

and benefits. Local 90 has fought hard for better wages, more comprehensive health benefits for their members and their families, and safer working environments—ensuring that corporations throughout Connecticut listen to their employees and afford them these basic rights. Local 90 has been a true leader for our working families, giving them a voice during the hardest of economic times.

In addition to their professional contributions, the members of Local 90 are dedicated to our community. For the past several years, Local 90 members have used their expertise to create what has become a highlight of the Christmas season—the Fantasy of Lights exhibition at Lighthouse Point in New Haven. The exhibition and their work benefits the New Haven Rehabilitation Center. The tremendous work that goes into this project is truly remarkable—bringing the spirit and joy of the holiday season for all of our children and families to enjoy.

For the many contributions they have made to the working families of Southern and Central Connecticut, I am proud to stand today to pay tribute to former and present members of Local 90—they have made a real difference in the lives of many. I am honored to extend my sincere congratulations to them as they celebrate their 100th Anniversary and my best wishes for another century of success.

FLAG DAY

HON. CAROLYN MCCARTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 14, 2000

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise in recognition of a day that would not exist without the sacrifices endured by brave men and women throughout our country's distinguished history. Although today is known as Flag Day, it symbolizes much more.

When describing the American flag, George Washington once said, "We take the stars from heaven, the red from our mother country, separate it by white in stripes, thus showing that we have separated from her . . .".

Well, over 200 years later, our flag continues to symbolize the independence fought for by Washington as well as countless others.

From the Revolutionary War to the Gulf War, our men and women in uniform risked—and lost—their lives to promote democracy, and defend the liberties we cherish. These brave men and women defended the most basic belief which our flag symbolizes—that freedom is worth putting our lives in harm's way to preserve.

These were real people, not simply statistics in a history book or names chiseled in stone. They were young men and women with mothers, fathers, dreams and fears just like the rest of us.

When I visit schools back home, and children ask me questions about the American flag or Pledge of Allegiance, I tell them there is more to the flag than pretty colors. If you look behind those stars and stripes you unveil a story of determination and sacrifice.

As we take time out of our lives to honor those who fought to protect our flag, we must never forget that we stand together as a great, proud, and free Nation because of their sacrifices.

The American flag is a fitting reminder of their devotion.

A RESOLUTION HONORING ANDREW POENICKE, LEGRAND SMITH SCHOLARSHIP WINNER OF ADRIAN, MI

HON. NICK SMITH

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 14, 2000

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, let it be known, that it is with great respect for the outstanding record of excellence he has compiled in academics, leadership and community service, that I am proud to salute Andrew Poenicke, winner of the 2000 LeGrand Smith Scholarship. This award is made to young adults who have demonstrated that they are truly committed to playing important roles in our Nation's future.

As a winner of the LeGrand Smith Scholarship, Andrew is being honored for demonstrating that same generosity of spirit, intelligence, responsible citizenship, and capacity for human service that distinguished the late LeGrand Smith of Somerset, Michigan.

Andrew is an exceptional student at Lenawee Christian High school and possesses an impressive high school record.

Andrew has received numerous awards for his excellence in academics as well as his involvement in soccer. Outside of school, he has been active in many volunteer programs such as Meals on Wheels for Lenawee County.

Therefore, I am proud to join with his many admirers in extending my highest praise and congratulations to Andrew Poenicke for his selection as a winner of a LeGrand Smith Scholarship. This honor is also a testament to the parents, teachers, and others whose personal interest, strong support and active participation contributed to his success. To this remarkable young man, I extend my most heartfelt good wishes for all his future endeavors.

HONORING ELWAR "RUBEN" LACOUR

HON. HEATHER WILSON

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 14, 2000

Mrs. WILSON. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to bring to your attention Elwar "Ruben" LaCour, Jr., a student in my district. As a middle schooler, he was awarded the U.S. National Award in mathematics. His commitment to learning is an indication of great future success.

Ruben's recognition from the U.S. Achievement Academy is a great honor. We all know of the studies and reports that say that students in the United States are falling behind in math performance. Ruben's skills, abilities, and success provides evidence of students excelling in math.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating Elwar "Ruben" LaCour on his achievement in and dedication to mathematics. We must celebrate achievements and encourage our children to do their very best.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SUE WILKINS MYRICK

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 14, 2000

Mrs. MYRICK. Mr. Speaker, I was not present for the following vote. If I had been present, I would have voted as follows: June 8, 2000, rollcall vote 247, on agreeing to the rule H. Res. 518, providing consideration of H.R. 4577, the FY2000 Labor, Health & Human Services and Education bill, I would have voted "yea."

