

We renew our commitment to Aung San Suu Kyi and the National League of Democracy. As long as you struggle, we will do all we can to assist. And we know that you will not stop struggling until you prevail.

The yearning for freedom is relentless. The walls it cannot overwhelm, it will nevertheless erode. And I am confident the day will come when Burma is free. And Aung San Suu Kyi's democratic dream will become a reality through the inspiration of his daughter, the bravery of the Burmese people, and the support of those who love liberty around the world.

I thank you all very much for participating in this event because I think that for Aung San Suu Kyi to know that there are people all over that support her must be a source of strength to her. She a truly remarkable woman, and we owe her a great deal.

Thank you very much.

COLORADO STATE REPRESENTATIVE MARCY MORRISON

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 23, 2000

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I wanted to take this moment to recognize the career of one of Colorado's leading statesmen, State Representative Marcy Morrison. In doing so, I would like to honor this individual who, for so many years, has exemplified the notion of public service and civic duty. It is clear that Representative Morrison's dynamic leadership will be greatly missed and difficult to replace.

Elected to the Colorado House of Representatives in 1992, a seat she would hold to present time, she served on the Health and Judiciary Committees. She sponsored the Post Delivery Care for Stays in Hospitals and immunization for more Colorado children. Marcy has also been very active on the health care issues for seniors, the disabled, and child care.

Representative Morrison received many honors. She received the Women of Spirit Award from the Colorado Counseling Association, as well as, the Outstanding School Board Member award-Gates Scholarship from the Kennedy School. Marcy has also received awards from the Colorado Obstetrics & Gynecology Society, the Pediatric Society and the Colorado Planners Association.

This year marked the end of Representative Morrison's tenure in elected office. Her career embodied the citizen-legislator ideal and was a model that every official in elected office should seek to emulate. The citizens of Colorado owe Representative Morrison a debt of gratitude and I wish her well.

1999-2000 GED GRADUATES—COOSA VALLEY TECHNICAL INSTITUTE ROME, GA

HON. BOB BARR

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 23, 2000

Mr. BARR of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, the first graduate equivalency diploma (GED) tests were developed in 1942 to help returning World War II veterans finish their studies and re-enter civilian life. Then, as now, the GED tests measure the academic skills and knowledge expected of high school graduates in the United States. The GED program has served as a bridge to education and employment for an estimated 13 million people over its 58-year history. Approximately one in seven high school diplomas issued in the United States is based on passing the GED tests, and 68 percent of GED test-takers plan to enter a college, university, trade, technical, or business school in the very next year. During the past 10 years, the number of adults taking special editions of the GED tests (audio cassette and braille) more than doubled.

Today I salute the 1999-2000 GED graduates of Coosa Valley Technical Institute in Rome, GA. Coosa Valley Tech is an official GED testing center, under contract with the Georgia Department of Technical and Adult Education and the American Council on Education. Adults who are 18 years of age and officially withdrawn from school are eligible for testing. Those who pass the GED are awarded the General Educational Development Diploma, and, in Georgia, most are eligible for a \$500 HOPE voucher from the State of Georgia to defray costs of continuing education at eligible schools.

The environment of the school is designed to give special attention to adults returning to school to resume educational programs which were interrupted in earlier years. These adults may be refreshing their basic skills to re-enter the job market after a layoff; preparing for the GED tests to qualify for a job or educational program which requires a high school diploma to enter; or working toward a personal educational goal which they have set for themselves. More than 95 percent of employers in the United States consider GED graduates the same as traditional high school graduates when making hiring, salary, and promotion decisions.

Nationwide, statistics indicate more than 800,000 adults take the GED tests each year. Those who obtain scores high enough to earn a GED diploma outperform at least one-third of today's high school seniors.

Some prominent GED graduates include: actor Bill Cosby; Wendy's founder, Dave Thomas; and U.S. Senator BEN NIGHTHORSE CAMPBELL (R-CO).

Not only have adults who obtain their GED worked diligently to reach their educational goal, many did so while holding down full time jobs. Many are mothers or fathers who must care for the needs of their children. Most certainly, they are to be congratulated for their diligence and hard work in achieving their goals. It is hoped each of them will continue to succeed in future endeavors, and statistics indicate that will likely be the case.

