

BAN LANDMINES

HON. ROBERT WEXLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 15, 1997

Mr. WEXLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the International Campaign to Ban Landmines.

We in Congress have a moral obligation to help stop a terrible trend of destruction by landmines that maim and hurt thousands of individuals throughout the world each year.

Are my fellow Americans aware that there are over 100 million uncleared land mines throughout the world that claim over 500 lives a week? Every year, another 26,000 people are injured or killed due to landmines.

What is truly sad and unfortunate is that the victims of these tragic accidents are not only soldiers of war. Landmines do not respect peace treaties or accords. Landmines cannot distinguish between the footfall of a soldier and that of child.

The innocent victims of landmines are often children who had the misfortune of stepping on a landmine while walking through the woods to collect firewood or to pick fruit.

Today, we have an extraordinary opportunity to take bold steps to save future generations of innocent civilians. We can join the 156 nations who support a complete ban of landmines. The United States can no longer stand idly by while thousands of innocent civilians are injured and killed each year.

CONGRATULATIONS TO DEBBI GUTHRIE

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 15, 1997

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, today, my constituent and personal friend, Debbi Huffman Guthrie of Roy O. Huffman Roof Co. has been recognized by the U.S. Small Business Administration as the 1997 Small Business Person of the Year for Orange, Riverside, and San Bernardino Counties in California. This honor comes after years of hard work. Debbi took on the family business when she was 26 years old after her parents and grandparents were killed in a plane crash. She has been dedicated to learning the business and developing a strong workplace for her employees. Under Debbi's watch, the company has grown from 15 employees to 28 with little employee turnover and sales have multiplied by six. She serves as an inspiration for all women who strive to succeed in a male-dominated industry, and as testimony that businesses who choose to work within the community will achieve success.

Through incentive programs, she has encouraged employees to construct the highest quality roofs for their customers. With heavy attention on employee safety, she has been awarded the State Compensation Insurance Fund's Safety Award. Quality, safety, and reliability are key to her success and to the success of her business. Her customers have come to depend on this reputation.

Debbi has maintained a commitment to the community where she lives, works, and raised

her children. Her family has always believed in giving back to the community and she has continued that tradition through helping the Riverside youth, disadvantaged, and educational institutions. Debbi provided the human resources and project materials for a new roof on the Centro De Ninos nonprofit preschool center in a joint donation with three local Kiwanis Clubs and 45 volunteers. She also helps others who are pursuing their business and career goals through the Greater Riverside Chamber of Commerce's Leadership Riverside Program and the National Association of Women in Construction. As a volunteer, she has served as a board member with the Kiwanis Club of Riverside and worked on the Longfellow Elementary Schools' Adopt a School program, the Special Olympics, and the Boy Scouts.

In an effort to help the community's economy, she has served as president of the Roofing Contractors Association for Riverside/San Bernardino Counties and Director of Provident Saving Bank in Riverside. She also helped endow the University of California Riverside's College of Engineering, Center for Environmental Research and Technology [CE-CERT], and is a founding member of the Riverside Educational Enrichment Foundation. Also, at the University of California Riverside, Debbi is working to establish a hall of fame to recognize recipients of the Athena Foundation's Women of the Year Award.

Today's award will be added to her list of honors including the 1996 California Association of Leadership Programs Distinguished Leadership Award, the 1994 GRCC Small Business of the Year Eagle Award, the 1993 YWCA's Women of Achievement Athena Award-Corporate and the 1994 Entrepreneur of the Year Small Business Award from Ernst & Young, Inc. Magazine, and Merrill Lynch.

On behalf of the U.S. House of Representatives, I would like to offer my sincerest congratulations to Debbi Huffman Guthrie, not only on this revered award, but her entire career. Thank you Debbi for maintaining the commitment to our community and to your customers.

A SPECIAL SALUTE TO ROY O. PRIEST

HON. LOUIS STOKES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 15, 1997

Mr. STOKES. Mr. Speaker, I rise to salute Mr. Roy O. Priest, a highly respected leader in the Federal Government. On May 16, 1997, Mr. Priest will retire from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development [HUD] with nearly 20 years of service. I join HUD officials, his colleagues, and others in commending Mr. Priest for a job well done.

Roy Priest received a bachelor of science degree in biology from Central State University in Wilberforce. He also holds a master's degree in city and regional planning from Catholic University, and a master's degree in public administration from American University. Mr. Priest began his professional career with the District of Columbia Department of Housing and Community Development, and the District of Columbia Redevelopment Land Agency. Within these offices, he held several key posi-

tions including director of the Office of Policy, Planning, Program Development Land Evaluation; secretary of the Redevelopment Land Agency Board of Directors; and director, NW#1 Urban Renewal Project. He capped off his tenure with the District of Columbia Government by serving as director of the Office of Resource Development.

