

DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES
ASSISTANCE AND BILL OF
RIGHTS ACT OF 2000

SPEECH OF

HON. WILLIAM F. GOODLING

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 25, 2000

Mr. GOODLING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 4920, the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act of 2000. The legislation would improve service systems for individuals with disabilities, including state developmental disability councils that assist individuals with disabilities, protection and advocacy systems for individuals with disabilities, and university affiliated programs for research and public service programs. I am pleased to see that others here in Congress are taking up this fight, particularly Rep. RICK LAZIO, the sponsor of this legislation we are now considering.

Rep. LAZIO has done an outstanding job of bringing the need for this legislation to the attention of Members. Under his leadership, H.R. 4920 has been crafted to provide many quality services for individuals with disabilities. Mr. LAZIO's bill builds upon the programs in current law to create a well-rounded approach toward assisting individuals with disabilities.

I also find it very appropriate that we consider this legislation on the 10th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act. In its ten years, the ADA has done much to improve the daily lives of individuals with disabilities. The ADA has helped move these individuals into the mainstream of American life.

The Committee I chair has jurisdiction over several laws that provide assistance and protections for individuals with disabilities, including the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Throughout my time in Congress, I have consistently fought for improved programs and funding for individuals with disabilities.

I am particularly pleased with the increases in funding for IDEA that we have seen over the past five years, although we still have a long way to go.

I am pleased to support this bill.

THE REGISTER GUARD

HON. PETER A. DeFAZIO

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 27, 2000

Mr. DeFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, I submit for the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, an Opinion Editorial written by my predecessor, former Congressman Jim Weaver. In the article, printed in the Register Guard, Wednesday, July 26, 2000, Weaver discusses his encounters with Governor Bush's newly appointed running-mate, Dick Cheney. I recommend Jim Weaver's well-crafted, thought-provoking article to my colleagues for its insight and importance.

CHENEY HAS SHOWN HE'S SOFT IN NATURE,
BUT TOUGH ON ISSUES

(By Jim Weaver)

Dick Cheney and I were members of the House Committee on the Interior in the 1970s

and 1980s. We sat opposite each other on the upper tier of the committee bench, he on the Republican side, and I on the Democratic side.

Cheney was always cordial, even gentle in demeanor, willing to discuss any matter and listen to other views. I grew to like him and conferred with him often.

While writing a book on the U.S. House of Representatives, he discovered that an ancestor of mine, James B. Weaver, had conducted a filibuster in the House in 1888 on the Oklahoma Land Bill. As I, too, had filibustered a bill, he told me the story. I appreciated his personal consideration.

So it always surprised me that when decisions were actually made in the committee, Cheney was hard as steel, and uncompromising on the hard-fought issues over forest preservation, revision of the 1872 mining act, grazing on public lands or nuclear power. He was three or four places down from the ranking Republican on the committee, but there was little question as to who controlled the Republican side—Dick Cheney. This very strong, highly intelligent, determined man kept the Republicans unanimous against any environmental incursions the Democrats attempted.

The chairman of the committee at that time was Mo Udall of Arizona. He bent over backward to conduct the committee fairly and to give the Republicans every parliamentary opportunity. His reward, offered by Cheney and his cohorts, was constantly and vehemently to accuse him and the Democrats of tyranny and railroading our bills. I only wish we had done so.

After the accident at the Three Mile Island nuclear plant in 1979, a House committee was chosen to conduct an investigation. I was named chairman and Cheney vice chairman. It was an intensive inquiry and resulted in many revelations. Cheney was an admirable person to work with. Conscientious and penetrating, Cheney helped make the inquiry the best of the presidential, Senate and House investigations.

But when the committee reported its findings, Cheney wrote a minority report to accompany my majority report.

My report blamed the accident on the extreme technological complications of nuclear power while Cheney, as did the other reports, blamed "human error." Cheney concluded with the NRC estimate that the accident would take a year and \$60 million to repair. My report predicted 10 years and \$1 billion dollars. Ten years later and more than a billion dollars spent, they were still cleaning up the last remnants.

I think Cheney would make an outstanding Republican vice president; actually, an outstanding Republican president. If I were a dyed in the wool Republican, I could not find a better person to vote for. But I am not a Republican.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. WILLIAM L. JENKINS

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 27, 2000

Mr. JENKINS. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 439, on motion to suspend the rules and pass, as amended, Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant Act, had I been present, I would have voted "yea"; on rollcall No. 440, on motion to suspend the rules and pass Illegal Pornography and Prosecution Act, had I been present, I would have voted "yea"; on rollcall No. 441, on passage disapproving the exten-

sion of the waiver authority contained in section 402(c) of the Trade Act of 1974 with respect to Vietnam, had I been present, I would have voted "yea"; on rollcall No. 442, on agreement to providing for consideration of H.R. 4942, making appropriations for the District of Columbia for fiscal year 2001, had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

AMERICORPS

HON. CHARLES W. "CHIP" PICKERING

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 27, 2000

Mr. PICKERING. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following two articles for the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD and recommend that all members read and consider them when looking at the issue of AmeriCorps. These articles were brought to my attention by former Pennsylvania Senator Harris Wofford, and I hope that members find them helpful when considering reauthorization of AmeriCorps.

