

occasion of his retirement from the Coventry Police Department following nearly 31½ years of dedicated service.

Lieutenant Wilmot joined the Coventry Police Department on January 9, 1969. Over the next three decades, he rose through the ranks and served in a number of important leadership positions. He attained the rank of Lieutenant in 1986. He served as the senior supervisor for many years and as the liaison between the Department and a correctional institute in nearby Mansfield. Throughout his tenure, he was a very active member of the Coventry Police Benevolent Association. As a police officer, Lieutenant Wilmot provided an extraordinary level of service and commitment to the community. His involvement in the Benevolent Association demonstrated his commitment to his fellow officers and their families. Lieutenant Wilmot also played an important role on behalf of his colleagues as a leading union member.

During his career, Lieutenant Wilmot participated in a number of important investigations and took countless actions to protect public safety and property. He took a leading role in investigating an extremely rare homicide in Coventry several years ago. His retirement offers the Department and the community the opportunity to reflect on the totality of his service on a daily basis.

Lieutenant Wilmot is known to residents as much more than a police officer. According to his close friend and colleague, Lt. Walter Sotenski, he is an ardent bass fisherman and an active member of the Coventry Historical Society. As a life-long resident of Coventry, his roots run very deep in the region.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to join residents of Coventry in wishing Lt. Lyndon Wilmot the very best in the years ahead.

IN SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF
BRIAN J. DYER ON HIS APPOINTMENT
TO ATTEND THE UNITED STATES MILITARY ACADEMY AT
WEST POINT

HON. PAUL E. GILLMOR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 24, 2000

Mr. GILLMOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to an outstanding young man from Ohio's Fifth Congressional District. I am happy to announce that Brian J. Dyer of Sandusky, Ohio, has been offered an appointment to attend the United States Military Academy at West Point, New York.

Mr. Speaker, Brian's offer of appointment poises him to attend the United States Military Academy this fall with the incoming cadet class of 2004. Attending one of our nation's military academies is an invaluable experience that offers a world-class education and demands the very best that these young men and women have to offer. Truly, it is one of the most challenging and rewarding undertakings of their lives.

Without question, Brian brings a special mix of leadership, service, and dedication to the incoming class of West Point cadets. While attending Perkins High School in Sandusky, Brian's academic diligence has helped him to attain a grade point average of 3.66. Additionally, Brian is a member of the National Honor Society.

Outside the classroom, Brian has distinguished himself as an excellent student-athlete. On the fields of competition, Brian is a three-year letterman on the Perkins Swimming team and a two-year letterman on the Cross Country team. His efforts on the field and in the classroom helped Brian to receive the Scholastic Award in each year he has participated in both sports. Brian has also been active in the Pep Band, Jazz Band, and Brass Choir. To further demonstrate his commitment to our nation's military, in the summer of 1999, Brian enlisted in the Ohio Army National Guard and is a private in Troop 2C/107th Cavalry.

Mr. Speaker, I would ask my colleagues to stand and join me in paying special tribute to Brian J. Dyer. Our service academies offer the finest education and military training available anywhere in the world. I am sure that Brian will do very well during his career at West Point and I wish him the very best in all of his future endeavors.

IN HONOR OF KATHLEEN
McMAHON

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 24, 2000

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, in a special message to the Congress in 1965, President Lyndon B. Johnson wrote, "Every child must be encouraged to get as much education as he has the ability to take. We want this not only for his sake—but for the nation's sake." Kathleen McMahon took that message to heart and dedicated her life to the noble profession of teaching.

As a Chicago Public Schools teacher for 34 years, she enriched the lives of countless students and "encouraged" them in the classroom. She knew from the start that a life of teaching is well worth the rewards. Her time and energy were the building blocks that helped many students thrive and grow.

On behalf of all her students, their parents, and her colleagues, I wish to commend Kathleen McMahon for her years of dedication and her immeasurable contribution to our community and wish her well in retirement. We are thankful for all her hard work teaching our nation's future leaders. I am sure that she will be missed by all at Norwood Park School.

HONORING NEW MEXICO'S
ANCHORMAN, DICK KNIPFING

HON. HEATHER WILSON

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 24, 2000

Mrs. WILSON. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to bring to your attention Dick Knipfing, a man who has faithfully served New Mexicans for 36 years. He has served our state as a news anchor on all three of our largest local channels and has dedicated his life to informing his viewers on issues important to New Mexico. He is known and respected in New Mexico as a real "pro" who knows more about New Mexico history, politics and policy than most of the people he covers every day.

In 1996, he was inducted into the Silver Circle Society, which is one of the more prestigious honors in his field. In the late eighties, he was elected by his peers as one of the "Best in the Business" and listed in the "Washington Journal Review."

