

is good within our society and nation. Opal Lucas will be missed, but she surely made her community, Kentucky, and this nation a better place in which to live.

CHILD CARE QUALITY INCENTIVE ACT OF 2001

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2001

Mr. BISHOP. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing a bill that will make high quality child care available for children regardless of their families's incomes. This bill is entitled the "Child Care Quality Incentive Act of 2001" and already has 28 original cosponsors. I feel this initial response is a testament to the importance and value of this legislation.

We all recognize the importance of a child's early development, however, we must make an investment early on if we are going to succeed in providing a meaningful and accomplished system that helps those who are trying so hard to help themselves. This help will come in the form of supplemental block grant funding to providers in order to cover the true costs of their services. In addition, this bill helps raise the level of care to those who can already afford the market rate. Small businesses also benefit from this legislation—more money means more providers.

Finally, this bill has the support of many national, state, and local organizations and providers, including USA Child Care, the Children's Defense Fund, YMCA of the USA, Catholic Charities of the USA, and the National Child Care Association.

I ask my colleagues to move swiftly to bring decent and affordable child care to America's children—those who are the least able to take care of themselves.

REMEMBERING OUR PACIFIC AMERICAN VETERANS

HON. CURT WELDON

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2001

Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the second annual Roll Call of Honor in Remembrance Ceremony that occurred on May 27, 2001 at the Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington Virginia and the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific, Honolulu, Hawaii.

This celebration honors the sacrifices of thousands of Pacific Americans who have served our nation in our Armed Forces. What was once a veil of silence surrounding the contributions, courage, loyalty and dedication of our Pacific American veterans to our nation has now been lifted.

By honoring our Pacific American veterans, and those who continue to serve our nation, we honor also all our veterans who call the Pacific their 'aina.

Their names are being placed on scrolls that will serve to remind us their loyalty, courage, leadership and compassion.

On August 7, 1999 the Board of Directors of the Pacific American Foundation, a national

organization dedicated to improving the lives of all Pacific Americans wherever they live, concurred with the Department of Veterans Affairs to conduct the first ever Roll Call of Honor in Remembrance Ceremony to recognize the dedicated service and outstanding contributions of Pacific American veterans—American Samoans, Chamorros, Fijians, Hawaiians, Maoris, Tahitians, Tongans—and those veterans who call the Pacific their 'aina, to our nation.

The Pacific American Foundation, in partnership with the Department of Veterans Affairs, Kaumakapili Church, Veterans Affairs Regional Office Center Hawaii, veteran organizations in the Pacific and families of our veterans is proud to continue to host the annual Roll Call of Honor in Remembrance Ceremony.

Already research has revealed that Pacific Americans had served on the Confederate ship Shenandoah and fought at the Battle of Gettysburg.

All our veterans are special, and by honoring our Pacific American veterans I salute all of America's men and women who answered the call to duty.

The names of our Pacific American veterans on these scrolls will remind us forever of our nation's debt to their sacrifices.

This celebration could not have happened without the leadership of the Pacific American Foundation's Leadership Fellows, Troy Asao Kaleolani Cooper and Michael K. Naho'opp'i and their colleagues, Pacific Americans who represent the future for our nation. I wish to commend their leadership that is being felt by millions of Americans today.

It is this very type of selfless service that is lifting the shoulders and chins of the families whose loved ones gave their lives in defense of our freedoms, and it is certainly helping the millions of our military members and their families to know that we care.

We can never forget.

HONORING AL LIFSON'S INDUCTION INTO THE ELIZABETH ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME

HON. JIM SAXTON

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2001

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to congratulate Al Lifson for his April 26, 2001 induction into the Elizabeth Athletic Hall of Fame in Elizabeth, New Jersey.

Al has had a distinguished athletic career in basketball at both the high school and college level.

While attending Thomas Jefferson High School in Elizabeth, New Jersey (1949–1951), Al attained a number of impressive athletic distinctions including First Team All County (1951), All State Tournament First Team (1951), and Second Team Group IV All State Team (1951).

After completing high school, Al went on to attend one of the most storied and revered basketball institutions in the nation, the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, N.C. At the University of North Carolina, Al continued to attain the highest athletic achievements as a four year starter. As a freshman, Al was the highest scoring rookie in Carolina history. He

was also selected three times to the All Conference Team, two times to the All Conference Defensive Team, and served as Co-Captain during his senior year. Al finished his career as the University of North Carolina's all-time scoring leader.

