

Johns Hopkins University as an undergraduate; Amanda M. Gunn who is pursuing her doctorate at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro; and, Suzanne Degges White who is pursuing her masters also at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro.

An Uncommon Legacy Foundation 1999 scholarship recipients are as follows:

Katie Batza is pursuing a bachelor's degree in history at John Hopkins University. At the age of 15, Katie helped start YouthPride, an Atlanta-based support group for gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender youth, which has, in less than five years, served over one thousand people.

Amanda M. Gunn is pursuing her doctorate in cultural studies through the Department of Education at the University of North Carolina/Greensboro (UNCG). She will be presenting her thesis, *Lesbian Passing: Identity Construction as a Strategy for Survival in a Perceived Hostile Work Environment*, at the Eastern Communication Association and UNCG Women's Studies luncheon.

Suzanne Degges White is a first-year masters student in the Counseling and Counselor Education program at the University of North Carolina/Greensboro (UNCG). She is enrolled in the MS/PHD track in community counseling at UNCG. Suzanne was instrumental in obtaining a state charter for the North Carolina Association for Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual Issues in Counseling, a division of the North Carolina Counseling Association.

Mr. Speaker, the Annual Celebration of Women in one of Legacy's most important and widely attended events. The generous contributions of the women in this community who actively support An Uncommon Legacy Foundation make the work vital to the lesbian community possible and represents a true investment in the future leaders of our great country. I ask the House to join me in expressing our gratitude to An Uncommon Legacy Foundation, its national co-chair, Andrea Sharrin, Board member, Mary Snider—both of whom I am proud to say are members of our D.C. family; and the entire national Board for their leadership and support to women across this nation.

EARTH DAY

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 1999

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, Earth Day reminds us all that environmental issues know no political bounds and affects all of the people, plants, and animals of the world community. It is essential that the policies our Government enacts, and the personal activities we undertake reflect our profound concern for safeguarding the Earth.

From combating global climate change to protecting threatened species to providing clean water, we have a duty to act locally and globally to protect the environment for present and future generations.

Saving the planet may seem to be an insurmountable task, but in order for our children to have a brighter future we must commit ourselves to an environmental policy which seeks to establish a clean, safe, and productive environment.

The 106th Congress is working to preserve and protect our Nation's open spaces by reinvigorating the Land and Water Conservation Fund. Designed to protect our Nation's natural heritage, the Land and Water Conservation Fund is a vital program which has saved thousands of acres of forest, miles of river, and many of America's mountain ranges. However, this Congress has seen the importance of this program and the unfinished work which still lies ahead. In the face of issues of pollution and urban sprawl, the 106th Congress has responded by looking to preserve our Nation's greenways.

Moreover, we must not forget the air we breathe, our most precious resource. Americans can clearly see, smell, and feel the difference that pollution has made in their lives. As a strong supporter of the Clean Air Act, I recognize the need for clean air standards. By encouraging innovation, cooperation, and the development of new technologies for pollution reduction, these standards build upon the spirit of ingenuity that is the foundation of America's leadership in the world.

As chairman of the House International Relations Committee, I understand the importance of using our leadership in the United States to assist other countries in developing and maintain successful environmental programs. I personally have led efforts to protect whales from commercial hunting and to protect African elephants from the deadly effect of the international ivory trade. I have also been in the forefront in bringing greater awareness to the linkages between refugees, world hunger and national security to environmental degradation. In addition, if we do not assist in the survival of indigenous and tribal people, their wealth of traditional knowledge and their important habitats will no longer be available for the rest of mankind.

Earth Day is a successful incentive for ongoing environmental education, action, and change. Earth Day activities address worldwide environmental concerns and offer opportunities for individuals and communities to focus on their local environmental problems. I have requested funding for the Hudson Valley national heritage area, which would help preserve the history, culture, and traditions of this beautiful region. I am also proud to note that my 20th District of New York is home to the Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory, one of the country's leading climate study institutions.

Earth Day is a powerful catalyst for people to make a difference toward a clean, healthy, prosperous future. We cannot continue with the attitude that someone else will clean up after us. We need to take care of our world today. I cannot think of a better day to commit to this worthy goal than today, Earth Day. I salute the people who observe Earth Day in all ways large and small.

HONORING THE 1999 BEST OF RESTON AWARD WINNERS

HON. THOMAS M. DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 1999

Mr. DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to rise today to pay tribute to the individuals and businesses who are this year's winners of the "Best of Reston"

Awards. These awards are made annually by the Reston Chamber of Commerce and Reston Interfaith. The "Best of Reston" Community Service Award was created to recognize companies, organizations, and individuals who have made outstanding contributions to community service, and/or who have improved the lives of the people of Reston, Virginia.