TRIBUTE TO GENERAL JOHN RUSSELL BLANDFORD

HON. FLOYD SPENCE

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 14, 2000

Mr. SPENCE. Mr. Speaker, I was saddened to learn recently of the death of Major General John Russell Blandford, who was an outstanding American. General Blandford joined the staff of the Committee on Armed Services in the House of Representatives upon its formation in January 1947. He was appointed the Chief Counsel of the Committee in December 1963, and he served in that position until his retirement from the House in 1972.

On behalf of the Members and the staff of the Committee on Armed Services, I would like to extend our deepest sympathy to his wife, Betty, and to the other members of his family. I submit for the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD the obituary of this remarkable man.

[From the State, Columbia, SC, May 18, 2000]
CAROLINA OBITUARIES

JOHN BLANDFORD

CHARLESTON.—Memorial services for John Russell Blandford, 82, will be held at 11 a.m. Saturday at Johns Island Presbyterian Church. Burial services will be conducted 11 a.m. Wednesday, May 24, 2000 in Arlington National Cemetery with full military honors. In lieu of flowers memorials may be made to the First Marine Division Association Scholarship Fund, 14325 Willard Road, Ste. 107, Chantilly, VA 20151-2110 and/or Johns Island Presbyterian Church, 2550 Bohickett Road, Johns Island, SC 29455. J. Henry Stuhler, Downtown Funeral Chapel is in charge.

Mr. Blandford was born in Buffalo, N.Y., Feb. 20, 1918, a son of the late Raymond and Mary Blandford. He graduated from Lafayette High School of Buffalo and was awarded a scholarship to Hobart College of Geneva, N.Y. While in college, he enlisted in the P.L.C. Program in the U.S. Marine Corps in 1937. He graduated cum laude, Phi Beta Kappa, Tau Kappa Alpha in 1939. He was commissioned a 2nd Lt. in the marine corps reserve until graduation. He was admitted to Yale Law School in Sept. 1939 (the first Hobart College graduate to ever be admitted to the law school). He was ordered to active duty in the marine corps in Sept. 1941 and attended marine corps schools at Quantico, Va. and in April 1942 reported for duty as an Artillery Officer in the First Marine Division. He participated in the Guadalcanal Campaign Aug. 7, 1942 to Dec. 1942 and there after was with that division in New Guinea, Cape Gloucester, Willimez Peninsula and the Russell Islands. He served as a Forward Observer, Artillery Liaison Officer Provost Marshall and Regimental Judge Advocate.

Mr. Blandford was released from active duty in March 1946 and returned to Yale Law School graduating with *Primis Honoris* in Nov. 1946. He was with the law firm of Hodgson, Russ, Andrews, Woods and Goodyear in Buffalo. In January he was appointed counsel to the newly created House Armed Services Committee where he served becoming Chief Council Dec. 1, 1963 and served in this capacity for 25 years. He was promoted successively from 2nd Lt. to Major General in the marine corps finally retiring in 1976. He retired from the congress on July 1, 1972. He received numerous awards including Legion of Merit Medals from the marine corps and the army, the navy Distinguished Public Service Award, the air force Exceptional Civilian Award, and the prestigious Rockefeller Public Award in 1966. Following his retirement from congress in 1972, he became a legal consultant with an office in Virginia. He was admitted to practice in New York, the District of Columbia, Virginia, the U.S. Supreme Court and the Court of Military Appeals. He was a former member of the Washington Golf and Country Club, the Burning Tree Club of Bethesda, Md., the Carlton Club and the Capitol Hill Club. He was a member of *Who's Who* and was a pioneer of Seabrook Island and a board member where he served in many capacities.

Surviving are his wife, Betty Blakely Blandford of Seabrook Island; daughter, Marcia Ann Hoener of Norcross, Ga.; brother, Clinton P. Blandford of Clinton, Iowa; 11 grandchildren; a great-grandchild.

HONORING THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT

HON. CAROLYN MCCARTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 14, 2000

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Mr. Speaker, today I express my heartfelt congratulations for a historic landmark and historic event. This Friday, citizens from throughout Long Island and New York Metropolitan and Tri-State area will gather to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the signing of the Americans with Disabilities Act. The most significant civil rights legislation ever enacted on behalf of citizens with disabilities.

This event, "A Decade of Progress—the Americans with Disabilities Act in the New Millennium" is a kickoff event for a series of nationwide activities highlighting the Spirit of ADA Torch Relay, which will arrive in Washington, DC on July 26, 2000.

