

Year 1998, 285,322 Work Opportunity Tax Credit certifications were issued. For the first two quarters of FY 1999, 157,850 such certifications were issued.

Both the Welfare to Work and Work Opportunity Tax Credits are set to expire this year on June 30th. H.R. 2015 would reauthorize both credits for five years. Mr. Speaker, I believe it is important that this Congress take a firm stand in favor of economic development and reduce the remaining pockets of unemployment and underemployment in this country by fully reauthorizing both the Welfare to Work and the Work Opportunity Tax Credits for 5 years. Both these credits have minimal impact on the federal budget. The Joint Committee of Taxation estimated that currently issued credit certifications for the Work Opportunity Tax Credit would cost \$445 million between fiscal year 1999 and fiscal year 2004, and Welfare to Work credits would cost \$25 million for the same period. We cannot afford to put these programs at risk each year during the annual budget process. We need to reauthorize them for at least a full 5 year period. Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to join me in support of H.R. 2015.

HONORING THE SPECIAL GRADUATES OF MIDDLE SCHOOL 136

HON. NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 18, 1999

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I ask you and my colleagues to join me in congratulating special graduates of the 12th Congressional District of New York. I am certain that this day marks the culmination of much effort and hard work which has lead and will lead them to continued success. In these times of uncertainty, limited resources, and random violence in our communities and schools, it is encouraging to know that they have overcome these obstacles and succeeded.

These students have learned that education is priceless. They understand that education is the tool to new opportunities and greater endeavors. Their success is not only a tribute to their strength but also to the support they have received from their parents and loved ones.

In closing, I encourage all my colleagues to support the education of the youth of America. With a solid education, today's youth will be tomorrow's leaders. And as we approach the new millennium, it is our responsibility to pave the road for this great Nation's future. Members of the U.S. House of Representatives I ask you to join me in congratulating the following Academic Achievement Award Recipients: Andrew Caceres and Fi Lan Ho.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ANTHONY D. WEINER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 18, 1999

Mr. WEINER. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 215, had I been present, I would have voted "aye".

IN SUPPORT OF AMERICAN AGRICULTURE

HON. RONNIE SHOWS

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 18, 1999

Mr. SHOWS. Mr. Speaker, today I stand before my colleagues and the American people to discuss the American farmer. I have done so before and am more than happy to stand up for the American Farm Family again.

My district, in Mississippi, is largely supported by agriculture. Family farmers, and I was once a farmer, are our neighbors, friends and community leaders. They provide a foundation of sound American values and a strong work ethic to communities all across our nation. When you get right down to it, they are good people who work hard to make a living and raise their families.

There's more, much more, to say about our farmers, though. The American family farmer is the most successful and efficient farmer in the world. Our agricultural industry feeds and clothes more people than any other system of agriculture on the planet. The American farmer is one of America's greatest success stories. They have excelled through the best and worst of times.

Our farmers fed a hungry nation during the Great Depression, sustained our great army during World War II. And, when the soldiers came home, our farmers went to work with new and dynamic technologies and machinery. They have helped feed, clothe, fuel and grow our economy without ever looking back.

We cannot turn our backs on our farmers when they need our help. We cannot afford to.

Our farmers and ranchers are feeling financial and emotional stress. Prices of commodities have been spiraling downward over the past year. Many of our farm families have seen prices for their hard work hit decade lows over the recent months. We must continue to act in support of our American farm families.

Let's fight for the farmers as they work to meet the demands of the EPA. Let's give them the time and support they need in the Farm Quality Protection Act.

Let's continue supporting the Conservation Reserve Program. Mississippi's very own Jamie Whitten realized this monumental piece of legislation that has added millions of acres in needed pine trees. This program needs our continued support. Dairy Farmers in Mississippi and across America need the USDA to enact Option 1A. Let me say that again. America's Dairy Farmers need option 1A and I urge the USDA to do the right thing.

Let's support our farmers because they support us everyday.

TRIBUTE TO STOCKTON MORRIS, PENNSYLVANIA DELEGATE TO THE FIRST JUVENILE DIABETES CONGRESS IN WASHINGTON, DC

HON. CURT WELDON

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 18, 1999

Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Stockton Morris,

a 9 year old student at the Coopertown Elementary School who has just completed the third grade. On Sunday, June 20, Stockton will be traveling to Washington, DC as a Pennsylvania delegate to the First Juvenile Diabetes Congress to raise the awareness of the Congress and the country about diabetes.