HCI Technologies, Inc. for their community outreach and leadership in Reston. HCI has been involved in a number of church activities with Faith Mission Church, Christ Fellowship, St. John Neumann, and Heritage Fellowship. HCI has sponsored intern programs associated with George Mason University and South Lakes High School, and is a major sponsor of youth programs that include Reston Youth Baseball and Softball, Basketball, and a newly created Tennis program for disadvantaged community children. HCI sponsors a monthly food drive to support those less fortunate, and has been a sponsor of the Chamber's Ethics Day for the senior class of South Lakes High School.

Karl Ingebritsen for being an outstanding pillar of our community. He served as the 1st president of the Greater Reston Chamber of Commerce and was the first employee and Executive Director of the Reston Association. He was instrumental in bringing Reston Hospital to our community and served on the Hospital's board of trustees until 1992. In his role as Director of LINK, Karl has worked tirelessly to improve the area's transportation by becoming a strong voice on behalf of the Reston community. Karl is steadfast in his belief that improving the area's transportation is a benefit to all citizens in the region.

Basil Jeffers for his inner drive to make Reston the best possible place to live and to raise a family. Basil has been classified as a "one man moving company." He's first to volunteer his hands and station wagon to anyone needing assistance as they move into a new home. A member of the Heritage Fellowship Church, Basil often brings community needs to the attention of the church. If he is unable to assist a given need, he sees that the church is aware of the situation and that they are able to provide the necessary support. Basil currently serves as the president of the PTA at South Lakes High School and served on the nominating committee for the College Partnership Program, a Fairfax County sponsored motivational program encouraging minority students to attend college. He is also involved with a Boy Scout and Cub Scout Troop.

Susan (Suzi) Jones for her tireless efforts to improve the community. From serving as a board member and President of the Reston Association to Presidency of the Greater Reston Arts Center to her Community Services Board work, people throughout Fairfax County have benefited from her volunteer services. Drawing upon her human resources skills and expertise, Suzi has generously and frequently contributed her time and skills for the development of a pool of community leaders and the identification and resolution of community issues. Her contributions to the Reston community have been, and continue to be, made through her active service to a number of community organizations and institutions, including St. Anne's Episcopal Church.

Alvarez LeCesne for the impact he has had on the lives of many students he's had contact with during his years in volunteer service. He is active in many area associations, including

the Optimist Club, Character Counts! Coalition, St. Anne's Episcopal Church, Heritage Fellowship Church, the Medical Care for Children Partnership, and Reston Community Coalition, a community/school partnership promoting drug and alcohol use prevention. During January 1999, LeCesne chaired Reston's Martin Luther King Jr. Planning Committee for the celebration of Dr. King's birthday.

Patricia Macintyre for her steadfast efforts as a community volunteer. A renowned artist, she has spent more than 30 years volunteering her talent and love of art in many forums and spaces, including art galleries, government buildings, schools, preschools, festivals and celebrations. She spent 17 years as host of "You've Gotta Have Art," a weekly children's television program directed toward teaching Reston youth to appreciate art. Macintyre has spent her life working to preserve and promote the arts in Reston. Every Saturday morning she leads free family workshops in art and culture at the Reston Historic Trust Museum.

USAA for its commitment to a strong work ethic, customer service, and the value of its employees' personal, professional, and family needs. USAA supports efforts to improve the quality of life in its employees' communities, affording them many volunteer opportunities. Through USAA's involvement in the community, research funds have been raised to benefit the American Heart Association, the American Cancer Society, the American Arthritis Foundation, and others. USAA helps meet the material needs of our community through ongoing collection of food, clothing, books, and school supplies. USAA volunteers support education by giving their time as tutors, mentors, and speakers. A commitment to community involvement is so basic to USAA's corporate culture, that "Public Outreach" is a corporate "Key Result Area."

Jane Gilmer Wilhelm's mission in Reston and her entire career has been to be a vital, clear, caring resource for all people. She has given innumerable gifts of time and passionate presence to all our community's members from her early years in Reston as Director of Community Relations to the speeches she makes to this day, to save buses, libraries, and funding for the neediest. From infants to the elderly, from the homeless and needy, from young students to senior citizens in learning, from our various community organizations, to nature areas preserved by our founders, her caring has permeated her days. Not to mention her frequent visits with many on Lake Anne benches and her tireless volunteer work for our citizens' many concerns.

Mr. Speaker, I know my colleagues join me in honoring the "Best of Reston" Award winners for their dedicated commitment to making Reston, Virginia an exceptional place to live and work. This year's award recipients deserve recognition and gratitude from a very grateful community.