It is my honor to place this recognition of the 1999-2000 GED graduates of Coosa Valley Technical Institute into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD of the 106th Congress of the United States of America.

HONORING LOCAL LEGACIES PROJECT PARTICIPANTS

HON. VERNON J. EHLERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 23, 2000

Mr. EHLERS. Mr. Speaker, today I recognize the Local Legacies project that has served as the focal point of this year's Library of Congress Bicentennial celebration. Last year, each Member of Congress was asked to submit audio, visual, or textual documentation for at least one significant cultural heritage that has been important to his or her district, serving as a record for future generations. This documentation will be permanently housed in the collections of the Library's American Folklife Center. This evening, Members of Congress and Local Legacies project participants from across the country will gather in the Great Hall of the Thomas Jefferson Building to celebrate the completion of this magnificent collection of historical material.

I am proud to have participated in the Local Legacies project and personally thank volunteers Kathy Kuhn and Eileen Schwarz-Duty, who deserve an enormous amount of credit for gathering and compiling the Local Legacies project for the Third District of Michigan. Kathy and Eileen coordinated the massive effort of documenting The Festival of the Arts: The Nation's Largest All-Volunteer Arts Festival. This Festival is a three-day celebration of the arts held the first full weekend of June in downtown Grand Rapids, Michigan. The first festival was held in 1970 and has grown considerably over the years. In 1998, 20,000 volunteers helped showcase the work of several thousand artists, dancers, musicians, poets, and other performers. Festival is also known for its wide variety of food booths set up by non-profit organizations that highlight various ethnic themes and culinary specialties. Festival hats, water bottles, beanie babies, posters, programs, pins, and a video are just a few of the many items that were submitted on behalf of the Third District. Because of the passion these two individuals have for Festival, the Library of Congress has received the best possible representation to what our major West Michigan event is all about.

I encourage everyone to take a moment to explore the Local Legacies materials that have been submitted for inclusion in the Library's collection. All information regarding Local Legacies, including a complete project listing, can be accessed through the Library's Bicentennial Web site at: <http://www.loc.gov/bicentennial>.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and our colleagues to applaud the efforts of volunteers from across the country who have helped in the bicentennial celebration of America's oldest federal cultural institution, the Library of Congress. Thanks to their work and care in preserving the past, the cultural heritage of our nation will be preserved.

OPENING OF THE POLISH CENTER
OF DISCOVERY AND LEARNING
AT ELMS COLLEGE IN CHICOPEE,
MASSACHUSETTS

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 23, 2000

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor today to take a few minutes to recognize a significant event is my district that will both recognize and honor the impact the Polish American culture has made upon western Massachusetts.

On Saturday, June 3rd, the Elms College in Chicopee, Massachusetts will open a new Polish Center of Discovery and Learning. This new center will address a need in the community that is not currently being met by other area academic research centers and cultural associations. The Polish Center will provide support materials for local schools and educational institutions to encourage and assist people in western Massachusetts and from throughout New England to learn about and discover Poland.

The Polish Center will develop a permanent exhibit of historical and cultural materials which will be housed in an inviting community meeting space. The mission of the center will be to offer a variety of workshops, exhibits, concerts, conferences, films, plays and lectures. All of this will be done in an effort to make known the achievements of Americans of Polish descent and others whose relationships with the ethnic Polish culture has contributed to the economy, the arts and the sciences in New England.

The resources at the Polish Center of Discovery and Learning will include a library collection of English language materials for undergraduate students and the general public on topics of Polish history and culture. The Center will also include a database of historical and statistical information with a concentration on Poles in the United States. Historical and cultural artifacts, as well as support materials and bibliographies will be available.

What is most special about the Center, however, is that it will draw upon the collective experiences of people of Polish origin who live within the western Massachusetts area. Programming will be available for adults, children and college students, and traditional Polish customs and traditions will be passed down through the generations.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to represent such as interesting and unique Center dedicated to learning and sharing the Polish American culture that thrives in my area. I look forward to working closely with the directors of this Center, and to participating in the many exciting programs and events that are to come in the future.

Congratulations to Elms College for establishing the Polish Center of Discovery and Learning.

