

tremendous efforts, Midland, Texas is now home to the 2000-2001 Class 5A State Champions. I sincerely wish to congratulate the Midland High Bulldogs for bringing home a state baseball title.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 25, 2001

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, due to an unavoidable meeting on Thursday June 21, I was not present for rollcall vote No. 177, on Representative SLAUGHTER's amendment to increase funding for the NEA and the NEH. I am a strong supporter of both the National Endowment for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Humanities, and had I been present, I would have voted yea on this important amendment.

URGING RATIFICATION OF THE CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 25, 2001

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, on June 20, 2001 the House passed H. Res. 124 recognizing the importance of children in the United States and supporting the goals and ideals of American Youth. This piece of legislation was adopted by a unanimous vote of 424-0. I commend the U.S. House of Representatives on passing the resolution and believe that we all share the desire to secure the safety and well being of all children in our great nation and abroad.

More than a decade ago, the largest group of world leaders ever convened for the World Summit for Children to discuss their responsibility to children. At the end of the World Summit, 71 heads of state and other world leaders signed the World Declaration on Survival, Protection and Development of Children. The standards and obligations adopted place children center stage in the quest for a just, respectful and peaceful society.

The leaders attending the summit also adopted a Plan of Action to achieve a set of precise, time-bound goals, including: Improving living conditions for children and their chances for survival by increasing access to health services; reducing the spread of preventable diseases; creating more opportunities for education; providing better sanitation and greater food supply; and protecting children in danger.

To date, 192 states have ratified or signed the convention. The convention was ratified more quickly and by more countries than any previous human rights agreement. Unfortunately, the United States is not among the 192 nations that have joined in this historical convention, and no other industrialized nation has failed to make this legal commitment to children.

As a Member of the United States Congress I am saddened and embarrassed that our great nation has not ratified this historical con-

vention. Our nation's children are our future. The Convention on the Rights of the Child embodies the very principles our country was founded upon and only enforces the rights afforded to all children born in our great nation of life, liberty and pursuit of happiness.

Ratification clearly signals a state's commitment to uphold standards of the convention and to respect, protect and fulfill the rights of children around the world. The House of Representatives commitment to the well being of our nation's children is exemplified through the unanimous passage of H. Res. 124. I urge the United States Senate, which has the sole power to ratify treaties, to act soon on this important matter and stand up for the rights of children worldwide.

TRIBUTE TO DONNA BLITZER

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 25, 2001

Mr. FARR of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer tribute to one of those persons who toil endlessly, without complaint, and generally in the background, but who make some of the largest and most important contributions to our lives: our staff. In particular, I rise today to congratulate and thank my long-time staffer, Donna Blitzer, who, after nearly 20 (I'm sure in her eyes) I-o-n-g years, has decided to explore other career opportunities. Ms. Blitzer is now the Director of Government and Community Relations for the University of California, Santa Cruz.

Donna began in my office when I was in the State Legislature, serving as one of my support staff. As I grew in elected office, she grew as staff and together we served as partners in many initiatives to improve and protect the quality of life on California's Central Coast which I represented then and continue to do so today. Throughout it all, Donna was my constant advisor and supporter, my advance and back up, my most loyal and trustworthy counsel. She was always there to put me back on track when my ideas de-railed, and to bring form to my vision. Most important, she protected my ethical and moral compass from ever going astray.

Mr. Speaker, we all have good staff. They are the heart and soul of our public selves as we reach out to our constituents. But sometimes there is one who just gives so much to so many that it deserves our special acknowledgment and praise. Donna Blitzer is such a person.

I will miss having her on my staff and at my side as I have for 20 years. But I wish her well in her new job and know that her contribution to the public will still be appreciated, no matter where she finds herself.

MAYOR REMEMBERED

HON. LARRY COMBEST

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 25, 2001

Mr. COMBEST. Mr. Speaker, I rise to extend my deepest sympathy to the people of West Texas for the loss of Odessa Mayor Bill Hext.

Bill was a selfless leader, a visionary, and a faithful statesman. Bill personified service and will be remembered for his relentless pursuit of improving the lives of the people of Odessa. Prior to being elected mayor in 2000, Hext had served as a City Council member since 1998, and continued his work in public service as a member of many civic and charitable organizations. Bill's commitment to serving his community and his influence on Odessans will be an inspiration for generations to come.

