

As a winner of the LeGrand Smith Scholarship, Aaron is being honored for demonstrating that same generosity of spirit, intelligence, responsible citizenship, and capacity for human service that distinguished the late LeGrand Smith of Somerset, Michigan.

Aaron is an exceptional student at Hudson High School and possesses an impressive high school record.

Aaron has received numerous awards for his excellence in academics. Outside of school, he has received many awards for his involvement in the Jackson, Hillsdale, and Adrian Youth Symphony Orchestras.

Therefore, I am proud to join with his many admirers in extending my highest praise and congratulations to Aaron Baker for his selection as a winner of a LeGrand Smith Scholarship. This honor is also a testament to the parents, teachers, and others whose personal interest, strong support and active participation contributed to his success. To this remarkable young man, I extend my most heartfelt good wishes for all of his future endeavors.

HONORING GOVERNOR BENT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

HON. HEATHER WILSON

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 14, 2000

Mrs. WILSON. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to bring to your attention the national recognition received by Governor Bent Elementary School in Albuquerque, New Mexico. The team at Governor Bent Elementary is highlighted in a report by the Fordham Foundation for their effective teaching techniques.

Governor Bent is known for expecting a lot from all their students. There are no excuses, all students can do quality work. Creativity is fostered for the success of the students, parents, teachers and all staff. The results are high student test scores and student enrollment from outside their attendance area.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring the Principal Marilyn Davenport and the team at Governor Bent Elementary School for their contributions to students and to the future of our community.

CONSERVATION TRUST FUND OF PUERTO RICO

HON. PHILIP M. CRANE

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 14, 2000

Mr. CRANE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to address an issue that we have been working on for almost five years. I am speaking about the funding question for the Conservation Trust Fund of Puerto Rico. As my colleagues may recall, in last year's Ticket to Work and Work Improvement Act tax bill, we included language that increased the amount of excise tax on rum covered over to Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands from \$10.50 to \$13.25. We have written statutory language that mandated one-sixth of the increase would be directed toward the endowment fund of the Conservation Trust. During the negotiations on the bill it was decided that this language would not be in-

cluded when the government of Puerto Rico committed to transfer these funds to the Conservation Trust. I am pleased to say that the first payment has in fact been transferred to the Trust. This extension of the rum tax increase will last for thirty months. At that time we will have to revisit the question whether we have fulfilled our commitment to fully endow the Trust Fund.

Recently we passed the Africa-CBI Trade bill and inserted language that will accelerate the payments of the rum tax cover over to Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. I want to make sure that everyone clearly understands that this new legislation does not in any way undermine the intent of Congress in the previous tax bill. We expect the Conservation Trust Fund of Puerto Rico to continue getting one-sixth of the increase at the same time the government of Puerto Rico receives its payments and that those funds be segregated by the Trust into an account that is solely for the purpose of building up the endowment fund. These amounts are not to be used for normal operational expenses or for expenditures for new projects or acquisitions.

I know that the Secretary of the Interior has prepared a Memorandum of Understanding to be signed by himself and the Governor of Puerto Rico memorializing the commitments made to Congress in this matter. To my knowledge this document has not been signed at this date, and I urge the governor and the Secretary of the Interior to do so at their earliest opportunity.

RECOGNIZING 225TH BIRTHDAY OF UNITED STATES ARMY

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 13, 2000

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise to offer my best wishes, while conveying the warm regards of the residents of the 8th Congressional District for the men and women of the United States Army on the occasion of the 225th Anniversary of the United States Army's service to our nation.

From the battlefield of Breed's Hill, most commonly known as the Battle of Bunker Hill, to the war torn former provinces of Yugoslavia the army has repeatedly proven its ability to meet the challenges offered by this nation's leadership. Any time the nation called the men and women of the United States Army has answered in the affirmative and successfully met the challenges of their mission on the behalf of a free and independent United States of America. Therefore, it is proper that this historic milestone for the United States Army should occur on this our Nation's Flag Day.

I am happy to join millions of Americans in thanking the men and women of the United States Army for their vigilance in protecting this nation from its enemies both foreign and domestic for the last 225 years. Although most Americans cannot recount each individual act of bravery or heroism, which comprises the long history of this much-lauded branch of our nation's armed forces, they are told in the sustained unbroken history of this great nation.

The sacrifices of the men and women who are the United States Army have for over two

centuries put the country's best interest ahead of their own for the benefit of all of our freedom.

