

and Information Infrastructure Assistance Program grants. Additional funding for the Center is provided by a number of government, foundation, corporate and individual donors including the Eastmont Town Center, Pacific Gas and Electric, Chevron, Pacific Bell, The San Francisco Foundation, Oracle, Hewlett Packard and IBM.

I wish to commend the management and staff of the Eastmont Computing Center for their tireless work and for their diligence. It has been through their perseverance that they have garnered the resources necessary to establish and operate this training facility for the benefit of all the citizens of Oakland.

I wish to extend to the Eastmont Computing Center, its staff, donors and support volunteers sincere best wishes for success as they begin to deliver technology access and employment training services to the citizens of Oakland.

RECOGNIZING JAN JACOBS

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 12, 1999

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I now recognize Jan Jacobs of Creede, Colorado. After 29 years of dedication to education and long hours of planning as a teacher of History, Geography, and Government, Ms. Jacobs has retired. I would like to thank her for her commitment to the youth of Creede and for her involvement in the Creede community.

After graduating from Western State, Ms. Jacobs taught for three years in Nebraska before making Creede her home. Jan Jacobs not only taught, but she cared and was dedicated to her students. She served as a sponsor for trips to Washington, D.C. and annual trips to Mesa Verde. Trips to Denver and various other projects were made possible through her efforts.

Ms. Jan Jacobs touched the lives of countless individuals through her work in education. Students undoubtedly gained much and benefitted greatly from her expertise and kindness. As students, parents, and community members say farewell to this much-respected and loved teacher, I would like to wish her well as she enters a new era of her life, and congratulate her on a remarkable career of dedication and service.

TRIBUTE TO REV. LINDSAY G. FIELDS OF HUNTSVILLE, ALABAMA

HON. ROBERT E. (BUD) CRAMER, JR.

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 12, 1999

Mr. CRAMER. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to the life and legacy of Rev. Lindsay G. Fields of Huntsville, Alabama, an extraordinary man whose one hundred and seven years were marked by a true sense of compassion and a dedication of God and his family.

Rev. L.G. Fields was born in Harris, Alabama on February 6, 1892 and spent over fifty

years in the United Methodist ministry. He spent sixteen years in Gadsden as pastor of Sweet Home Methodist Church and then led Village view Methodist Church in Athens until his retirement.

The long and blessed life of Rev. Fields included a passion for education. He attended the American School of Correspondence in Chicago and then Gammon Theological Seminary in Atlanta. He continued his love of education by serving on the board of trustees for Clark and Rust Colleges.

For Rev. Fields, community service was a way of life. He worked with the Madison County Council on Aging, the Mental Health Centers, the Madison County Senior Center and the Model Cities Program. I believe this tribute is only fitting for one who has given so much of himself for others.

I commend the perseverance of Rev. Fields is the raising and educating of his twelve children with the late Rosa Perry Fields. With 24 grandchildren and 22 great-grandchildren, Rev. Fields has left a proud and beloved legacy. I offer my sympathy to the Fields family.

On behalf of the people of Alabama's fifth Congressional District, I join them in celebrating the extraordinary life and honoring the memory of a man who filled his one hundred and seven years with a love of God, country and family.

CONGRATULATING DEE ARNTZ

HON. JAY INSLEE

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 12, 1999

Mr. INSLEE. Mr. Speaker, I am delighted to announce that one of my constituents, Ms. Dee Arntz, recently won the 1999 National Wetlands Award.

In 1990, Ms. Arntz co-founded the Washington Wetlands Network (Wetnet). The Wetnet organization connects citizens, local government officials, federal representatives, and others into a centralized network of people concerned about wetland protection and preservation. As a result, this important network approach gives small organizations information and links to larger state and national efforts. Through Ms. Arntz's efforts, citizens have joined together to protect thousands of wetland acres throughout Washington State.

In the process of building Wetnet, Ms. Arntz worked as a community development program administrator for King County and other Puget Sound local governments. Her experience also includes serving on the boards of the Seattle Audubon Society, the Nisqually Delta Association, and the Washington Environmental Council. In addition, Ms. Arntz earned a Certificate in Wetlands Science and Management from the University of Washington in 1995.

I would like to congratulate Ms. Arntz for winning the 1999 National Wetlands Award. Her dedication to wetland protection has led to major environmental accomplishments at both the state and national level. Ms. Arntz is an example of the enormous impact one citizen can have on the environment. This award is very well-deserved.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. KENNY C. HULSHOF

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 12, 1999

Mr. HULSHOF. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to rule changes for the 106th Congress, I am informing you that I missed one vote on Friday, June 25, 1999, rollcall No. 256. On this vote, I would have voted "aye".