[From The Hill, June 21, 2000]

WHY I CHANGED MY MIND ABOUT AMERICORPS
(By Dan Coats, former Republican Senator
from Rhode Island)

When I was in the Senate, I did not support the legislation that created AmeriCorps because of my fundamental belief in private voluntary service and my skepticism about government-based solutions. I thought that government-supported volunteers would undermine the spirit of voluntary service and that new federal resources might subvert the mission and the independence of the civic sector.

My faith in the civic sector has not diminished one bit; in fact, it is stronger today than ever before. However, I have changed my mind about AmeriCorps. Instead of distorting the mission of the civic sector, AmeriCorps has proved to be a source of new power and energy for nonprofit organizations across the country.

My changed view about AmeriCorps is in no small measure because of the leadership that Harris Wofford, my Democratic former Senate colleague from Pennsylvania, has given to that program. Wofford and I did not vote on the same side very often in the Senate, and we still differ on many issues. But his leadership of AmeriCorps has convinced me that I should have voted with him on this issue.

First, thanks to Wofford's steadfast commitment to place national service above partisanship, AmeriCorps has not become the political program that some of us initially feared. Second, he shares my belief that the solutions to some of our most intractable problems lie in the civic sector. Accordingly, he has set AmeriCorps to the work of supporting, not supplanting, the civic sector.

I have seen firsthand how AmeriCorps members have provided a jolt of new energy to the civic sector from my experience as president of Big Brothers Big Sisters of America. As Millard Fuller, founder of Habitat for Humanity and another former skeptic of government-supported volunteers, also discovered, the leadership provided by full-time AmeriCorps members is a key addition for nonprofit and faith based organizations that are tackling the most difficult community and human problems.

AmeriCorps members, through their idealism, enthusiasm and can-do spirit, have multiplied the impact of organizations like Big Brothers Big Sisters and Habitat, and hundreds of other organizations large and small.

The number of Republicans who have changed their mind about AmeriCorps continues to grow.

In the last years, Sens. John McCain (R-Ariz.) and Mike DeWine (R-Ohio) and Rep. John Kasich (R-Ohio) have spoken out about the positive role AmeriCorps plays in strengthening the civic sector. Together, we join a growing bipartisan list of present and former federal and state legislators, governors and civic leaders in support of AmeriCorps.

Their support is part of a quiet, yet remarkable, transformation in American politics that has occurred since the white-hot debate that took place a few years ago between those who believed that government should take the lead in solving community problems and those who thought government could accomplish little or nothing, and was even likely to be a negative force.

Now, as evidenced by both major party presidential candidates and by growing bipartisan support in Congress, a new middle ground has emerged, leading to a unique partnership between AmeriCorps, the nonprofit organizations and private and religious institutions that are critical to strengthening our communities. It is these institutions that transmit values between generations that encourage cooperation between citizens, and make our communities stronger.

In a recent speech to the nation's governors, retired Gen. Colin Powell declared himself "a strong supporter of AmeriCorps." After spending two years working with the organization Powell concluded, "[W]hat they do in terms of leveraging other individuals to volunteer is really incredible. So it is a tremendous investment in young people, a tremendous investment in the future. . . ."

Later this month, a bipartisan coalition in the Senate will introduce legislation to reauthorize AmeriCorps and its parent agency, the Corporation for National Service. I hope that Congress will move quickly to enact this legislation so that AmeriCorps can continue to work with the nonprofit and faith-based sectors to strengthen our communities and build a better future for us all.

[From The NonProfitTimes, March 2000]

TWO PRESIDENTS: A SHARED LEGACY

(By Harris Wofford, CEO, Corporation for National Service and Bob Goodwin, President, Points of Light Foundation)

Most people would not think that Presidents George Bush and Bill Clinton have that much in common. But, Presidents Bush and Clinton share an important legacy. By making citizen service a central idea of their presidencies, these two presidents have fundamentally changed the land-scape of the civic sector by moving citizen service from the margins to the center of the public agenda.

It wasn't always this way. In 1988, President Bush called for a "thousand points of light" in his inaugural address and thereafter created the Points of Light Foundation. President Bush recently told us that he never imagined the Points of Light would be viewed as a Republican venture. Nonetheless, Democrats were dubious and sometimes belittled it as an inadequate substitute for government action.

Today, much of that skepticism has passed. With bipartisan support, the Points of Light Foundation was included as part of the National Service Act of 1993 and receives regular funding through the Corporation for National Service. The foundation's network of hundreds of volunteer centers, often part of the United Way, is thriving—helping to connect local residents with opportunities to serve. And two years, President Clinton

joined with President Bush to resume the Daily Points of Light Award.

