

a message to the agency and to employers that OSHA's sole purpose is ensuring that safety of employees through common sense regulation. What better way to do that than to bring the two sides together. The "us against them" mentality doesn't do anyone any good. My legislation puts both the enforcers and the stakeholders on an even playing field in order to protect our most valuable resource: our work force.

Please join me in this effort by cosponsoring my OSHA Reform Act of 1997.

RENEWAL ALLIANCE

HON. RON PACKARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 20, 1997

Mr. PACKARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss my recent participation in the renewal alliance—a unique bicameral Republican group committed to promoting the work of charities, churches, small businesses, and community organizations in helping to solve some of our Nation's most intractable problems. Our renewal alliance believes that we must focus not just on the failures of Government, but also on the hope of rebuilding strong communities.

In the months ahead, our alliance will promote the many solutions already at work across the Nation, powered by nothing more than a compassionate dedication to lending a hand, spending a few hours a week, or giving charitably to efforts which help improve the lives of those around us. We will highlight legislation to create enterprise zones, tax incentives for charitable giving, educational reform, and removing bureaucratic barriers to problem solving with simple, people-based solutions.

Most importantly, we will ask our colleagues and our community leaders to look not to the Halls of Congress for innovative ideas, but to the streets of our towns, the pews of our churches, and the conversations at dinner tables for the solutions that renew our society by healing souls. Recently, I traveled with fellow Congressman J.C. WATTS and Senators RICK SANTORUM and JOHN ASHCROFT to Wilmington, DE and Philadelphia to hear about various inner-city, faith-based programs by the people who make them work and those that receive their care.

Billions of dollars and millions of broken lives and families later, America seems finally ready to accept that government can never replace the invaluable contributions of faith, family, work, and community. But Government can and should do everything possible to support these institutions and the irreplaceable benefit of their healthy existence.

IN HONOR OF FORMER
REPRESENTATIVE AL BALDUS

HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 20, 1997

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, I rise this morning to recognize a distinguished public servant and former Member of the House of Representatives, Al Baldus.

After 22 years of public service on the State and National level, Al retired this year to his home in Menomonie to spend time with his wife and family.

A Merchant Marine in World War II, Al was also a veteran of the Korean conflict while serving in the Army from 1951 to 1953. From there he worked as a farmer, farm machinery salesman, stockbroker, and insurance broker before being elected to the Wisconsin State Assembly in 1966. He continued in the assembly for 8 years and then was elected to Congress in 1974 to represent the Third District. During his tenure in Congress, Al Baldus was a member of the Agriculture Committee and was chairman of the Livestock, Dairy and Poultry Subcommittee where he shepherded legislation that brought Wisconsin dairy producers 80 percent parity with other producers—the highest Government price support level ever.

While that sounds like a lifetime of service, that was just a beginning for Al Baldus.

In politics, it is not unusual to see ambitious young public servants move up through the ranks from local office to the State legislature to Congress and, when their congressional career ends, so does their career in public service. It is unusual, however, to see someone serve an entire congressional career and feel such a sense of public duty that they return to the State house to start another legislative career.

That is exactly what Al Baldus did. After leaving Congress in 1980, Al worked for 8 years in the private sector, but then decided to return to Madison as a State representative for another 8 years. In all, he served 16 years in the legislature.

Certainly, he could have chosen a less difficult path into retirement and probably could have made more money in the process. However, I think it's clear that what motivates Al is not the trappings of politic power, but the earnest desire to serve.

I am certain that Al's wife, Lolly, would have preferred to see more of him over the years as she and her husband raised their five children, but Lolly recognized Al's heart was also with the people of his community and his State. That shouldn't surprise anyone. Lolly served her community as well and developed a distinguished career herself as an administrator at the University of Wisconsin-Stout.

I thank my friend Al Baldus for a lifetime of positive contributions to Wisconsin and the Nation. And I hope you'll join me in congratulating Al and wishing him the best in his well deserved retirement.

DEMOCRACY—ABOVE AND BEYOND

HON. CURT WELDON

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 20, 1997

Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, each year the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States and its Ladies Auxiliary conduct the Voice of Democracy broadcast scriptwriting contest. This year more than 109,000 secondary school students participated in the contest competing for the 54 national scholarships which were distributed among the 54 national winners. The contest theme this year was "Democracy-Above and Beyond."

I am proud to announce that Ms. Natalie Bucciarelli from my congressional district in Pennsylvania won the 1997 Voice of Democracy broadcast scriptwriting contest for Pennsylvania. Natalie, a resident of Broomall, is a senior at the Academy of Notre Dame de Manur in Villanova, PA. I extend to her my best wishes for success as she continues her education in college next year.