During the past ten years, we have seen dramatic changes throughout the country in equal opportunity, public accommodations such as businesses and commercial establishments, state and local government services and activities, transportation and telecommunications in advancing the age of information technology. As with most issues, Long Islanders have been in the forefront of this issue. That is why I want to especially thank Bruce Blower, Director of Suffolk County Office of Handicapped Services, James Weisman, Associate Director, Eastern Paralyzed Veteran's Association, and Don Dreyer, Director of the Nassau County Office for the Physically Challenged for their outstanding leadership and dedication. You have made us proud to be Long Islanders.

It is through their leadership that Nassau and Suffolk Counties have developed local ini-

tatives to work together with the private sector in removing barriers to consumerism and the workplace.

And while more remains to be done to increase accessible environments and employment opportunities for persons with disabilities, New Yorkers can be justifiably proud of the energies expended and results achieved in Nassau County, Suffolk County and the surrounding region.

A RESOLUTION HONORING BETH ANN JOHNSTON, LEGRAND SMITH SCHOLARSHIP WINNER OF JACKSON, MI

HON. NICK SMITH

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 14, 2000

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, let it be known, that it is with great respect for the outstanding record of excellence she has compiled in academics, leadership, and community service, that I am proud to salute Beth Ann Johnston, winner of the 2000 LeGrand Smith Scholarship. This award is made to young adults who have demonstrated that they are truly committed to playing important roles in our Nation's future.

As a winner of the LeGrand Smith Scholarship, Beth Ann is being honored for demonstrating that same generosity of spirit, intelligence, responsible citizenship, and capacity for human service that distinguished the late LeGrand Smith of Somerset, Michigan.

Beth Ann is an exceptional student at Vandercook Lake High School and possesses an impressive high school record.

Beth Ann has received numerous awards for her excellence in academics as well as her involvement in band. Outside of school, she is an active member of her church community and a conscientious volunteer.

Therefore, I am proud to join with her many admirers in extending my highest praise and congratulations to Beth Ann Johnston for her selection as a winner of a LeGrand Smith Scholarship. This honor is also a testament to the parents, teachers, and others whose personal interest, strong support and active participation contributed to her success. To this remarkable young woman, I extend my most heartfelt good wishes for all her future endeavors.

HONORING DR. ANDREW HSI

HON. HEATHER WILSON

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 14, 2000

Mrs. WILSON. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to bring to your attention Dr. Andrew Hsi, a pediatrician at the University of New Mexico in Albuquerque. He was honored as the first recipient of the Humanism in Medicine Award because of his many strengths, focusing on community service, ethics in medicine, and treating people with dignity. He understands the importance of respect for colleges and patients as well as showing compassion and consideration to others.

Dr. Hsi has found purpose and fulfillment in serving the public. He is nonjudgmental of the

pregnant women who come to him for help—despite the fact that many of them abuse illegal substances. Thomas Weiser, a medical student at UNM, nominated Dr. Hsi because "[h]is fairness, sensitivity, and nonjudgmental attitude have inspired students and faculty to be more compassionate to their own patients. And, most importantly, it has provided an impetus to many of his patients to change their own lives."

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring the compassion and team skills of Dr. Andrew Hsi. He exemplifies patience, acceptance, and the courage to help his community. The help he offers to those in need does not just come in the form of medicine: he encourages and inspires people to take charge and change their lives. He is a hero in our community.

EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING BENEFITS OF MUSIC EDUCATION

SPEECH OF

HON. STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 13, 2000

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of music education. Recently, I had an opportunity to speak at the commencement exercises of the Cleveland School of the Arts in the Eleventh Congressional District of Ohio. Those graduates were a wonderful example of the beneficial effects of music education and of the arts in general.

The arts are inseparable from education throughout a young person's life. Brain research is now showing that stimuli provided by music—song, movement, play acting—are essential for the young child to develop to the fullest potential. These activities are the "languages" of children, which help them to understand and interpret the world. Active use of music also paves the way for children to use verbal language, to read and to write.

Quantifiable research has also shown the value of arts education for older children. The University of California at Los Angeles has analyzed the school records of 25,000 students as they moved from grades 8 to 10. Students who studied the arts had higher grades, scored better on standardized tests, had better attendance records and were more involved in community affairs than other students. Students from low-income families who studied the arts improved their school performance more rapidly than all other students.

The U.S. Department of Education in its YouthARTS study has also found that the arts improve academic performance, reduce delinquency, and increase the skills of communication, conflict resolution, completion of challenging tasks, and teamwork.

The College Board, which administers the SAT, has reported that college-bound students who have had arts education have higher SAT scores than other students.

In closing, I would add that the discipline and human connection of music can remind us that there is a form of human achievement that is unarguably and profoundly true. Music requires collaboration in which diverse groups of people can come together to create an entity in which they all care deeply. This builds bridges of understanding and communication.