

Massachusetts, I toured the Cuniff Elementary School and viewed how they are wiring their school and upgrading their computers. In Boston, Massachusetts, I visited the Winship Elementary School and discussed the Constitution with fifth graders. I am always amazed at the warm greeting I receive from students, and from teachers. For them, it does not matter who the visitor is, but rather that someone cares and recognizes the hard work they do.

Mr. Speaker, almost 5,000 teachers in over 176 schools educate approximately 86,000 students in the 8th district; far too many teachers to mention everyone by name. However, I would like to take a moment to thank all the teachers in Belmont, Boston, Somerville, Cambridge, Chelsea and Watertown for tirelessly giving of themselves to educate our future leaders.

Mr. Speaker, as we prepare to debate the reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, I hope each Member of Congress will reflect upon the valuable contributions of teachers in their respective districts, and work to pass legislation that helps our nation's teachers provide the best possible education for our children.

EQUAL PAY DAY

HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 11, 2000

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, today is equal pay day. We should recognize women and pay them equally. They are our grandmothers, mothers, wives, colleagues, teachers, caregivers, citizens and leaders.

Women's role in the home and work place is critical. That's why I am pleased to co-sponsor H.R. 541, the Paycheck Fairness Act, and H.R. 1271, the Fair Pay Act. And I am pleased to sponsor the 8th annual women's event on August 4th at Cal Sate University San Bernardino.

Many working women lack the basic benefits they need to care for their families. So we have kids with illnesses going to school; kids who have not eaten breakfast; and kids hanging out on the street because their mothers work two or three jobs.

We need laws to improve child care and after-school care. On the job, working women are looking for higher pay, better benefits and most of all the "3-R's": respect, recognition and reward for a job well done. Working women want a stronger voice—not only in decisions on the job but in the policy making area.

Women deserve our support.

TRIBUTE TO THE 21ST CENTURY COMMUNITY SCHOOL HOUSE

HON. DARLENE HOOLEY

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 11, 2000

Ms. HOOLEY. Mr. Speaker, in honor of H. Con. Res. 310—which was passed by the House last week—to Commend the Charter School Movement, I rise to pay tribute to a

new PUBLIC charter high school in Salem, Oregon, the heart of my district.

The 21st Century Community Schoolhouse is a small high school where no student is anonymous. With a curriculum that integrates ALL subjects, it is founded on the belief that students' work must be relevant to them, incorporate high academic standards, and include extensive community service.

These students, who formerly have been alienated because of whatever differences make them special, will now become connected to each other, to their teachers, and to adult mentors in the community. I believe that we cannot afford to let one high school student slip through the cracks in the public school system, and the 21st Century Community Schoolhouse provides a model for school districts across the country to follow.

This resolution represents a national commemoration of the charter school movement and the contribution charter schools have made to improving the nation's public school system. But we are not only here to applaud charter schools today—this resolution will continue to express our appreciation of charter schools by designating a National Charter Schools Week.

Often times, we forget to celebrate the parts of our education system which are working. The 21st Century Community Schoolhouse in my district works and I wish to celebrate them.

NATIONAL TEACHER APPRECIATION DAY—RECOGNIZING THE REMARKABLE ACHIEVEMENTS OF LOCAL EDUCATORS

HON. BRIAN BAIRD

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 11, 2000

Mr. BAIRD. Mr. Speaker, this week we celebrate National Teacher's Appreciation Day, and today I personally recognize some of the remarkable educators who have had a profound affect on the lives of children throughout my district. I have had the opportunity to visit over 200 classrooms in my district since my election to Congress, and I can tell you the teachers I recognize today are just a small sampling of the innovative teaching, academic leadership, energy, and enthusiasm I have seen from educators in so many of the schools in my Southwest Washington district.

For educators, teaching at a small, rural, and often underfunded school poses particularly difficult challenges. In the case of 5th and 6th grade teacher Timothy Davis, he has worked tirelessly for sixteen years at Mount Pleasant School in Washougal to overcome the obstacles faced by the school district. During two years when the school district faced financial difficulties and could not afford to keep a full staff, Mr. Davis stepped forward to serve in a dual role of teacher, principal, and superintendent. Tim Davis never puts in less than 12 hours a day, devoting his free time to applying for grants and creating a challenging curriculum for his students. Mr. Davis is praised by his peers for his patience, consideration, and good judgment.

Students at Centralia High School are truly lucky to have an enthusiastic science teacher by the name of Henri Weeks. After graduating from Centralia High School, Mr. Weeks re-

turned in 1989 to take the job of his former science teacher. Since that time, Henri Weeks has worked tirelessly to make science fun and interesting for his students. In his spare time, Mr. Weeks has taken part in summer internships at Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center and has incorporated DNA testing in the schools science lab projects. His students are currently involved in the human genome project (DNA mapping) which is being coordinated by the University of Washington. Henri Weeks is described by his peers a selfless educator that cares a great deal about inspiring his students to achieve greatness.

