

eyes when we no longer need them. I encourage people to discuss this important issue with their families, as Nathan did. By arranging to donate his eye, this young boy has shown us that some good can result even from a tragic loss.

Our nation's eye banks—non-profit agencies operating under the umbrella of the Eye Bank Association of America—have done a heroic job of restoring sight to blind people. Today, cornea transplantation is the most common transplant procedure performed, with an extremely high success rate of nearly 90 percent.

This incredible success rate is due in part to a meticulous screening process which separates out corneas unsuitable for transplantation. These may be used for research purposes in surgical training and medical education. So, while each donated eye is put to good use, such a selective screening process must be supported by a large number of donations.

Right now, there are simply not enough donors. We must change that. I want to encourage my colleagues to celebrate National Eye Donor Month by working closely with our Nation's eye banks to educate the American public about how they can help others to see. Let us all aim to increase the number of eyes available for transplantation, so that we may illuminate the darkness for so many of our fellow citizens.

**TRIBUTE TO HANNAH COVINGTON
MCGEE**

HON. ROBIN HAYES

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 3, 1999

Mr. HAYES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Hannah Covington McGee, a woman who was dedicated to serve in her community and at Wingate University in Wingate, North Carolina.

Mrs. McGee, was a native of Rockingham, North Carolina. The McGees moved to Wingate 6½ years ago when her husband, Jerry, was named president of Wingate University. Together they have raised two sons and served the thousands of students who have attended Wingate University under their tenure.

Jerry and Hannah McGee have been married 33 years. They have been sweethearts ever since his high school football days in Richmond County, North Carolina. Dr. McGee often referred to his wife as "the girl with the ponytail who stole my heart."

At Wingate University, Mrs. McGee, an art lover, took a keen interest in the new fine arts center. She helped lead the fund-raising campaign for a new George A. Batte Fine Arts Center and assisted with its interior decoration. As the wife of the President, Mrs. McGee attended numerous dinners, graduations and special functions at Wingate, that she was not required to attend. But she shared her husband's commitment to the University and was honored to participate.

In the community, Mrs. McGee was tireless in her efforts to serve. She helped launch English as a second language program in the Union County schools. Mrs. McGee was on the Board of Directors at the Union County

Players, and she helped in restoring the M.B. Dry Memorial Chapel on campus.

Most recently, the McGees were in Tortola in the British Virgin Islands where Dr. McGee was on a three month sabbatical to relax and spend more time with his wife. In remarks Dr. McGee released, he said, "She was the mother, wife, daughter and sister that everyone dreams of—one of the easiest people to love who ever lived." Hannah McGee will be missed. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring a remarkable woman.

CELEBRATING THE 15TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SECURUS HOUSE IN CLAYTON COUNTY, GEORGIA

HON. MAC COLLINS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 3, 1999

Mr. COLLINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate and commemorate the anniversary of the Securus House in Clayton County, Georgia. In 1983, three members of the Clayton County/Henry County Women's Council of Realtors, Tricia Capps, Jane Cox, and Betsy Ramsey discussed options for a community project with Anne Plant, Director of Family and Children Services. These concerned citizens joined together to establish a badly needed facility for battered women. On March 9, 1999, the Securus House will celebrate fifteen years of work to ease and overcome family violence.

With well over 82,000 men, women, and children requesting assistance from this community project, the Securus House is a daily, working example of what local communities are capable of accomplishing.

Every day, the Securus House makes strides toward the elimination of domestic violence. Although it has sheltered over 3,400 women and children, tragically, between 1988 and 1998 in Clayton County, one hundred and seventeen women, children, and men died as the result of domestic violence. Their lives will be remembered in a candlelight vigil as part of the anniversary commemoration.

I congratulate and commend the Securus House and Clayton County for their tremendous efforts on behalf of the community and for the difference they make every day.

**MARY McAFFEE NAMED THE
MILKEN FAMILY FOUNDATION
NATIONAL EDUCATOR**

HON. HEATHER WILSON

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 3, 1999

Mrs. WILSON. Mr. Speaker, I wish to bring to your attention the honor bestowed upon Mary McAfee, Principal of Zuni Elementary Magnet School, Albuquerque, New Mexico. Ms. McAfee has been named to receive the 1998 Milken Family Foundation National Educator Award.

Mary McAfee is one of 160 outstanding educators from around our great country selected for this honor. The criterion for this award includes exceptional educational talent and promise and distinguished achievement in developing innovative educational curricula, pro-

grams and/or teaching methods. Within her school, Zuni Elementary, Ms. McAfee provides leadership and models the behaviors identified in the criteria. By providing the example she raises the standard for all teachers at Zuni Elementary, supporting a team environment for children to learn.