Al's many accomplishments speak not only to his natural ability, but also to his drive and dedication to succeed. Al's athletic career serves as an inspiration to all who strive to be their best.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating Al Lifson for his remarkable athletic achievements and most recently his induction into the Elizabeth Athletic Hall of Fame.

IN RECOGNITION OF PAUL KNUE ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE CINCINNATI POST

HON. ROB PORTMAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2001

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a dedicated journalist and a true friend to the people of Cincinnati, Ohio—Paul Knue. After 18 years, Paul recently stepped down as Editor from both the Cincinnati and Kentucky Post.

Paul has had a long and distinguished career in journalism. In 1970, he started at the copy desk of the Cincinnati Post, the paper he had read growing up. He was named managing editor of the Evansville Press in 1975, then returned to the tri-state area in 1979 to become editor of the Kentucky Post. Four years later, Paul became editor of The Cincinnati Post, and in 1995, assumed leadership of both papers.

Those of us who work in politics are often affectionately called public servants. But the title of public servant seems more appropriate for an individual like Paul Knue. As Editor of the Post, Paul did not sit back and passively assess the goings-on in his community. Rather, Paul used his leadership of the editorial page to help shine a light on important issues, particularly urban development. He helped found both Downtown Cincinnati Inc., a downtown advocacy group, and SouthBank Partners, a Northern Kentucky development organization.

As a native of Cincinnati, Paul brought an extraordinary amount of knowledge and experience to the operations of the Post. During his tenure, the Post broke many important stories—including uncovering a tax break scandal in the County Auditor's office, and spotlighting the deterioration of city playgrounds, which eventually led to increased funding for park facilities.

Over the years, I have had the pleasure of working with Paul on the Coalition for a Drug-Free Greater Cincinnati. His efforts and commitments to the Cincinnati community have helped make the Coalition a big success.

Paul is also an accomplished long-distance bicycle rider. It is not uncommon to see him training on the Little Miami bike trail, leaving others way behind.

The people of Cincinnati know Paul Knue as a leader, but more importantly, they know him as a friend. His contributions at the Cincinnati Post and Kentucky Post will be sorely missed,

but I have every confidence that he will continue to make numerous contributions to our community in the years to come.

A PROCLAMATION IN
RECOGNITION OF THE OHIO PTA

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2001

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, I invite my colleagues to join with me and the citizens of Ohio in celebration and commemoration of the One-Hundredth Year of the Ohio Parent Teacher Association's service to Ohio's children.

Whereas, the Ohio PTA was founded in 1901 as a branch of the National Congress of Mothers to promote the education, health, and safety of the children, youth, and families of Ohio; and,

Whereas, this association has sought to unite the home, school, and community to ensure all children and youth have a high quality education; and,

Whereas, the Ohio PTA has grown in number to over 140,000 members in almost 1,000 local PTA units since its inception; and,

Whereas, the Ohio PTA has been instrumental in incorporating parent involvement into the classroom, securing public education, and the campaign for education for children with special needs; and,

Whereas, the Ohio PTA continues to encourage others to put children first, furthering its mission for the betterment of Ohio's children in "Building the Future . . . Honoring the Past;" and,

Therefore, I invite my colleagues to join with me and the citizens of Ohio in celebration and commemoration of the One-Hundredth anniversary of the Ohio Parent Teacher Association.

GRADUATION ADDRESS OF MIKE
BENNETT

HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2001

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker. Last Friday night, June 1st, my good friend and our former colleague, Representative Dawson Mathis from the great State of Georgia, attended graduation exercises for his granddaughter Shannon Mathis at Orange Park High School in Clay County, Florida. The President of the Class of 2001, Mike Bennett, addressed his classmates at that event and so impressed former Representative Mathis that he called his remarks to my attention. I would also note with more than a little pride that Mike's father, Ken Bennett, is a native of Huntington, West Virginia, in my Congressional District.

At this point, I would ask that Mike Bennett's address be printed in the RECORD. I wish him the best in his studies at the U.S. Naval Academy this fall.

Address of Mike Bennett: Orange Park High School, Senior Class Graduation, June 1, 2001.

It is not until we have lost everything, that we are free to do nothing.

For thirteen school years, we, the senior class of 2001, have had our lives laid out be-

fore us. We have been told what to do, where to go, what to learn, and even when to eat. We have had people take us by the hand, and show us the way. We have been cared for by people that have chosen to ignore our shortcomings, and look past our imperfections. For this we are eternally grateful, and can never truly show our gratitude.

