

Americans into separate racial, gender, or ethnic groups. Rather government should strengthen those bonds that make us all Americans. Throughout his tenure in the House, CHARLES CANADY has remained committed to working toward realizing this goal.

For these and many other reasons, both CHARLES CANADY's constituents and his colleagues will miss him. Back in 1992, CHARLES CANADY pledged to serve no more than four consecutive terms in this body. While I admire his commitment to keeping his word, I know I speak for many of our colleagues when I say the House is losing one of its most effective Members. I wish CHARLES CANADY the best in whatever the future holds.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CHRIS CANNON

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 3, 2000

Mr. CANNON. Mr. Speaker, I rise for a point of personal privilege. I was unavoidably detained during a vote on the motion by the gentleman from Oregon to instruct conferees on the Fiscal Year 2001 Labor-HHS Appropriations Bill, rollcall vote No. 591.

Had I been present I would have voted "No."

TWO CENTRAL NEW YORK HIGH SCHOOLS WIN NEW YORK STATE MARCHING BAND COMPETITION

HON. JAMES T. WALSH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 3, 2000

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Speaker, on Saturday, October 29, 2000, two Central New York high schools won their respective divisions at the 2000 New York Field Band Conference Championship in Syracuse, New York. West Genesee High School located in Camillus, New York won their 12th straight title in the National Division of the competition. C.W. Baker High School in Baldwinsville, New York placed first in the Division III large-school competition.

Today, I would like to recognize the hard work, dedication and support of the band members, leaders and parents. Excellence has been achieved only through the dedication of so many, and I congratulate all of them on their success.

Forty bands competed in the championship competition held at the Carrier Dome on the Syracuse University Campus. West Genesee competed against six other teams in the National Division. Since 1974, West Genesee has won 23 of the past 27 New York State Field Band Conference Championships. The 2000 "Wildcat" Band has 170 members in grades 9–12. The end of the 2000 season marks the bands seventh consecutive undefeated year in New York State competition.

C.W. Baker High School competed against nine schools in the Large School, Division III component of the competition. The win marked "the Bee's" third New York State Championship victory. The 2000 Baker High Band has 70 members in grades 8–12.

I am pleased to congratulate all of the participants, supporters and leaders of West Genesee High School and Baldwinsville C.W. Baker High School Marching Bands.

MISSED OPPORTUNITY

HON. LOIS CAPPS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 3, 2000

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, I stayed in Washington until the last possible moment, hoping that Congress could finish the business of the people of the Central Coast and all Americans. There are critical unresolved issues still on the table—including school modernization, common-sense tax relief, and adequate funding for Medicare.

I am deeply dismayed that the congressional leadership has decided to push these issues off to a lame duck session. The American people deserve better. I support the Water Resources Development Act for a number of reasons. The bill authorizes a historic environmental restoration of our national treasure, the Everglades. Here on the Central Coast, I was pleased to help include \$9.2 million in federally authorized funding for the Lower Mission Creek Area flood control project.

I am, however, very disappointed that two additional provisions that I secured in the House bill were stripped out by the Senate Leadership. I fought for authorization to fund the Los Osos sewage treatment. I also secured a \$10.3 million authorization for a desalination project in Cambria. Both of these projects are important to the quality of life for thousands of San Luis Obispo county residents.

At this time, I am pleased to note that the leadership of both the House and Senate have pledged to include these projects in the final appropriations legislation that will pass when Congress reconvene after the election. My constituents can rest assured that I will work very hard to see that these critical programs are enacted.

HONORING CITIZENSHIP AND SERVICE

HON. STEVE BUYER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 3, 2000

Mr. BUYER. Mr. Speaker, as we approach the final days of the one hundred and sixth Congress, I would like to address what it means to be a citizen of these United States. America's national character has always been defined by hard work, discipline and commitment to a higher goal. These ideals have convinced patriots throughout our history to serve their nation and defend freedom and the rule of law in every corner of the globe. They have also inspired ordinary citizens to dedicate themselves to improving the lives of their neighbors through service to their communities.

With Veterans' Day now a week away, it is appropriate to pause and reflect on the service and sacrifice that so many of our citizens have

made in defense of freedom. Tragically, this service has often exacted a terrible price. On October 12, 2000, seventeen American sailors gave their lives when a terrorist bomb exploded near the U.S.S. *Cole*, a Navy destroyer moored in Aden, Yemen. I extend my condolences to the families of those who died and my heart felt appreciation to all those who wear the uniform of America's armed forces. Your dedicated service ensures our nation's continued prosperity and well-being.

