

When Heidi, Amber and Sara decided to run for ASB 3 years ago, they were required to complete a rigorous process; the election, itself, is far from a popularity contest. Candidates must maintain a 3.0 grade point average, get letters of recommendation, write a statement explaining why they want to serve, and complete a personal interview. In addition, each candidate must give a speech in front of their peers before they are selected.

For most students between the ages of 10 and 13, let alone many adults, this would seem like much too much work just to plan student activities at the school. Most remarkable is that Heidi, Amber and Sara completed this process three straight years and were successful. According to Patti Stueland, the activities Director at Vista Campana Middle School, "They are my first and only officers up to this point to be a bulldog ASB Officer for all three years they have attended V.C.M.S."

In the 3 years that they served, these young ladies helped create and develop school assemblies, noon-time activities, school dances, spirit rallies, staff appreciation days, sold dance tickets, served as tour guides for school visitors, and publicized school events through the school bulletin. In addition, they have presented student body activities to the Parent, Teacher, Student Organization, at monthly staff meetings, and school board meetings. In these, and many more activities, Heidi, Amber and Sara all demonstrated tremendous leadership skills through public speaking and working with the local community. As a result of the work of these students, Vista Campana Middle School is recognized for having one of the most outstanding student activity organizations in the high desert.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join me and our colleagues in recognizing the remarkable commitment and tremendous contributions of these three fine young ladies. Heidi Cuyler, Amber Larrison and Sara Trudeau have made a wonderful difference in the lives of those in their school and local community and it is only fitting that the House of Representatives recognize them today.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 27, 1999

Mr. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, on Thursday, April 22, I was unavoidably detained during rollcall vote No. 96, the motion to instruct conferees on H.R. 1141 offered by Mr. OBEY. Had I been present for this vote I would have voted "aye."

DONALD EDWARD WATSON

HON. ROBERT A. BORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 27, 1999

Mr. BORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of a truly dedicated public servant and my good friend, Mr. Donald Edward Watson. Donald Watson's commitment to his country and community in Philadelphia spans over four decades.

Don Watson graduated in 1953 from North Catholic High School and attended the University of Missouri. After his graduation from college he began his career in public service by enlisting in the U.S. Army. In 1962, he was honorably discharged with the rank of Sergeant.

After departure from the military, Don became active in both the politics and community of the City of Philadelphia. He was the committee person in the 35th ward for 35 years and also worked as the ward chairman. He dedicated 25 years of service to the office of the Register of Wills where his work showed high quality, attention and diligence. In the area of community public service, Don Watson excelled for 20 years as the president of the Summerdale Boys Club. He also dedicated 10 years of his time to Northeast Mental Health as a director on the board.

Despite his many commitments to public service, Don is deeply involved and dedicated to his family. Together, with his wife Carol, Don has two children, Terri and Joseph. Also, he has two beautiful granddaughters Lauren and Lindsay.

Don Watson is the type of citizen that strives to improve the city he is in, this not only has helped Philadelphia to prosper, but also the nation. I sincerely hope that Don enjoys his move into retirement and realizes how deeply his many years of dedicated service are appreciated.

IN RECOGNITION OF BILL ERWIN

HON. KEVIN BRADY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 27, 1999

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to rise in recognition of a very special person to Bryan-College Station, Texas—a unique leader, Mr. Bill Erwin.

Not only recognized as a significant contributor to the community of the Eighth District of Texas, Bill is somewhat of a celebrity in the Bryan-College Station area. In fact, he has been supporting volunteer services in the Bryan-College Station area for thirty-five years. It is for these efforts that the Governor of the State of Texas awarded Bill with the Lonestar Achievement Award for his volunteerism and community service last month. I think his own words speak volumes for the attitude that won him this recognition. Upon hearing the news, Bill said, "this will be great for the community"—and great for the community he is.

Elected as the Volunteer of the Year and the Citizen of the Year by the Bryan-College Station Chamber of Commerce, he remains dedicated to bettering the community in which he lives, thus bettering the world. His list of credentials include serving as president for a number of non-profit organizations in the area, such as the United Way, Chamber of Commerce, Better Business Bureau, the Boys' and Girls' Clubs of the Brazos Valley, the Brazos Chapter of the Texas Manufacturers Association and the St. Joseph Foundation. It was said by Christine Shakespeare of the Texas Commission on Volunteerism and Community Service that the judges said "it was so amazing that whenever he identified a need he went to work to resolve it and that he didn't

stop to wonder who was going to get credit for it" and that they were "honored to give this award to him because of the amount of work he has done."

