

GIFTED AND TALENTED STUDENTS EDUCATION ACT—MATH AND SCIENCE TEACHER RECRUITMENT ACT

HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 7, 2001

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing two bills aimed at improving the quality of education in areas that need immediate attention. One would provide incentives for prospective teachers to train in math and the sciences; the other would increase opportunities for gifted students from all backgrounds to succeed.

The Math and Science Teacher Recruitment Act would allow forgiveness of up to \$10,000 in federal student loans for math and science majors who teach in a middle or secondary school for up to six years. Beginning with the successful completion of the third year of teaching, educators could have \$2,500 in loans forgiven each year, up to a total of \$10,000. This bill will provide an incentive for students majoring in math, the sciences, engineering, and technology to choose education as a career. Students are failing to grasp basic math and science concepts because they are being taught by teachers who are not grounded in the field. Last year, only 41 percent of our students learned math from teachers who majored the subject in college. This bill helps to ensure that our children will be taught by teachers who have extensive knowledge of mathematics and the sciences.

I am also reintroducing the Gifted and Talented Students Education Act, with my colleagues, Representatives ETHERIDGE, MORELLA, BALDACCI, BURR, MOORE, ALLEN, MINK, Mr. DAVIS of Florida, FILNER, ENGLISH, BOUCHER, BONO, BERKLEY, Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky, STARK, and Mr. WHITFIELD. The measure provides grants to State educational agencies to identify gifted and talented students from all economic, ethnic and racial backgrounds—including students with limited English proficiency, those who live in low-income areas and students with disabilities. The measure authorizes State educational agencies to distribute competitive grants to local educational agencies, which will allow them to develop and expand gifted and talented education programs. This bill will ensure that all gifted children will have access to challenging programs designed to develop and enhance their gifts and reach their full potential.

Mr. Speaker, we must ensure our children are ready and able to take on the challenges of the new economy. I strongly encourage my colleagues to cosponsor these important pieces of legislation and work toward their passage.

RECOGNIZING RABBI DAVID WHITE FOR ACHIEVING A DOCTOR OF DIVINITY

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 7, 2001

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I wish today to recognize an outstanding

member of our Napa community, Rabbi David White, for his 25 years of service as a rabbi and for achieving a Doctor of Divinity degree.

Rabbi White was raised in San Francisco, the only son of Rabbi Saul E. White, who served as Rabbi of Congregation Beth Sholom for 48 years. After his Bar Mitzvah at Beth Sholom, Rabbi David White began his journey by attending Camp Tel Yehuda in New York at the age of 17. The camp was a Young Judaea academic summer program providing leadership in Israel, Zionism and youth programming.

Entering the Jewish Theological Seminary in 1970, David was ordained a Conservative Rabbi five years later. In 1977, Rabbi White obtained his first pulpit, Congregation Kol Shofar in Tiburon consisting of 45 families. Rabbi White left in 1991 after the Congregation had grown to 200 families.

After 14 dedicated years of service to the synagogue, Rabbi White entered the business world, creating Relationship Resources Unlimited, establishing awareness of partnership and collaboration. Since 1993, he has been working at both Congregation Beth Sholom as a rabbi and at Relationship Resources Unlimited.

Rabbi White was recently elected to the Board of Directors of the Community Foundation of the Napa Valley, a program of philanthropy dedicated to meeting the needs of many worthy groups and causes. In addition, Rabbi White is the Executive Director of the Wine Spirit, exploring the relationship between the wine industry and spirituality, and an active member of the Napa Interfaith Council.

On March 14, 2001, Rabbi White will be honored by the Jewish Theological Seminary in New York with an honorary Doctor of Divinity degree. Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Rabbi David White for his enthusiastic participation in and generous contributions to the Nap community, his 25 years of dedicated service to the Rabbinate and for the monumental goal of attaining the Doctor of Divinity degree.

**TO BILL AND MARY KOCH,
CUSTOMERS WERE FAMILY**

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 7, 2001

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Bill and Mary Koch of Bear Creek Township, Pennsylvania, who recently closed their beloved Koch's Deli in Wilkes-Barre after 20 years of excellent service.

For more than 10 years, my district office was located next door to Koch's Deli, and almost every day that I was working from Wilkes-Barre, I stopped into the deli for a cup of coffee or a cheeseburger. Like everyone else who frequented the deli, I could always count on welcoming smiles and excellent service.

To the Koches, people in their deli were not just customers—they were friends and family. Their business is housed in the Ten East South building, which is home to dozens of senior citizens, and near Washington Square, another residence for the elderly. Bill and Mary delivered meals to many of them and even ran errands for them, such as banking, picking up their mail and getting their prescrip-

tions filled. And even regular customers who did not need these favors often found their orders waiting for them on the table when they came in. Basically, Koch's Deli became for many residents of Wilkes-Barre a home away from home.

