

HONORING THE SOUTH BAY NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER BREAKFAST

HON. STEVEN T. KUYKENDALL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 4, 2000

Mr. KUYKENDALL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the second annual South Bay National Day of Prayer Breakfast. This Judeo-Christian event was created to recognize the value of prayer and reflection in our daily lives.

This important occasion is patterned after the National Day of Prayer Breakfast in Washington, DC. Congress established the National Day of Prayer Breakfast in 1952 as a time for personal reflection and rededication of individuals, communities, and the nation to God.

I commend the business, religious, and community leaders who are responsible for organizing this event in the South Bay. This is a meaningful event for individuals of all backgrounds and faiths to come together as a community and reflect.

Although this is only the second year that the South Bay National Day of Prayer Breakfast is being held, it has quickly become a tradition. I look forward to its continued success.

HONORING JULIE JOHNSON-WILLIAMS

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 4, 2000

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, this week, Julie Johnson-Williams will be honored as the founding President and Member-Emeritus at Women for WineSense 10th Anniversary Conference in Sonoma County, California.

In 1981, Julie Johnson-Williams co-founded Frog's Leap Winery, one of the finest wineries in Napa Valley and its third California-Certified Organic Vineyard. Julie has been an active member in the Napa Valley Vintners Association, the California Wine Institute and the Winemaking Families and Grapegrowers' Appreciation Day. As an avid gardener, Julie creatively nurtures the vines, orchards and vegetable plots that delight the visitors of Frog's Leap.

As a Public Health nurse with a Nursing Award for Academic Excellence from Columbia University School of Nursing, Julie brings a commitment to healthy lifestyles to the world of wine. She now reaches beyond illness to the territory of the "well" in her Women for WineSense efforts. In particular, Julie has focused her activities to educate and empower women to make responsible lifestyle decisions, and to take a proactive stance in community and occupational arenas.

Julie's civic and philanthropic activities are built on her educational and career endeavors. As a parent, she is an on-going classroom volunteer in the St. Helena Unified School District. She has been a volunteer fund-raiser for the Shasta-Diablo Planned Parenthood group. As a health professional, Julie has a particular concern for the prevention of alcohol and drug abuse and has been an active member of numerous boards that address this issue.

Julie can truly be called a "Renaissance Woman." She has endless energy for her family, community and the vineyard she loves. Julie accomplishes so much and with great aplomb. Her generosity and talent greatly benefit the varied communities she serves.

Ten years ago, Julie founded the premier worldwide grassroots organization for women interested in wine. Women for WineSense continues to serve as a moderate, non-biased, non-profit educational and promotional organization to ensure all women and men have accurate information on the cultural, social and health effects of moderate wine consumption.

Mr. Speaker, I join the other Women for WineSense members in honoring Julie Johnson-Williams as their Founding President and Woman of the Year 2000.

TRIBUTE TO MR. AND MRS. JACK QUINN, SR.

HON. JACK QUINN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 4, 2000

Mr. QUINN. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to rise today to pay tribute and officially recognize a very special Golden Anniversary occurring in my Congressional District this weekend. In fact, this very well may be the speech I am most proud to give, because today I rise to honor my parents, Jack and Norma Quinn.

On May 6, 1950, Jack Quinn married Norma Ide at the Holy Family Church in South Buffalo. My father then went to work with the South Buffalo Railroad, where he spent over 32 years. Never one to shy away from hard work, he then took a new job with the Erie County Library System, where he spent an additional 16 years.

For the past 44 years, Jack and Norma Quinn have made their home on East Frontier in the Village of Blasdell.

While Jack worked at the Railroad and later with the Library system, Norma maintained part-time work, but focused intently on her role as a full-time Mother. Mr. Speaker, believe me, it must not have been easy raising the five Quinn boys.

As a community, we pause to honor and recognize those couples whose dedication, commitment and love for each other has carried them through fifty years of marriage. These couples serve as a positive example to our entire community that strong marriages based on love, mutual respect, and caring devotion will stand the test of time.

Throughout these past fifty years, their steadfast commitment to one another, strength, and devotion to our family has never faltered.

To commemorate this momentous occasion, our family will have a small, private ceremony where our parents will renew their vows.

Mr. Speaker, today I join with my four brothers, Kevin, Jeff, Tom and Mike, our wives and children, and our entire Quinn Family in special recognition and loving tribute to my parents on this Golden Anniversary. I thank them for their example of commitment to God, family, and to one another.

