

youths for the challenges they will face following graduation. It is with great pleasure that I am able to represent the Portage schools and witness their remarkable growth. I consider their comprehensive programs to be a model of success, and I have the utmost confidence in their ability to continue serving students for another 75 years with the same excellence they have achieved.

Mr. Speaker, I know that the people of Portage have always stood behind their schools, just like the school district stands behind its students and staff. As their Representative in Congress, it is a great honor for me to rise today in recognition of their accomplishments and wish them many more years of prosperity.

WAYNE COUNTY HEALTH CENTER FIGHTS HUNGER

HON. JO ANN EMERSON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 23, 1997

Mrs. EMERSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the creative and innovative work of the Wayne County Health Center, a hospital located in the 8th District of Missouri. Wayne County Health Center was recently presented with the American Star, an award given to 100 civic organizations each year by the America The Beautiful Fund of Washington, DC.

I would especially like to extend my congratulations to Mrs. Velma Osborne, who has played an instrumental role in the success of Wayne County Health Center's extraordinary citizen service.

Wayne County Health Center established a program that assists over 400 low-income families in the area grow their own fresh food. The families involved in the project are learning the importance of good nutrition, as well as how to grow their own fresh fruits and vegetables.

This program has taken a giant step in helping to fight hunger in Wayne County. It will continue to benefit the families involved as children grow up with the knowledge of good nutrition and the skills to grow their own healthy food.

The Wayne County Health Center is certainly deserving of an award as prestigious as the America The Beautiful American Star. The accomplishments of Velma Osborne and the many others who have worked for the success of this program should serve as a reminder of the spirit that founded this country and the role that each and every one of us play in keeping that spirit alive.

LEGISLATION TO RECOGNIZE THE UKRAINIAN AMERICAN VETERANS

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 23, 1997

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to introduce legislation that will grant a Federal charter to the veterans organization known as Ukrainian American Veterans, Inc. This legislation recognizes and honors the thousands of Ukrainian-Americans who have fought for the ideals and principles that our great country represents.

Through the years, Ukrainian-American veterans have proven their determination and dedication by bravely fighting in the defense of the United States.

Ukrainian-American veterans have served in the United States armed services, and have aided in the destruction of the tyrants and oppressors that have confronted our great Nation. Based on their distinguished military service, Ukrainian-American veterans deserve recognition.

By providing our Ukrainian-American veterans with a Federal charter, our Nation will recognize this special group of American heroes. This measure will protect and preserve the foundations that our Nation was founded upon. And will promote patriotism and respect by commemorating the military actions, wars and campaigns of the United States in which they were involved.

I am pleased to introduce this legislation and I urge my colleagues to join us in supporting the courageous military service of Ukrainian-American veterans. We truly believe that this legislation demonstrates a commitment to democracy and liberty. Providing a Federal charter to the Ukrainian-American veterans is a symbolic tribute of respect for our veterans as our Nation continues to promote freedom throughout the world.

IN RECOGNITION OF A HIGH ACHIEVING JOHN MARSHALL HIGH SCHOOL AMERICAN HIS- TORY CLASS

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 23, 1997

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize and honor the high intellectual achievement of a John Marshall High School American history class. This class of high school juniors and seniors has demonstrated a superlative command of the facts and a critical understanding of the meaning of American history. They are first among their peers, having won that distinction when they took first place in the State of Ohio finals of the We the People competition.

The We the People competition does not involve mere rote learning and short answers, but requires detailed research and study on specific areas of the Constitution and Bill of Rights. Students testify before a panel of judges, most of whom are judges and lawyers, as if they were testifying at a congressional hearing. The class is divided into six groups and each group is required to give a 4 minute prepared answer to one of three extremely complex questions. Each group must then answer extemporaneously 6 minutes of followup questions posed by the judges. Through this trying ordeal, the students must demonstrate their understanding and ability to articulate in-depth analysis of complex constitutional issues. All students must respond, not just the stars of the class.

The entire class, then, has earned a coveted honor as the State representative at the national competition. Under the tutelage of their teacher, George Klepac, the following students are commended by Congress for their work and achievement: Brigitte Beale, Alicia Bebee, Raenala Brown, David

Bucchioni, Tyessa Howard, Kasey King, Deanna Lamb, James Lazarus, Kim Noeum, Ryann O'Bryant, Brad Schaefer, Tiwanna Scott, Matt Stevens, and Kim Chau Vo.

AUTHORIZING FUNDING FOR A STUDY OF BREAST CANCER

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 23, 1997

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, joined by a bipartisan group of my colleagues, to introduce legislation critical to the State of New Jersey.

