

House knows, Presidential elections were recently held in Panama and, like its other neighbors, free, fair and transparent elections were also the rule of the day. I want to take this opportunity to congratulate the people of Panama as well for their commitment to the democratic process and to congratulate President Moscoso on her election as the first female President of Panama. We want to wish her well and offer our Subcommittee's help in any way to continue a strong U.S.-Panama relationship into the new millennium.

Mr. Speaker, on the occasion of the celebration of their independence, I want to congratulate each of these nations for the progress they are making and to express my hope that they continue on this impressive path. All of the nations and people of Central America should be proud of what they have accomplished to date. We encourage them to continue down this path and we continue to offer our strong encouragement and assistance.

TRIBUTE TO CLAIRE L. CUMMINGS
AND MARY CONSTANTINO

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 14, 1999

Mr. NEAL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this time to acknowledge the outstanding contributions Claire L. Cummings and Mary Constantino have made to the second congressional district of Massachusetts, to our state, our nation, and the Democratic party. In particular I would like to recognize their longstanding service on the Milford, Massachusetts Democratic Committee.

The Milford Democratic Committee assists the Democratic party and their candidates in reaching the citizens of Milford with the message of the Democratic party. Both Claire and Mary have worked hard to extend the message of the Democratic party into the Town of Milford.

Claire L. Cummings has been an active member of the Milford Democratic Committee for thirty five years. Prior to being a member of the Democratic Committee Claire was actively involved in her community, attending and participating in Milford Town Meetings. She was also the first woman in Milford to run for the office of selectman. It was at this time the Milford Democratic Committee asked Claire to become a member of the committee. Claire L. Cummings has made it a point to attend every Democratic state convention, and particularly remembers the National Presidential Convention of Lyndon B. Johnson. Outside of politics she was involved in other community service groups such as: the Democratic Women on Wheels and the Telephone Pioneers of America.

Mary Constantino began her political career at the early age of eighteen. Mary has worked hard for the Milford Democratic Committee, going door to door asking for votes. She has also been influential in persuading many to join the Democratic party. In all of her thirty five years of membership she has never missed a Democratic convention held in Milford, Massachusetts. Mary is also involved in her community in many other ways. She has been a member of the Grandparents for Lit-

eracy group, and was honored by the Jaycees for her work with children. She was named Woman of the Year by the American Heart Association, in honor of her eighteen years of service. Mary Constantino is an asset to the town of Milford and the state of Massachusetts.

Both Claire L. Cummings and Mary Constantino are assets to the Milford Democratic Committee, their state, and our nation. I am pleased to recognize the contributions of both of these women to the second congressional district of Massachusetts.

IN HONOR OF ANNUNCIATION PARISH
COMMUNITY IN CELEBRATION
OF 75 YEARS OF SERVICE

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 14, 1999

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in celebration of the Annunciation Parish Community as it celebrates its 75th year of dedicated service to the West Cleveland community.

The Annunciation Parish Community, through its "willingness to bear Jesus to the world," has served as a center for the religious expression and the spiritual growth of the West 130th and Bennington communities.

Through the rite of Baptism as well as conversions, Annunciation has brought many members of the community into the Catholic faith. Throughout the years, Annunciation has served as a center of spiritual and religious growth within the community through the rites of Eucharist and Confirmation. Also, Annunciation unites Catholic members of the community through marriage, offers spiritual pardons through confession, as well as memorializes the deceased through Christian burial.

Annunciation has also educated generations of young men, women and children who have passed through the residential school over the last seventy years. In addition to teaching children the fundamental academic disciplines, Annunciation has taught the importance of service to the community. Currently, Annunciation is involved in helping to bring the Belaire-Puritas Development Corporation and the Meals-On-Wheels to the area, providing their end of the month Neighborhood Meal, and monthly Food Collection and Hunger Collection, both of which are very supportive of the West Park Community Cupboard.

It is evident that the Annunciation Parish Community has, over the years, played a crucial role in the community, and that its many years of service have been an invaluable contribution to the West Cleveland community.

HONORING SISTER BRIGID
DRISCOLL

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 14, 1999

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Sister Brigid Driscoll for a lifetime of service and commitment to education. Sister Brigid has pledged her life's work to furthering

educational opportunity, especially for young women. She began her career at Marymount College in Tarrytown, New York as a mathematics professor, and later became Academic Dean and Director of Continuing Education. In June, she retired from her twenty year post as President of Marymount College.

