

of interests in seven campsite leases in Biscayne National Park, Florida, identified as campsite leases collectively known as "Stiltsville". Had I been present I would have voted "no."

Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained for Rollcall No. 184, on agreeing to the amendment to reduce the amount for National Endowment for the Arts by \$10,000,000. Had I been present I would have voted "yea."

Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained for Rollcall No. 185, on passage of the FY 2002 Department of Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Act. Had I been present I would have voted "yea."

A POINT OF LIGHT FOR ALL AMERICANS: MR. NIGEL O. PILE

HON. MAJOR R. OWENS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 25, 2001

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, as the nation of Guyana celebrates its 35th Independence Anniversary, I would like to salute an outstanding Guyanese American, Nigel O. Pile as a Point of Light for all Americans.

Nigel O. Pile hails from Guyana. He was born on December 22, 1950. He held various leadership positions while growing up in Guyana, including Chairman of the St. James The Less Anglican Church Organization. He also represented the Diocesan Youth Association at International Conferences, through various Youth Exchange Programs. Athletics continues to gain tremendous support from Nigel.

Nigel Pile came to the United States in 1977. He holds an Associate Degree in Banking and Finance from Borough of Manhattan Community College and furthered his discipline in finance at Baruch College. He has worked in the New York financial district as an Account Administrator where he was responsible for the investing of cash from various Pension Funds, such as the New York State Pension Fund.

In 1983, he started a small Travel Agency on Fulton Street in the Bedford Stuyvesant area. National Pride, as it is known, has become a household name to the Guyanese family. From a one-desk, one-phone and one-staff agency, National Pride is now one of the most successful enterprises in New York and Guyana. Nigel Pile has expanded this operation to two offices in New York and five in Guyana. Through this expansion, he has created opportunities of entrepreneurship and employment for the residents of the Flatbush and Queens communities. The establishment of National Pride has created channels through which Guyanese Americans can initiate and maintain contact with relatives and friends in Guyana.

In the spirit of fostering unity among Guyanese, Nigel Pile maintains his sponsorship of the Ms. Guyana New York Pageant, and continues to support social programs for youth as well as the elderly.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to salute Mr. Nigel O. Pile as a Point of Light for all Americans.

2001 SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 20, 2001

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2216) making supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2001, and for other purposes:

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Chairman, I would like to add additional comments to the previous statement I gave regarding my good friend from New York, Mr. CROWLEY's amendment to the Supplemental Appropriations bill.

A few weeks ago this body voted on the President's education bill, showing support for our students. Nothing is more important to our children's future than a sound education.

We all agree on that matter, but our schools cannot meet the needs of our children if they are underfunded.

This amendment would strike 25 million dollars under the Operations and Maintenance account of the Army that has been requested for Recruiting and Advertising for this branch.

These much needed funds would be transferred to the Department of Education for their Magnet School Assistance Program.

Many of the students in my district benefit from Magnet Schools. Specifically Community School District 30 which serves a diverse student population in Queens, New York. Magnet Schools are important places of learning because these are specialized theme schools focusing on areas such as math and science. These schools often provide innovative educational programs. And perhaps most importantly because these schools are public, they provide parents a choice within the public school system.

This amendment would provide additional funding to increase assistance to Magnet Schools and other Local Education Agencies to create or expand Magnet schools in needed communities.

CSD 30 has created an interactive learning community employing the teachers, parents, students, and local universities of Queens, New York, and its mission would greatly be supported by additional funding.

I join with my dear friend from New York, in that it is my hope that this body will find the additional 25 million dollars for the Magnet School Assistance Program at the U.S. Department of Education as this bill works its way through the process.

HONORING JOSE MARIANO CASTILLO

HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 25, 2001

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, it is with utmost pleasure and privilege that I rise today to recognize a wonderful American, Mr. Jose Mariano Castillo, for his admission into the Order of Queen Isabella the Catholic with the

rank of Officer's Cross by His Majesty the King of Spain. Through his selfless work in providing valuable assistance, counseling and legal services for the protection of citizens of Spain residing in Los Angeles, Jose Mariano Castillo has earned this distinction.