TRIBUTE TO CYNTHIA G. ROTH

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 4, 2000

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I take the floor today to honor Cynthia G. Roth, the recipient of the 2000 ATHENA Award.

The ATHENA Foundation Award Programs originated in 1980 by Martha Mayhood Mertz, who realized that in the 75 years of presenting community awards, her Lansing Regional Chamber of Commerce, of Michigan, had only once honored a woman. Mertz recognized that focus had to be given to the incredible professional women in our communities and they had to be incorporated into leadership positions in the local Chambers of Commerce.

Cynthia G. Roth, of my own district of Western Riverside, California, has worked with Greater Riverside Chambers of Commerce for 23 years. She started with the Chamber as a receptionist and is now the President and Chief Executive Officer, where she oversees a budget of \$1.1 million, supervises a staff of 15 and promotes the Riverside region. Cynthia's 23 years with the Greater Riverside Chambers of Commerce epitomizes the ATHENA philosophy of leadership that celebrates relationships and services to the community.

Mr. Speaker, my district is fortunate to have the dynamic and dedicated community leader in Cynthia. She has given her time and talents to promote the businesses, schools and community organizations of Riverside. Moreover, she has been an exceptional motivator and inspiration to all young women around her.

Cynthia's outstanding work makes me proud to call her a community member and fellow American. I know that all of Riverside, including myself, are grateful for her contribution to the betterment of our community and salute her on May 10th with the 2000 ATHENA Award.

I look forward to continuing to work with her and the many professional women of Riverside County for the good of our community. I would like to close with the ATHENA Foundation motto by Plato: "What is honored in a country will be cultivated there."

SUPPORTING A NATIONAL CHARTER SCHOOLS WEEK

SPEECH OF

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 2, 2000

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Con. Res. 310, supporting a National Charter Schools Week. I commend my distinguished colleague from Indiana, Mr. ROEMER, for highlighting the charter school movement and urging the Congress and the Administration to demonstrate support for our nation's charter schools.

Mr. Speaker, from 1989 to 1999, the number of students enrolled in public schools increased by 6.7 million, and the U.S. Census projects that our nation's school-age population will continue to grow throughout the century. In fact, many states have seen double-digit increases in school-age population. As

this population continues to grow, our commitment to finding new and innovative ways to meet the changing needs of educating our youth needs to grow as well.

Charter schools offer our communities the ability to enroll their children in schools that enjoy autonomy over its operation and freedom from regulations that other public schools must follow, but also are held accountable for improving student achievement. Nearly two-thirds of newly created charter schools seek to realize an alternative vision of schooling, and one-fourth were founded primarily to serve a special target population. Many charter schools also serve a large number of lower income students, minority populations and students with disabilities.

Not only does this resolution acknowledge the charter school movement's progress and future promise, but it also encourages the President to issue a proclamation to demonstrate support for charter schools and establishes a National Charter Schools Week. Our nation's 1700 charter schools and the 350,000 students who attend them deserve our support and recognition. I want to thank Mr. ROEMER for his continued leadership on this important education issue and your dedication to providing flexibility to our nation's schools.

HONORING EUGENE BRUNS

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 4, 2000

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today on behalf of the wonderful men and women of the Michigan State Police. Day after day, these brave people work to maintain safe streets for our children to live and play. On April 10, the Michigan State Police will recognize one of their own, as they gather to celebrate the retirement of Sergeant Eugene Herbert Bruns from State Police Lapeer Post #38.

Eugene Bruns was born in 1940 in Frankenmuth, Michigan, and graduated from Frankenmuth High in 1958. On March 9, 1964, Eugene enlisted in the Michigan State Police. He completed his requirements within 8 weeks and began his career at Warren Post #24. He was reassigned to East Lansing Post #11 in 1966, where he served as 1st District Recruiter. In March of 1972, Eugene was promoted to Detective Sergeant of Lapeer Post #38, serving the entire Thumb area of the state. He remained at the Post, accepting an assignment as Desk Sergeant in 1981, and has served there ever since.

During his 35-year tenure with the State Police, Eugene was the well-deserving recipient of numerous honors and citations, and his actions have benefited law enforcement officials from all over the country. In 1968, he was awarded for Meritorious Service for his work on a check fraud complaint that resulted in several arrests in Texas. A 1974 narcotics case recovered thousands of dollars of property, firearms, and drugs. And in 1978, a simple discovery of a stolen snowmobile led to the uncovering of a three state criminal ring. For his diligent work over the course of several decades, Lapper Post #38 recognized Eugene in 1994 as Trooper of the Year.