The obligation to serve one's nation is an important component of citizenship but it is not the sole domain of those who wear the uniform of the United States' armed forces. On the contrary, service comes in many forms. Participation in one's local government, church or charity is an important aspect of service to the nation. Active involvement in the lives of our families is an often overlooked and neglected aspect of service. Whatever the calling, selfless service to a higher goal satisfies an important obligation that we all have as citizens of our great nation.

As we approach Election Day 2000, it is important to recognize another equally important component of citizenship: Our right and duty to vote. Plato said, "The price of apathy towards public affairs is to be ruled by evil men." In our form of democracy, liberty cannot be preserved without the participation of the electorate. Yet, sadly, many of our citizens fail to exercise their right and responsibility to cast their vote for those who would govern them. This ambivalence erodes the rigor of our democracy and can lead to disastrous results for our nation. On Tuesday, November 7, 2000, honor your fathers and their fathers before them by exercising your civic responsibility at the voting booth.

The most visible and enduring symbol of a strong, active American citizenry is our flag, the Stars and Stripes. Two hundred and twenty-three years after Congress first authorized the flag, it stands as a powerful symbol of our Republic, the courage of those who have defended it, and the resolve of Americans to protect their freedom. It is a mighty symbol, not only to the citizens of this great nation, but also to those abroad who see it flying at our embassies or on the ships of our naval fleet.

The Continental Congress resolved that, "The flag of the United States be thirteen stripes, alternate red and white; that the union be thirteen stars, white in a blue field, representing a new constellation." This blueprint is representative of the unity that we have been able to forge in this melting pot of cultures, ethnic groups, and races. Regardless of where our families originated from, the rich heritage that they brought with them and the uniquely American culture that they have forged, represents one of our greatest strengths.

America is still recognized as the land of opportunity and some of our proudest citizens are the newest Americans. Dr. Lorne A. Schnell, the father of a member of my Congressional staff, was one of these proud new Americans. Originally from Saskatchewan, Canada, Dr. Schnell and his wife, Joanne, have lived in Bourbonnais, Illinois since 1984. Steadfastly proud of his Canadian heritage, he made the decision to become an American citizen last year. Dr. Schnell flew his American flag with unabashed pride and he was eagerly looking forward to voting in this first election next week. Sadly, this proud new American

passed away suddenly on October 12, 2000, in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Dr. Schnell's life embodied the tenets of citizenship that I have discussed above. After a thirty-six year career in the pharmaceutical industry, he chose to dedicate his retirement years to serving his community. A gifted musician, avid golfer and talented woodworker, Dr. Schnell nonetheless committed countless hours to improving the lives of the people in his community. He worked hard to establish the Kankakee Valley Youth Orchestra and his vision was finally realized this summer. He also served on his church board of trustees and taught English as a second language to new immigrants.

President Richard Nixon said, "We must always remember that America is a great nation today not because of what government did for people but because of what people did for themselves and for one another." President Nixon's words embody the spirit of individual service and honor the extraordinary contributions of ordinary citizens like Dr. Lorne A. Schnell.

Liberty, justice, freedom and opportunity. These are not just idle words, they are the fundamental principles that make our Republic unique. Embrace these ideals and honor our forefathers by participating in the governance of your town, county, state and country. Volunteer your time and serve your community. Stand and proudly salute as your nation's flag passes by and instill in your children what it means to be an American citizen.

Citizenship is one of our nation's greatest strengths; it gives our nation's democracy vitality and longevity. As we face the uncertainties and challenges of the third millennium, the strength and character of the American citizenry provides us with the foundation to move forward as a nation. President Abraham Lincoln once said, "Whatever you are, be a good one." Heed President Lincoln's words by committing yourself to being an active participant in the well-being of your family and your community. Your dedicated service will help ensure the continuing prosperity of our great nation.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO CONGRESSMAN CHARLES CANADY

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 3, 2000

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, it is with a mixture of sadness and enthusiasm that I bid farewell to a friend and colleague, CHARLES CANADY as he prepares to voluntarily end his service in the United States Congress.

I am sad because I have known CHARLES since our days in the Florida state legislature but am excited for him as he embarks on a new journey.

I have had the distinct pleasure of not only serving with Congressman CANADY here in the House, but also in the Florida legislature where during his first term he was honored as the Most Effective First Term Legislator.

I believe that designation has stayed with him throughout his tenure in the House where he has served his district, the state of Florida, and indeed the nation by working hard on behalf of Florida's agricultural industry, on legis-

lation for lobbying disclosure reform and strengthening our criminal justice system.

The 1998 Almanac of American Politics summed it up when they said that "CANADY is hard-working and . . . strong in his convictions . . ."