VETERANS BENEFITS IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 1999

SPEECH OF

HON. BARON P. HILL

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 29, 1999

Mr. HILL of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 2280, the Veterans' Benefits Improvement Act of 1999.

I believe that this bill makes some important changes to the benefits available to veterans. I am a cosponsor of this bill. It increases rates of disability compensation and indemnity compensation to veterans. It enhances the quality assurance program at the Veterans Benefits Administration. It also provides permanent eligibility for housing loans for members of the Selected Reserve. And it reauthorizes important programs for homeless veterans.

I wanted to be sure to mention this bill because another of its provisions helps get construction of the World War II Memorial underway. This past Memorial Day, I attended a wonderful ceremony back in Versailles, Indiana. At that ceremony the American Legion Post in Versailles presented me with a check for one thousand dollars to forward to the American Battle Monuments Commission to help build the World War II Memorial. That struck me as uncommon generosity from men and women who have already given so much.

I salute them and all the people who are making this monument possible. The more we work toward building this memorial, the more World War II veterans will be able to see this proud symbol of what our "Greatest Generation" accomplished.

I ask my fellow members of Congress to support the Veterans' Benefits Improvement Act because it honors our veterans and helps to provide the benefits that they have earned.

Since taking office in January I have been talking to the House leadership about ways I could become more involved in Veterans' issues. Last week, I'm proud to say that I received a seat on the Veterans' Committee. I know that we owe a lot to those who currently serve our country and also to those who have served in the past. With this appointment I hope I can make a real difference for all our veterans.

This year, one of our nation's oldest and most distinguished service organizations, the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, celebrates its 100-year anniversary. I was first reminded by constituents that this year marked that important anniversary.

The first bill I sponsored and the first speech I made in the United States House of Representatives was to celebrate and recognize the Veterans of Foreign Wars by requesting that the U.S. Postal Service issue a stamp

commemorating the VFW's 100 year anniversary (H. Res. 115).

I still believe that we will be able to accomplish this task. I hope that my recent appointment will help move this process along.

MEGAN MONTONI'S ATHLETIC ACHIEVEMENTS

HON. SHERROD BROWN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 12, 1999

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise to highlight the recent athletic achievements of Megan Montoni, who hails from Wadsworth, Ohio in my Congressional District. As a sophomore at Ashland University this past school year, Megan recently earned All-American honors for her performance in the shot put at the NCAA Division II National Championships in Emporia, Kansas. She also participated in the shot put and the discuss at the Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference, receiving silver and bronze medals, respectively.

Being recognized as an All-America athlete is a prestigious accomplishment in college athletics and in all of sports. Dedication and a solid work ethic have launched Megan to the top of her game. Remarkably, she underwent knee surgery one year before the NCAA championships. Her discipline, resilience, and passion to succeed were clearly illustrated at the NCAA championships. Megan's work ethic and determination are an inspiration to us all.

On behalf of the people of Ohio's 13th Congressional District, I am honored to congratulate Megan for earning All-America honors.

FLAG PROTECTION

HON. DOUG BEREUTER

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 12, 1999

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, this Member highly commends to his colleagues the following editorial, "Flag Deserves Extra Protection," which appeared in the Wednesday, June 30, 1999, edition of the Norfolk Daily News.

[From the Daily News, June 30, 1999]

FLAG DESERVES EXTRA PROTECTION

COURT'S RULING SHOULD BE SUBJECT TO FINAL DECISION BY AMENDMENT PROCESS

One member of the House of Representatives was careful to note what is sometimes ignored in the heat of debate. "We all believe in our country; this is an honest dispute about how we reflect patriotism," said Rep. Mel Watt, D-NC., of the proposal to amend the Constitution to allow Congress to ban desecration of the flag.

That is proper acknowledgment that people who believe flag burning is an offensive act but one protected by the First Amendment may be no less sincere patriots than those who believe this symbol of the nation is sacred and deserves special protection.

Opponents to an amendment, however, seem too willing to accept court interpretations of First Amendment issues as final, irreversible truth. When such decisions—especially those so narrowly decided as in the flag burning case—are controversial enough,

it is proper that they produce legislative reaction. That can take the form of utilizing the constitutional amendment procedure.

It is rarely invoked, and requires overwhelming popular support. But the amendment process should not be avoided either because it is difficult or because jurists are thought to have the last word. If it is otherwise, then America is not so much a nation governed by laws as one governed by lawyers—in this case, lawyers who have reached the stature of judges. However objective those learned men and women try to be, the American system did provide for amendments and there are some issues which deserve that attention.

