

program was started in 1947 by the National Association of Broadcasters, the Electronic Industries Association, and the State Association of Broadcasters. Since 1961–62, the Veterans of Foreign Wars has been the sole sponsor of the program with over 5,200 VFW posts and 4,200 auxiliaries participating. The program requires high school entrants to write and record a 3 to 5 minute essay on an announced patriotic theme. This year, more than 109,000 secondary school students participated in the contest competing for 54 national scholarships. The contest theme was "Democracy—Above and Beyond."

I rise today to honor Susan Richter, a senior at Calloway County High School in Murray, KY, who won the 1997 Voice of Democracy broadcast script writing contest in Kentucky. Susan is the youngest child of Fred and Margaret Richter of Murray, KY. She hopes to attend Transylvania University in Lexington, KY, where she plans to pursue a degree in radio/TV broadcasting.

In addition to participating in essay contests, Susan keeps busy at Calloway County High School with a full plate of activities. She is the news anchor of the morning show on WCSD-TV 28, a school-run local cable channel, and an officer in the Student Council, the Co-ed Y Club, the Beta Club, and the Foreign Language Club. Outside of school, she enjoys playing the piano, reading, and working on her computer.

Please allow me to share with you Susan's award-winning essay, which appears below.

"DEMOCRACY—ABOVE AND BEYOND"

Democracy is a general term used to describe both a form of government and an ideal. Throughout the years, our country has thrived on the idea of creating a more perfect union through the means of a plan known as democracy. I believe democracy is a superior way of life and I believe that it will help carry our nation onward to meet its most fantastic goals.

Democracy is often referred to as "rule by the majority." However, another phrase I prefer seems to more clearly define democracy. It relates that democracy is the absence of hereditary class distinctions or privileges. In other words, democracy allows for any person, regardless of age, race, gender, or social status to have his say in the workings of our country. According to Robert Hutchins, "Democracy is the only form of government that is founded on the dignity of man, not the dignity of some men, of rich men, of educated men, or of white men, but of all men." I agree with this statement and claim this type of equal dignity and representation to be a major reason why democracy is a form of government above the rest.

Also, democracy is superior for its emphasis on individual freedom. As a general rule, it allows persons both the right and the responsibility of shaping their future. Each person is allowed to make his own choices, both in life and in governmental issues. However, not only is one given the ability to do so, he also has a responsibility both to the government and to himself to carry out his decisions. This individual freedom is necessary for a democracy and is another reason why democracy is a step above the rest.

However, not only is democracy an excellent program for the present, it is also a bright path into the future, a yellow brick road to tomorrow.

One feature of democracy that will help lead to a prosperous future is its ability to ensure peaceful change. Democratic methods for making changes negate the need for violent uprisings. Many economic and social

changes have been made recently, and most have happened with little turbulence, other than perhaps a peaceful protest march, or other such means allowed by the Constitution. Also, democracy allows for the peaceful change of political leaders. Free elections are held when time for the transfer of power, and the people vote upon who should next receive the responsibility of representing them in government. This power of the people ensures that they can make decisions peacefully. In a country founded on war, this assurance of peacefulness is a key to a bright future.

Another way democracy will take us beyond is due to its practicality. Generations to come will be able to follow in our democratic footsteps, just as we have been following our ancestors' paths as far back as the founding days. Why? Because democracy is easily applicable to a daily life. The process of electing officials and making decisions based upon majority vote can be seen from the capital to the classroom. The right to "Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness" is something not just penned in the Constitution, but is also a motto for daily life. The ability to still apply democracy some 2,600 years after its origin in Greece only stands as proof that it is a form of government stable enough to lead us beyond the realms of today and into tomorrow.

In conclusion, democracy is both a form of government and an ideal. Our country has been built and has grown as a result of this plan we call democracy. I believe that democracy is a way of life above and beyond any other man-made plan, and I am proud our country subscribes to this mode of self-government and equality for all.

INTRODUCTION OF THE AMATEUR RADIO VOLUNTEER SERVICES ACT OF 1997

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 11, 1997

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to announce the introduction of the Amateur Radio Volunteer Services Act of 1997. Similar to a unanimously accepted amendment I offered last year to the FCC reauthorization bill in the Commerce Committee, this bill would help protect the personal liability of volunteer amateur radio operators while performing duties on behalf of the Federal Government.

Amateur radio operators are self-regulated, with volunteer operators monitoring the airwaves for violations and administering licensing exams. This volunteer corps saves countless hours of staff time and resources for the Federal Communications Commission [FCC]; however, because they are not Federal employees, they put their personal assets at risk in the event of actions taken against them as a result of their volunteer service to the Government.