Today, we celebrate their sacrifice to this nation, because they have made the world a safer place for democracy and freedom. May they continue in the fine tradition established by the last two-and-a-quarter centuries of the existence of the United States Army well into this new millennium.

Mr. Speaker today is indeed a day for celebration. Therefore, I would like to ask my fellow members of the House to join me in applauding the United States Army.

RECOGNIZING 225TH BIRTHDAY OF UNITED STATES ARMY

SPEECH OF

HON. ROBERT B. ADERHOLT

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 13, 2000

Mr. ADERHOLT. Mr. Speaker, on June 14, 1775, the Continental Congress adopted a resolution which authorized the enlistment of ten companies of riflemen to serve the United Colonies for a period of one year. This marked the birth of the Army and was the prelude to the birth of our Nation the following year on July 4, 1776.

For the past 225 years, the Army's central mission has been to fight and win the Nation's wars. As General McArthur said, in a 1962 address at the United States Military Academy: "Yours is the profession of arms, the will to win, the sure knowledge that in war there is no substitute for victory—and that if we fail, the Nation will be destroyed." Whatever the mission, the Nation has turned to its Army for victory.

Throughout this Nation's history the soldiers of the Army have risked their lives to protect others. With patriotism, valor and sheer selflessness, from the Revolutionary War to the Gulf War, they have fought to protect our freedoms here and those abroad. In light of this, it is appropriate and fitting that the Army Recruiting Station, Jasper, Alabama, has organized a celebration of the Army's 225 years of dedicated service. I want to commend the soldiers of the Army Recruiting Station, Jasper, Alabama who are doing their part to ensure that this historic day is not forgotten.

I want to publicly say, not only to the soldiers currently serving in the Army, but to all soldiers who have served in wars to protect the interests and national security of the United States—thank you for protecting us. Thank you for your courage which has inspired generations on this shore and beyond. May God bless you, and may God bless America.

TRIBUTE TO NELSON DEOLIVEIRA

HON. EDWARD J. MARKEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 14, 2000

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Nelson DeOliveira. Nelson was a positive, outgoing young man who lost his life too soon to an epidemic sweeping our nation—the epidemic of gun violence.

Nelson was born and raised in Medford, Massachusetts. He was known for his boundless energy and for enjoying life to the fullest. Whether hard at work, participating in one of his many favorite sports, or having fun with family and friends, Nelson was always giving his all.

With his ever-present smile and positive personality, Nelson endeared himself to all. Like most young men at 23, Nelson had dreams. He wanted something better out of life. He decided to return to school, and to prepare himself for a solid future. He looked forward to spending time as a loving uncle to his sister's child, and to one day enjoying a family of his own. Nelson always regarded family and friends as the most important aspect of his life.

On the night of February 12, 1995, Nelson was visiting the home of a new girlfriend when suddenly the girl's ex-boyfriend arrived angry, jealous and ready to assault the couple. The police were called, and upon their arrival the man was taken to jail. Believing the situation was safe, Nelson continued his visit unaware the ex-boyfriend would be freed that very night. Once out of jail, the man armed himself with a 38 caliber handgun. He then proceeded to smash his way into the girl's basement apartment with the intent to murder everyone inside. And murder he did—killing the girl's brother, Nelson, and firing two shots into the girl, who has since survived.

Since that moment, the family and friends of Nelson have focused their love, emotions, and sense of loss through the creation of the Nelson Foundation. The mission of the Foundation is to provide public awareness on the true costs of gun violence. The Nelson Foundation raises funds for organizations that fight gun and domestic violence through positive community programs. In addition, it has developed a scholarship program for students who are dedicated to the message of peace and non-violent conflict resolution.

I commend the family and friends of Nelson DeOliveira in their efforts to honor the spirit of this exceptional young man by working to put an end to the epidemic of gun violence.

And I urge Congress to do its part by passing meaningful gun safety legislation. We can not afford to lose one more life to one more bullet. We can not afford to lose the promise and the hope of young people like Nelson DeOliveira.

TRIBUTE TO DEBI BARRETT-HAYES

HON. ALLEN BOYD

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 14, 2000

Mr. BOYD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the dedicated work of my constituent and one of Florida's finest educators. Debi Barrett-Hayes, has spent the past twenty years of her life working to enrich the minds of our youth by teaching Art to students from Kindergarten through 12th grade. Today, June 14, 2000, Debi Barrett-Hayes will be inducted into the National Teachers Hall of Fame. It is her invaluable commitment and dedication that we honor today.