This bill will authorize funding for a study focusing on the link between environmental factors and genetic susceptibilities toward breast cancer. The study will be conducted by the New Jersey University of the Health Sciences in consultation with the New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services.

Breast cancer is an epidemic in our country. It is reported that every 3 minutes, a woman is diagnosed with the disease and every 11 minutes a woman dies from it. In this year alone, more than 44,000 women will from breast cancer—these women, who are our mothers, spouses, siblings, children, or friends.

These numbers are especially alarming in the State of New Jersey, which has the second highest breast cancer mortality rate of any State in the country. The American Cancer Society estimates 6,400 new cases of breast cancer in New Jersey in 1997 and 1,800 estimated deaths.

While we have made some strides in raising awareness about the need for early detection and some strides in research, we still do not have a cure nor do we know what causes the devastating disease. That is why I am introducing this legislation, to direct more funding to study the disease and potential causes of it.

Because of its dense population, the State of New Jersey has many unique environmental concerns that may have some link to our high incidents of breast cancer. The State's University of Health Sciences is one of only seven joint centers in the United States that house a National Cancer Institute designated research center and a National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences research center. The New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services also oversees a statewide cancer registry and is advanced in its cancer research programs.

While this potential study is critical to women and families in New Jersey, the results of the study are equally important to the 1 in 8 women that will be diagnosed nationally with breast cancer each year, to their children and families. Consequently, I urge the support of my colleagues for swift passage of this bill.

LETTER CARRIERS FOOD DRIVE WILL BE MAY 10TH

HON. GERALD D. KLECZKA

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 23, 1997

Mr. KLECZKA. Mr. Speaker, hunger has no calender. Hunger doesn't know if it's spring,

summer, winter, or fall. Hunger doesn't know the days of the week, or the months of the year. During the Thanksgiving and Christmas holiday season, our thoughts and our hearts turn to the less fortunate in our own communities. But, sadly, hunger is a year round concern and food pantries can be dangerously depleted during the spring and summertime.

That's why it is so important that all Americans are aware that on May 10, the National Association of Letter Carriers [NALC], in conjunction with the U.S. Postal Service, the AFL-CIO, and the United Way, will be collecting nonperishable food items for distribution to local food pantries. Postal customers simply place the food items by their mailboxes on the 10th, and the letter carriers pick up the items when they make their rounds. This is the largest 1 day food drive in the Nation, and proudly, I might add, my hometown, Milwaukee, ranked third in the Nation last year by collecting over 1 million pounds of food for distribution.

Let's all spread the news, far and wide, to the cities, suburbs, towns, and rural areas, as hunger affects many of our neighborhoods and hometowns. When doing the weekly grocery shopping for the second week of May, please join my wife and I by adding to the shopping cart a few extra cans of soup, vegetables and fruit, for distribution via the Letter Carrier food drive May 10.

A TRIBUTE TO THE PIERSON HIGH SCHOOL ROBOTICS TEAM OF SAG HARBOR, LONG ISLAND FOR ITS PARTICIPATION IN THE NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL ROBOTICS COMPETITION

HON. MICHAEL P. FORBES

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 23, 1997

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the 30 students and 4 teachers who comprise the Pierson High School robotics team, of Sag Harbor, Long Island, for their showing at the National High School Robotics competition, held between April 9–13 at the Epcot Center at Walt Disney World, Orlando, FL.

Competing against 115 teams from across America, including several magnet high schools that specialize in science and technology, Pierson High School finished 15th at the national competition in Orlando. The competition's sponsor—U.S. For Inspiration, Recognition, Science and Technology [FIRST]—provided each of the 115 schools with the same materials and parts list and asked each to accomplish the same task: to construct a robot that would pick up a number of inner tubes and place them inside a hexagonal goal. Using radio transmitters and receivers, the students were scored on the number of inner tubes they safely maneuvered from a remote location into the goal.

What makes the accomplishments of the Pierson High School team so remarkable is that they constructed a robot that outperformed machines built by teams from schools with much larger enrollments, many of whom enjoyed corporate sponsorship and assistance. To raise the \$6,000 entry fee, travel, and lodging costs, the students from Pierson

High School held garage sales, raised funds from local businesses, and were helped by their schools PTA, who held a fundraising brunch. Symbol Technologies, of Bohemia, Long Island, helped Pierson's with a small grant. Many of the students also came up with some of their own money to pay their way to Orlando, and to the regional competition at New Jersey's Rutgers University.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in saluting the 30 students on the Pierson High School Robotics team, for their performance at the national robotics competition. As America enters the new millennium, an era that will be dominated by microchips and robots, it is these young scientists who will create the new technologies that we can now only imagine. By their talent, hard work and ingenuity, America will remain the greatest force in the global marketplace. Congratulations, Pierson High School.

