

which was to grandfather existing employees into the new system and to ensure that no federal workers would be harmed by changes in the retirement formula.

In a letter dated February 19, 1987 to then OPM Director Constance Horner, the Chairman of the Committee on Post Office and Civil Service, the Honorable William D. Ford, objected to this anomalous and unfair result. He wrote:

As in many other instances involving benefits, Congress chose to protect or to "grandfather" past service—to apply the new benefit formula only to future service rather than previously performed service under the older, more generous formula. This policy is often adopted to avoid penalizing individuals through the retroactive application of changes not anticipated by them. (As a measure of fairness, the policy of prospectivity is often applied to benefit improvements as well).

Notwithstanding Chairman Ford's efforts to clarify congressional intent, this inequity has continued for 14 years. OPM has publicly acknowledged that there is a problem with COBRA. Director Lachance stated publicly in a letter to Chairman Fred Thompson of the Senate Committee on Government Affairs: "I agree that an end-of-career change to a part time work schedule can have an unanticipated adverse effect on the amount of the retirement benefit." She also acknowledges in that same letter that a comparable bill in the other body, S. 772 introduced by Senator ROBB, "would eliminate the potential for anomalous computations by providing that the full time salary would be applicable to all service regardless of when it was performed while the proration of service credit would apply only to service after April 6, 1986 [the date of enactment]."

This is precisely what the bill we are offering today does. It allows the retirees affected by this inequity to have their full-time equivalent salary for their high three years to apply to their entire careers, not just the portion after 1986. My bill differs from S. 772 in that it places the burden on affected retirees to request a recalculation of benefits. This is coupled with a requirement that OPM conduct a good faith effort to notify annuitants of their right to obtain a recalculation. To all future retirees, benefits will be calculated in accordance with the new formula.

Mr. Speaker, this is a matter of great consequence to many Americans who devoted their most productive years to public service. Some of my constituents have annuities that are thousands of dollars less than they would be under my bill. As I indicated, a disproportionate share of these retirees appears to be women, who left the federal service to care for others.

It is particularly appropriate that we address this issue now, as changing work-force needs and lifestyles make part-time service more popular, both from the standpoint of the worker and the employee. Many of the anticipated work-force shortages that are anticipated in the federal civil service can and should be met with part-time workers. I am concerned that they will not be so long as the anomalous and unfair provisions of P.L. 99-272 are allowed to stand. I urge my colleague to join me in cosponsoring this important legislation.

IN HONOR OF JOSEPH F. SMITH

HON. ROBERT A. BORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 25, 2000

Mr. BORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce a bill that would rename a United States Post Office in Philadelphia, PA, to honor the late U.S. Congressman, Joseph F. Smith.

Joe Smith started his career of service to this Nation as a sergeant in the United States Army, receiving a Purple Heart for his actions during World War II. From 1970–1981, he served in the Pennsylvania State Senate. As you are aware, Joe was elected to the Ninety-seventh Congress in 1981 and served until 1983. He worked at the forefront of the Democratic Party as the Democratic city chairman in Philadelphia from 1983–1986. Joe also served as the 31st ward leader for more than 3 decades. He remained devoted to the people of his community until May 1999, when he passed away.

Throughout his career, the people of Philadelphia looked to him for leadership, and he immersed himself in understanding their needs. Joe understood that public service is most effective when one understands and closely reflects the convictions and beliefs of one's constituents. No matter what body he was serving in, his heart was always with the people who resided in the communities of Kensington, Port Richmond, and Fishtown. After his retirement, Joe could still be found sharing wisdom and insight from his stoop to those who sought advice and kinship.

Joe Smith was an outstanding legislator, a great human being, and a distinguished American. We ask that you join us in honoring his legacy in the community that he so diligently served throughout his life. To learn more about Joe Smith, or to cosponsor this legislation, please contact Karen Bloom with Congressman BORSKI, at 5–8251.

HONORING LONG BEACH'S BLUE RIBBON SCHOOLS

HON. STEPHEN HORN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 25, 2000

Mr. HORN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor two outstanding middle schools in my district, Charles Evans Hughes Middle School and Will Rogers Middle School of Long Beach. Both have been recognized by the California Department of Education as California Blue Ribbon Schools, for their demonstrated excellence in student achievement, teacher quality, and community and family involvement. These schools are now eligible to be named as National Blue Ribbon Schools by the U.S. Department of Education.

