a result of the poor system management structure currently in place at the Department.

It's clear to me and the others here with us today that it is time to try a new approach. The bill that Mr. McKEON has put together gets things moving in the right direction. I sincerely hope that the Department of Education sees this effort as a positive step forward which will benefit students, parents, and institutions of higher education across the country.

SIXTY YEARS OF SERVICE: THE
LADIES' AUXILIARY OF THE
DELAWARE VOLUNTEER FIRE-
MEN'S ASSOCIATION

HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 25, 1997

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to salute and pay tribute to an outstanding and caring volunteer association in the State of Delaware. The Ladies Auxiliary of the Delaware Volunteer Firemen's Association.

This weekend, the ladies auxiliary will celebrate its 60th year of service to the citizens of the First State. Their history of volunteerism began on September 9, 1937, when the first president, Nan Laws Woods of the Five Points Fire Co. Ladies Auxiliary, struck the first gavel establishing the ladies' auxiliary of the Delaware Volunteer Firemen's Association. The auxiliary encompassed many of the fire companies in Delaware and pledged their combined efforts to help the firemen of Delaware as well as those whose homes had been damaged by fire. Organized efforts included contributions to burn centers, food, and clothing to burn victims as well as financial support.

During the war years, the auxiliary assisted the Red Cross by sending Christmas packages to soldiers. The members also encour-

aged the purchase of war bonds. Returning to peacetime, the auxiliary focused on fund raising efforts to assist local fire companies. Throughout their years of service, tired firefighters have come to rely on the meals and beverages served by the auxiliary during fires and emergencies. When the gavel falls to open the 60th annual meeting in Rehoboth Beach, it is fitting that Mrs. Barbara Lewis, the current president will preside. President Lewis is also from the Five Points Fire Co., the home of the Mrs. Nan Woods.

I offer my congratulations not only as a Member of the House of Representatives but as a former Governor who appreciates the leadership, teamwork and commitment of this association in their service to the people of Delaware. I wish them many more years of success in their endeavors as they continue to assist volunteer fire and emergency services throughout Delaware.

TRIBUTE TO "THE BIG HELP"
NICKELODEON PROGRAM

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 25, 1997

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, this year, the Presidents' Summit for America's Future brought well-deserved attention to volunteers and volunteer programs throughout the country.

Six months later, a number of news organizations are reviewing the results the summit brought about in corporate America. One volunteer initiative that is especially interesting to me is Nickelodeon's "The Big Help." This is a volunteer program that began 4 years ago and focuses on motivating and inspiring kids aged 6 to 14 to volunteer.

"The Big Help" distinguishes itself because it involves not only Nickelodeon's corporate pledge to the summit, but also young Nickelodeon watchers' pledges to volunteer annually. This program is effective because it teaches children at an early age the value of giving back to their communities.

As part of its public responsibility, Nickelodeon created "The Big Help"; in 1994 after their research discovered that kids wanted to help make the world a better place, they just didn't know how. Combining on-air messaging, school and community outreach, and partnerships with 23 national volunteer organizations, "The Big Help" provides kids with tools to actively volunteer and participate in real helping activities.

This Sunday, September 28, Nickelodeon is inviting Members of Congress and their families to a celebration of kid volunteerism and "The Big Help." This event will also showcase Nick, Jr., Nickelodeon's award-winning preschool programming block, and its new online offerings including "nick.com" and "teachers.nick.com," the Internet component to Nickelodeon's "Cable-in-the-Classroom" programs.

In addition to dedicating 10 percent of its airtime to "The Big Help," Nickelodeon also provides substantial off-channel resources for outreach, including curriculum for elementary and middle schools and volunteer planning kits. In 1996, during the third annual "Big Help-a-Thon," over 8.5 million kids called in and pledged over 92 million hours to making a difference in their communities.

To further reach kids on a grassroots level, Nickelodeon will kick-off "The Big Help-on-the-Road," this Sunday in Washington. This mobile Big Help headquarters features video-based interactive kiosks, on-site volunteer activities, and information about local volunteer opportunities. "The Big Help-on-the-Road" will travel to local communities across the country—urban and rural, large and small—to champion the spirit of kid's voluntarism.

I hope you will join me in saluting Nickelodeon and its partner organizations in "The Big Help." These include: 4-H, American Camping Association, The American Humane Association, Big Brothers/Big Sisters of America, Boys and Girls Clubs of America, the Caption Center, Earth Force, Easter Seals, Feed the Children, Girl Scouts of the USA, Girls Inc., Habitat for Humanity, Keep America Beautiful, National P.T.A., National Wildlife Federation, Points of Light Foundation, Ronald McDonald Charities, Safe America Foundation, Second Harvest, The U.S. Department of Education, Youth Service America, YMCA of the USA, and YWCA of the USA.

I'd like to commend Herb Scannell, president of Nickelodeon, for his corporate leadership and commitment to empowering kids to make a difference. I would also like to commend Marva Smalls, senior vice president at Nickelodeon, and a constituent of mine, for organizing "The Big Help" program.

Finally, I would like to salute the millions of kids across the country who are volunteering their time and efforts to make their world a better place. They should serve as an example to all of us.

OHIO CITIZENS AGAINST LAWSUIT ABUSE

HON. PAUL E. GILLMOR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 25, 1997

Mr. GILLMOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge a group of Ohioans who have come together to speak out on the issue of lawsuit abuse. Because of their ongoing concern, local citizens have volunteered their time to organize Ohio Citizens Against Lawsuit Abuse [OCALA] and to undertake a public awareness campaign about what they perceive as the problems of lawsuit abuse.