CONGRATULATIONS TO WESLEY GAINS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL IN PARAMOUNT, CALIFORNIA

HON. STEPHEN HORN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 23, 1997

Mr. HORN. Mr. Speaker. I rise today to praise the Wesley Gains Elementary School in the Paramount Unified School District. It is being recognized by the California Department of Education as a California title I achieving school. Wesley Gains is also a candidate for the competitive Title I National Recognition Schools Award.

This award is sponsored by the National Association of State Coordinators of Compensatory Education. The Association's goal is to focus the Nation's attention on programs in high poverty areas where disadvantaged students demonstrate unusual success in raising their achievement levels in basic and more advanced skills.

Paramount School Superintendent Michele Lawrence and Wesley Gains Principal Susan Lance have worked hard to develop and maintain the Gains community, which is not just physical buildings, but a philosophy that underscores the importance of education as a joint venture between the home, the school, and the community. The goal of the Gains community is to prepare students to become responsible citizens and productive members of the society. To achieve this, students need to be proficient in reading, writing, mathematics, and have a positive character behavior—which includes good work habits, teamwork, perseverance, honesty, self-reliance, and consideration for others.

Through several key features, the Gains community has been able to achieve these goals. The primary component has been a balanced literacy program, utilizing title I funds. All existing and incoming teachers receive training in specific, researched-based reading and writing strategies, including theory, program expectations, and implementation expectations. Additionally, Wesley Gains has five reading recovery teachers who work with targeted at risk first graders and provides assistance to staff, as well as a site literacy teacher, who acts as a partner-teacher to all staff.

Parent involvement is a critical part of the effort, and programs for parent-training help to support students' reading efforts at home. Program examples are "I Have A Parent Who Reads To Me" for kindergarten and first grades; "WOW! I Can Read" for second grades; and "Book Bridges" for off-track students. A parent task force is very active with the site-based decision-making model and coordinates support activities, such as a minimum of three parent visitation days and Family Nights each year. One example of this program's success is the parent attendance rate at parent conferences: more than 97 percent of Wesley Gains parents attend their parent-teacher conferences.

The overall success has been achieved and maintained regardless of some district wide changes: extension of the school day; implementation of a four-track, year-round schedule, adding grades 6 to 8 to Wesley Gains' K–5 campus, redefining each school's attendance boundaries, which at Wesley Gains led to an increase of 850 new students; and implementing a new school uniform policy.

It is obvious that Wesley Gains deserves this honor. The students, teachers, and staff have worked hard and it has paid off. They recognized where their focus needed to be, devised a plan that efficiently used their resources, implemented their plan, and continue to reevaluate and reassess the quality of work they do, making changes as they go. And I am pleased to see that they recruited the best support group possible: parents. The level of commitment Wesley Gains parents show has been, without a doubt, a key to their success. I would wish that all schools could have as much parental support as Wesley Gains does. After all, it will take the entire community to educate and prepare our children for the 21st century.

I congratulate Superintendent Lawrence, Principal Lance, the entire staff, faculty, parents and students of the Gains community. I wish them many more years of success.

"WE THE PEOPLE" PROGRAM

HON. ROBERT A. WEYGAND

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 23, 1997

Mr. WEYGAND. Mr. Speaker, on April 26–28, 1997, more than 1,200 students from 50 States and the District of Columbia will be in Washington, DC, to compete in the national finals of the We The People . . . The Citizen and the Constitution Program. I am proud to announce that the class from West Warwick High School from West Warwick will represent the Second Congressional District of Rhode Island. These young scholars have worked diligently to reach the national finals by winning local competitions in their home State.

The distinguished members of the team representing Rhode Island are: Jamie Amaral, Mary Asselin, Jonathan Bassi, Justin Broz, John Caressimo, Brian Carr, Andrew Costanza, Krystle Couto, Bethany DeBlois, Candice Felske, John Johnson, Jonathan Juneau, Jamie Kullberg, Kristin Larocque, Gina Musto, Meghan O'Brien, Ryan O'Grady, Stephanie Paquet, Erica Ricci, Hillary Sisson, Derek Tevyaw, Kevin Willette, Kristen Wolslegel, Man Yu, and Debra Zenofsky.