Natalie's script is filled with enthusiasm for the spirit and promise that democracy holds for each individual. It is encouraging to see that our young people continue to cherish the gift of democracy. That is essential, because once we take democracy for granted—or begin referring to it as simply a "slogan"—then democracy will truly become endangered.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to share Natalie's award winning script with my colleagues in the Congress.

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

(By Natalie Bucciarelli)

Mikhail Gorbachev, former General Secretary of the Soviet Union, not too long ago proclaimed that democracy is just a slogan—only a slogan. And he believed then that democracy, like other slogans, was empty and hollow and worthless. He, like other communist leaders before him, believed that our American democracy would eventually and inevitably fall; it would succumb to tensions within our country—tensions: white against black, women against men, rich against poor.

But Mikhail Gorbachev misread the real meaning of democracy—the meaning above and beyond. He only looked at the imperfections of democracy—and it is true that democracy, like all political systems, is less than perfect. But Mr. Gorbachev wrongly believed that our democracy would become thin and faded and soon crack and crumble like a rotting wall. But democracy is not a wall. Walls, by their nature, keep people out. As Mikhail Gorbachev learned, such walls do come down.

The spirit of our democracy is not about walls, not about barriers. There are no real walls in a democracy—not real walls. Yes, artificial barriers do from time to time appear—Rosa Parks being forced to the back of a Birmingham bus and store front windows reading "No Irish or Italian need apply". But such events have been only temporary periods—temporary obstacles to the real positive force and direction of our democracy. Our system of government has, above and beyond all others, served to include all people without regard to race, creed, gender, or ethnic background. Democracy has no equal in promoting the free exchange of ideas and in safeguarding the civil liberties of minorities. Democracy is, above and beyond all else, about "all men (and women) are created equal" and about those inalienable rights granted to each of us by our creator.

This is the spirit—this is the promise and the hope of democracy. Democracy promises to provide hope and opportunity. Democracy does not exclude, it includes. Democracy does not seek to destroy, it seeks to build. Our system of government tolerates and respects the free exchange of ideas. You can dare to dream in a democracy and if you believe in your dreams and work hard to achieve them you will probably succeed.

Democracy is not me against you and you against me but each of us in support of the other. There is room for everybody. No walls—Christian against Jew, black against white, young against old, female against male. Democracy is about the promise it

holds for everybody—all of us—each one—together working and learning and building and helping each other. This is the fundamental hope of democracy—perhaps the only true flicker of hope in a world too full of brutal despotism and senseless terrorism and violence.

No, democracy is not just a slogan. Mikhail Gorbachev may have been sincere when he said it, but he was dead wrong. You know that brave men and women have fought and died for the spirit and the hope and the promise of democracy. They did not sacrifice for some hollow, empty slogan. They sacrificed for you and for me—people like us—and all the generations that will come after us. For we are the spirit and the hope and the promise of democracy. Within our democratic spirit can be found the true meaning to their sacrifices. And so we owe them something—something above and beyond a debt of gratitude. We owe it to them to keep the promise and the flame of democracy alive. And so, in the end, where democracy is concerned, let us remember not the words of Mikhail Gorbachev, but rather the words of Abraham Lincoln: that government of the people, by the people, and for the people shall not perish from the earth.

MRS. FLAHERTY GOES TO
WASHINGTON

HON. HENRY J. HYDE

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 20, 1997

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to bring to the House's attention a stirring anecdote about the triumph of the little gal, and of Congress' ability to improve substantially the lives of constituents. This story should be characterized as "Mrs. Flaherty goes to Washington." Mrs. Flaherty discovered a flaw in the law governing VA employees' ability to earn money at a second job, and with the help of Representative JIM SENSENBRENNER, this little lady made a difference.

CIVICS 101: MAKING A DIFFERENCE

(By Mary Flaherty, RN)

During last year's presidential campaign, much of the debate focused on the role the federal government should play in the lives of the average citizen. Many believe there is nothing we can do individually to change things. I confess I once shared that view, but something happened to me that disabused me of that notion. Indeed, it has convinced me that one truly can make a difference.

Several years ago, as a senior professional nurse at the VA Hospital in Milwaukee County, I sought permission from my superiors to work after hours in a private nursing facility. My family's economic situation dictated the need for such a "moonlighting" job. However, my VA bosses denied my request, noting that type of work was prohibited by law. Incredibly, I learned this same statute allowed professional nurses to "moonlight," but not in their chosen profession. Yet, in a remarkable demonstration of inconsistency, other VA personnel—pharmacists, speech pathologists and licensed practical nurses—enjoyed exemptions from this restriction.

Initially, after my request was rejected, I felt frustrated and embittered. But then I began to contemplate what courses of action could be taken to amend this obviously unfair and discriminatory law.