At South Bend High School, Mr. Steve Lazelle is credited for being an outstanding teacher who is in high demand as a presenter on his unique Aquaculture curriculum locally, regionally, and nationally. In 1990, the district was chosen as one of six test sites in the nation to pilot an aquaculture curriculum provided by the National Council for Agricultural Education. Mr. Lazelle is one of the original teaching team members to infuse aquaculture into Agricultural education beginning in a one-room facility with ten students. Today, thanks to Steve's leadership, the program is located at the Port of Willapa Harbor's Port Dock facility with Steve as the only instructor and manager whose enrollment topped out at 83 students. The program raises and sells tilapia fish to the markets of Seattle, and works with the local gill-netters association to raise and release salmon into the Willapa River. Steve Lazelle is acknowledged by his peers as a man who has changed the lives of many of the students who come into contact with him.

Jim Van Fleet, a former skilled millwright who worked for Reynolds Aluminum Company in Longview for nearly twenty years, now devotes his life to school children. Mr. Van Fleet has been a volunteer coach for kids in various levels of softball and basketball for all of his life, but recently returned to school and earned a masters in teaching. In 1997, Jim began his teaching career at Caste Rock Middle School where he teaches math and science. Mr. Van Fleet is very popular with his students because of his innovative, stimulating lessons. He has developed several games that are used as lessons in his classes. Mr. Van Fleet is at the forefront in the use of technology for improvement of student learning and has been a mentor to other teachers in development of technology augmented instruction. Jim is respected by staff and parents for his ability, dedication to improvement, and for his approachable demeanor.

Since 1972, George Simonsen has instilled a love of music in hundreds of students at all levels in the Kelso School District. Under George's direction, The Kelso High School Chamber Orchestra has won three gold medals at international music competitions. In addition, George's orchestras have performed at numerous competitions and events throughout the state and Northwest. Several years ago they performed before an audience of 20,000 school board members at a national convention in Anaheim, California. In addition to being a gifted teacher, Mr. Simonsen is the director of the Southwest Washington Symphony—one of the truly fine small symphony orchestras in the country. Mr. Simonsen is an important part of the Kelso team, using music as a tool to support learning, willingly accepting extra work, and bringing enthusiasm to all of the activities in which he participates.

Mary Holmberg masterfully teaches a sixth grade classroom at Meadows Elementary School in Lacey. Besides her exceptional work in her own classroom with diverse students, Ms. Holmberg has been a key leader in implementing new math and science curriculums in the school district. Mary devotes numerous hours of her free time to working with math and science teachers throughout the school district and to helping lead after school programs for students. Mary teaches a double class of math students every day in order to help out a visually impaired teacher. Additionally, Ms. Holmberg is always available both before and after school hours to help students with their work.

A teacher at Elma Elementary School for seventeen years, Carol Boyer believes in relevant, exciting, and fun learning experiences for her fifth grade students. A study of astronomy includes a sleep over to view the heavens. A study of the Oregon Trail includes the construction of a wagon train, formation of families, and a simulation of the life along the trail. To bring animal life close to her students, Carol is working with a master birder to create an environment that attracts species of birds at the school site. She is currently creating a unit of study on the Osprey for student research to answer the question, "Why are the eggshells of the Osprey becoming thinner and how does it affect their survival?" In the midst of school reforms, Carol teaches to the Essential Academic Learning Requirements in a way that is engaging, thought provoking, and hands-on.

Mr. Speaker, I could go on for hours about the remarkable teachers who are impacting students throughout my district every day. Today, however, I can only highlight a few of the amazing, generous individuals who are giving selflessly of themselves to help our children succeed. As Teacher Appreciation Day comes to a close, I would implore residents in my district and parents throughout America to thank their child's teacher for providing the most valuable gift their child will ever receive, the gift of knowledge.

CELEBRATING TAIWANESE-AMERICAN HERITAGE WEEK

HON. PETER DEUTSCH

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 11, 2000

Mr. DEUTSCH. Mr. Speaker, this month I join with citizens across the nation in celebrating Pacific American Heritage Month. The Pacific American community represents an important foundation of America's future and I commend the proud celebration of its heritage.

Taiwanese-American Heritage Week, the part of Pacific American Heritage Month held from May 7 to May 14, celebrates the unique and diverse contributions of the more than 500,000 Taiwanese-Americans in the United States. This portion of the population has made countless significant achievements in our country and their accomplishments can be found in every facet of American life. Taiwanese-Americans have succeeded as successful and notable artists, Nobel Laureate scientists, researchers, human rights activists, and business leaders.