Achievement and accolade have followed Jose throughout his life. Born in San Jose de Colinas, San Barbara, Honduras he graduated high school Suma Cum Laude and received the National First Place Honor gold medal presented by the President of the Republic of Honduras. Jose continued his studies in the United States at Los Angeles City College, learning the language of his newly adopted home. The next stop on his educational journey was the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA), where he pursued general undergraduate studies in Political Science and Public Administration. Jose interrupted his studies to serve in the United States Army for two years. He continued his military service in the ready active U.S. Army Reserves Control Group for four years, all the while completing both his undergraduate and law degrees.

Following graduation from Southwestern University School of Law and passage of the California Bar Exam, Jose embarked on an impressive law career. He counts among his major clients the governments of several countries and numerous national and international companies. In addition to a thriving law practice, Jose has been involved in many professional associations and community service activities including service for two separate terms as the President of the Los Angeles County Parks and Recreation Commission.

Rightfully, Jose has earned a multitude of special honors and acclaim for his many accomplishments. He has been honored by the City of Los Angeles, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors and by the countries of Argentina, Ecuador, Guatemala and Honduras. Of course, for Jose being husband to Nancy and father to Yvonne are the most cherished honors ever bestowed upon him.

Mr. Speaker, as family and friends gather in Los Angeles to witness the presentation of the Order of Queen Isabella the Catholic to Jose Mariano Castillo by the Consul General of Spain, it is with great honor that I ask my colleagues to join me today in saluting this exceptional American and cherished friend.

A POINT OF LIGHT FOR ALL AMERICANS: MR. ED AHMAD

HON. MAJOR R. OWENS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 25, 2001

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, as the nation of Guyana celebrates its 35th Independence Anniversary, I would like to salute an outstanding Guyanese American, Ed Ahmad, as a Point of Light for all Americans.

Ed Ahmad is a successful entrepreneur who owns and operates many businesses. He is currently the broker/owner of Century 21 Ahmad Realty, Inc. and Ace Mortgages, Inc. He is also the CEO/President of the Chateau Royale, Inc.

A Guyanese immigrant, Mr. Ahmad arrived in the United States in 1983. He came in search of prosperity for himself and his family. He worked hard and obtained a Bachelor of

Science Degree from The City College of New York in 1988. he is a licensed real estate broker, mortgage banker, and insurance broker.

Mr. Ahmad is very versatile; he is knowledgeable in all office, data based and modern business products. He is experienced in all facets of business, from training to budgeting and advertising.

His personal awards include a Gold Medalion, and Certificates of Achievement for exceptional sales in real estate. Century 21 Ahmad won first place in Queens County and was ranked third in real estate in the Northeast Division. The Chateau Royale won first place for best in design and architecture from the Queens Chamber of Commerce in 1997.

Mr. Ahmad is an active participant in community and political affairs. He is the founder of the New Concept Democratic Club. He supports and donates to many community organizations.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to salute Mr. Ed Ahmad as a point of Light for all Americans.

2001 SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. RICK LARSEN

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 21, 2001

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2216) making supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2001, and for other purposes:

Mr. LARSEN of Washington. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in strong support of the Slaughter/Dicks Amendment and to highlight the importance of NEA and IMLS funding for the small towns in my own district.

Last year's NEA funding increase created the Challenge America program, to help smaller communities gain access to the arts. The Arts Council of Snohomish County in my home district was one of the first organizations to receive this grant. This organization offers weekly art classes to juvenile offenders, many of which have no adult role models in their lives, and provides them with opportunities to express creativity and interact in a forum outside of a detention center. Without this grant, the program would have had to cut back drastically or even be eliminated. That would be truly unfortunate, Mr. Chairman, because it is programs like these where the arts can provide hope and opportunity for troubled youth. Challenge America is doing great things for youth in my district, yet this program would not exist if the NEA did not receive increased funding last Congress.

I would also like to offer my support for IMLS, which also funds key services in my district. The Museum of Northwest Art in La Conner—a town of 900—received a key grant from the IMLS to help attract more tourists to the Skagit Valley region in my district. Because of the IMLS grant, La Conner brings in many more visitors who come to experience the Skagit Valley, thereby boosting their econ-

omy. Unfortunately, other museums in my district do not receive funding because of the lack of IMLS funding. The executive director of the Whatcom Museum contacted me earlier this year to share his frustration that the Whatcom Museum and Bellingham Library were denied important funding, not because of their qualifications, but because of the lack of funding for the IMLS. The Slaughter/Dicks amendment will provide key funding increases for the IMLS, and help small libraries and museums in districts like mine continue to flourish and reach out to the community.