I was moved to recognize the great accomplishments of Sister Brigid because she has been an important force in my life. Marymount College is my alma mater. Sister Brigid served as an advisor in my residence hall, Gailhac Hall, where her wisdom and guidance were often sought by myself and the other young women in the hall. Sister Brigid was the kind of leader who tested the will of the young women like myself. Back in those days, we all thought we knew everything. As we pushed the edge of the envelope, Sister Brigid pushed us right back. Sister Brigid was very familiar with some of the antics college women are inclined to participate in. One memorable evening, after a fire started in the lounge of Gailhac Hall, some of us went to alert Sister Brigid, however, it was the night before April Fools Day and she laughed it off, telling us to just "put it out." After a few more minutes, when she began to smell the smoke herself, she burst out of her room, complete with her elaborate habit, and helped us carry the burning couch out to the patio. Clearly, Sister Brigid was developing her crisis management skills as she led the young women of Gailhac Hall.

She challenged us, while still allowing us to think for ourselves and determine our own path. She inspired those around her to work harder and strive to reach our fullest potential. Through her example, she instilled in us the virtues of public service. Sister Brigid demonstrated to us a lifetime commitment to furthering the ideals one holds dear and that, indeed, a woman is capable of achieving anything.

As the leader of Marymount College, a liberal arts college for women, she sought to provide a rich educational environment where women are encouraged to lead and learn. As an ardent proponent of state and financial federal assistance, and the Director of the National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities and the New York State Commission of Independent Colleges and Universities, she has worked tirelessly to promote the benefits of private institutions of higher learning, and to increase access for young people of all backgrounds.

Private colleges and universities have been the choice of Sister Brigid's own educational foundation. She earned a Bachelor's degree in Mathematics from Marymount Manhattan College, a Master's degree from Catholic University, and a PhD in Mathematics from City University of New York. This year, in recognition of her distinguished service to the school, Marymount College bestowed on her the Honorary Degree of Doctor of Humane Letters.

Sister Brigid is truly an educational visionary. In 1975, she founded the Weekend College at Marymount College. It was the first full Bachelor's Degree program in the area for working adults. She recognized that her community needed higher education that was accessible and convenient for working men and women. Because of her, hundreds of adults have earned their college degrees, and have accomplished what may have been a distant goal at one time. Many people see problems,

Sister Brigid is the kind of woman who creates solutions.

All who have worked with Sister Brigid are amazed at her endless energy. She is active in numerous community organizations, serving on the Boards of First American Bankshares, Inc. and The Westchester County Association. She is a member of the exclusive Women's Forum, a group of 300 leading women in the New York arts and business forum. She has also served on past boards of the Statute of Liberty/Ellis Island Commission, the United Way of America Second Century Initiative, the National Board of Girl Scouts USA, and the Axe-Houghton Funds.

Although Sister Brigid has retired, those of us who know her can tell you she is not finished with her work yet. She will continue to use her talents and experience for projects which focus on furthering the progress of education for women. I am proud to stand here today to honor one of my earliest role models. I join with her friends, colleagues, and students to thank her for her years of service and wish her a very happy and healthy retirement.

TEACHERS' CREDENTIALS

HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 14, 1999

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, many small colleges are unfortunately in a struggle to survive today. Let us suppose a very possible hypothetical situation in which a college professor with a Ph.D. and 20 years of teaching experience loses his or her job because a college closes down.

Today, that professor, even with a Ph.D. and many years of teaching experience, could not teach in the public schools—this in the face of a teachers shortage.

It makes no sense whatsoever that someone with great education, experience, or success in a particular field should not be allowed to teach because of not having taken a few education courses.

A degree in education should be a plus in favor of hiring a teacher. But lack of an education degree should not prevent a well-qualified person from being hired as a teacher.

I would like to call to the attention of my colleagues and other readers of the RECORD the following article by Jeanne Etkins from the September 2 issue of the Christian Science Monitor.

TEACHERS VS. "EDUCATORS"

American students bottom-out on international math and science tests and too many need remedial reading and writing classes in college.

One important reason is that we easily accept credentialed educators over effective teachers. Too many unprepared graduates are allowed to become "educators." Teaching is one of America's most important professions and yet our education bureaucracy—high on credentialism and low on pay—makes it difficult for well-educated people to become teachers.

Instead of making it easier for better teachers to enter the profession, our solution to our problems is too often to dumb down,

not wise up. For example, we gave A's and B's to two-thirds of the nations eight-graders, even though many are unprepared to handle high school. We "re-center" SAT scores to obscure declining student abilities. And we grant college diplomas—and teaching degrees—to people who haven't mastered high school material. (Tell me, who hasn't heard about that 60 percent failure rate on the Massachusetts teacher's entrance exam?)