To many New Mexicans, Dick is the one they rely on to give them the straight story, every night. "Dick always believed that news is a service, not a product," said former co-worker and reporter Janet Blair. Indeed, Mr. Knipfing's dedication to serving the public will be sorely missed.

We wish him the best in all future endeavors. He will always have a place in the hearts of New Mexicans for his integrity, his commitment to children and families, and his love of New Mexico.

Mr. Speaker, television news has changed a lot in the last 36 years. It's a 24-hour a day, multi-channel business where, in some places, form is more important than substance. Dick Knipfing has always been a man of substance giving New Mexicans the truth with integrity. He will be missed.

Please join me in honoring and thanking Mr. Dick Knipfing, New Mexico's anchorman, for all he has done.

HONORING JAMES V. KIMSEY,
FOUNDING CEO AND CHAIRMAN
EMERITUS OF AMERICA ONLINE
INC., ON THE COMPANY'S 15TH
ANNIVERSARY

HON. THOMAS M. DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 24, 2000

Mr. DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a man who personifies America's pioneer spirit, exemplifies its entrepreneurial vision, and, most importantly, stands as a sterling example of the uniquely American practice of philanthropy.

A son of the Nation's Capital, James V. Kimsey is the Founding CEO and Chairman Emeritus of America Online, Inc., as well as the Chairman of the AL Foundation and the Kimsey Foundation. He studied at Georgetown University on an honors scholarship and graduated from the United States Military Academy at West Point before serving in the United States Army as an airborne ranger, rising to the rank of Major. He received numerous awards for service and valor during one term in the Dominican Republic and two in Vietnam.

The list of honors bestowed upon this great American literally goes on and on. Mr. Speaker, allow me to mention just a few: 1994 Business Leader of the Year, Washingtonian Magazine. KPMG Peat Marwick High Tech Entrepreneur of the Year. American Academy of Achievement Golden Plate Award. The first annual "I Have a Dream Award." Presidential appointments to the Kennedy Center Board of Trustees and the West Point Board of Visitors. Chairman of the Washington Millennium and Bicentennial Commission. Chairman of the Board of The Washington Opera and member of the National Symphony Orchestra's executive committee.

But the accomplishment for which I rise today, Mr. Speaker, is that for which Jim Kimsey is best known—his visionary leadership in founding the company now called AOL.

on May 24, 1985. After leaving the Army, Kimsey took his self-described "airborne-ranger-infantryman" mentality into the D.C. business world, opening restaurants, dabbling in real estate, and creating a bank-holding company. Then, in the early 1980s, he got involved in ControlVideo Corporation, a small firm that downloaded video games over the telephone—a venture he now calls a "first-class fiasco."

Always a step ahead of the curve, Kimsey, along with his partners, opted to move CVC's assets to another company rather than kill it. CVC became Quantum Computer Services, and from there—with the help of some venture capital—AOL was born. In a magazine interview last year, Mr. Kimsey recalled those anxious days, and it struck me on reading the piece how any stakeholder would love to have him at the helm:

"We were like a little boat speeding through the bayou. We didn't want anyone to see how big we were getting before we broke out into the open. Our challenge was to keep our eyes on where the river was flowing. . . . Because we kept a low profile, we went unnoticed by the big boys until we were a major force in the market."

Beyond such David-and-Goliath strategizing, furthermore, is a born leader who holds steady to the American ideal of self-reliance. Witness another excerpt from the magazine interview:

"When you are in battle, it's your job to accomplish your mission and bring your man back alive. There's no excuse if you don't. If you're a business CEO and you didn't figure out where the universe was moving, or what it takes to make your company successful, there's no excuse. When you have the mindset that there is no excuse, you will be successful."

Successful indeed, Mr. Speaker, AOL and Jim Kimsey are now American institutions because they represent the very best of America in the Information Age: innovation, energy, risk-taking. I am proud to have had the chance to spend a good deal of time with this man, for I have learned much from him. He is the kind of person who reminds us, when we are in his presence, of Melville's words: "It is better to fail in originality than to succeed in imitation."

And now—now that he has accomplished all that an American businessman could dream of accomplishing—now he has turned his attention to serving America, much as he did during his years at West Point and his three tours of duty. "Having money," Kimsey has said, "doesn't necessarily mean that you're successful. It just means that you were lucky."

That selfless perspective was apparent back in Vietnam, when he founded an orphanage he continues to support today. And it is apparent now as he takes on new philanthropic endeavors—from the dozens of non-profit boards he sits on to the message of education in the Internet Age that he spreads to teachers, students, parents and communities across America. Jim Kimsey believes as I do, that if we address the plight of disadvantaged children early, many of our society's problems will all but disappear. One of the challenges he's taken on is to figure out how technology can ameliorate the problems of education. During a trip to Vietnam just a couple years ago, he even dedicated a school in Dong Ha to which he continues to donate money.