It is with great empathy that I salute Bill Hext as an outstanding individual and faithful mayor to the city of Odessa. He will forever hold a place of honor and respect in the pages of community service.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MARGE ROUKEMA

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 25, 2001

Mrs. ROUKEMA. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to be present for rollcall votes: 182-185, during the consideration of the Interior Appropriations Act. Please let the record show that had I been present I would have voted "aye" for rollcall vote 182, the Inslee amendment to uphold current regulations on hardrock mining; "no" for rollcall vote 183, the Deutsch amendment regarding historic campsites in Stiltsville, Florida; "no" for rollcall vote 184, the Stearns amendment to reduce funding for the National Endowment for the Arts; and "yes" for rollcall vote 185, final passage.

I strongly support the final passage of H.R. 2217, the Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Act FY 2002. I am extremely pleased that this bill honors our commitment to the environment. The expansion of funding for land acquisition, wildlife protection, and other preservation and conservation programs is a victory for the country.

A SALUTE TO DR. EDWARD TYSON HONORING HIS YEARS OF SERVICE TO NORTH CAROLINA'S STUDENTS

HON. ROBIN HAYES

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 25, 2001

Mr. HAYES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Edward Tyson of Kannapolis, North Carolina for his years of service to the parents, students and educators of Cabarrus County, North Carolina.

Dr. Tyson has been the Superintendent for Kannapolis City School since 1992. He has also served as a teacher, principal, and associate superintendent in the Cabarrus County School System.

Dr. Tyson has made a positive and profound impact on the students and faculty of Kannapolis City and Cabarrus County Schools. He has worked hard to improve the opportunities for all students throughout Cabarrus and Rowan Counties.

Dr. Tyson has been a tremendous leader in our community, serving on the Board of Directors for Cabarrus Bank, the Salvation Army, Cannon Memorial YMCA, and Cabarrus College of Health Sciences. He has also represented North Carolina on education issues

as a member of the American Association of School Administrators, the North Carolina Association of School Administrators, and the North Carolina Committee of the Southern Association of College and Schools.

Dr. Tyson's accomplishments in education have been recognized. He has received numerous awards including: 1995–1996 Southwest North Carolina Superintendent of the Year, 1999–2000 Professional Educator of the Year by the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, and the 2000 Time-Warner Distinguished Educator.

Mr. Speaker, while I have only touched on a fraction of Dr. Ed Tyson's many accomplishments and the impact he has made on his community and profession, I proudly join his friends and colleagues in thanking and saluting him for his years of service and commitment to education and wishing him well in his retirement.

CELEBRATING THE CAREER OF
PASADENA MAYOR JOHNNY
ISBELL

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 25, 2001

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, as the end of his current term quickly approaches, I rise to celebrate the career of Johnny Isbell, Mayor of the City of Pasadena, Texas. Mayor Isbell has been a central figure on the Pasadena City Council, serving, in various capacities for more than 24 years.

As a dedicated and committed public servant, Johnny Isbell has earned the respect and admiration of the citizens of Pasadena for the many years he has given to local government. He served with distinction on the Pasadena City Council from 1969 to 1978 and again from 1989 to 1993. He first served as Mayor from 1981 to 1985. He was again elected Mayor in 1993 and again in 1997.

Mayor Isbell was born in San Antonio in 1938 and has been a Pasadena resident for more than 50 years. He attended Lee Junior College and received a bachelor of science from the University of Houston in 1968. Johnny also served in the U.S. Army National Guard and the Air Force Reserves.

Johnny has been a presence in all aspects of life in Pasadena, Texas. He is the founder and president of the Apache Oil Company. He is also the former director of the YMCA and served on the board of directors of the Houston Area Transportation Safety Council. He is a past president of the South Pasadena Rotary, a past president of the San Jacinto Day Foundation, an honorary life director of the Pasadena Rodeo Association and a former member of the Harris County Civil Service commission.

Mr. Speaker, I am sure that I speak for many when I say that his tireless work will not soon be forgotten, and we are all thankful to him. I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in celebrating the career of Pasadena Mayor Johnny Isbell and wishing him well in his future endeavors.