Diabetes is a devastating disease which affects over 16 million Americans. Even though 1,700 people are diagnosed with diabetes each day, half of those who have this disease do not even know it. Unlike many other chronic and potentially deadly diseases, there is so much more that we can do to tackle diabetes—much of it simply through education and awareness. Most important, however, is the need for increased funding for diabetes research at NIH and CDC so that we may someday discover a cure to eradicate this disease.

I have heard from many of Stockton's friends and teachers. All of them applaud him for his character and courage. Susan Minge, a teacher in Stockton's school, wrote to me saying, "As a teacher in Stockton's school, I have watched him for almost four years carry himself with dignity and honor as he accepts the day to day routine of 'highs and lows' with needles. I have listened to him explain his disease to peers, teachers, and Coopertown's youngest students with the knowledge and authority of one who is in control of his disease." Karen Brimer, Stockton's Learning Support Teacher, wrote to say, "I have seen Stockton grow into such a wonderful young person. He is full of knowledge, wisdom, and zest for life. I often look at him as my teacher when it comes to learning about diabetes."

Stockton has worked patiently, quietly, and courageously to raise the awareness of his schoolmates regarding this disease. He has even raised money for research to find a cure. On Sunday, Stockton will be taking his efforts to a new level, traveling to Washington, DC to raise the awareness of the country and the Congress about the need for increased research dollars.

Three years ago, I myself was diagnosed with adult-onset diabetes, a disease in which the body does not produce or properly use insulin—a hormone which breaks down sugar and converts it to energy. I was diagnosed after I underwent a diabetes screening test after former Speaker Newt Gingrich urged me and my colleagues to become more involved with fighting diabetes. I have type II diabetes, the most common form, and can easily treat and control my condition through medication, exercise, and diet. Since then I have worked as a leading Member of the House diabetes caucus to do what Stockton has been so successful at—teach others about the disease, and raise awareness about the need for increased research dollars.

In April of this year, I introduced legislation that will help us to fight this deadly disease by raising public awareness and provide increased funding for research. This innovative legislation, called the Stamp Out Diabetes Act, would create a new first-class postage stamp to raise funds for diabetes research. Under my legislation, supporters of diabetes research would voluntarily pay between 34 cents and 41 cents for the special stamp. The additional penny to eight cents would be earmarked for diabetes research at the National Institutes of Health, after the administrative costs incurred by the postal service are subtracted.

My hope is that Americans will realize the importance of funding this type of research and will show their support by paying a few extra pennies to mail a letter. With millions of Americans taking part in this program, it is my hope that we can raise as much as \$10 million in additional funding for diabetes research. As we struggle to balance the budget and reduce the national debt, we have to come up with new and innovative ways to fund research in critical areas like diabetes. By allowing individuals to voluntarily help the cause of diabetes research, my legislation will help to fund this life-saving research.

Not only will the stamp help to raise much-needed funding for diabetes research—at no expense to taxpayers—but it will also help to raise the public's awareness about the disease. Perhaps it will even prompt some individuals to undergo diabetes screenings and catch the disease in its early stages. With innovative projects such as the diabetes stamp, combined with the work and support of young leaders like Stockton Morris, we will indeed be able to find a cure for diabetes as we enter the new Millennium.

And so I rise today to applaud this extraordinary young man. He is a tribute to his family, his school, and his community. His continuing advocacy on behalf of the diabetes community is an immeasurable benefit to our common cause—finding a cure for diabetes. In conclusion, I would like to thank Stockton for all of his work on behalf of the diabetes community. I would also like to thank the Juvenile Diabetes Foundation for holding this important event. The work that they have done has indeed made a difference.

IN MEMORY OF ROD AND BRAD BURNSIDE, JIM AYRE, AND HOWARD SWIFT

HON. DAVE CAMP

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 18, 1999

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to honor and remember three men and one young boy who lost their lives in a tragic accident.

On November 11, 1995, after setting out for a duck hunt, Rod Burnside, his son Brad, Jim Ayre and Howard Swift were swept up by inclement weather. I know them well. Their presence is missed not only by their families and friends, but by the whole Midland County community as well.

While no one could have foreseen the tragedy that took these gentle souls from their loved ones, the community came together in the spirit of fellowship to help the family and friends through these difficult times.

The community has united to build a tribute to their departed friends. On June 24, 1999, a ceremony will be held to dedicate the memorial. It will stand near the Pere Marquette Rail Trail and will serve as a testament to the honor in which each man lived his life and it will be a solemn monument for their loved ones.