This Award is the reflection of the many lives Mary McAfee has touched. With all of the talk about how to improve education, Mary McAfee is actually making those improvements for the children of Zuni Elementary and for our great community of Albuquerque, New Mexico. Please join me in thanking and honoring Mary McAfee for those contributions.

IN HONOR OF DEPUTY MAYOR ANGELO CORTINAS AND COUNCILMAN ANSELMO MILLAN, FOR THEIR DEDICATION TO THE HISPANIC COMMUNITY

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 3, 1999

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the late Honorable Angelo Cortinas and the Honorable Anselmo Millan for their dedication and commitment to the Hispanic Community.

In his days as a detective for the Office of the Sheriff, Deputy Mayor Angelo Cortinas worked tirelessly for the citizens of Essex County. Responsible for more than 2,000 arrests during his 26 years on the force, Mr. Cortinas was committed to the safety and well being of the community. More specifically, Mr. Cortinas devoted his life and career to the betterment of Latinos and the Hispanic Community.

Through hard work and perseverance, Mr. Cortinas' grassroots efforts provided many services to the Latinos in my district. He served as founding member on the Hispanic Emergency Council, the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, and the Hispanic Law Enforcement Society of Essex County. He also served as Chairman of Club Espana, Vice President of the National Association of Latino Trustees, Honorary member of the Cuban American Association, and as a member of the State Democratic Hispanic League of Voters. In addition, Mr. Cortinas served as the Chairman of the College Board since 1993, making him the first Hispanic in the state to attain this distinguished position.

After retiring from an impressive career with the Sheriff's Office, Mr. Cortinas used his years of experience to further serve the community by entering into politics. Since January, 1998, Mr. Cortinas had served as Deputy Mayor of Newark until his recent passing. Mr. Cortinas will be greatly missed by the Latino Community, the City of Newark, and the 13th Congressional District.

Anselmo Millan was elected in 1995 as the first ever Hispanic Councilman in the Town of Harrison. He has been a source of leadership to the jurisdiction, as well as to the Hispanic Community. Mr. Millan has coordinated citizenship drives, clothes drives for survivors of Hurricanes Mitch and Hortense, and helped organize the Coalicion de Sociedades Espanolas. He has also been a leader for Latino vote-USA, an organization that is devoted to including Latinos in the democratic process.

Mr. Millan continues to serve the community by maintaining memberships on many committees and boards. From the Boy Scouts of America and the Harrison PTA, to Club Espana and Casa Galicia, Mr. Millan has solidified his position in the community as a youth advocate and Hispanic Leader.

And his efforts have not gone unnoticed. Mr. Millan has won numerous awards including the Award of Honor Al Merito for Commitment to the Hispanic Community and awards of support from the Uruguayan, Portuguese, and Equatorian communities.

In addition to the leadership and support Mr. Millan has provided to the Latinos of Harrison, he has also served the larger community through his environmental concerns. Acting as Chairman to a number of environmentally conscious organizations such as Clean Communities, the Beautification Committee, and the Brownfields Committee, Mr. Millan helped shine a light on environmental issues both in the 13th District as well as the state of New Jersey.

These two men exemplify leadership and dedication to both the Hispanic Community and the community at large. For these tremendous contributions to New Jersey and their incredible example as public servants, I am very happy to honor these individuals for their achievements. I salute and congratulate both of them on their extraordinary accomplishments.

CONGRATULATING DANIEL DIRNBERGER OF ORAN, MO: SECOND PLACE NATIONAL WINNER IN THE VFW 1999 VOICE OF DEMOCRACY PROGRAM

HON. JO ANN EMERSON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 3, 1999

Mrs. EMERSON. Mr. Speaker, on Sunday, February 28, 1999, the Veterans of Foreign Wars announced that Daniel Dirnberger, a senior at Oran High School in Scott County, Missouri, was the second place National winner of the "1999 Voice of Democracy Program." Daniel was sponsored by Morley VFW Post 5368 and its Ladies Auxiliary. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Dirnberger, and he plans on attending Southeast Missouri University next school year.

Daniel's essay, entitled "My Service to America," captures the very essence of what it means to be an American. In a self-governing nation such as ours, each and everyone of us serves our country when we "simply be the best we can be, fight the good fight, and be someone who is strong and proud to call themselves an American. We do that and everything that our elders bled, fought, and died for will be truly honored." I have enclosed a copy of Daniel's essay for the record. I hope that my colleagues will take a few minutes to read his words, and to share his essay with young people in their districts. Daniel exemplifies the energy, the optimism, and the dedication to country that compelled our Founding Fathers in their drive to create one nation, under God, indivisible with liberty and justice for all.