It is simply unfair that these volunteers who are saving the Government time and resources should have to risk their personal assets in carrying out their service. The Amateur Radio Volunteer Services Act would classify those individuals donating their time and expertise to maintaining the quality of the amateur radio airwaves as Federal employees only for the purpose of actions taken against them in the performance of their duties as self-regulators. This action will ensure the continued vi-

ability of the amateur radio community and continue to save the FCC and the Federal Government time and money that would otherwise need to be expended.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I urge my colleagues to support this worthy legislation.

TRIBUTE TO THE SPRINGFIELD LIONS CLUB

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 11, 1997

Mr. NEAL. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great joy to extend my congratulations to the Springfield Lions Club, one of the most prestigious organizations in my district, who will celebrate their 50th anniversary on March 29, 1997. With this in mind, I take this opportunity to enter the history of the club into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

In the Spring of 1947 a member of the Springfield Lions Club invited a group of men from Sixteen Acres to a meeting in the old brick schoolhouse on the corner of Parker St. and Old Acre Rd. At the meeting he described the purpose of a Lions Club and what being a member would entail. Fifty-three men signed up that day and a Lions Club was formed in Sixteen Acres.

The Sixteen Acres Lions Club was organized April 25, 1947 and was chartered June 18th. Charter Night was held at Belli's with many members from other Lions Clubs in attendance.

Meetings were held for a short time in the schoolhouse with a caterer providing the meals. The meetings were later held for long periods in Belli's and Foster Memorial Church and for brief periods at various area restaurants. While meeting in the original Foster Church building the members meals were prepared by their wives at home and then brought to the meeting. Meetings are not held at Church in the Acres.

When the Club was formed a public dump existed where Duggan Jr. High now stands. Many people apparently found it more convenient to dump their rubbish at the side of the road. Under pressure from the Lions Club they had the rubbish removed.

In the 1950's the club purchased a motion picture projector and screen and for several years movies were shown on Saturday afternoons in an upstairs room of the old schoolhouse. The purpose was to give the younger children a place to go during the winter months. A charge of ten cents was made to help defray the cost of the film. It should be noted, however, that no child was turned away due to lack of a dime.

The Lions Orthoptic Clinic was originated in 1951 by the late Russell Koch, a past president of the Sixteen Acres Lions Club, who, with the approval of the club, enlisted the aid of other clubs in the district to get it organized. The clinic offers treatment of eye problems which have been referred to local ophthalmologists. A charge is made according to the patients ability to pay.

A sport program was organized under the direction of Fred Hoarle. He was successful in developing a number of teams and getting area men to coach them. The program was expanded to include soccer, softball, and basketball as well as the baseball teams. For several years the club held a soccer tournament

on Memorial Day weekend attended by soccer teams from as far away as Virginia.

For 17 years the club has given food baskets to families at Christmas time. A week's food supply plus small toys for children are included in these baskets. For the past several years money for this has been raised by selling raffle tickets for a gift certificate for food at a local market. It has been extremely successful and appreciated venture.

The club has also sponsored glaucoma and diabetes testing clinics, paid for eye examinations and eye glasses for needy families and supported eye research, emergency sight and hearing fund, LCIF and various other projects. It has sponsored community events like the Fourth of July and Halloween parades and parties, Easter egg hunts, pancakes and spaghetti suppers, tag sales, dances, light bulb sales and many other house to house sales.

In 1986 the club embarked on a new fund-raising project. After many years of work by many members, L'il Toot was completed. L'il Toot is a locomotive train with two passenger cars which can be rented out to provide rides for children at fairs and carnivals. To date success seems assured.

The Sixteen Acres Lions Club is proud to have four of its members elected district governor. Robert Scott, Fred Hoarle, John Ingalls and Richard Leary have each served as a district governor and are held in high esteem by their associates.

The success of many projects was due to the dedication and hard work of its members.

I wish to commend the Springfield Lions Club for their vital role in the Springfield area. The achievements of these men are a tremendous source of pride for not only the city of Springfield but the entire Second Congressional District. I am honored to represent such outstanding individuals and I join with the citizens of the Second Congressional District in offering a most heartfelt congratulations.

**DELAURO HONORS JOHN KINGSTON
AS HE ENDS OVER 25 YEARS OF
SERVICE ON THE CONNECTICUT
BOARD OF LABOR RELATIONS**

HON. ROSA L. DELAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 11, 1997

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, on April 1, 1997, John Kingston is retiring from the Connecticut State Board of Labor Relations. I am pleased to rise today to commend Jack on a great career in State service and an outstanding tenure with the Connecticut State Board of Labor Relations.