EARTH DAY CELEBRATION

HON. CONSTANCE A. MORELLA

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 1999

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate the twenty-ninth an-

nual Earth Day. This spring observation provides the people of our nation and across the globe the opportunity to renew our dedication to environmental protection. We as a nation have a shared responsibility to preserve our vast and diverse natural resources. I have a longstanding commitment to conservation and environmental protection, and I am pleased to join in today's celebration.

While we have made significant progress since the first Earth Day celebration in 1970, we must continue our efforts to improve environmental quality. It is my belief that Earth Day activities heighten awareness about actions that we can take to improve our environment, both locally and globally. Today's observation offers us the opportunity to acclaim our progress, but more importantly, it allows us to renew our commitment to the challenges facing our planet.

Earth Day festivities take place all across the country. I would like to pay special tribute to my constituents in Montgomery County, Maryland who are so active in their support of environmental causes. This is especially true during this month, with activities and programs like the Earth Day Fair in Bethesda, the various stream cleanups across the county, and the Arbor Day celebration in Derwood.

I consider environmental protection to be national priority. I pledge to work with my colleagues to ensure the preservation of our natural resources and the protection of the public's health. And this Earth Week, as we also celebrate the 435th birthday of William Shakespeare, we remember his words, "to nature none more bound." Today, as we observe Earth Day, let us reaffirm our commitment to a cleaner world.

TRIBUTE TO THE LATE HENRY ATKINSON

HON. MARK GREEN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 1999

Mr. GREEN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I would like to offer my sincere condolences to everyone whose life was touched by Mr. Henry Atkinson, who passed away earlier this week.

Henry Atkinson was one of the most dedicated men I've ever had the pleasure of knowing—dedicated to his friends, dedicated to his community, and dedicated to the students and schools he spent his career serving.

Among Henry's many achievements in 20 years on the Green Bay School Board were his oversight of the transition of junior high schools into middle schools and his work to create a drug and alcohol abuse program for the Green Bay Schools.

Henry was a small businessman who also served on the Green Bay Water Commission, the Brown County Bicentennial Committee and the Northeast Wisconsin Vocational, Technical and Adult Education District Board.

But he is most remembered by the generations of students and educators who witnessed his day-to-day efforts to make Green Bay education a rewarding and memorable experience.

Green Bay lost one of its finest community leaders this week, but he will surely live on in the memories of those who gained so much from knowing him.

THE RICKY RAY RELIEF ACT

HON. JAMES M. TALENT

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 1999

Mr. TALENT. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise in strong support of funding for the Ricky Ray Relief Act. The time has come for the federal government to accept its share of the responsibility for failing to protect the nation's blood supply and failing to properly regulate the sale of blood-clotting products used by sufferers of hemophilia. As a result of the government's failure more than 8,000 people with hemophilia have been devastated by HIV/AIDS.

Mr. Speaker, the financial burden of hemophilia and HIV is overwhelming. The average cost of hemophilia therapy is nearly \$100,000 per year. If a person has an inhibitor, a condition that requires extensive treatment, therapy can exceed \$1,000,000 in a year. These costs are further compounded by the costs of HIV/AIDS care which was estimated to be \$10,000–\$50,000 annually in 1995. These staggering cost are far beyond the financial capacities of most hard working American families.

The Ricky Ray Relief Act was named for a young Florida boy who came to symbolize the tragedy that is hemophilia-associated AIDS. This legislation establishes a \$750 million trust fund from which victims of this tragedy can claim \$100,000 each as partial compensation for their physical, emotional, and financial suffering. This legislation is not about charity, but about acknowledging the government's responsibility for this tragedy.

It has taken almost 5 years for members of the hemophilia community who are living with HIV/AIDS to reach this point. The Ricky Ray Relief Act was first introduced in 1995 and was reintroduced in 1997. When it passed both the House and the Senate by unanimous consent, this bill had the support of 270 bipartisan cosponsors in the House and 61 bipartisan cosponsors in the Senate. On November 12, 1998, the President signed the Ricky Ray Relief Act into law.

I was proud to be both a cosponsor and advocate of this legislature. Mr. Speaker, the time has come for the government to admit responsibility for failure to protect our nation's blood supply. We must fund the Ricky Ray Relief Act. The funding of this legislation will make a tremendous difference in the lives of many members of the hemophilia community who have faced and continue to face living with hemophilia and HIV/AIDS.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JIM SAXTON

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 1999

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall 92: To Authorize the President to Award a Gold Medal on Behalf of the Congress to Rosa Parks; rollcall 93: Condemning the Murder of Human Rights Lawyer Rosemary Nelson; rollcall 94: Education Flexibility Partnership Act Conference Report; and rollcall 95: Earthquake Hazards Reduction Authorization Act; I was unavoidably detained and unable to cast