Both Hughes and Rogers Middle Schools have overcome a number of challenges. Both are urban schools with a significant number of low-income and limited English proficient students. Even with these challenges, both schools have demonstrated remarkable progress. Ten years ago, Rogers had some of the lowest test scores in the Long Beach Unified School District. Today, it is consistently among the top five middle schools in the dis-

trict. At Hughes, 10 percent of the student body earns straight A's, and 75 percent have GPA's of 2.0 or above.

At both schools, teachers undergo regular professional training and both host a number of events designed to bring the community and the students together.

These two schools demonstrate all that is right with public education. They show the remarkable successes that happen when teachers, parents and students are committed to a superior standard of education. I congratulate the faculty, teachers, parents and students of Hughes and Rogers Middle Schools on this remarkable achievement, and wish them well in their continued pursuit of educational excellence.

TRIBUTE TO ADMIRAL CHAPLIN

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 25, 2000

Mr. FARR of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an outstanding member of our military community. After two years of exemplary service as the Superintendent of the Naval Postgraduate School, Admiral Robert C. Chaplin's new assignment is in Yokosuka, Japan, where he will become the commander of U.S. Naval Forces Japan (CNFJ).

As a former graduate of the NPS, Admiral Chaplin has offered a unique and insightful perspective as the Superintendent of his alma mater by ensuring that we have well-prepared and well-educated Navy officers to meet the challenges of the 21st century. Admiral Chaplin has tirelessly promoted NPS graduates as an existing and available resource for the Navy. He has pushed to create these stronger ties by establishing meetings between the school deans and Navy commanders, as well as between his students and the fleets. This "technical to tactical" bridge, as Admiral Chaplin has titled it, has proven highly successful, and will benefit the Navy long after his departure.

The imprint that this extraordinary leader has left on academics at the NPS is equally commendable. Not only has Admiral Chaplin established two new programs—the Information System Operations and System Engineering Programs—but also he has governed the creation of three additional new curricula scheduled for implementation in September. Pushing the school to be on the cutting edge of distance learning, NPS recently graduated over a dozen students who have never been on the NPS campus. Admiral Chaplin has ably used technology and the Internet to ensure that Navy officers around the world are not denied a postgraduate degree simply by geography. Many of his accomplishments at NPS have been driven from his desire to foster stronger partnerships with many of the region's universities and the nation's top technology schools, as well as bringing together the high tech companies in the Silicon Valley with students at the school.

As a valued member of the greater Monterey Peninsula Community, Admiral Chaplin will be missed by many. Our regret is tempered by recognition of the opportunity that lies before him. Admiral Chaplin is well suited

by education and experience to be the Commander of U.S. Naval Forces Japan. So, it is with great pleasure that I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the tremendous contribution Admiral Chaplin has made to our national security at Naval Postgraduate School and throughout his long and distinguished Navy career and to wish him many years of continued success.

OHIO COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL

HON. ED WHITFIELD

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 25, 2000

Mr. WHITFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a student class from the First District of Kentucky representing the Ohio County High School located in Hartford, Kentucky. Following their victory in the Kentucky State competition, this class was selected to represent the State in the national We the People . . . The Citizen and the Constitution competition which was held in Washington, DC, on May 6–8, 2000.

The We the People . . . The Citizen and the Constitution program is the most extensive educational program in the country developed specifically to educate students about the Constitution, the Bill of Rights, and principles of democratic government. The program provides curricular materials for upper elementary, middle, and high school students nationwide. Students who are involved in the We the People program have a greater understanding of democratic processes and institutions, participate or plan to participate more in politics, have a greater confidence in government officials, and are more interested in current events and politics in general.

The Ohio County class demonstrated their extensive knowledge of the Constitution while participating in the national event through their skillful application of democratic principles to contemporary issues. The format of the competition was a simulated congressional hearing. Thus the students were required to offer testimony as a witness and answer questions posed by a panel of judges as committee members would.

I am extremely proud of the achievements of the Ohio County High School class. The knowledge and experience gained through their participation in the We the People program will be invaluable throughout life.

AMADOR VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL

HON. ELLEN O. TAUSCHER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 25, 2000

Mrs. TAUSCHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in recognition of wonderful students from a high school in my district, Amador Valley High School. Twenty-one students from this school, along with their teacher, Matt Campbell, recently traveled to Washington, D.C. to compete in a national civics competition called "We the People. . ."

This competition is designed to promote civic competence and responsibility. This program is not about textbooks and tests, but

rather a process through which students learn to develop critical thinking and problem solving skills.