Mr. Speaker, I know you will join me and my colleagues in a moment of silence to honor those for whom this memorial is being dedicated.

MANDATORY GUN SHOW
BACKGROUND CHECK ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 17, 1999

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration this bill (H.R. 2122) to require background checks at gun shows, and for other purposes:

Mr. FARR of California. Mr. Chairman, it is a travesty that our society tolerates the death of 13 children every single day by guns.

I just don't understand why we aren't outraged and ashamed.

The gun violence provisions proposed by the Republican leadership prove they don't "get it."

One of my local communities 3,000 miles away "gets it." They recognize that "a mere reduction in the availability of guns and ammunition would decrease the lethality and injury associated with violence."

The Senate "gets it." They passed some modest gun safety measures: to require mandatory background checks of buyers at gun shows to prohibit juveniles from privately purchasing assault weapons banning the importation of large ammunition clips requiring the sale of a gun lock or storage box with each gun restricting unlicensed sales at gun shows.

One of my local sheriffs "gets it." He said yesterday, "There needs to be tangible change around the issues of gun use and ownership. In my opinion the Senate language is not unreasonable."

But instead of encouraging responsible gun safety measures, the House leadership has proposed weakening the Senate provisions by watering down the background checks at gun shows.

In 1997 an ATF study traced firearms used in youth crimes in one of my communities and found that most of the weapons were bought from gun traffickers and small dealers.

Without adequate background checks, we can't prevent guns from getting into the hands of gun traffickers and being sold to juvenile offenders.

While I recognize the rights of law abiding citizens to purchase guns for hunting and collecting, as a parent I have to ask myself "how many more children have to die because of gun violence before "enough is enough."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ANTHONY D. WEINER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 18, 1999

Mr. WEINER. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 216, had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 18, 1999

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I was granted a leave of absence for today, Friday, June 18,

1999 after 12 noon. At that time, I received word of a family emergency at home in New Jersey and immediately left Washington D.C. Following are the votes I missed and how I would have voted:

Representatives Sessions and Frost amendment (No. 8) to H.R. 2122, the Mandatory Gun Show Background Check Act: On rollcall No. 239, I would have voted "nay".

Representative Goode Amendment (No. 9) to H.R. 2122, the Mandatory Gun Show Background Check Act: On rollcall No. 240, I would have voted "nay".

Representative Hunter Amendment (No. 10) to H.R. 2111, the Mandatory Gun Show Background Check Act: On rollcall No. 241, I would have voted "nay".

Representative Rogan Amendment (No. 11) to H.R. 2122, the Mandatory Gun Show Background Check Act: On rollcall No. 242, I would have voted "yea".

Representatives Conyers and Campbell Amendment (No. 12) to H.R. 2122, the Mandatory Gun Show Background Act: On rollcall No. 243, I would have voted "yea".

On Passage of H.R. 2122: On rollcall vote No. 234, I would have voted "nay".

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JULIA CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 18, 1999

Ms. CARSON. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent on Thursday, June 17, 1999, missing rollcall votes 220 through 235. Had I been present, I would have voted "no" on rollcall 220, "no" on rollcall 221, "yes" on rollcall 222, "no" on rollcall 223, "no" on rollcall 224, "yes" on rollcall 225, "yes" on rollcall 226, "no" on rollcall 227, "yes" on rollcall 228, "yes" on rollcall 229, "yes" on rollcall 230, "no" on rollcall 231, "yes" on rollcall 232, "no" on rollcall 233, "no" on rollcall 234, and "yes" on rollcall 235.

TRIBUTE TO AKA's BETA ALPHA OMEGA CHAPTER

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 18, 1999

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to bring your attention to an organization that has made quite an impact on its surrounding community. I speak of the Beta Alpha Omega Chapter of the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority. The Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority is the oldest Greek-letter organization for African American women. Founded on the Howard University campus in Washington, DC on January 15, 1908, it has grown from a membership of 9 to over 150,000.

New Jersey's oldest chapter is Beta Alpha Omega. It was chartered on January 30, 1934 in Newark. For the past 65 years this chapter has continuously provided invaluable community services in the City of Newark and surrounding area. As a result of their unwavering dedication to the improvement of their community, the Beta Alpha Omega Chapter will be honored by the Kappa Alpha Sorority on Saturday, June 19, 1999.