Mr. Speaker, I commend Bill Erwin and those like him that take the time to give back to their communities more than they take for themselves. I, as well as the citizens of Bryan-College Station, applaud Bill for his tireless dedication and perseverance to serving this remarkable community. He has set an example for us all to follow.

INTRODUCTION OF THE DIGITAL SIGNATURE ACT OF 1999

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 27, 1999

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, today I am pleased to introduce the Digital Signature Act of 1999. The purpose of this legislation is to require the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) to develop minimum technical standards and guidelines for Federal agencies to follow when deploying digital signature technologies. In addition, the legislation authorizes the Under Secretary of Commerce for Technology to establish a National Policy Panel for Digital Signatures to explore the factors associated with the development of a National Digital Signature Infrastructure based on uniform standards to enable the widespread utilization of digital signature systems in the private sector.

I want to make clear that this legislation is technology neutral. Rather it encourages federal agencies to use uniform criteria in deploying digital signature technology and to ensure that their system are interoperable. It also encourages agencies to use commercial-off-the shelf software (COTS) whenever possible to meet their needs.

By now, we are all aware of how the Internet is revolutionizing telecommunications and the business world. In less than ten years, the Internet has grown from a network linking a small, self-proscribed group of scientists to a telecommunication network linking millions of people around the world. The potential uses of the Internet seem unlimited. One of the most rapidly growing areas in electronic commerce. Statistics indicate electronic commerce was an \$8 billion industry in 1998. Analysts now expect electronic commerce to explode into a \$108 billion industry by 2003.

When the Internet was first developed, virtually all users were known to each other or they were easily identifiable. However, with the rapid growth of the Internet we have lost the ability to actually "know" who we are communicating with is who they say they are. In order to exchange sensitive documents or to do business transactions with confidence it is important that an electronic authentication system is developed through which both the sender and recipient can be uniquely identified. One type of electronic authentication which is both secure and provides unique identification of the sender and recipient of messages is asymmetric cryptography, commonly referred to as a digital signature.

I am not alone in my belief that digital signatures are a key element in the continuing growth of electronic commerce. The European

Commission recently drafted a directive on a common framework for a comprehensive digital signature infrastructure. In addition, the Canadian government is already utilizing digital signatures for its transactions. These actions are designed to promote the growth of electronic commerce, but they will also enhance the position of European and Canadian companies that are developing digital signature systems. This is an attempt to become the world leader in electronic commerce.

In the United States, we have a number of companies which offer digital signature services. The States are beginning to enact a patchwork of laws on digital signatures that could inhibit the widespread use of digital signatures. While I don't believe the government should dictate any one digital signature system, we should develop a level playing field which will encourage rather than hinder the development of a truly national infrastructure. It is my intent that the Digital Signature Act be a first step in this direction. This legislation has two simple goals: (1) develop uniform guidelines for Federal agencies to follow when they use digital signatures and encourage agencies to maximize the interoperability of their systems; and (2) establish a national policy panel for digital signatures to begin a dialog on the development of a national digital signature infrastructure.

My legislation requires the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) to develop minimum technical standards and guidelines for use by Federal agencies when developing their digital signature infrastructure and to give due consideration to the interoperability of their system. Whenever possible, the legislation encourages agencies to use commercial-off-the-shelf products.

Agencies are currently developing and beginning to deploy digital signatures technologies. However, there is little coordination between agencies to ensure that the standards they use are consistent and that the technologies that they deploy are interoperable. NIST is charged with developing, with input from industry, technical standards and guidelines which ensure that the agencies deploy digital signature infrastructures that are both secure and interoperable. If agencies develop a variety of incompatible systems, I believe the result will be to discourage the widespread use of this electronic authentication technique by making it more complicated rather than easier to conduct business with the Federal Government.

Agencies would be required to report back to Congress what they are doing to develop digital signature systems, and why, if applicable, they are not following NIST guidelines.

In addition, the bill requires NIST to develop minimum technical criteria for agencies' use for electronic certification and management systems, both "in-house" systems or if they use a private entity. Once again, this is an attempt to level the playing field among Federal agencies to promote the private sector development of these goods and services.