Before starting the deli, Bill already had a long career in the restaurant business, having risen to district manager for a chain, but found that it took too many hours away from his family. So Bill and Mary went into business for themselves, and eventually involved their three daughters. Becky, Christine and Lisa, who are all grown now, learned valuable skills at the deli, like handling money and interacting with people.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to call Bill and Mary personal friends, as well as constituents. I am pleased to call the Koch family's long service and many kindnesses to the attention of the House of Representatives, and I wish them all the best in their retirement.

RUSSIA'S UNFREE PRESS

HON. BARNEY FRANK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 7, 2001

Mr. FRANK. Mr. Speaker, while there are many aspects of recent developments in Russia which are encouraging, especially in the economic area, there are also some very disturbing trends from the standpoint of human rights and democracy. Recently, in the Boston Globe, one of the leading American scholars focused on Russia, Marshall Goldman, wrote about the disturbing aspects of President Putin's apparent opposition to freedom of the press. As a professor of economics at Wellesley College, who is also the Associate Director of the Center for Russian Studies at Harvard University, Mr. Goldman is one of the most acute observers of what is happening in Russia and I think his very thoughtful analysis ought to be widely read by those of us who have policy making responsibilities. I submit it for the RECORD.

RUSSIA'S UNFREE PRESS
(By Marshall I. Goldman)

As the Bush administration debates its policy toward Russia, freedom of the press should be one of its major concerns. Under President Vladimir Putin the press is free only as long as it does not criticize Putin or his policies. When NTV, the television network of the media giant Media Most, refused to pull its punches, Media Most's owner, Vladimir Gusinsky, found himself in jail, and Gazprom, a company dominated by the state, began to call in loans to Media Most.

Unfortunately, Putin's actions are applauded by more than 70 percent of the Russian people. They crave a strong and forceful leader; his KGB past and conditioned KGB responses are just what they seem to want after what many regard as the social, political, and economic chaos of the last decade.

But what to the Russians is law and order (the "dictatorship of the law," as Putin has so accurately put it) looks more and more like an old Soviet clampdown to many Western observers.

There is no complaint about Putin's promises. He tells everyone he wants freedom of the press. But in the context of his KGB heritage, his notion of freedom of the press is something very different. In an interview

with the Toronto Globe and Mail, he said that that press freedom excludes the “hooliganism” or “uncivilized” reporting he has to deal with in Moscow. By that he means criticism, especially of his conduct of the war in Chechnya, his belated response to the sinking of the Kursk, and the heavy-handed way in which he has pushed aside candidates for governor in regional elections if they are not to Putin’s liking.

He does not take well to criticism. When asked by the relatives of those lost in the Kursk why he seemed so unresponsive, Putin tried to shift the blame for the disaster onto the media barons, or at least those who had criticized him. They were the ones, he insisted, who had pressed for reduced funding for the Navy while they were building villas in Spain and France. As for their criticism of his behavior, They lie! They lie! They lie!

Our Western press has provided good coverage of the dogged way Putin and his aides have tried to muscle Gusinsky out of the Media Most press conglomerate he created. But those on the Putin enemies list now include even Boris Berezovsky, originally one of Putin’s most enthusiastic promoters who after the sinking of the Kursk also became a critic and thus an opponent.

Gusinsky would have a hard time winning a merit badge for trustworthiness (Berezovsky shouldn’t even apply), but in the late Yeltsin and Putin years, Gusinsky has earned enormous credit for his consistently objective news coverage, including a spotlight on malfeasance at the very top. More than that, he has supported his programmers when they have subjected Yeltsin and now Putin to bitter satire on Kukly, his Sunday evening prime-time puppet show.

What we hear less of, though, is what is happening to individual reporters, especially those engaged in investigative work. Almost monthly now there are cases of violence and intimidation. Among those brutalized since Putin assumed power are a reporter for Radio Liberty who dared to write negative reports about the Russian Army’s role in Chechnya and four reporters for Novaya Gazeta. Two of them were investigating misdeeds by the FSB (today’s equivalent of the KGB), including the possibility that it rather than Chechins had blown up a series of apartment buildings. Another was pursuing reports of money-laundering by Yeltsin family members and senior staff in Switzerland. Although these journalists were very much in the public eye, they were all physically assaulted.

Those working for provincial papers labor under even more pressure with less visibility. There are numerous instances where regional bosses such as the governor of Vladivostok operate as little dictators, and as a growing number of journalists have discovered, challenges are met with threats, physical intimidation, and, if need be, murder.

True, freedom of the press in Russia is still less than 15 years old, and not all the country’s journalists or their bosses have always used that freedom responsibly. During the 1996 election campaign, for example, the media owners, including Gusinsky conspired to denigrate or ignore every viable candidate other than Yeltsin. But attempts to muffle if not silence criticism have multiplied since Putin and his fellow KGB veterans have come to power. Criticism from any source, be it an individual journalist or a corporate entity, invites retaliation.