Ms. Barrett-Hayes is currently the Chair of the Visual Arts Department K-12 and a teach-

er of Visual Arts grades 9-12 with Florida State University School in Tallahassee, Florida. She has spent her entire career committed to the arts. Debi began as a graphic designer and freelance artist, then moved into the education field where she has stayed for the past twenty years. She has been teaching art to students of all levels, including the Primary, Secondary and University levels. Throughout her career, Ms. Barrett-Hayes has been honored with a variety of awards. Just this past year, she was given the Christa McAuliffe Fellowship Award. In 1996 she was named Florida Art Educator of the Year, and the year before Florida State University School also named her Teacher of the Year.

Debi is also the National Art Education Association Secondary Division Director and was one of the first art teachers to obtain the status of National Board Certified Teacher. Her commitment to advocating the importance of art on the national level has been impressive throughout her career. She has successfully written numerous grant requests, and has brought in over \$400,000 in additional funds for her school district. Conducting over 300 workshops and being invited to speak on the state, national and international level certainly distinguishes her remarkable career.

The greatest reflection of an educator's career is when they are recognized by their peers and students. Countless colleagues, parents and students have eagerly stepped forward to praise the work of Debi Barrett-Hayes. They are impressed with her rapport with students and with her ability to integrate art into the lives of those she teaches. She uses history, science and culture to bring about a greater understanding of the visual arts. Other impressive attributes to her career are the successes her students experience through the awards and scholarships they have received for their talents. The need for caring and effective educators in today's society is extremely important, and honoring those who have dedicated their lives to reinforcing a system of quality education is why I rise today.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, we join Debi Barrett-Hayes' family, colleagues, students and friends in honoring her as she is inducted into the National Teachers Hall of Fame.

IN HONOR OF CORNUCOPIA, INC. AND NATURE'S BIN

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 14, 2000

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Cornucopia and Nature's Bin on the occasion of their 25th anniversary.

Cornucopia, a nonprofit organization, helps people with disabilities achieve successful integration into the workplace. Since 1975, this organization has devoted its time on training programs in their natural food store, Nature's Bin. Originally known as "The Bin," this shop started as a humble little storefront on Madison Avenue in a section of Lakewood known as "Birdtown." At the time, The Bin only sold produce. Since then, Nature's Bin has become the training site for Cornucopia's vocational programs for people with disabilities. Through encouragement and direction, Nature's Bin has helped bring many disabled persons into

the workplace. It is an important task that they have undertaken. Upon graduation from one of Cornucopia's training programs, a person can enter the workforce as a skilled and confident individual.

It is evident that Cornucopia and Nature's Bin has, over the years, played a crucial role in the community, and that its many years of service have been an invaluable contribution.

Cornucopia and Nature's Bin will be celebrating its 25th anniversary June 23rd through June 25th. The celebration will include several speakers throughout the weekend and will be capped with a late afternoon of jazz.

My fellow colleagues, please join me in honoring Cornucopia and Nature's Bin for the service they have provided to those with disabilities for 25 years.

OUR CONSTITUTION PROTECTS ITS DEFENDERS

HON. TOM DELAY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 14, 2000

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to be introducing today the "American Servicemembers Protection Act of 2000". This legislation will protect our Armed Services from being prosecuted by the ill-conceived International Criminal Court which the United States has refused to join.

In some parts of America, national sovereignty is still taken seriously. Today, we take a strong step to protect the men and women who protect U.S. from an extra-constitutional monster that could very easily be abused.

The International Criminal Court is a threat to our national interests. Under this system, American servicemembers could become pawns for hostile powers seeking revenge against U.S. policymakers.

We must not allow the International Criminal Court to exert authority over our fighting forces. Administration officials admit that our armed forces could be subjected to the ICC's jurisdiction through peacekeeping, humanitarian and other missions. That means Americans could be prosecuted or imprisoned by the court even though we never signed the treaty. This we cannot allow.

The administration refused to sign this treaty because of the threat it poses to our military personnel. This bill is a reasonable measure that gives the President the necessary tools to protect U.S. from a deeply flawed proposal.

If the President ever signed and the Senate ever ratified this treaty, then this bill will become null and void. In the meantime, we must meet our responsibility to protect our armed services from the whims of a new international bureaucracy.

American men and women in uniform take an oath to defend our Constitution from all threats, foreign and domestic. At a minimum, our soldiers, sailors, and airmen deserve all of the protections granted to them by the great document they swear to preserve.

What if we do nothing?

Under its terms, Americans could be brought before the ICC's court and tried without important rights. They could be denied a trial by jury. The court could compel Americans to provide self-incriminating testimony. And it could deny them the right to confront