Similarly, President Clinton's special contribution to citizen service—AmeriCorps—faced still opposition from some Republican skeptics. After the Republican takeover of Congress in 1994, there were recurring threats to eliminate AmeriCorps.

But President Clinton was steadfast, governors and mayors, Republicans and Democrats, and local and national nonprofits and faith-based organizations rallied in support, and the critics have been quieted.

By a large majority, including many Republicans, the Senate has voted for two years in a row to continued support for AmeriCorps. Republican Sen. Kit Bond stated, "The battle over whether we ought to have an AmeriCorps program or not is over. It has been decided." And Colin Powell has said, "It is a tremendous investment in young people, a tremendous investment in the future, and I am a strong supporter of AmeriCorps."

Today, the partisan bickering around service and volunteering has almost disappeared. The call for citizen service is a major theme of presidential candidates of both parties. Al Gore, George W. Bush, John McCain and Bill Bradley all have spoken powerfully on the need for citizen service and the role that nonprofits and faith-based organizations can play in solving community problems and uniting us as a nation.

While the political winds have been shifting, two great streams of civilian service—community volunteering and intensive national service—have become partners in communities across the country.

These collaborations work because the Points of Light and AmeriCorps are founded on the same fundamental belief: through service we can bring people together to solve the problems that still plague our country. Their operating principle is to provide resources—usually people power—to thousands of nonprofits, with government playing the role of junior partner, supporting the work of these organizations, not guiding it.

Three years ago the Points of Light Foundation and the Corporation for National Service cemented and elevated their partnership when Presidents Bush and Clinton came together to convene the Presidents' Summit for America's Future in Philadelphia. They enlisted Colin Powell to chair the Summit and to lead the continuing campaign for America's Promise.

Powell's mandate is to rally the forces of all the great institutions in this country, businesses, the nonprofit sector, governments at all levels, and committed individuals, traditional volunteers and those in full-time service, to make a concerted effort to assure the conditions for success for all young Americans.

In coming weeks this partnership between the Corporation for National Service and the Points of Light Foundation will be demonstrated again as a bipartisan coalition in the United States House of Representatives and United States Senate introduces legislation reauthorization the Corporation and its three main programs—AmeriCorps, the Senior Corps, and student service learning. This legislation will extend the life of the Corporation and support for the Points of Light Foundation into the next Administration.

Presidents Bush and Clinton pressed—and are still pressing—an idea and an ideal. Together they have raised a standard to which, as George Washington said at the Constitutional Convention, "the wise and the honest may repair."

This is a legacy of which they can jointly and justly be proud.

By passing this legislation, Congress will honor and share in this important bipartisan and nonpartisan legacy.

HONORING MARY MIYASHITA

HON. ROBERT T. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 27, 2000

Mr. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, today I honor a woman with a remarkable career in public service, Mary Miyashita. To say that Mary has a flair for politics would only begin to skim the surface of the extraordinary contributions that she has made to numerous candidates and causes over the years.

Mary first got involved in politics during the 1948 gubernatorial campaign of Adlai Stevenson and has been a dedicated social and political activist ever since. The best way to describe Mary's political interests and involvement is exhaustive. I consider her presence to be a staple in the Democratic Party. She carries with her enough charisma to charm a crowd as well as the political savvy and assertiveness needed to fight the good fight. She has been selected as a Delegate to the Democratic National Convention five times in the past 30 years, served as Co-Chair of the California Affirmative Action Committee in 1976 as well as Co-Chair of the California Democratic Party Budget and Finance Committee in 1976.

She has done everything from Chairing the 1980 Kennedy Caucus to hosting political leaders at her home. In fact, the only thing that stretches farther than Mary's dedication is her knowledge of the political scene. By just glancing at her impressive list of political involvement, it is easy to attest that Mary is a true champion of public service.

Over the years, Mary has been recognized by a host of organizations for her Herculean efforts. In 1975 she was named Democratic Woman of the Year and Key Woman of the Democratic Women's Forum in 1960. This year she is being recognized once more, this time by the esteemed publication Asia Week for her many years of public service. As a founding member of the first Asian Pacific Caucus in 1976, Mary helped to pave the way for equal and just treatment of Asian Pacific Americans. Time and time again she has succeeded in ensuring that the interests of the Asian Pacific Community are heard and protected. She has been the shining light that has inspired scores of youth to get involved in politics. I can think of no one else more deserving of this honor than Mary.

Her involvement is not exclusive to strictly politics. She is an active member of the PTA, ACLU, Women for Peace and the League of Women Voters to name a few. Programs such as Meals on Wheels, and the Woman and Children Crisis Shelter would not have found the success that they have enjoyed without Mary to support them.

Her continuous leadership is a true testament to public service. If a template for leadership could be made, it would bear the resemblance of my good friend Mary Miyashita. Her career thus far as a social and political activist is commendable, and happily far from being over.