It will not diminish the Bill of Rights to allow Congress to define and allow either state or federal enforcement of a law or laws which put Old Glory in a special category for protection. It will, instead, provide a small countermeasure to offensive behavior of a sort which deserves no First Amendment protection.

The argument is not about legitimate free expression, but rather the extent to which free people must tolerate offensive acts. The American people should be given a chance to decide whether or not they want their government to protect their flag from desecrators. The many exceptions to the First Amendment—libelous and slanderous statements, treasonous acts, defacement of property, incitement to riot among them—have been defined by court opinions. In this case, an exception would be made directly by the amendment process.

It should be allowed to go forward. The House of Representatives decided that it should, and by a 305-124 margin. The Senate ought to act positively this time, and acknowledge that the flag deserves to be treated as a living thing.

HONORING DEPUTY TOM PROUD

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 12, 1999

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I now take this opportunity to honor Deputy Tom Proud of the Pueblo County Sheriff's Department. I wish to recognize Deputy Proud for his dedication, hard work and involvement in the Pueblo community. I would like to commend him for his efforts and for receiving designation as the Outstanding Deputy of Pueblo County Sheriff's Department.

Serving in various capacities, Proud is particularly dedicated to protecting the youth of Pueblo. Assigned as Crime Prevention Officer to Pueblo West in 1993, he has continued to be involved in prevention efforts including Pueblo County Safety Fair and the implementation of the Pueblo West Crime Watch.

Deputy Proud is an active participant in the Pueblo West Substation Committee in which he contributed to the fulfillment of the Sheriff's Office vision of decentralization. He has taken a leadership role in the Child Safety Seat Program through his work to organize safety check-points to serve thirty families with installation of new car seats.

Currently, he has extended his duties to dedicating time as School Resource Officer for Pueblo West High School, Pueblo West Middle School, Pueblo West Elementary School, and Sierra Vista Primary School. He has undertaken many tasks, in particular, special

missions on traffic control around the schools. Deputy Sheriff Proud is becoming a talented instructor in the subjects of drug and alcohol awareness.

Men like Tom Proud are a rare breed. I appreciate his involvement in the Pueblo community and his dedication to the citizens and youth of Pueblo. Deputy Sheriff Tom Proud is a great asset to the Pueblo County Sheriff's Office and to Pueblo. I would like to congratulate him on a job well done, and I hope that he will continue in his service.

LUPUS FOUNDATION OF AMERICA

HON. CARRIE P. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 12, 1999

Mrs. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to welcome to Washington the members of the Lupus Foundation of America, and my friend and Chairman of the Lupus Foundation of America—Mr. Terry Bell. The delegates are here this week to inform Members of Congress and their staff about the cataclysmic effects of lupus and to request support for my bill, H.R. 762—the Lupus Research and Care Amendments Act of 1999.

The members of the Lupus Foundation have long been on the front line of the fight against lupus, a devastating disease that affects over 1.4 million Americans. The Lupus Foundation is a national voluntary health agency, with more than 100 affiliate chapters across the country, representing people with lupus, their families, friends and others who are concerned about this destructive disease.

I know something about lupus. I lost a sister to lupus. It is because of my experience with this disease that I have introduced H.R. 762. This bill expands and intensifies the research effort of the NIH to diagnose, treat, and eventually cure lupus. My bill increases the funding for lupus research and education, and it establishes a grant program to expand the availability of lupus service. It also protects the poor and the uninsured from financial devastation, by limiting their annual out-of-pocket expenses for lupus services.

Lupus is an auto-immune disease that afflicts women nine times more than it does men, and has its most significant impact on women during the childbearing years. About 1.4 million Americans have some form of lupus—one out of every 185 Americans. An estimated 1 in 250 African American women between the ages of 15 and 65 develop lupus.

Thousands of women with lupus die each year. Many other victims suffer debilitating pain and fatigue, making it difficult to maintain employment and lead normal lives. Perhaps the most discouraging aspect of lupus for sufferers and family members is the fact that there is no cure. Lupus is devastating not only to the victim, but to family members as well.

Since my arrival in the House in 1993, I have urged the Congress to direct the NIH to mount an all-out campaign against lupus. We can and must do more this year to conquer lupus, while offering treatment and protection against financial devastation to the victims of lupus.

Without struggle, there can be no progress. The members of the Lupus Foundation are leading the struggle to inform Members of