Mr. Speaker, during his tenure at the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Mr. Priest has directed programs in the Community Planning and Development division in HUD field offices and at the agency's headquarters. He has earned the respect of his colleagues and others for his strong commitment and vision to community-building across the Nation. His command of the financial and programmatic facets of HUD culminated into his current post of director of Economic Development. I also note that when he leaves HUD, Mr. Priest will assume the presidency of the National Congress for Community Economic Development.

Beyond his career in public service, Mr. Priest is an active member of his community. He serves as treasurer of the Montgomery County Pan-Hellenic Council. He is also the senior warden at the Episcopal Church of Our Savior, and serves on the board of trustees for the St. John's College High School. He is affiliated with Omega Psi Phi Fraternity. Mr. Priest and his wife, Sue, are the proud parents of Troy and Gary. They are also the proud grandparents of Gabrielle.

Mr. Speaker, I join many others in saluting Roy Priest on this important occasion. I am proud to salute him for a job well done, and I wish him much continued success.

TRIBUTE TO ADAMS STREET EAST SIDE PREP

HON. JOSEPH P. KENNEDY II

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 15, 1997

Mr. KENNEDY of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to extend my congratulations to the Adams Street East Side Preparatory School of Worcester, MA, as this fine institution celebrates its 100th anniversary this fall. Opened in October 1897, Adams East Side began as a four-room brick schoolhouse with 165 students, overseen by Principal Carrie Pierre. Although 92 percent of the first student body was born here in the United States, these students were largely the children of immigrants; nearly half of their fathers had been born across the Atlantic in Ireland. Additions to the school were made in 1916, 1920, and 1927, so that by 1934 enrollment had risen to 785 students.

Today, Adams Street East Side Prep serves as a quadrant magnet school in Worcester's north quadrant. The school's mission aims at the creation of an environment which both challenges and encourages students to pursue excellence and to shape in a positive way their own lives as well as the world around them. By providing opportunities for students to acquire, integrate, and apply knowledge to new learning situations, Adams Street East Side Prep promotes an attitude conducive to life-long learning and prepares the young people who enter its halls for the future.

To the students, faculty, and administration of Adams Street East Side Prep, I again offer my sincerest congratulations as well as my wishes for continued success in the future.

**ECUADOR, LATIN AMERICA,
HUMAN RIGHTS, AND THE BROKEN
JUDICIAL SYSTEM**

HON. CORRINE BROWN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 15, 1997

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, the problem of human rights in Ecuador and the larger region of Latin America is of concern to so many people throughout America and in other countries. I enclose for the RECORD a letter from a Canadian who lives in Nova Scotia:

COMMITTEE FOR THE
RELEASE OF MEL SOUTER,
Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada, May 14, 1997.

Hon. CORRINE BROWN,
*Member of Congress, Third District Florida,
Congress of the United States, House of
Representatives, Washington, DC.*

HONOURABLE CONGRESSWOMAN BROWN: Honourable Congresswoman Brown, I bless you and thank you on behalf of all Canadians for your courage and efforts on behalf of all those imprisoned without trial in Ecuador and elsewhere, and we would deeply appreciate it if you would read this into your motion to the House this afternoon.

To the Chair:—Hon. Members—A Petition to the Government of the United States of America on behalf of Mel Souter in Prison without trail in Ecuador.

Mel Souter a Canadian citizen from Vancouver, Canada, is in the same prison and in the same conditions as Jim Williams from Jacksonville Beach, Florida. Mel was interrogated continuously for thirty (30) hours and then forced to sign a statement he was not allowed to read after two hundred and eight (208) days, he has not even been given a "Summary" decision, which is required by law within sixty (60) days.

As a Canadian, what is even more disturbing to me is that Mel Souter's arrest and detainment was instigated and coordinated by the U.S. government through the agencies of the FBI and the DEA. The Ecuadorians now say the case is bogged down because of lack of evidence which the DEA promised to provide. This case which was known as "PESCADOR" is now being dubbed "FI-ASCO-DOOR" by the locals.

What you do to your citizens inside or outside of the United States is your business—and we do not presume to advise you,—but what you do or cause to be done to my Canadian brother does concern me—and in this case—saddens me and offends me.

After eight (8) months, it is now clear there is no case against this gentle 53 year old Canadian father and grandfather.

As your Canadian neighbours and friends we urge you now to move with speed to undo the wrong that has been done—you cannot allow your agency just to walk away and call Mel Souter "collateral damage". We urge you to give a clear and direct order to the DEA in Ecuador to request his release from the Ecuadorian authorities. I am assured by the Ecuadorian authorities that if the request is made by the U.S. Government through the proper channels, it will be responded to in a positive way.