COLORADO STATE
REPRESENTATIVE, DEBBIE ALLEN

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 23, 2000

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I wanted to take this moment to recognize the career of one of Colorado's leading ladies, State Representative Debbie Allen. In doing so, I would like to honor this individual who, for so many years, has exemplified the notion of public service and civic duty. It is clear that Representative Allen's dynamic leadership will be greatly missed and difficult to replace.

Elected to the State House in 1992, a seat she would hold until present. Representative Allen rose quickly to positions of great importance within the House. Debbie served as the chairman of the Education Committee. Some of her key issues have been crime, law enforcement and educational reform. Debbie is also a Republican activist, serving as the President of the Aurora Republican forum.

Representative Allen also received many honors. She received the Top Metro Legislator award, Friend of Agriculture award, CU Alumni Legislative Award, and the Junior League Champion for Small Children Award. Debbie also received the 5 year award for a 4-H leather instructor.

2000 marked the end of Representative Allen's tenure in the State House of Representatives. Her career embodied the citizen-legislator ideal and was a model that every official in elected office should seek to emulate. The citizens of Colorado owe Representative Allen a debt of gratitude and I wish her well.

HONORING WOMEN WHO HAVE
SERVED, FOUGHT AND DIED FOR
FREEDOM

HON. LANE EVANS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 23, 2000

Mr. EVANS. Mr. Speaker, from our nation's beginning to the present, women have answered the call to duty without hesitation. Like their male counterparts, they put their lives, their goals, and their dreams on hold to serve their nation.

Women's participation in the military dates back as early as the Revolutionary War when in June of 1778 at Monmouth Courthouse a woman came to the aid of General George Washington and his weary troops. Moving across the battlefield binding wounds and dispensing water, this woman, who became known as "Molly Pitcher", noticed that one of the gun positions had ceased firing. She quickly put down her water pitcher, took over the gun position and fired her cannon. She stayed at her station until relieved by artillerymen. Historians recorded her deeds and actions and while her true identity is not known, "Molly Pitcher" is representative of the women who served with the Continental Army in our country's fight for independence.

During World War I women served as nurses in the armed forces. By the end of the

war, 34,000 women had served in the Army and Navy Nurse Corps, the Marines, and the Coast Guard. These women served with honor not only on American soil, but overseas as well. Three Army nurses received the Distinguished Service Cross, a combat medal second only to the Medal of Honor. Twenty-three received the Distinguished Service Medal, the highest non-combat award. Many received foreign medals and some 38 women made the ultimate sacrifice for their nation and were buried overseas in U.S. cemeteries.

World War II ushered in a new era of service for women in the military. In 1942 laws were passed establishing the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps, the Navy Women's Reserve, the Marine Corps Women's Reserve, and the Coast Guard Women's Reserve. With the signing of the Integration Act of 1948, women were given permanent, legal status as enlisted personnel. By the end of the war, roughly 350,000 had served in the armed forces in virtually every occupation outside of direct combat. These women all had two things in common—they had all volunteered and they had a desire to serve their nation.

The record of women's service to the Armed Forces does not stop with these early wars. Some 265,000 women served during the Vietnam Era and approximately 35,000 women served during the Persian Gulf War. There can be little doubt that these brave women performed a valuable role in service to our nation. Historical documents are full of testimonials attesting to the excellence of women's service, disciplined character and overall positive effects on the armed services. The brave women who served and continue to serve this nation deserve our respect and gratitude.

None of us who have served in our country's armed forces will ever doubt the importance of the service of women in the military. Accounting for an increasing percentage of those in uniform today, women now hold positions of leadership and achievement few would have predicted, even as recently as World War II.

Today a special observance will be held to honor the women who have served in the Armed Forces. Fittingly, this observance will be held at the Women in Military Service for America Memorial. This will be the third annual observance, honoring women who have served admirably in our armed services, some whom have made the ultimate sacrifice so that Americans may enjoy the liberty and freedom we too often take for granted.

Dedicated on October 18, 1997, the Women's Memorial is an inspiring monument that honors and illustrates America's service-women throughout history. Sited at the ceremonial entrance to Arlington National Cemetery, it is the nation's only major national memorial honoring women who have served in uniform in and between our Nation's wars.

I join with many of my colleagues today in saluting the women who have proudly and honorably served in our Nation's military. The debt which we owe them is great and it is most appropriate to pause today to pay them tribute for their individual and collective contributions to our Nation.