In addition to being a member of the Michigan State Police Troopers Association, Eu-

gene has become a vital part of the Lapeer community, as shown by his work with the Lions Club and Kiwanis Club of Lapeer. He has also expressed his dedication to his fellow Troopers by serving three two-year terms on the State Police Hardship Fund Committee.

Mr. Speaker, as a Member of Congress, I consider it my duty and my privilege to protect and defend human dignity and the quality of life for our citizens. I am extremely grateful to have a person like Eugene Bruns who shares these beliefs, and has made it his life's work to see this task achieved. I ask my colleagues in the 106th Congress to please join me in congratulating Eugene, and wishing him the very best in his retirement.

TEXAS HOME SCHOOL APPRECIATION WEEK

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 4, 2000

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, as this is Texas Home School Appreciation week, I am pleased to take this opportunity to salute those Texas parents who have chosen to educate their children at home. While serving in Congress, I have had the opportunity to get to know many of the home schooling parents in my district. I am very impressed by the job these parents are doing in providing their children with a quality education. I have also found that home schooling parents are among the most committed activists in the cause of advancing individual liberty, constitutional government, and traditional values. I am sure my colleagues on the Education Committee would agree that the support of home schoolers was crucial in defeating the scheme to implement a national student test.

Home schooling is becoming a popular option for parents across the country. In Texas alone, there are approximately seventy five thousand home schooling families educating an average of three children per household. Home schooling is producing some outstanding results. For example, according to a 1997 study the average home schooled student scores near the ninetieth percentile on standardized academic achievement tests in reading, mathematics, social studies, and science! Further proof of the success of home schooling is the fact that in recent years, self-identified home schoolers have scored well above the national average on both the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) and the American College Test (ACT). These high scores are achieved by home schooling children, regardless of race, income-level, or gender.

Contrary to media-generated stereotypes portraying home schooled children as isolated from their peers, home schooled children participate in a wide variety of social, athletic, and extra-curricular activities. Home schooling parents have formed numerous organizations designed to provide their children ample opportunity to interact with other children. In fact, recent data indicates that almost 50% of home schooled children engage in extra-curricular activities such as group sports and music classes, while a third of home schooled children perform volunteer work in their communities.

Mr. Speaker, to be a home schooling parent takes a unique dedication to family and edu-

cation. In many cases, home school families must forgo the second income of one parent, as well as incurring the costs of paying for textbooks, computers, and other school supplies. Home schooling parents must pay these expenses while, like all American families, struggling to pay state, local, and federal taxes.

In order to help home schoolers, and all parents, devote more of their resources to their children's education, I have introduced the Family Education Freedom Act (H.R. 935). This bill provides all parents a \$3,000 per child tax credit for K-12 education expenses. This bill would help home school parents to provide their children a first-class education in a loving home environment.

The Family Education Freedom Act will also benefit those parents who choose to send their children to public or private schools. Parents who choose to send their children to private school may use their tax credit to help cover the cost of tuition. Parents who choose to send their children to public schools may use their tax credit to help finance the purchase of educational tools such as computers or extracurricular activities like music programs. Parents may also use the credit to pay for tutoring and other special services for their children.

Mr. Speaker, the best way to improve education is to return control over education resources to the people who best know their children's unique needs: those children's parents. Congress should empower all parents, whether they choose to home school or send their child to a public or private school, with the means to control their child's education. That is why I believe the most important education bill introduced in this Congress is the Family Education Freedom Act.

In conclusion, I wish to once again commend the accomplishments of those parents who have chosen to educate their children at home. I also urge my colleagues to help home schoolers, and all parents, ensure their children get a quality education by cosponsoring the Family Education Freedom Act.

IN TRIBUTE TO ROBBIE AND RICKEY GELB

HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 4, 2000

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Robbie and Rickey Gelb, who were recently honored by Haven Hills Inc. for their service on behalf of domestic violence victims.

A National Crime Victimization Survey indicated that in 1996 there were about 1 million rapes, sexual assaults, robberies, aggravated assaults and simple assaults committed by someone in an intimate relationship with the victim. Eight of 10 of the victims were women.

Despite that frightening statistic, a 1998 report by the U.S. Department of Justice indicates that the rate of domestic violence in many categories has been declining over the past decade. I believe the downward trend is directly attributable to the outreach efforts by such organizations as Haven Hills and supporters such as Robbie and Rickey Gelb, in conjunction with stronger laws to deal with the problem and greater community awareness.