

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, last night after hearing the State of the Union I can tell you I am excited to see that the President is willing and ready to step forward for a nonpartisan commitment to education. Clearly in our country the No. 1 priority for the years ahead and for the generations that rest ahead of us is education. I think that the President was sincere in that.

I did sense some of what I would perceive as lack of sincerity in regards to campaign reform. I think if the President is serious about campaign reform the first thing he needs to do is take the Mr. Coffee machine out of the White House and the cash register out of the White House and observe the rules that we have for campaign fundraising in this country. I think we have to be very careful before we step into that.

But I do want to commend the President. I look forward to working with the White House and the administration in furthering the education needs of this country. That really is where we need to focus our resources.

STATE OF THE UNION

(Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Mr. Speaker, it was an honor to sit in this Chamber last night and take part in the State of the Union Address by the President. I was extremely pleased that President Clinton focused so much of his speech on education.

As I watched the response of all my colleagues, both Democrats and Republicans, to the President's educational proposals, I realize that we have a lot of common ground to work in. Making education opportunities more available to working families is a goal that is both bipartisan and crucial to the future success of our country. We must improve our educational systems for the children, college students, and adults who need to go back to school to learn new skills.

We are about to begin the 105th congressional session and this session must be about taking care of the needs of working families, and the only way we can take care of working families is by working in a bipartisan manner.

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The American people expect no less and certainly deserve no less.

HOUSE PARTICIPATION IN LOCAL TRANSIT PROGRAMS

(Mr. BLUMENAUER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, during my service as a local official in Portland, OR, we worked hard with employers, including government employers, to provide transit passes for our employees as an alternative to single

occupant vehicles. We found that transit pass programs improved morale, they decreased the demand for parking, helped clean air and decrease congestion, while saving our employees money.

Today I am introducing a resolution with broad bipartisan support that would give all House offices the option to participate in local transit programs, and employees here and at home, in every district, the opportunity to contribute to the liveability of their communities by using transit. I am embarrassed to say that the Senate has operated such a program since 1992, but be that as it may, it is time for the House to get on board.

No additional funds are needed in this resolution, since transit passes would be funded from existing House budgets. When we are asking employers across the country to step forward in the fight for clean air, we in the House must be prepared to do our part and to help our employees.

PASSING OF PAMELA HARRIMAN

(Mr. GILMAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, as chairman of the House Committee on International Relations, it is my sad duty to inform the House of the passing of an outstanding and stellar member of our Nation's diplomatic corps.

Pamela Harriman was well known on the political scene in Washington for years, before President Clinton appointed her as our Ambassador to France, but her service in Paris made her a household word. All accounts agree that she was respected and loved by the people of France and that she had done much to bring our two nations closer together.

I had the pleasure of being with Mrs. Harriman on several occasions and found her to be an alert, well-informed spokesperson for America's global interests, and as you know, Harriman, NY, is part of my district, where the Harriman family has resided for many years.

As a widow of a former New York State Governor, Averill Harriman, we have a special place in our hearts for Pamela Harriman. Pamela Harriman will be sorely missed.

TOP PRIORITY FOR EDUCATION

(Mr. CAPPS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, as a freshman Member of Congress, I stand to commend and to thank the President for the inspiring speech that he made last night. I was particularly impressed by what he said about the vision and goals to educate our children, to prepare them for the 21st century.

As a university professor at the University of California, I know the value

of a strong and well-rounded education. It is now more important than ever that our students learn how to read, to learn mathematics, know how to use a computer, to realize that all of them can get a college education, to support the junior colleges, and to create a society that values lifelong education.

The learning process has always been a top priority in my district. I am very pleased that education was the subject that got most attention in the President's State of the Union Address last night.

EDUCATION: A FEDERAL PRIORITY

(Ms. DEGETTE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. DEGETTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge my colleagues to give every child and adult in this country the same opportunity that all of us took for granted in our youth: A decent education. How many times does Congress need to hear the statistics illustrating that quality education is the underpinning of opportunity before it makes education a Federal priority?

When my grandfather was a boy, his eighth grade education prepared him to be vice president of the Rio Grande Railroad. When my mother was a young woman, her college degree prepared her to teach. Today I know my two young girls will not have a chance to compete or even to live comfortably without significant higher education. Yet everyday in our country, another child is left behind, illiteracy rates soar, and higher education grows further out of the financial reach of thousands. It would be laughable if it was not unforgivable that the U.S. Government spends less than 1 percent of its money on education. I urge the House to take this issue up immediately and with vigor.

CRUSADE FOR EDUCATION

(Mr. MCGOVERN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, last night our President proposed a new crusade on education. I rise today in support of that crusade. Every Member of this Congress has heard from their constituents about how hard it is today to pay for a college education, and about how necessary it is for our children to be introduced today to the technology they will need for the jobs of tomorrow.

Last night, President Clinton gave hope to all families facing the daunting challenge of paying for their child's college education. The President called upon this House to make more funds available so that all of our children may enter the information age. This is critical if we are to continue to be the economic superpower in the 21st century. It is my hope that no Member of

this House would stand in the way of our children's future.

Mr. Speaker, last night the President appealed for a new era of nonpartisan cooperation. I ask my colleagues on the other side of the aisle to join with Democrats in improving the quality of education for every single child in America.

FOCUS ON EDUCATION IN THE 21ST CENTURY

(Mr. WYNN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WYNN. Mr. Speaker, last night the President of the United States gave an excellent speech. He said the state of the Union is good, but it could be better. We have to defend America, but most importantly we have to build America. Our enemy, as he correctly pointed out, is inaction.