I am certain his leadership will be missed by the constituents of Florida's 12th Congressional district. For myself, I can certainly say that his friendship and accomplishments in the House will be sorely missed and I know that he will continue to succeed in his role as Florida Governor Jeb Bush's General Counsel.

I am proud to have known and worked with Representative CANADY and I ask my Congressional colleagues to join me in paying tribute and saying good-bye to this dear friend.

IN HONOR OF THE 5TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ASSOCIATION FOR THE RESEARCH OF MIDDLE EASTERN CULTURES AND THE MOROCCAN 45TH INDEPENDENCE DAY

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 3, 2000

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to the Association for the Research of Middle Eastern Cultures, A.R.M.E.C., on its fifth anniversary, and to recognize the 45th Moroccan Independence Day. A.R.M.E.C. promotes cultural, social, educational, and religious activities in order to facilitate the participation of the Middle Eastern community in American life.

A.R.M.E.C. strives to promote interaction between individuals of various cultural and religious backgrounds in order to create an environment of mutual respect and understanding. For the past three years, they have honored and commended various Artists of the Year in order to further appreciate and bring recognition to the rich cultural heritage of the Middle East.

A.R.M.E.C.'s mission is to help facilitate a harmonious multicultural society. They sponsor various cultural and sporting events including conferences, musical performances, and traditional celebrations. In 1996, A.R.M.E.C. co-sponsored a family conference in Washington, D.C. with the theme: True Family Values for American Moslem Families. One hundred and fifty participants attended this conference to discuss how to improve the quality of families throughout the world.

Furthermore, Mr. Speaker, A.R.M.E.C. is involved in many humanitarian and social activities. After the death of King Hassan II of Morocco, A.R.M.E.C. made available for signing a condolence book addressed to his son and successor, King Mohammed VI. Following this year's devastating earthquake in Turkey, A.R.M.E.C. sent an appeal to its members to express their solidarity and generosity toward the people of Turkey.

The Association for the Research of Middle Eastern Cultures hopes to continue its efforts in familiarizing members with United States history, religious traditions, culture and laws, in order to facilitate integration into American society. Future projects include new immigrants support and assistance services, English and Arabic language classes, Middle East music

and dance classes, and marriage and family counseling.

Mr. Speaker, I salute the Association for the Research of Middle Eastern Cultures and ask my colleagues in Congress to join me in recognizing the great contributions of A.R.M.E.C. and the Moroccan 45th Independence Day.

URGING THE SENATE TO CONTINUE TO BLOCK THE APPOINTMENT OF U.S. AMBASSADOR TO LAOS

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 3, 2000

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I am troubled by the fact that the State Department has made almost no progress with regard to the disappearance of two Hmong Americans who went missing in Laos more than a year ago. Mr. Michael Vang, a constituent of mine from Fresno, CA, and Mr. Housa Ly, a constituent of Representative MARK GREEN from Appleton, WI, are believed to have been seized by the Pathet Lao along the border of Thailand and Laos. Our constituents have not been seen or heard from since.

I believe the U.S. Congress needs to get tougher with the military dictatorship in Laos and the bureaucrats at the State Department who are content to work gently and cooperatively with the same Lao officials who are likely responsible for the abduction of our constituents. The regime in Laos continues to brutalize and murder its own people, particularly the Lao and Hmong people—many of which have relatives in my Congressional district.

Congressmen Vento, GREEN and I helped to send a strong message to the State Department and to the Laos government last year with the passage of H. Res. 169, which was the first legislation to pass the House of Representatives specific to Laos—and it passed 412 to 20. Among other things it urged the Lao Government to return Mr. Ly and Mr. Vang, or their remains, to United States authorities and their families in America at once; it warned the Lao Government of the serious consequences, including sanctions, of acts of aggression against United States citizens; and finally it urged the Department of State and other appropriate United States agencies to share the maximum amount of information regarding the disappearance of Messrs. Ly and Vang. None of these things have come to pass.

So today I want to thank my colleague, Senator BOB SMITH from New Hampshire, for his efforts to place an ongoing hold on the appointment of a U.S. Ambassador to Laos until a fundamental overhaul of U.S. policy is made toward Laos, and until changes are made with regard to the way the State Department is handling the case of Mr. Michael Vang and Houa Ly.

There are others I would like to thank for their efforts to help us resolve this case. Ms. Susie Vang, the wife of Michael Vang, has repeatedly traveled from Fresno, California to provide crucial testimony at several important events highlighting this case in the 106th Congress. Chairman BEN GILMAN, Congressman MARK GREEN, Congressman Bruce Vento, Congressman RON KIND, Congressman WALLY