Based in Columbus, Ohio Citizens Against Lawsuit Abuse focuses their efforts in informing and educating Ohio residents about an issue that has statewide and national implications for all Americans. The costs of lawsuit abuse can include higher costs for consumer products and services, higher medical expenses, greater taxes, and fewer jobs due to lost business expansion and foregone product development. This is not a new concern for many of us in the House of Representatives, but one which must be addressed.

OCALA wants to help prevent unnecessary lawsuits that do more harm than good and bring balance, fairness, responsibility, and restraint to our court system. OCALA supporters believe that through education, there will be change in public understanding, attitudes, and behavior, and they have the opportunity to play a vital role in reforming the legal system.

This nonprofit grassroots organization has raised local funds to run educational media

announcements and provide speakers for other organizations and citizens' groups across the State. They hope these actions will raise awareness of the lawsuit abuse issue and help legislators arrive at fair and equitable legislative solutions.

Gov. George Voinovich has declared September 22–27 as Lawsuit Abuse Awareness Week throughout the State of Ohio. I want to commend all the individuals who are involved in Ohio Citizens Against Lawsuit Abuse for their dedication and commitment. They are helping elected Federal and State officials address serious issues. I commend their work on behalf of our State.

TRIBUTE TO VIRGIL MURPHY

HON. JAY W. JOHNSON

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 25, 1997

Mr. JOHNSON of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Virgil Murphy, an honored leader and public servant from Bowler, WI.

Virgil is currently the president of the Stockbridge-Munsee Band of Mohican Indians in northeast Wisconsin and he is retiring at the age of 77, after a lifetime of service and achievement. He is a stalwart fixture in the community, having held the positions of vice president, tribal treasurer, tribal council member, housing director, and chairman of the Mohican Elderly Steering Committee.

Even in retirement, Virgil will continue to be an honored elder and his advice and leadership will be relied upon for the tribe's future endeavors.

His concern for the tribe's economic well-being and unity is well-known. His devotion for his family is plain to all who know him. His service to his tribe and to his country as a U.S. Army veteran will always be remembered.

Please join me in thanking Virgil Murphy for his years and years of dedication and wishing him the best in the future.

U.S. ARMY RESEARCH LABORATORY ANNOUNCES SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY ACADEMIC RECOGNITION SYSTEM [STARS] FELLOWS

HON. WILLIAM (BILL) CLAY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 25, 1997

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, recently, Dr. John Lyons, Director, U.S. Army Research Laboratory [ARL] announced the first recipients of ARL's Science and Technology Academic Recognition System [STARS] fellowships for students enrolled in historically black colleges and universities and other minority institutions. I am pleased to congratulate this year's recipients: LaDonna Nettles from Gautier, MS, Makeda Smith from Birmingham, AL, and Theodore Anthony from Baltimore, MD. Both Ms. Nettles and Ms. Smith are students at Xavier University and Mr. Anthony is a student at Morgan State University.

The STARS initiative is designed to increase the number of minority scientists and

engineers as we enter the millennium. It provides tuition and expenses for the senior undergraduate year and 2 years of graduate school. STARS awards can total \$100,000 each of the 3 years. Information about the program may be obtained by writing: Betty Irby, Senior Analyst of ARL, U.S. Army Research Laboratory, 2800 Power Mill Road, Adelphi, MD 20783, ATTN: AMSRL-SP. I encourage all interested parties to learn more about this valuable program.

THE CREDIT UNION AUDIT IMPROVEMENT ACT

HON. BILL McCOLLUM

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 25, 1997

Mr. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of legislation, the Credit Union Audit Improvement Act of 1997, I am introducing with my colleague, Mr. BACHUS of Alabama. As Members of this body know, our Nation's insured credit unions are a vital part of our financial services system. Therefore, the accuracy of their financial records is of utmost importance. It is important to the people trusting their money with these institutions, to the regulators doing their job and to the taxpayers who actually ensure these institutions.

It is with this in mind that I introduce the Credit Union Audit Improvement Act. My legislation would do several things. It would amend the Federal Credit Union Act [the act] to require each federally insured Federal and State credit union to: prepare financial statements in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles [GAAP] and to have an independent audit performed by an independent licensed accountant in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards [GAAS]; prepare an annual written assertion about the effectiveness of the credit union's internal controls over financial reporting; obtain a written report—or attestation report—from an independent licensed accountant regarding management's report on internal controls; and prepare an annual written assertion about the credit union's compliance with specified laws and regulations.

Under the legislation, the National Credit Union Administration [NCUA] would be able to exempt smaller credit unions with less than \$10 million in assets. The bill would also specifically require credit unions to engage only those external persons who meet applicable state licensing requirements to perform services subject to these requirements.

This legislation is in response to a final ruling by the NCUA on financial audits of credit unions. The final rule, effective December 31, 1996, allows compensated, nonlicensed persons to audit a credit union's financial information and internal controls. This is in direct contravention to most State accountancy statutes, which require auditors to be licensed. Several State boards of accountancy, including the one in my home State of Florida, have written in protest of this rule. Florida State law states that only certified public accountants can attest as an expert in accountancy to the reliability or fairness of presentation of financial information. The NCUA, in response to several States' inquiries, has made clear its intention to preempt these State laws, support a credit