Mr. Chairman, let's continue to show our support for the arts, the humanities and our museums and libraries by supporting the Slaughter/Dicks amendment.

TRIBUTE TO PEGGY RABIDEAU, BRAD OTT, NOELLE CANNON AND BETH BESAW

HON. JOHN M. McHUGH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 25, 2001

Mr. McHUGH. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to recognize the contributions of Peggy Rabideau, Brad Ott, Noelle Cannon, and Beth Besaw—teacher, principal, reading specialist, and school nurse, respectively—at Morrisonville Elementary School in my New York 24th Congressional District.

On June 29, Peggy, Brad, Noelle, and Beth will be honored at the Time Capsule 2000 Dedication Ceremony taking place at Red Cross Square here in Washington.

For the last five years, under Peggy, Brad, Noelle and Beth's supervision and leadership, students at Morrisonville Elementary School have been involved in a Junior Red Cross program. Morrisonville is the only school in the area involved in such a program.

In 1996, the group was presented with an award by the New York State Red Cross for holding a fundraiser to help families impacted by the flood in Morrisonville. The group had hoped to raise \$10,000, but, in fact, raised \$22,000 to help the victims of the flood.

That same year, the group designated January as Community Contributor month. In the second year of this program, the group made "comfort packs" containing books and stuffed animals, among other items, and contributed them to the local hospital.

The group has also worked with the Humane Society and, in 2000, sent 12 cartons to Nicaragua containing food and other supplies.

The group's contribution to the time capsule will include a "comfort pack," a copy of the 1996 award the group received, T-shirts designed by two of the students, a button that was made for the ice storm volunteers, and the names of 22 children and their social security numbers so that they can be contacted in 50 years when the time capsule is opened.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored today to recognize the contributions Peggy, Brad, Noelle, Beth, and their students have made to their community. Theirs is truly a tremendous accomplishment, and, on behalf of the community which they serve, I offer them my congratulations and thanks.

A POINT OF LIGHT FOR ALL AMERICANS: DR. STEPHEN CARRYL

HON. MAJOR R. OWENS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 25, 2001

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, as the nation of Guyana celebrates its 35th Independence Anniversary, I would like to salute an outstanding Guyanese American, Dr. Stephen Carryl, as a Point of Light for all Americans.

Dr. Stephen Carryl is the Director of Surgery at the Brooklyn Hospital-Caledonian Campus and also an Attending Physician at the Brookdale University Medical Center in Brooklyn. He specializes in Laparoscopic Surgery. He received his Bachelor's Degree at Oakwood College in Alabama and subsequently earned his MD Degree from Loma Linda University in California. He has been in private practice for 8 years and is the President of OMAT (Overseas Medical Assistance Team). OMAT consists of a team of volunteer Nurses and Doctors who provide medical care to the underprivileged in 3rd world countries and the Caribbean. Treatment that is not readily available in those respective countries are rendered here in the United States through funds donated by OMAT. OMAT has gone on missionary trips to Haiti and Guyana.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to salute Dr. Stephen Carryl as a Point of Light for all Americans.

21ST CENTURY MONTGOMERY GI BILL ENHANCEMENT ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2001

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of the passage of H.R. 1291 that amended the Montgomery GI Bill which would greatly increase the appropriations for our veterans who are seeking higher education. Under the GI Bill veterans would receive \$800 a month—a \$150 a month increase—during fiscal year 2002; \$950 in 2003; and \$1,100 in 2004. These funds are essential in order to keep up with soaring education costs.

One of the biggest reasons why I'm such a staunch supporter and believer in the Montgomery GI Bill is because I was a beneficiary. Following my service in the Korean War, the subsidy provided under the program allowed me to attend and graduate from New York University and St. Johns Law School.

Madam Speaker, fellow congressman, even though I would have liked more Democratic input in the bill, I am satisfied with the final product. H.R. 1291 is a piece of legislation that veterans and all Americans can be proud of.