

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GARY G. MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 10, 1999

Mr. GARY MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, November 8, I was inadvertently detained and unable to vote on the following measures:

Rollcall No. 574, recognizing the generous contribution made by each living person who has donated a kidney to save a life;

Rollcall No. 575, amending the Ethics in Government Act of 1978 to reauthorize funding for the Office of Government Ethics; and

Rollcall No. 576, recognizing and honoring Payne Steward and expressing the condolences of the House of Representatives to his family on his death and to the families of those who died with him.

Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on rollcall Nos. 574, 575, and 576.

HONORING AGNES FUSS

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 10, 1999

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mrs. Agnes Fuss for her years of service to her country and her community. "Miss Agnes" is the person in the Upper Cumberland area of my district call when they need help.

Perhaps because she is a federal retiree, she is especially good at providing assistance to those confused by the sometimes complicated workings of government. She has been described as a favorite of seniors and a lifesaver. Agnes would simply tell you her reward is the satisfaction she derives from helping people solve problems.

Agnes lives in Jackson County with her husband, Floyd. Born in St. Johns, Newfoundland, Mary Agnes Myers was educated at a local parochial school and commercial college. In May 1955, she married Floyd Fuss, a U.S. Air Force serviceman, while he was in St. Johns as part of his military service. Two years later, she immigrated to the United States. In March 1959, Agnes was naturalized in the Eastern District Court in Philadelphia.

Agnes attended Kennesaw College in Georgia. In 1966, she was hired as a clerk in the Overseas Employee Office at Dobbins Air Force Base in Marietta, GA. She was later promoted to Chief of the Classification Division. Agnes retired in 1993, after 27 years of service.

Agnes and Floyd have four children and seven grandchildren, on whom she likes to brag. She is very family-oriented and, after 44 years of marriage, always has kind, complimentary words to say about Floyd.

For someone who has been so giving, I would like to take the opportunity to personally thank Miss Agnes for the contributions she has made to her country and to the people of the Sixth District. In short, although she may feel uncomfortable with all this praise, I just wanted to make a Fuss about Agnes.

TRIBUTE TO GEORGE WEBER

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 10, 1999

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to recognize the dedication and accomplishments of Mr. George Weber. I would like to honor this individual who has managed to balance his time and energy between his job teaching music, his role as a wilderness leader and a career as a musician.

Mr. Weber has been teaching at the Colorado Rocky Mountain School since 1996 and before that he taught at the September School in Boulder, Colorado. Aside from his involvement and dedication to the students in the classroom, Mr. Weber also conducts extended trips into the wilderness of three to ten days.

In addition to his demanding life with the Colorado Rocky Mountain School, he is also a veteran of the bluegrass music community. From his experience in the past with "the Medicine Bow Quartet," "The George Weber Band," and "Hot Rize" to his current work with the group "Live Five," he has been offering his skills, passion and talent to his fans and Colorado in general.

It is my pleasure to congratulate Mr. George Weber on his success and to thank him for his dedication as well as his willingness and ability to entertain and educate Colorado.

HONORING THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE COMMUNITY OF SLEEPY HOLLOW WOODS

HON. THOMAS M. DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 10, 1999

Mr. DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a neighborhood community that was founded in my district 40 years ago this Thanksgiving weekend. Sleepy Hollow Woods, home to the second oldest tree in the state of Virginia, at nearly 400 years of age, has played a significant role in the Falls Church community throughout the years. It has been a neighborhood where families can raise their children and their children can in turn raise their children.

On Thanksgiving Day of 1958, the first family moved into the new neighborhood located off Columbia Pike, just across from Mason District Part. One year later, in 1959, the community of Sleepy Hollow Woods was established. In the post-World War II era, the first families were mostly young Pentagon and Capitol Hill types who were looking to start families of their own. Sleepy Hollow Woods with its affordable housing and convenient proximity to Washington, D.C., made this an ideal community for young families.

Sleepy Hollow Woods, with its winding streets, shady trees and spacious private yards has received accolades in a national magazine when the neighborhood first opened. People traveled from all around the nation not only to view the community but also to reside in one of the new model homes. As with all new communities inhabited by young professionals, there has always been a feeling of hustle and bustle in Sleepy Hollow Woods.

Waking up early on Saturday mornings to the sound and smell of fresh grass being cut; the laughter of children playing in the yard; and the sounds of a kick-ball game in the cul-de-sac. Not much has changed since 1959. The trees are a little larger and new faces have blossomed, but the community closeness and pride has never left the neighborhood.