MY SERVICE TO AMERICA

(By Daniel Dirnberger)

As I stood in the darkness of the theater watching the end of the war movie "Saving Private Ryan" my eyes welled up with tears as the older Private Ryan stood at the grave of his friend. This scene made me think about how much these brave men and women have had to suffer and sacrifice so that our freedom may endure to this day. From where I stood I could see many of the reactions of the people in the audience. Some wept, others held their heads low, and still others seem so shocked that emotional reaction was impossible for them to express. What attracted my attention, however, was the reaction of the war veterans who had come to see the movie that day.

The veterans sat in a group on the top row. None of them had shown any emotion during the movie until Private Ryan saluted the grave of his friend. At that moment the entire group of veterans stood up silently. Each one took off his hat, and all bowed their heads. This simple, quiet act touched me deeply and almost drove me to tears. It filled me with a deep sense of pride and admiration for these men and women who had endured so much for our country.

As I walked out of the theater I felt ashamed. These people have given so much and I have given so little. Then I began to think about my service to America, what was I doing to try and make this country a better place? I could not think of any major task that I had accomplished to make me worthy of the freedom that was given to me. Then I thought of a very different service that I had been performing since I was young. I have always tried to do well in school, be an upright citizen, and obey the laws but these things were so minor, so insignificant that they could not possibly matter in this big country of ours.

I know now that I was wrong about these small services to America. These services are not insignificant: they are the most important services that we as Americans today can do for our country. Just think what would happen if everyone tried just a little harder to do better, work together, and be the best they can be. Our country would be just a little bit better place to live and work. There are the pessimists who say that this view is nothing but a utopian philosophy that can never come true but these people have miscalculated their predictions of the future. They have forgotten about the power of the human spirit. This power can overcome any obstacle or challenge that is presented to it. All the spirit needs is a catalyst to push it on.

Too many Americans have lost their faith in the human spirit. The media's negative news and the magazines slanderous articles break down the structure of society. These things lead our entire society to believe that the world is a horrible place filled with the monsters that used to haunt us as children. I believe that the human spirit can be reborn. If we all do our part or if even just a few of us do a little, the human spirit will shine through the negativity that surrounds us and we can defeat the monsters that the media has led us to believe exist in our society.

Your service to America can be large or small, depending on the type of person you are. It does not take much to help your country or another person. Voting, volunteering, or simply picking up a piece of trash on the ground can help all of us. Don't say you don't have enough time to do something good and helpful. You have exactly the same number of hours per day that were

given to Helen Keller, Pasteur, Michelangelo, Mother Teresa, Leonardo da Vinci, Thomas Jefferson, and Albert Einstein. (H. Jackson Brown, Jr.) Remember, if you don't do it, you'll never know what would have happened if you had done it.

My service to America and my suggestions may seem small but in reality they are larger than you can imagine. By doing these little things we are contributing to a larger body of people who, like me, believe that the human spirit is the most powerful thing of all once it is driven on. The war today my friends is not on the battlefield of a foreign country but on the very land or our own country. My service, indeed all our services, to America is simply to be the best we can be, to fight the good fight, and be someone who is strong and proud to call themselves an American. We do that and everything that our elders bled, fought, and died for will truly be honored. We will be one nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all!

TRIBUTE TO NICK MADDOX ON WINNING ASSOCIATED PRESS PLAYER OF THE YEAR FOR NORTH CAROLINA

HON. ROBIN HAYES

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 3, 1999

Mr. HAYES. Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct honor and pleasure to rise today to pay special tribute to an outstanding student-athlete from North Carolina's Eighth Congressional District. Nick Maddox, a senior at A.L. Brown High School in Kannapolis, North Carolina, has proved through his play on the field that he is one of the top tailbacks in the country.

For the past two years, Nick Maddox has been honored with many awards for his athletic talents, including: Parade All-American and Associated Press Player of the Year for North Carolina. Mr. Maddox demonstrated that with a great deal of hard work, dedication to his teammates, and a strong sense of commitment, you can realize your dreams.

Mr. Maddox has been humble in the spotlight, giving credit to his fellow teammates and coaches. The A.L. Brown High School Wonders finished the 1998 football season with an undefeated regular season with an record of 11-0 and made it to the North Carolina High School Athletic Association division AAA football play-offs.

The 5-foot-11, 190-pound Maddox had 45 total touchdowns while rushing for 2,574 yards last season. Maddox finished his high-school career with more than 6,600 rushing yards and a state record 114 touchdowns. Mr. Maddox will be continuing his football career in the Atlantic Coast Conference at Florida State University.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Nick Maddox for his accomplishments on and off the field. I urge all of my colleagues to join me in paying special tribute to an outstanding student-athlete.