In addition to recognizing these contributions, Taiwanese-American Heritage Week

also provides an excellent opportunity to celebrate the success of democracy on the island of Taiwan. Since 1987, the Taiwanese people have freely selected their own leaders, practiced the religion of their choice, and expressed their thoughts openly and freely. Taiwan has become a vibrant and democratic participant in the family of nations. The recent election of Mr. Chen Shui-bian as the new president of Taiwan should be considered a reaffirmation of their dedication to democratic ideals.

However, despite Taiwan's many accomplishments, significant political challenges still remain. With all that the Taiwanese people and Taiwanese-Americans have accomplished, there can be no complete satisfaction until Taiwan's sovereignty, status and global contributions are respected and appreciated. Gaining worldwide recognition of the legitimacy of Taiwan's government is paramount. It is crucial that the voice of the 22 million people of Taiwan be heard in international organizations such as the United Nations, the World Health Organization and other international organizations.

Mr. Speaker, Taiwanese-American Heritage Week recognizes and celebrates the longstanding friendship between the United States and Taiwan. I hope my colleagues will join with me in commending the accomplishments and contributions of the Taiwanese American community.

INTRODUCTION OF MOTOR CARRIER FUEL COST EQUITY ACT OF 2000

HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 11, 2000

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation to address a crisis which threatens to severely reduce competition in the trucking industry.

To the hundreds of independent truckers who in an orderly and proper fashion came to their Nation's capitol earlier this year, let me say, we heard you. This gentleman from West Virginia, at least, heard what you had to say.

Everyone is concerned over the effect high fuel costs are having on our economy. But in particular, high diesel fuel prices are hitting the independent small trucker the hardest. These individuals, who own and operate their own rigs, are faced with financial ruin. Simply put, they cannot afford sharp increases in diesel fuel prices and they are not in the position to pass these increased costs on to shippers. The result is that many are going out of business and an important segment of the trucking industry is being lost.

What does this mean? Aside from the very real and pressing personal hardships these independent truckers and their families face, we are also losing competition in the trucking industry. Many shippers are concerned over consolidations in the railroad industry. Situations where due to the lack of competition, they believe they are held hostage to a single railroad. These shippers could face a similar situation in trucking as the owner-operators succumb to rising fuel costs, thinning the ranks of trucking alternatives.

Indeed, last month in testimony before the Resources Committee the head of the Amer-

ican Trucking Associations, Walter McCormick, noted: "If we start to see bottlenecks, shippers who today object to a fuel surcharge will have to scramble to get their freight delivered at any cost. It's easy to see where that leads: Consumer prices rise and inflation snuffs out our country's economic expansion."

This statement echoes what the president of the Owner-Operator Independent Drivers Association, James Johnston, said before the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure on March 21st: "If we don't fix this problem soon, and truckers continue to lose their businesses or refuse to drive unprofitably, we are going to see greater disruptions in our economy as goods do not get to market and just-in-time deliveries to manufacturers cease to arrive 'just-in-time.'"

To address this situation, we are introducing the "Motor Carrier Fuel Cost Equity Act of 2000." This legislation would require that a mandatory fuel surcharge be put into place for truckload carriers, and that the surcharge actually be passed through to the motor carrier, or as the case may be, the broker or freight forwarder, who is providing the transportation service in situations where diesel fuel prices are the subject of sudden and exorbitant increases. Further, the bill provides that if existing transportation contracts or agreements already contain fuel surcharges, nothing in the legislation would affect those arrangements.

To be sure, this is not unique response to fuel crises. There are situations where existing contracts between shippers and motor carriers contains fuel surcharges. Further, in response to past fuel crises, the Interstate Commerce Commission first mandated them during the 1970s. However, once the filed rate doctrine was abolished, federal authority in this matter lapsed.

The question could be asked, why now mandate a fuel surcharge if some transportation contracts already provide for them. The answer lies in the type of environment in which independent truckers operate. In those instances where they are under lease to a motor carrier to provide the transportation service, there is no guarantee that a surcharge will be passed on to them. The transportation contract is between the motor carrier and the shipper, and the owner-operator has no role in the types of rates charged.

In addition, where the independent trucker has his or her own operating authority and deals directly with shippers, they usually do not have the leverage to obtain a fuel surcharge from them. In effect, the independent trucker, being a small businessman, is put in a position of either having to accept the offered rate or losing the business.

Mr. Speaker, I believe this legislation represents a fair and reasonable approach to addressing this situation. It does not solve the fuel crisis, but it would bring relief to an important sector of the transportation industry.

EQUAL PAY DAY RESOLUTION

HON. NEIL ABERCROMBIE

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 11, 2000

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the significance of May 11th, as Equal Pay Day. Today is the day