Currently, Sleepy Hollow Woods has 378 homes and almost fifty nationalities are represented. Everyone is community conscious and there is a high number of volunteers for neighborhood projects and neighbor support. To demonstrate how close-knit the community is, the residents of Sleepy Hollow Woods are holding a series of celebrations to mark the 40th anniversary of the founding of the neighborhood. All 43 original homeowners have been invited of which 39 will be in attendance.

Mr. Speaker, in conclusion, I would like to ask my colleagues join me today in commending Sleepy Hollow Woods for its rich history and dedication to their neighborhood and community. I also would like to wish Sleepy Hollow Woods a warm congratulations on their 40th anniversary and for being a community whose vision and character reflect the best of America.

VETERANS CEREMONY AT JEFFERSON HIGH SCHOOL HONORING GOLD STAR MOTHERS OF VIETNAM VETERANS

HON. SILVESTRE REYES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 10, 1999

Mr. REYES. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize a special event taking place in my congressional district this week. El Paso's Jefferson High School is commemorating the fiftieth anniversary of the founding of the school. As part of this week long commemoration, the Jefferson High School Ex-Student's Association is honoring today, Jefferson High School veterans and their families. Specifically, they are taking special notice of the service and sacrifice of twelve Jefferson High School graduates from the class of 1967. These twelve individuals represent the largest number of students from one high school to have graduated in the same year who died in the Vietnam War. These young people were in the prime of their lives, and whose contribution to the world can never be fully measured. Who knows what lives these individuals would have led, contributions they could have made, or accomplishments they could have attained? However, their service to this country in the name of freedom, serves as an inspiration for their classmates, fellow El Pasoans, and citizens across this nation.

The mothers of these veterans are El Paso Gold Star Mothers. They follow a long tradition, going back seventy years to the founding of the American Gold Star Mothers. The Gold Star Mothers got their name from the practice of mothers of veterans displaying a gold star in their homes, as a symbol of their children who died fighting. Congress officially recognized this organization in 1929, and the members of this organization provide service to veterans, their families and communities. They contribute to developing and keeping alive the spirit of world service, assist veterans and

their dependents in presenting claims to the Veterans' Administration, perpetuate the memory of those who died during war, teach lessons of patriotism and love of country, and inspire respect for the flag in the youth of America.

The Gold Star Mothers of El Paso remind us of the never-ending bond between families. They remind us of the sacrifice that families of veterans make as they endure the fears and concerns of having loved ones overseas, and the loss from loved ones who never return.

As Veterans Day memorials take place this week throughout the nation, the Jefferson High School commemoration is a special event honoring the incredible sacrifice and service of one community. The twelve Vietnam Veteran classmates of 1967, are part of a larger number of Jefferson High School veterans who served and risked their lives for American values and ideals. These men and women reflect an El Paso community which maintains a long history of distinguished military service with the presence of Fort Bliss. Our community of veterans includes those from World War I, World War II, Korea, Vietnam, and the Persian Gulf and other conflicts where American troops have stood against totalitarianism and threats to our national security.

The Jefferson High School ceremony also reminds us of our young men and women who are currently deployed around the world. These fine soldiers are our nation's first line of defense and they protect our interests and allies whether they are in Bosnia, the Middle East, Korea, or Europe. The incredible freedom we enjoy in these times of prosperity is a direct consequence of the service of these brave men and women and the veterans who preceded them throughout this century. We should be grateful for their commitment and dedication and never take for granted the high price they and their families pay to defend our liberty.

On this the fiftieth anniversary of Jefferson High School, let us remember the duty, honor, and sacrifice made by the graduates of this school, by their families, and the community that supports and honors them.

Veterans Day asks all Americans to take stock in this nation's incredible opportunities and freedoms, and urges us to always remember our courageous veterans.

God bless these veterans and their families.

CONGRATULATING ERIC LEWIS

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 10, 1999

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Mr. Eric Lewis from Camden, New Jersey on winning the prestigious Thelonious Monk International Jazz Piano Competition. As a Camden native, Mr. Lewis has brought great pride both to the city of Camden and to the entire state of New Jersey, as well as to musicians all over world. In addition to his exceptional musical talents, Mr. Lewis obviously shares a commitment to his community. Mr. Lewis has pledged to donate ten percent of his winnings to his local church. This unselfishness and generosity is a testament to Mr. Lewis' character and an ex-

ample to all. I have confidence that he will use his exceptional talent to give back to his neighbors and community. Once again, hats off to Mr. Eric Lewis on this outstanding accomplishment.