When Media Most persisted in its criticism, Putin sat by approvingly as his subordinates sent in masked and armed tax police and prosecutors. When that didn’t work, they jailed Gusinsky on charges that were later dropped, although they are seeking to extradite and jail him again, along with his treasurer, on a new set of charges. Yesterday

the prosecutor general summoned Tatyana Mitkova, the anchor of NTV’s evening news program, for questioning. Putin’s aides are also doing all they can to prevent Gusinsky from refinancing his debt-ridden operation with Ted Turner or anyone else in or outside of the country.

According to one report, Putin told one of his aides, “You deal with the shares, debts, and management and I will deal with the journalists. His goal simply is to end independent TV coverage in Russia.

An uninhibited press in itself is no guarantee that a society will remain a democracy, but when it becomes inhibited, the chances that there will be such freedom all but disappear.

When Western leaders meet Putin, they must insist that a warm handshake and skill at karate are not enough for Russia and Putin to qualify as a democratic member of the Big 8. To do that, Russia must have freedom of the press—a freedom determined by deeds, not mere declarations.

TRIBUTE TO KENNETH W. MONFORT

HON. BOB SCHAFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 7, 2001

Mr. SCHAFER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize and honor the life of a great American, Mr. Kenneth W. Monfort of Greeley, Colorado. A cattleman, philanthropist, community leader, humanitarian, devoted father and husband, Mr. Monfort exemplified the American dream and the great western spirit. Sadly, Kenny Monfort passed away on Friday, February 2, 2001.

Mr. Monfort had a long and distinguished career in the cattle industry in which he pioneered many new processes and innovations. His first measure of success came at the age of 12, winning the prize of Grand Champion Steer at the National Western Stock Show. From there he used hard work, intelligence and perseverance to turn the family’s 18 head of cattle into the largest stockyard operation in the world.

From the prosperity in his business, Mr. Monfort used his wealth to enrich the lives of all around him. During his childhood in the Great Depression, Kenny Monfort learned the value of giving back to the community, and in turn, has passed this lesson on to his four children. Through the Monfort Family Foundation and individual contributions totaling over \$33 million have been donated to a wide variety of organizations in the Monfort name.

Today Greeley, Colorado is a much better place for having had Kenny Monfort as a native son. One merely has to look around at the many landmarks bearing the Monfort name to see the impact his generosity has had. To the north one can see the Monfort Children’s Clinic treating the children of low-income parents. To the west is Monfort Elementary where every student is taught to be a steward of the community. To the east is the Monfort School of Business at the University of Northern Colorado educating the future business leaders of tomorrow. To the south, new-born babies are brought into the world in the safety of the Monfort Birthing Center.

Despite his tremendous success in all he did, Mr. Monfort will always be remembered

as a modest, humble man whose legacy serves as a role model to those who knew him and whose lives he touched. I ask the House to join me in commemorating the remarkable Mr. Kenneth W. Monfort of Colorado.

LEGISLATION TO PROVIDE VETERANS BENEFITS TO MEMBERS OF THE PHILIPPINE COMMONWEALTH ARMY AND THE MEMBERS OF THE SPECIAL PHILIPPINE SCOUTS, H.R. 491

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 7, 2001

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce H.R. 491, the Filipino Veterans Equity Act of 2001. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this worthy legislation.

On July 26, 1941, President Roosevelt issued a military order, pursuant to the Philippines Independence Act of 1934, calling members of the Philippine Commonwealth Army into the service of the United States Forces of the Far East, under the command of Lt. Gen. Douglas MacArthur.

For almost 4 years, over 100,000 Filipinos, of the Philippine Commonwealth Army fought alongside the allies to reclaim the Philippine Islands from Japan. Regrettably, in return, Congress enacted the Rescission Act of 1946. That measure limited veterans eligibility for service-connected disabilities and death compensation and also denied the members of the Philippine Commonwealth Army the honor of being recognized as veterans of the United States Armed Forces.

A second group, the Special Philippine Scouts called “New Scouts” who enlisted the United States armed forces after October 6, 1945, primarily to perform occupation duty in the Pacific, were similarly excluded from benefits.

It is long past due to correct this injustice and to provide the members of the Philippine Commonwealth Army and the Special Philippine Scouts with the benefits and the services that they valiantly earned during their service in World War II.

There are some who may object to this legislation on the grounds of its cost. In years past, when we were running chronic deficits, this may have been a valid argument. That past validity however, has been dispelled by today’s record surpluses.

While progress has been made towards restoring these long overdue benefits to those brave veterans who earned them, much remains to be done. I would remind my colleagues that time is not on the side of these veterans. Each year, thousands of these veterans pass away. We have a moral obligation to correct this problem before the last of these dedicated soldiers passes from this life.

These Philippine veterans have waited more than 50 years for the benefits which, by virtue of their military service, they were entitled to back in 1946.

Accordingly, I urge my colleagues to carefully review this legislation that corrects this grave injustice and provides veterans benefits to members of the Philippine Commonwealth Army and to the members of the Special Philippine Scouts.