I am proud that in my district, we have students who care not only about the social sciences, but also about being involved. The established tradition of excellence in this competition is a testament to the administrators and faculty at Amador Valley High School. It reflects the dedication of inspiring and enthusiastic teachers.

In a time when we decry the state of our public schools, Amador Valley High School shines as a light of hope for the future of our nation. The vision of a first-year teacher, coupled with the determination of these bright students, brought them beyond the district and state finals to our nation's capital. I am proud of this Mr. Campbell and his students for their remarkable journey and their example of excellence.

I would like to thank these students and their teacher for taking an interest in American government; I would like to thank the supportive communities in my district who made this trip possible; and, most of all, I would like to thank the parents of these wonderful students, who have set a standard of excellence for their communities. Congratulations to the students from Amador Valley High School, you are an attribute to our nation!

SUPPORTING DAY OF HONOR FOR MINORITY WORLD WAR II VETERANS

SPEECH OF

HON. CORRINE BROWN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 23, 2000

Mrs. BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to join my colleagues on the House floor today, but wanted to join them in showing my support for the resolution recognizing the Day of Honor 2000 Project, which gives long overdue recognition to the millions of invisible minority World War II veterans.

During the Second World War these valiant soldiers were waging a war on two fronts. They fought gallantly beside their comrades in the most trying conditions, while battling the bigotry and racism that was still prevalent in the United States military. These same minority war veterans continued their fight against racism at home by forming the grassroots of the civil rights movement.

In my State of Florida, we have the oldest veterans population in the nation. Unfortunately for these veterans and veterans all across the country, the VA budget continues to be underfunded, causing them to be denied the health care and services they need and deserve. As our aging veterans population declines, we will need programs like the Day of Honor 2000 to remind us of the sacrifices minorities made to protect the freedom that we all now enjoy.

I look forward to the passage of this resolution and want to wish Dr. Smith and the other leaders of the Day of Honor 2000 Project the greatest success in portraying the honor and dignity displayed by our Minority World War II veterans. Their efforts and accomplishments have been ignored for far too long and I look forward to sharing their achievements with people today and for generations to come.

WE THE PEOPLE . . . THE CITIZEN AND THE CONSTITUTION

HON. ROBERT E. WISE, JR.

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 25, 2000

Mr. WISE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to introduce for the RECORD the names of outstanding students and teachers of Clay County High School in Clay, West Virginia. These constituents participated in "We the People . . . The Citizen and the Constitution", a national contest concerning fundamental values and ideals of the American government. These students competed against 50 other classes from around the nation and were able to reach the national finals by demonstrating a remarkable understanding and knowledge of our constitutional government. Following is a list of those students and teachers involved.

Students: Brandi Brown, Rachel Douglas, Jeremy Duffield, Josh Ferrebee, Angela Fitzwater, Robin Fitzwater, Casie Frame, Deanna Holcomb, Leslie Lanham, Matt Legg, Rebecca Legg, Eli Litton, Charles McCumbers, Justin Salisbury, Jacob Samples, Angela Shamblin, Autumn Tanner, Jacqueline Taylor, Jada Taylor, Jason Tucker, Evan Updegrave, Bryan Walker, John Ward, Rebecca Workman, and Teacher: Phillip Dobbins.

TRIBUTE TO CAROL E. SCHATZ

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 25, 2000

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to my close friend, Carol E. Schatz, who will be recognized tonight at this year's Deborah Awards Women of Achievement Dinner. The Anti-Defamation League has chosen this night to honor Carol for her exceptional professional achievements and her outstanding dedication to community and civic activities.

I have known Carol for many years, from her days in state government in Sacramento. She has always impressed me with her dynamism, intelligence and integrity. When she was named by the Los Angeles magazine as one of the ten most powerful business leaders in Los Angeles, I was not surprised. Her passion for her work is second only to her devotion to her husband Fred and her son Jacob.

Carol crashed through the "glass ceiling" when she served as the first woman President and CEO of the Central City Association of Los Angeles. She led that organization to new heights and made it a powerhouse among business advocacy organizations in Los Angeles. Under her leadership, CCA helped transform Downtown Los Angeles by resurrecting the Civic Center Authority, planning for a revitalization of the Figueroa Corridor and advocating for the Staples Center. In addition to her extensive responsibilities at CCA, Carol has tackled many civic roles and public responsibilities. She served as Mayor Riordan's appointee to the Convention and Exhibition Center Authority and as his appointee to the Metropolitan Transportation Authority.

Carol, who holds a B.A. from the University of California Berkeley and a J.D. from Loyola