PARENTS HAVE A RIGHT TO KNOW ABOUT TOXIC RISKS TO THEIR CHILDREN'S HEALTH

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 10, 1999

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation that will help protect our children from illness and disease that can result from chemical exposure to pesticides. My legislation, the School Environment Protection (SEPA) Act, addresses the need for schools to provide protective action from the effects of pesticide use in school buildings and on school grounds.

Parents entrust their children's safety to schools and have the right to know what toxic substances their children are being exposed to. There are safe alternatives to the use of dangerous chemicals as pesticides and herbicides. This bill would encourage schools to use integrated pest management techniques that have proven to be safe and effective. In the event that potentially dangerous chemicals would have to be used, this Right to Know Act will require our schools to inform parents of any risk to which their children would be exposed. My proposal will take simple steps to ensure children's safety in the place where they spend most of their time, school.

When it comes to pesticide exposure, children are one of the least protected groups. Due to their small size, children take in more pesticides relative to their body weight than adults and are also less likely to detoxify toxic chemicals through their still developing organ systems.

The National Academy of Sciences Report, Pesticides in the Diets of Infants and Children, found that the current EPA generally lacks data on children's susceptibility to pesticide exposure that would allow them to provide adequate standards necessary to protect children. The EPA is beginning the process to review pesticides, however, this could take them months or even years. Meanwhile, schools are frequently using pesticides that have the potential to harm our children's physical and mental development. Maryland schools reported 94% of their school districts surveyed used pesticides that have been linked to cancer. Similar results were yielded in California with 93% of its school districts surveyed using pesticides known for causing cancer. This usage can be a serious detriment to our children's health. We do not have time to wait for the EPA's results. According to the National Cancer Institute, childhood cancer has increased over 1 percent a year. Too many of our children's health and lives are at risk now and in the future.

Studies have shown that children living in households where pesticides are used suffered elevated rates of soft tissue sarcoma, leukemia and brain cancer. A study done by Childhood Leukemia and Parents' Occupational and Home Exposures found that in homes where pesticides were used a 3.8-fold

higher risk of childhood leukemia was likely and when pesticides were used in the garden a 6.5-fold higher risk was reported.

Some states have taken action to combat this ever-growing problem, however state protection is uneven and children in 20 states have no protection at all from these potentially deadly chemicals.

My SEPA legislation will require the use of the safest pesticides in and around our schools. All pesticides that have been determined to cause cancer, mutations, neurological and immune system effects and other serious toxic effects will be excluded from use in schools. Schools may use conventional pesticides if less toxic substances cannot control or prevent a pest as long as the school community is given at least 24 hours notice of application.

Several national and regional groups have already come out in support of my bill. This includes the National Education Association, Children's Health Environment Coalition, Citizens for a Better Environment, New Jersey Coalition for Alternatives to Pesticides and the New Jersey Environmental Federation.

SEPA will force our nation to better protect all our children from unnecessary chemical effects and assist our youth in living healthier, longer lives. I urge all my colleagues to join in this "Right to Know" effort by supporting the School Environmental Protection Act.

RELIEF FOR AKAL SECURITY

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 10, 1999

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduce a bill that would allow a business, Akal Security, located in Santa Cruz, New Mexico, to receive payment for services it performed for the United States Government almost a decade ago.

In the Spring of 1991, Akal Security performed guard services as emergency work during the Desert Storm situation. Specifically, security services were performed at a record storage site located in St. Louis, Missouri. The storage site was leased to the Army Corps of Engineers and was further leased to the Army Reserve Personnel Center (ARPERCEN). The services were orally ordered by the United States Corps of Engineers for the month of March, 1991.

On April 3, 1991, Akal submitted its invoice for \$10,208.74 for services performed. After multiple requests, the Department of the Army has still not paid the bill owed. To date, there has never been any question that the services were in fact ordered by the COE and rendered by Akal Security.

In December, 1992, the Deputy General Counsel of the Department of the Army notified Akal Security that the guard services could not be procured because it could cause a violation of 10 U.S.C. Sec 2465. This section provides that the "Department of Defense may not be obligated—for the purpose of entering into a contract for the performance of—security-guard functions at any military installation or facility." The only recommendation of the Deputy General Counsel was that Akal could seek private relief legislation.

Mr. Speaker, correspondence from a Colonel Greiling in 1995 indicates that the Army