HONORING THE UNITED STATES
SERVICEMEN WHO PERISHED IN
THE KHOBAR TOWERS BOMBING

HON. GEORGE W. GEKAS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 25, 2001

Mr. GEKAS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the individuals killed in the Khobar Towers bombing that took place five years ago. On June 25, 1996, terrorists cut nineteen United States servicemen's lives drastically short when they set off a bomb in the allied forces camp in Dhahran, Saudi Arabia. The allied forces contained many members of the U.S. armed forces who revealed their undying loyalty to America through their bravery in the ongoing struggle to prevent Saddam Hussein from ever again threatening his neighbors.

On that fatal day, courageous Americans were continuing their efforts to control the US air operation over Iraq. Pilots, ground crews, communications specialists, and anti-missile operators all worked out of the Khobar Towers for the noble cause of fighting against the Allies' enemy.

With one deafening blast, terrorists sent the entire camp into chaos. The earth shook. To the sound of splitting window panes and crumbling walls, the allied forces ran for their lives. As they struggled to find cover from flying debris, nineteen innocent, patriotic individuals breathed for the last time.

This horrific incident was particularly shocking to those of us from Pennsylvania. A short five years before, 28 servicemen and women died when an Iraqi Scud missile plummeted from the sky into a US Army barracks in Saudi Arabia. The attack left 27 Pennsylvanians assigned to the 14th Quartermaster Unit from Greensburg, PA, dead. The attack was the single worst catastrophe suffered by the Allies during the Persian Gulf War.

Like the Scud attack of February 25th, 1991, the attack on Khobar towers was a jolting reminder of the cost of defending freedom. The mission of the 19 heroes of Khobar was the same as their comrades in the Gulf War—to protect our national security by defending our allies against despotism. The risk was the same, and the price paid—an ultimate sacrifice for their country—the same.

These servicemen deserve America's utmost respect for fighting for our country with little regard for their own personal safety. In light of America's approaching birthday, we should honor all of the individuals who sacrificed their lives to preserve this nation for us and our children. Along with these nineteen servicemen, I ask you to join me in honoring all of the members of the armed forces who may no longer be with us, but whose lives we shall remember forever as the great protectors of this wonderful nation. And, to those who continue to fight for the American cause in the Middle East and elsewhere, you have our profound and complete admiration and respect. Our thoughts are always with you.

INTRODUCTION OF A BILL TO
AMEND THE FEDERAL WATER
POLLUTION CONTROL ACT TO IN-
CREASE THE FEDERAL SHARE
OF THE COST OF CONSTRUCTING
TREATMENT WORKS IN THE DIS-
TRICT OF COLUMBIA

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 25, 2001

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today we introduce a bill to make permanent an 80–20 match for the District of Columbia Water and Sewer Authority (WASA), which serves jurisdictions in Virginia, Maryland, and the District of Columbia through its facility at Blue Plains. In fiscal years 1998 and 2000, the 80–20 match was included in appropriations bills. Because the Fiscal Year 2001 provision expires at the end of Fiscal Year 2001, this legislation to make the 80–20 match permanent is necessary.

The Blue Plains facility operated by WASA is the largest advanced waste water treatment plant in the world, serving two million users in the Maryland and Virginia suburbs as well as the District of Columbia. The financial and operational health of this facility is vital to the efforts to clean up the Chesapeake Bay as well as waters that serve the City of Vienna, and the counties of Fairfax, Loudoun, Montgomery, and Prince Georges. Blue Plains is responsible for the largest reductions of nitrogen into the Bay of any facility in the entire Bay Watershed.

WASA has only been able to undertake major facility improvements—including biosolids digestion and handling facilities, major renovations to preliminary treatment facilities, new chemical feed operations, and additional electrical system enhancements—because of the 80–20 formula.

We also seek this change as a matter of fairness. In enacting the National Capital Revitalization and Self-Government Improvement Act of 1997 (Act), Congress recognized that the District, a city without a state, shoulders an unfair financial obligation in programs in which municipalities normally have state financial assistance. The Act provided for federal support for the state share of several such programs. The region has been unable to take advantage of the usual combination of state and city matches only because this facility, which serves regional partners, happens to be located in the District of Columbia.

A permanent 80–20 federal-local match would place the District on a par with other municipalities and states in the United States. The 20% that the District would continue to assume is equivalent to the burden borne by many other cities in the country. Of course, local rate payers in the region would continue to bear their share.

We urge our colleagues to join us in supporting this important provision that would provide tangible benefits to regional residents and to the Potomac and Anacostia rivers, as well as the Chesapeake Bay, a national treasure.