Blink your eyes and there he is, deep in the mountains of Colombia, talking to leaders of that country's Revolutionary Armed Forces,

trying to improve communication between their camp and that of Colombian President Pastrana. Blink your eyes once more and there again is Kimsey, serving as host at a fundraiser for one of the many charities to which he lends his name, energy and know-how.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I want to extend my sincere congratulations to my friend Jim Kimsey on the 15th anniversary of one of America's great companies. I want to thank him for all that he has given to the greater Washington area, and all of the United States. Due largely to his foresight and determination, America is leading the way in the Information Age. Even more importantly, I want to thank him for serving as a model of corporate philanthropy.

FREE MARKET EDUCATION

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 24, 2000

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, good schools are an essential element of any thriving community. In Colorado, we are doubly blessed with several good schools and many great communities.

As a father of five, I take the issue of education personally. My wife and I have chosen to educate all of our school-aged children in the Poudre School District. It's a topic to which the majority of my work in the United States Congress has been devoted, and I'm most encouraged by the common-sense reforms taking place back home in Colorado.

Governor Bill Owens has elevated the goal of improving public schools to statewide priority status. His is a challenging initiative of high expectations and structured accountability. The exercise is aimed at achieving more effective stewardship of the considerable resources Coloradans pour into public education, but even more so to afford greater opportunity to all students through real academic success.

Many innovative approaches to education in northern Colorado have become blueprints for academic success across the state. Consequently, Mr. Speaker, Colorado is fast becoming a national template for education overhauls in other states, and Gov. Owens' quality initiative is commanding the attention of governors coast to coast. Colorado's higher academic standards, community involvement, and innovative free-market solutions, have also become the basis for my most successful pro-child victories in the Congress.

Colorado is confirming for the rest of America that empowering states and school districts is the key to guaranteeing every student succeeds and that no child is left behind. Americans tend to agree, but the forces in Washington advocating greater consolidation of education authority here and federalizing our schools are nonetheless powerful.

Colorado is confirming for the rest of America that empowering states and school districts is the key to guaranteeing every student succeeds and that no child is left behind. Americans tend to agree, but the forces in Washington advocating greater consolidation of education authority here and federalizing our schools are nonetheless powerful.

"Before we continue spending more tax money trying to find a solution to [America's education] problem, maybe we need to understand the problem better," said Joey Lopez of Ft. Collins, Colorado recently when he testified before Congress. A seventeen-year-old Ft. Collins High School senior, Lopez understands what Americans intuitively know: It's going to take much more than cold hard cash to improve our nation's schools. It takes the innovation, hard work, and committed leadership of parents, teachers, students, and elected officials everywhere.

Mr. Speaker, most Coloradans agree with Lopez. He typifies our independent, western spirit which is among the chief reasons our state ranks well for its ongoing efforts to improve education. Like other top-performing states, including Texas, Michigan, Florida, and North Carolina, Colorado excels not just because of the money it spends, but because of its dedication to innovative and proven education policies producing solid results for children.

Where schools are concerned, Coloradans have never been content to entertain trendy national initiatives. Our history has rather persuaded us America's education challenges will not be answered in Washington, D.C. by federal agents who do not know the names of Colorado's principals and teachers, much less the names of the children. Enduring solutions are more likely to be found in diverse communities throughout each of America's fifty states, just as the U.S. Constitution suggests.

That neither words "education" nor "public schools" are mentioned anywhere in the Constitution is a fact that surprises many, Mr. Speaker. Responsibility for educating American youngsters was deliberately and wisely reserved to the states and to the people—and it still is.

America's Founders understood well the value of a locally controlled framework of schools, and the perils of a federally co-opted one. They knew it was better to have decisions made independently by the several states, each free to innovate and duplicate successful methods rather than subsist under one mandate for all.

Following decades of increasing federal meddling in our local schools, Americans have learned all too well how perceptive our Founders were. Since 1980, for example, the federal government has funneled over \$400 billion through the U.S. Department of Education bureaucracy. Unfortunately, the percentage of money actually making it back to classrooms is far less.

Coupled with the modest amount of federal funds local schools receive each year is a mountain of red tape, regulation, and costly unfunded mandates foisted upon each public school administrator. Washington provides about seven percent of an average school's budget, yet the amount of contingent paperwork and compliance burdens requires an estimated 48.6 million hours of paperwork each year.

A growing number of my colleagues in Congress are of the opinion that empowering states and local communities is the surest way to help states reestablish for themselves the finest schools in the world—schools held accountable to the parents who rightly demand real results for their children.

Last October, Mr. Speaker, the House passed important legislation providing states