To promote a uniform environment for certification authorities, the bill establishes a national panel, under the auspices of the Department of Commerce's Technology Administration to develop model practices and procedures, uniformity among jurisdictions that license certification authorities, and uniform audit standards for certification authorities. This national panel, with broadly based rep-

resentation from all stakeholders, will provide the coordination needed to put in place the national infrastructure that is a prerequisite for the widespread use of digital signatures.

In closing, I want to make clear that this legislation does not favor any digital signature system, but attempts to begin to create a minimum uniform framework for Federal agencies to make communicating with the Federal Government easier and more secure. I also want to make clear that this legislation is an outline or work in progress. The framework of the Internet is dynamic. It would be short-sighted to draft Internet related legislation that is static and unresponsive. I expect further refinements and will continue to work with industry groups, the States, the administration and other stakeholders as we move through the legislative process.

WALT AND MELODY GENTRY
BRING JOY INTO THE LIVES OF
MANY THROUGH THE ADOPT-A-
WILD HORSE AND BURRO PRO-
GRAM

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS
OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 27, 1999

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this time to commend my constituents from Mt. Vernon, IL, Walt and Melody Gentry, for using their love of horses to bring happiness to the lives of others.

Walt and Melody have spent the past 8 years educating others about the Bureau of Land Management's Adopt-A-Wild Horse and Burro program. Established in 1992, this program's objectives are to manage the population of horses and burros in the effort to protect them from dying from starvation or dehydration. Spending countless hours traveling over 30,000 miles, Walt and Melody have not only aided in many adoptions all over the Eastern United States, but have also adopted 18 of their own horses that they use to compete in horse shows and riding competitions.

In addition to Walt and Melody's compassion for these beautiful animals is their compassion for others in need. They have combined their love and appreciation for horses with their concern and eagerness to help others by performing many of these shows for disadvantaged youths. Through these events, these kids have an opportunity to interact with horses—something they wouldn't otherwise be able to do. In a time when children are often hungry for leadership and inspiration, the Gentry's have played a pivotal role by sharing the happiness they have found in the Adopt-A-Wild Horse and Burro program.

I would like to thank Walt and Melody Gentry for sharing the joy in their lives with these disadvantaged children. They are not only an inspiration for them, but for all of us who have so many joys to share.

IN HONOR OF THE WEEHAWKEN VOLUNTEER FIRST AID SQUAD ON ITS 30TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ
OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 27, 1999

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Weehawken Volunteer First Aid Squad for 30 years of dedicated service to the community.

The Weehawken Volunteer First Aid Squad was the first volunteer organization of its kind in Hudson County when it was organized in 1969. Over the last three decades, almost 400 volunteers have served the Squad, providing free and indispensable lifesaving ambulance and emergency medical service for Weehawken.

Because of the caliber and dedication of the volunteers, the Squad has an excellent two to three minute response time in emergencies. This remarkable accomplishment has not only allowed the Squad to respond to an estimated 40,000 distress calls but has made it responsible for saving countless lives in my district. In fact, the Squad the fastest response team of any emergency medical service in the state of New Jersey.

Long thought of as a strictly suburban service, the First Aid Squad showed that not only could a volunteer ambulance service operate in urban areas, but that they would prove to be an invaluable source of support to the residents of these communities. It was so successful in this endeavor that it prompted five neighboring towns to follow its lead in this important health service.

On May 7, 1999, the Squad will hold its 30th Anniversary Celebration where they will highlight these tremendous accomplishments, as well as to thank those who have assisted the organization through the years. The individual who will receive an Honorary Life Membership is the Mayor of Weehawken, Mr. Richard Turner. Mayor Turner, one of the Squad's greatest supporters, has been instrumental in recruiting new members, raising funds for a new ambulance, and in ensuring the opening of the Squad's state of the art headquarters in 1986.

The Weehawken First Aid Squad exemplifies leadership and professionalism. For its pioneering efforts in the field of emergency medicine and for 30 years of service to Weehawken, I am very happy to honor and salute the Weehawken First Aid Squad.

A TRIBUTE TO KEW GARDENS CIVIC ASSOCIATION

HON. ANTHONY D. WEINER
OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 27, 1999

Mr. WEINER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to invite my colleagues to pay tribute to the Kew Gardens Civic Association, Inc., on the occasion of its annual meeting.

The members of the Kew Gardens Civic Association have long been known for their commitment to community service and to enhancing the quality of life for all Kew Gardens residents.