

that recording CDs and tapes is illegal, but never really did anything about it.

In order to shut Napster down, I think you would have to stop selling the recordable CDs and recordable tapes, because it is all the same thing. And you would also have to go out onto the Internet and search for every site like Napster in order to shut them all down, because shutting one down out of thousands isn't really fair.

REGARDING ABENAKI AND NATIVE AMERICAN ISSUES

(By Fellicia Gagne)

I am here today to talk about the lack of academic success among minorities, specifically Abenakis. Basically what I'm going to be talking about is from last year's Vermont Framework of Standards, which all schools are supposed to take, show that 19 percent of tenth grade Native Americans met the reading and knowledge interpretation. This means that 81 percent can't read a one- to two-paragraph passage and understand and interpret what they have read.

In mathematical skills, the test shows that American Indians fall 52 percent below standards. Only 14 percent meet the standards, which is really low. The difficulty is with fractions, multiplying, et cetera. What that means is they have difficulty with basics, rather than what normal students would be able to do.

Continuing, I would like to talk about why this is happening. Abenakis are a majority of my school, and like over 50 percent fall below standards. And I don't see why that should be happening. If Abenakis aren't meeting standards now, then how do they expect to go to college, get a degree, and have a good life? That means that my people, Abenakis, would be lower in poverty, wouldn't be able to support their families, and it is just going to keep happening over and over and over again.

This has been happening for years and years, and I feel that it should have been changed long ago. What are the reasons that this is happening? Racism, maybe. It has been in society and schools for years, and probably never will leave. Also, Eugenic Survey. This could also prove what had happened during the 1920s through the '40s.

A professor at UVM thought that he would improve Vermont. He thought that he could cleanse or change genetically inferior people. Because we were different, we had to go through a phase where you had to feel uncomfortable, you couldn't be proud of who you are or what you have been as an individual, and you lost a lot of your dignity, your pride.

And, in 1931, Vermont had a sterilization law, and it remained until 1973. The effects of the survey were loss of pride, dignity, and loss of heritage. Many students today that are Abenaki either don't know it or they don't know about their heritage, because it has been lost, because of the Eugenic Survey. If someone can't be proud of who they are or who they come from, then how do they expect to show proudness in everything that they do?

Another reason why Abenakis lack the academics is because of courses in teaching at my school, students feel separated and intimidated at school. People are put in certain classes and special groups where they feel that they're not intermingled enough. They don't have the right people to be around them, where they will feel that they fit in with all these topics.

I would like to talk about how we can make things better. There will be core-plus classes next year, which means that our school is trying core-plus classes. Whether you are an honor student or an applied stu-

dent, you are going to be in the same class. That could start issues with honor students being bored or people being rushed into things.

Mr. Barnett, a teacher at my school, he tries to teach reading and writing in all of his classes. He tries to help students improving the skills that they need in everyday life. And he is one of the many at my school that are trying to change. But I think you need the whole school to help make a difference, or it's not going to—it's not going to have an effect.

Another way that you could make things better is through volunteer work. My family and I help out at a learning center. It is the Abenaki Learning Center in Swanton. Four days a week, we help kids with homework, and we try and help them understand the basics of what they need for when they get into high school. We open kids to Native American arts and crafts, and we do cooking with them.

And I feel that, if you are Abenaki or if you are not, you should know a little about the background of the Abenakis, and try and pass it on to more people. Because, as the years go by, more and more people are forgetting, and they're losing everything.

I feel that these things will help the Abenakis, and even other races of our school. Like I said, you need everybody to work together, not just a few here and there.

I want to thank you for inviting me here to speak on a topic that concerns me greatly. And I think that one day the Abenakis will earn their pride back.

HONORING RON BORSKI

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 25, 2001*

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to recognize the efforts made by Mr. Ron Borski on behalf of all war veterans of the great State of Colorado. Mr. Borski single-handedly started a campaign to create a veterans memorial in Carbondale, Colorado. After fourteen months of maneuvering his way through the state legislature, he has succeeded in his mission.