For almost eighteen years of life, our parents, family, and friends have been our North Star. They have cared for us unselfishly, and without fail. They have brought us, and been with us, through both triumph and tragedy. They have given, even when not asked to, advice and love, from which we have flourished. They are the people that have taught us the lessons of life, and the lessons of love.

To our teachers, thank you. You have given so much of yourselves, to people, that only days before, were complete strangers. Your infectious love, and underlying understanding are the reason we are here today. Without your help, I personally would not be the person that I am today. And, I am positive, everyone else, in our class, would be changed as well.

Which brings me to today. All of the aforementioned guidance that has previously been given to us in vast bundles, will soon shrink. Not because of lack of concern or interest, but rather an increase in physical distance. We, the alumni to be, of Orange Park High School, will soon be out on our own. We will blaze our own trails, straying from the beaten path, and make our own decisions. For the first time in our young lives, we will be completely responsible for ourselves. We will have to deal with large decisions, such as what to do after graduation, and small, seemingly unimportant ones, like what to eat for dinner.

Each decision that we make, will shape our futures, no matter how small the matter seems. Our slates are clean, and the books of our lives are waiting to be written, by us, alone. We need to take our precious gift of life, and run with it. We need to live our lives for ourselves, and nobody else. We need to remember that the decisions we make, can never be changed, and must be thought out, for ourselves alone.

But, most importantly, we need not look back on our pasts and ask what if, but rather, look only at the present, and to the future. If we wonder about, and dwell upon the past, our lives will pass us by. Pondering over the past brings nothing but pain, regrets, and the deepest of sorrows. So, we, the senior class of 2001, must walk the fine line of remembering the past, but not dwelling on it.

Finally, I leave you, my fellow classmates with this. We, for the first time in our lives, have nothing hanging over our heads, and the world at our feet. We must not waste this opportunity, for we will never have one like it, ever again.

For, it is not until we have lost everything, that we are truly free to do anything.

HONORING "SHOULDER-TO-SHOULDER" AWARD WINNER, MR.
HOMER LUTHER

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2001

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment and thank Mr. Homer Luther

for his service to the National Park Service. For over a quarter of a century, Homer has dedicated his life to protecting our national parks. For that Mr. Speaker, he deserves the thanks of Congress.

Homer is the Director of the Yellowstone, Grand Teton, and Mesa Verde National Parks Foundation. On May 16, 2001, he was presented the "Shoulder-to-Shoulder" award in recognition of his personal service, commitment and dedication to national park units within the Intermountain Region.

Homer started working with the National Park Service during President Nixon's second administration. One of the big issues facing newly appointed Parks Director Ron Walker was the use of snowmobiles in national parks. Ron recruited Homer to join him on a five-day personal research snowmobiling outfit. In the 70's, Homer served his first term.

Following two terms on the National Park Foundation Board, Homer decided to form the National Park Foundation Alumni Council, where he still serves as the Chair. He decided to form this council because it was critical not to lose the talents and energies of those whose terms were expiring.

A few years ago, the staff at Mesa Verde National Park became aware that a critical parcel of land was going to be sold. Homer was concerned that it would be developed in a way that would harm the areas natural values. "He challenged other Foundation board members to join him in raising sufficient funds to purchase the tract of land to preserve the gateway experience to the park. Thanks to Mr. Luther's leadership, this land is now protected," said Regional Director Karen Wade.

Mr. Speaker, for the last 30 years, Homer Luther has helped to keep America's National Parks beautiful and well maintained. His expertise and leadership on this issue has been a real benefit to the Park Service and to everybody who uses the National Parks. I would like to thank him on behalf of Congress for all his hard work and dedication.

GREAT SOFTBALL IN THE 6TH
DISTRICT OF NORTH CAROLINA

HON. HOWARD COBLE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2001

Mr. COBLE. Mr. Speaker, on June 3, the Sixth District of North Carolina became the home of the 2-A state championship softball team—Southwestern Randolph High School in Asheboro. The Cougars completed their title run with a season record of 24-3. After making it to the state championship series the past three years, the team finally brought the title home when they beat East Bend Forbush 2-1.

Jennifer Hurley, senior pitcher for Southwestern Randolph, allowed just one hit for the duration of two games on Saturday. On Sunday, during the title game, she yielded one run on three hits, but slammed the door on any further scoring by Forbush. Lee Harris's home run during the title game was all the offensive firepower the Cougars would need when in the first inning she went deep. This two-run homer, the first in Harris's career at Southwestern Randolph, set the Cougars on their way to the title. For her efforts, Harris was named the tournament MVP.