Although students, teachers, and school administrators clearly don't make the grade, taxpayers spend a fortune on education—\$565 billion, in federal, state, and local funds, in 1997. And yet, the United Way estimates states and businesses shell out \$20 billion annually to teach employees and college students fundamental literacy skills. A very big reason for this is that we invest in good "educators" not good teachers.

People serious about a subject don't major in education. Scientists major in science, historian study history, and mathematicians focus on math. If people are really serious, they earn graduate degrees.

So why aren't more of these experts teaching our children? Because a BA in education qualifies teachers, but an MA or even a PhD in any other field does not.

Furthermore, adding college teaching to a doctorate won't get the most persistent teacher-wannabe a job in a public school. We don't "certify" people to teach unless they've taken education theory courses, no matter how knowledgeable they are in academic areas.

Not that every expert in a field is going to teach well—but it's not a far-fetched notion that someone who loves and understands a subject can ignite a student's interest in it.

How many brilliant people with graduate degrees do you think are willing to sacrifice \$20,000 and an additional two years on education courses in order to land a \$25,000 per year teaching job? Not many, and the number is smaller if you consider that we refuse to pay higher starting salaries to career-changers who may have spent years working in their fields.

Noncompetitive salaries and unreasonable requirements discourage professionals and capable college graduates from entering teaching.

Even the most dedicated teachers already in the profession bail out because of other reasons—overcrowded classrooms and disrespectful students. One out of 5 teachers—many of the best—began abandoning the profession in 1991 for more rewarding careers, according to the US Department of Education. Can we really blame them? All too often we demand they tolerate students whose abusive language and disruptive behavior in the classroom prevent teaching and would surely get them locked up or expelled from any church, store, library, or theater.

"Teaching is rewarding, but the pay is lousy" is fast becoming "Teaching is unrewarding, and the pay is lousy." It's no wonder that the best and the brightest rarely go into teaching, and when they do, few stay. It's time to reverse this dangerous trend.

We will save money and graduate smarter kids when we make it easier for motivated, knowledgeable professionals to make the transition into teaching. They don't need to be credentialed to start the job. There's no reason we should be able to train defense employees on the job—to program ballistic missiles, for goodness sake—but not teachers.

Don't misunderstand, though. Paying teachers competitive starting salaries and hiring more academic experts won't guarantee a Lake Wobegon society. Every student is not "above average," regardless of

the number of A's and B's teachers are encouraged to pass out.

But our chance for improving public schools rises dramatically when we make it easier, not more difficult, for the right people to become teachers.

Well-educated people want to teach.

Are we wise enough to let them into the classrooms? Will we pay what it takes to keep them there?

CONGRATULATIONS TO ANN KUTSCHER

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 14, 1999

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, it has come to my attention that Ann Kutscher of Jefferson City, Missouri, has been selected to serve as Governor of the Western Missouri District of the Optimists International. Ann has selflessly served her community, and it is my pleasure to recognize a few of her many outstanding achievements.

Ann Kutscher has dedicated her life to community service through a variety of organizations and positions. Ann has been a member of the Jefferson City Optimist Club since 1991 and has previously served as the President of the chapter. On August 21, 1999, she was installed District Governor.

For over twenty years, Kutscher has been a devoted member on the General Federated Women's Clubs of Missouri, Inc. (GFWC). In GFWC, she has served as State President, Mississippi Valley Region President, and as member of the International Resolutions Committee and Diana's Club. Kutscher also formed the GFWC-Jefferson City New Horizon Junior Club.

An active environmentalist, Ann has served on the Conservation Federation of Missouri, holding the positions of Honorary Chairman, Treasurer, and she was the first woman elected President of the board. She also served as past President of the Mid-Missouri Conservation Society, and she is on the Jefferson City Parks and Recreation Committee.

Ann's wide range of involvement also includes youth leadership development and church volunteerism. She has served as State Chairman for the Hugh O'Brein Youth Leadership Foundation and has been serving as the Missouri Girls Town Board President since 1986. She has also been an active member of the Trinity Lutheran Church in Jefferson City, as Assistant Treasurer, President of the Trinity Missionary Society, and Chairperson of the Trinity Steering/Building Committee.

Mr. Speaker, Ann Kutscher is a personal friend of mine, and I have had the privilege to have her on my staff for many years. She is a devoted parent and grandparent with three sons and six grandchildren. From 1973 to 1976, she was my Administrative Assistant when I served in the Missouri Senate. Since 1983, I have had the pleasure of having Ann as a Capitol Liaison in my Jefferson City district office. Ann Kutscher is a true model of dedication and achievement for her community and State. I know the Members of the House will join me in offering a heartfelt congratulations to Ann Kutscher.