Among other things, I sought the advice of an old Washington friend, wise in the ways of

Congress. Surprisingly, I got a positive reaction. I was told the merits of my case were unassailable. What you must do, he said, is make Congress aware of the law's inequitable and unreasonable restrictions. Reminded of former House Speaker Tip O'Neill's famous adage that "all politics are local," I was urged to contact the Congressmen representing districts in the metropolitan Milwaukee area.

With that advice, I attended a town meeting hosted by Representative James Sensenbrenner and, at the appropriate time, I seized the microphone and the moment. The Congressman listened sympathetically as I explained my problem. He then asked me to furnish him with additional details, and promised to do whatever he could to help me upon his return to the nation's capital.

Not long thereafter, Congressman Sensenbrenner was able to persuade his colleagues in the House of Representatives to adopt legislation that would permit me and all other VA nurses to engage in "after hours nursing." Many months later, the Senate approved the same measure, and with the President's signature, it became law.

This very personal triumph exemplifies what one person can do, even when the odds for success appear insurmountable. The lesson here is: Don't get mad or give up, but instead get involved in the political process and pursue your objective with bull-doggish tenacity. My own experience graphically illustrates that the so-called little guy or gal can make a big difference when properly motivated.

In short, the next time you feel moved to change the world, give it a go. You may be astounded at what you accomplish.

THE IMPORTANCE OF MUSIC
EDUCATION

HON. BOB CLEMENT

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 20, 1997

Mr. CLEMENT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring attention to the Members of the House the significant findings of a study that was published in the February 1997 issue of *Neurological Research*. The study explored the link between music education and intelligence in children. The results of the study demonstrated that music training—specifically piano/keyboard instruction—is far superior to computer instruction in enhancing children's abstract reasoning skills necessary for learning math and science.

The experiment, a follow-up to the groundbreaking studies indicating how music can improve spatial-reasoning ability, set out to compare the effects of musical and non-musical training on intellectual development.

The experiment included three groups of preschoolers: one group received private piano/keyboard lessons; a second group received private computer lessons; and a third group received no training. Those children who received piano/keyboard training performed 34 percent higher on tests measuring spatial-temporal ability than the others. These findings indicate that music uniquely enhances higher brain functions required for mathematics, science and engineering.

What does this mean to Members of the House? It means that in this year's sweeping deliberations on education reform and appropriations bills, we should maintain music as a

core academic subject and recognize, wherever possible, its dramatic and positive impact on cognitive development. The importance of school-based music training as a basic tool for maximizing our children's educational aptitude and opportunities cannot be overemphasized. It was widely accepted that music education provided our youth with cultural benefits, but it has now been scientifically documented that sequential music training also provides significant benefits and advantages in the skill areas of mathematics and science.

I urge my colleagues on the authorizing and appropriations committees to give the results of this study serious thought in your deliberations as Congress determines the scope, character, and priorities of Federal support of our education system.

TWELVE OUTSTANDING WOMEN

HON. KAY GRANGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 20, 1997

Ms. GRANGER. It is with great pleasure, and even greater pride that I rise today to honor 12 outstanding women from the 12th District of Texas. On March 26, a dozen Fort Worth women will be recognized by the Fort Worth Commission on the Status of Women with the 1997 Outstanding Women awards. These awards are given annually to women who have strengthened the Fort Worth community through their local involvement and leadership.

As a lifelong resident, former major and now Congresswoman from Fort Worth, I have witnessed first hand the breadth of their activities and the inspiration of their example.

The backgrounds and activities of these women are varied and well representative of our community.

Rachel DeRusse Newman, recipient of the Commissioners' Award for Advocacy for Children, has worked hard to become a corporate officer. Her career path has been difficult but her commitment and persistence have been unmatched. Knowing her path would have been easier with a college degree, Rachel Newman is working to ensure that Fort Worth's children get the best education possible. While serving as a Fort Worth Independent School Board trustee, she has worked to restructure the bilingual program, broaden a multicultural curriculum, and establish a Hispanic Scholarship Campaign Drive.

Elaine Yoko Yamagata, recipient of the Commissioner's Award in the Arts, has been a strong leader for the arts in our community. She was responsible for bringing 80 Nagaoka citizens to participate in Sun & Star 1996, as well as coordinating meetings in Fort Worth for the Japanese American National Museum, located in Los Angeles. Yamagata is also active in Fort Worth Sister Cities International, the Van Cliburn Foundation, Fort Worth Symphony, and Fort Worth Opera and was a great help to me during my time as mayor.

Opal Roland Lee will receive the Commissioner's Pioneer Award. While working as a home-school counselor, Opal has made time to charter many organizations and still volunteer with the Historical Society, Genealogical Society, Evans Avenue Business Association, Metroplex Food Bank, Habitat for Humanity,