Please listen—please!!

We are Canadian—

You know the friendship and respect we have for America and its people.

We rescued your brothers in Iran in 1968—Our sons flew along side yours in Dessert Storm—Treat us like the friends we are—and show us your nobility, by making sure that MEL SOUTER is at the HEAD OF THE LINE when they walk through the Green Door and into the arms of their families.

Yours with friendship and respect

MEL EARLEY,

*Chairman, Committee for the
Release of Mel Souter.*

**HIGHER EDUCATION ACCESS AND
AFFORDABILITY**

HON. NANCY L. JOHNSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 15, 1997

Mrs. JOHNSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, in proposing the HOPE scholarship, President Clinton has, to his great credit, identified an issue—college affordability—that is keeping a number of lower- and middle-income Americans awake at night. In the coming weeks, it will fall to the tax-writing committees, working within the framework of the budget, to determine just what sort of tax breaks we can provide for tuition for higher education.

In addition to budgetary constraints, we must be sensitive to the potentially inflationary impact of the provisions we enact. A few short years ago, we came very close to overhauling one-seventh of the Nation's economy partly in response to an alarming rate of medical inflation. Higher education costs are rising twice as fast as health care costs. I raise this as a note of caution, not as an excuse for inaction. We need to help families cope with these costs.

While there is much work to be done, there are several proposals on which I believe all of us—Republicans and Democrats alike—can agree as a starting point for building a consensus on a broader package. Today I am introducing the Higher Education Access and Affordability Act of 1997.

The Higher Education Access and Affordability Act would:

Make the payout from State-sponsored, prepaid tuition plans excludable from income;

Make the section 127 exclusion for employer-provided tuition assistance permanent;

Provide an above-the-line deduction for student loan interest;

Allow tax- and penalty-free IRA withdrawals for higher education expenses;

Allow nondeductible contributions of up to \$1,500 per child per year into higher education savings accounts. The inside buildup would not be taxed. Distributions would not be taxed if the money were used for postsecondary tuition and/or expenses. Anyone could contribute to the account on a child's behalf—for instance, grandparents, aunts and uncles—but the account, not the individual contribution, would be capped at \$1,500 per year.

Mr. Speaker, this package is not a panacea, but it provides a solid starting point. I look forward to working with my colleagues in the weeks and months ahead to develop a broad, balanced public policy response to the challenge of college affordability.

TRIBUTE TO DAVID K. PAGE

HON. SANDER M. LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 15, 1997

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday, May 28, the Detroit chapter of the American Jewish Committee will present its prestigious Learned Hand Award to David Page.

It is a richly deserved recognition of David Page's many decades of community service.

He has honored his chosen profession within the traditions embodied in Judge Learned Hand's love of the law as an instrument of justice. His active partnership over the years in the law firm of Honigman, Miller, Schwartz and Cohn has been his anchor, and he has blended with it an exceptionally broad and diverse range of activity.

His concern for the health of the residents of Metropolitan Detroit, especially its children, is reflected in his chairmanship of the board of the Children's Hospital of Michigan, and more recently as the vice-chair of the Detroit Medical Center and director of the Karamanos Center Institute and chair of the Board of Visitors of the Wayne State University School of Medicine.

His community activities in the United Way, United Fund Drive, the Boy Scouts, University of Michigan, Marygrove College, the Community Foundation for Southeastern Michigan, and the Greater Downtown Partnership have impacted the lives of Michigan residents from numerous walks of life.

He has also been a pillar within his own Jewish community and nationally as director of the Council of Jewish Federations, president of the Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Detroit his director posts in American and Detroit, ORT, and his work with the Allied Jewish Campaign, the Jewish Community Center, and the Jewish Family and Children's Service, among others.

Clearly, this recital of some of David Page's civic endeavors manifests a person of extraordinary interest in and concern for all of humanity. In his quiet, but sparkling way, he has brought light to many lives.

I have been privileged to see some of his public accomplishments and to be a friend in his private life. The recognition bestowed on him through the Learned Hand Award is the kind he would never seek, but is richly deserved.

**HELPING PARENTS EDUCATE
THEIR KIDS: THE CHILDREN'S
EDUCATION TAX CREDIT**

HON. JOSEPH R. PITTS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 15, 1997

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, as a parent and a former school teacher, I am firmly committed to providing out Nation's children an education which will prepare them for their futures. I believe that only by empowering parents to do more for their child can our Nation's next generation truly thrive.

That's why I am introducing the Children's Education Tax Credit Act today. This bill provides a \$450 tax credit per child for education