For more than 25 years, Jack has served as agent to the board of labor relations. His hard work, strong leadership and commitment to excellence have left an indelible mark on the board of labor relations. Jack has seen a number of changes over the last quarter century. During Jack's tenure on the board, the Connecticut State Employee Relations Act was passed. Jack handled the first petitions filed by State employees in their efforts to organize. He also conducted elections for the 30,000 State employees under the new act. His experience in the area of State employee union negotiations is invaluable and his colleagues and coworkers rely on his encyclopedic knowledge of the labor board processes and procedures.

Over the course of his career, Jack has become one of the most highly respected and admired people in the labor relations field. The fact that both advocates for both labor and management frequently call for his advice and counsel, speaks volumes about his reputation. Everyone who knows Jack seems to recall one thing in particular when asked about him and his career. They recall his integrity and sense of fairness. They also talk about Jack's commitment to settling disputes and bringing sides together. Under his leadership, the board has boasted an 87-percent settlement rate for the 1,000 cases they handle per year.

I have been told that as word of Jack's retirement made its way through the State, everyone who heard asked "What are we going to do without Jack?" What is absolutely clear is Jack's commitment to doing his job well so that both labor and management come out ahead.

I am proud to join the entire labor community in congratulating Jack as he retires. He has continually demonstrated his commitment to service. He should take great pride in this moment and enjoy a much deserved tribute. I know that he will continue to do great things in his retirement. I wish him many years of good health and happiness. He truly deserves it.

KILDEE HONORS PAULINE PRYOR

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 11, 1997

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to rise before my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to pay tribute to an outstanding woman from my hometown of Flint, MI, Ms. Pauline Pryor who is retiring from the Flint Branch of Michigan National Bank after 33 years of service. Ms. Pryor has served as the assistant vice president of the Community Development Office for the past 10 years.

As the assistant vice president of the Community Development Office, Ms. Pryor's professionalism and integrity were instrumental in securing many of the much needed investments in the Flint community. Ms. Pryor believed in the need to rebuild our city through new opportunities in jobs and housing. It is a privilege to know such a dedicated, active, and concerned human being as Ms. Pryor.

Ms. Pryor is also an active member of the Foss Avenue Baptist Church in Flint. Through her volunteer work with her church, she continues to promote the prosperity of the surrounding communities even after her formal workday. Ms. Pryor has contributed in every aspect of her church: from being a Sunday school teacher to serving as the church treasurer. As a result of both her professional and personal devotion, Ms. Pryor has received numerous distinguished service awards in our community over the years.

Mr. Speaker, it is indeed an honor and a pleasure for me to rise today before my colleagues in the House of Representatives to pay tribute to Pauline Pryor. She is a woman of high moral character committed to improving the welfare and dignity of those in need. I wish her many years of joy in her retirement.

**TRIBUTE TO LILLIAN HECKER
FREED**

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 11, 1997

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Lillian Hecker Freed, a dedicated community leader who is being honored as an inductee into the San Mateo County Women's Hall of Fame.

Lillian Hecker Freed has been a champion for those less fortunate and a political activist since she was a teenager. She became her employer's first female departmental supervisor in the 1950's, and was a leader in her company, encouraging and assisting other women. She was a peace activist during the Vietnam war and led union opposition to racial discrimination in San Francisco. Lillian Hecker Freed is now 80 years of age, and gives generously of her time and talents to the San Mateo Central Labor Council, the Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, the Contra Costa Hills Conservation Club, the Peace Action Association, the Talmalpais Conservation Club, and the California Alpine Club. She is president of the Federation of Retired Union Members and continues her valiant fight for social justice.

Mr. Speaker, Lillian Hecker Freed is an outstanding citizen and I salute her for her remarkable contributions and commitment to our community. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring and congratulating her on being inducted into the San Mateo County Women's Hall of Fame.

REMEMBERING THE RAJAH

HON. JULIA CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 11, 1997

Mrs. CARSON. Mr. Speaker, Indianapolis lost one of its outstanding citizens last Tuesday. He was Roger Brown, the first player ever signed to the Indiana Pacers and a pillar of the Indianapolis community following his basketball career.

A graduate of the University of Dayton, Mr. Brown was the third all-time leading scorer for the Pacers, scoring 10,058 points over his career in the American Basketball Association. Had it not been for a gambling scandal during his college career, which he was cleared of, Roger (The Rajah) Brown would be in basketball's Hall of Fame.

Those who saw him play consider him one of the best to play the game. Oscar Robertson, himself a NBA star and a native of Indianapolis, advised the Pacer organization to seek out Brown in the early 1970's and sign him to the team.

Yet Mr. Brown was not merely one of the best to play the game. He also contributed much to his inherited community of Indianapolis. He served as a city-county councilman and worked with local law enforcement officials to improve Indianapolis' streets and help protect our young people.

The community remembered him for this as well. When Mr. Brown was diagnosed with cancer of the liver, he was faced with mounting medical bills due to his lack of medical