He set forth a clear priority in terms of education, that our goal ought to be to assure that everyone in America has a good education. He talked a lot about the new millennium. We are talking about an information age, a high-technology age. In that age, we need to assure that American citizens have the best education.

That means supporting the President's request for \$5 billion in school construction funds so that we can build new schools and maintain the ones we have. It means supporting the President's request for tax credits and tax exemptions so that people can afford to send their children to college, to universities. We have the best in the world, we need to make sure our people can take advantage of it.

Critics say, well, this is small government and small ideas. I say that there is no greater goal for the new millennium than to say every American can have a good education.

TIME TO CRACK DOWN ON GANGS

(Mr. LAMPSON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LAMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I stand before the House for the first time today, and I must admit I feel much like I did the first time that I stood before a classroom full of students at Forest Park High School in Beaumont, TX: A little nervous and awed by the responsibility.

I recently received a letter from a grandmother in Port Arthur, TX. Her 18-year-old grandson is making good grades and wants to graduate from high school, but he is being harassed by a gang. In fact, this young man has been shot at recently. His grandmother tells me that the gang members continue to follow him and continue to threaten his life.

Last night the President was absolutely correct when he recognized that we cannot expect our kids to learn

when they are not safe. To me, school yards become the domain of gangs when the bell rings at the end of the day. We have seen the epidemic of violent, juvenile crime spread from the poorest inner cities to middle class suburbs and small towns.

Mr. Speaker, I hope this Congress will join the President in his promise to crack down on gangs. Too many defenseless families are counting on us.

FRANK M. TEJEDA POST OFFICE BUILDING

Mr. MCHUGH. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 499) to designate the facility of the U.S. Postal Service under construction at 7411 Barlite Boulevard in San Antonio, TX, as the "Frank M. Tejeda Post Office Building."

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 499

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. DESIGNATION.

The facility of the United States Postal Service under construction at 7411 Barlite Boulevard in San Antonio, Texas, shall be known and designated as the "Frank M. Tejeda Post Office Building".

SEC. 2. REFERENCES.

Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in section 1 shall be deemed to be a reference to the "Frank M. Tejeda Post Office Building".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York [Mr. MCHUGH] and the gentleman from Pennsylvania [Mr. FATTAH] each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York [Mr. MCHUGH].

Mr. MCHUGH. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Mr. MCHUGH asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MCHUGH. Mr. Speaker, the legislation before us was introduced by the gentleman from Texas [Mr. BONILLA] and supported by the Texas House Delegation.

H.R. 499 designates the facility of the U.S. Postal Service being constructed at 7411 Barlite Blvd., San Antonio, TX as the Frank M. Tejeda Post Office Building.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation honors our colleague Frank Tejeda, who died at the age of 51 at his home in San Antonio, TX on January 31 after succumbing to a 17-month battle with a malignant brain tumor.

Frank was born on October 2, 1945 in San Antonio, TX and grew up in that city's south side. He did not finish high school, having been told not to return after an incident with a school counselor. Frank then joined the U.S. Marine Corps in 1963 during the Vietnam conflict, and 2 weeks before his scheduled return home from Vietnam in 1966, he was ambushed and struck in his leg by shrapnel. Frank Tejeda was awarded

the Purple Heart, the Bronze Star, the Commandant's Trophy, the Marine Corps Association Award, and many others for his valor and for his soldiering skills. Just recently, Mr. Speaker, he was posthumously awarded the Silver Star.

Mr. Speaker, I have a very extensive statement on the many achievements of this fine American and of this man whom we all knew and loved very deeply, and I would like to enter that more full statement into the RECORD in its entirety.

Frank Tejeda loved the Marine Corps; even as a Member of Congress, Frank continued to serve in the Marine Corps Reserve. When attending officer candidate school, Frank maintained a 99.6 academic average, the highest in the history of the Marine Corps. After leaving the Corps, Frank earned his undergraduate degree in government from St. Mary's University in San Antonio, a J.D. from the University of California, Berkeley in 1974, a master's degree in public administration from Harvard in 1980, and a master of law from Yale in 1989.

He served in the Texas House in Austin from 1977 until 1986 when he was elected to the Texas Senate where he remained until 1992. He was the leader of the south side political coalition in San Antonio. Frank Tejeda left his imprint on workers' compensation reform, business initiatives for minorities and women, housing for veterans, protection of crime victims, and he promoted measures to ensure voting rights for minorities. He became known for his investigation into the malfeasance of two members of the Texas Supreme Court, who were disciplined. The result of this investigation was the enmity of the State's trial lawyers.

Frank Tejeda was elected the first Representative to Congress from the 28th District of Texas in 1992. He was known as a quiet, dedicated, and independent-minded Representative, voting his conscience and the concerns of his constituency. He was a staunch defender of veterans, active duty personnel and military installations and he served on the Committees on Veterans Affairs and National Security.

Coincidentally, Mr. Speaker, toward the end of the 104th Congress, on October 9, 1996, the President signed Public Law 104-255, the designation of the Amos F. Longoria Post Office Building in Elmhurst, TX, introduced by Frank Tejeda, honoring Elmhurst's native son who lost his life in service to his country during World War II. It is fitting that this House now remembers one of its own by designating a new post office building in San Antonio as the Frank M. Tejeda Post Office Building.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all our colleagues to support the measure before us.

Mr. Speaker, at this time I would like to yield to other Members who have gathered here in the House to pay honor to this great American, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. FATTAH. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise also in support of House Resolution 499. This is a moment in which the House has an opportunity to show its respect for a fallen comrad. This is a gentleman whose work here in the Congress and his life sets an example for us all. And it has been offered