A resolution was adopted by the state legislature on April 17, 2001 to rename the Highway 133 Bridge in Carbondale. On Memorial Day, it has become tradition that veterans throw a wreath from the bridge in remembrance of soldiers whose lives were lost in battle. This "Veterans Memorial Bridge," seems an appropriate tribute. Due to Mr. Borski's noble efforts there will be a formal dedication ceremony for the renaming of the bridge on November 11, 2001. A monument will also be dedicated at the Scenic Overlook off of Highway 82, which looks out to the bridge.

Mr. Speaker, this project was the vision of one man who worked tirelessly in the name of all veterans. He undertook this mission on his own and saw it through to the end. I would like to recognize Ron Borski for his commitment to such a worthwhile cause. The State of Colorado and veterans across the country appreciate Ron's contribution.

CHILDREN'S VISION AWARENESS DAY

HON. ROBERT T. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 25, 2001*

Mr. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, in honor of Children's Vision Awareness Day. Vision Services Plan, which is headquartered in Sacramento, California, has joined forces with several non-profit organizations to develop the Sight for Students program. This charitable program is designed specifically to help children in need of vital eyecare services. I ask my colleagues to join me in support of Vision Services Plan and their tireless work and determination to bring proper vision care to our nation's underprivileged children.

Whereas, our children represent the future of this great nation and deserve every opportunity to succeed in the classroom, at play and life in general;

Whereas according to the United States Center for Health Statistics, only 14 percent of children in the United States under the age of 6 receive an eye exam;

Whereas vision problems affect one in four school-age children, according to Prevent Blindness America;

Whereas untreated eye problems can affect learning ability, adjustment in school, athletic ability and self-esteem;

Whereas Vision Services Plan which has their headquarters in Sacramento, California has a Sight for Student's Program to help low-income, uninsured children obtain the proper vision care that they so greatly need;

Whereas the Sight for Students program covers the cost of an eye examination and glasses or medically necessary contact lenses as well as vision therapy and treatment.

Whereas numerous community agencies, such as America's Promise, Prevent Blindness America, Head Start, the Boys and Girls Clubs of America and Communities in School, have joined forces with Vision Services Plan to address this issue;

Whereas these many partners have come together to hold vision awareness events across the country on September 26, 2001, National Children's Vision Awareness Day.

Since 1997 Vision Services Plan and the Sight for Students program have provided free eye exams and eyewear to nearly 90,000 children across the nation who would not otherwise have access to these services. I applaud their efforts and I am proud to lend my support to this program.

BILL BRACE HONORED

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 25, 2001*

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call the attention of the House of Representatives to the long and dedicated record of public service of Bill Brace, who is retiring after 31 years of working for the people of Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania. He has served as city clerk for 29 years and for five of those years, he has also served as city administrator. He will be honored with a retirement dinner on Sept. 28.

Bill graduated from Kingston High School in 1962 and served in the Army from 1963 to 1966. He joined the City of Wilkes-Barre government as a city license clerk in 1970 and within two years, he had moved up to city clerk, the chief administrative officer for the City Council.

It is a testament to Bill's abilities that he has served under seven different mayors. It also speaks very well of him that in 1996, rather than lose Bill's services as city clerk because incoming Mayor Tom McGroarty wanted him to serve as city administrator, the City Council convinced Bill to serve in both positions. This dual role meant that Bill took on the added responsibility of serving as the chief administrative officer of a city government that employs 425 people.

Bill has also made time for extensive community involvement over the years, including his membership at Veterans of Foreign Wars Wilkes-Barre Post 6227, where he served as commander from 1973 to 1976. He is a past exalted ruler of Elks Wyoming Valley Lodge No. 109, where his fellow members recognized his contributions by naming him Elk of the Year in 1993. He is also founder and chairman of the board of governors of the Killer Bees Athletic Club, a life member of AMVETS Post 59 in Hanover Township, and a member of the North End Slovak Citizens Club, the St. Conrad's Society, and the St. David's Society. He has also served as a board member and officer of the Wilkes-Barre City Employees Credit Union for 30 years.

He has also participated in numerous professional organizations, including the International Institute of Municipal Clerks, the International Municipal Clerks' Advanced Education Academy, the Pennsylvania Local Government Secretaries Association, Pennsylvania League of Cities and Municipalities, National League of Cities and Wyoming Valley Municipal Managers Association.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to call to the attention of the House of Representatives the long and dedicated service of Bill Brace to the people of Wilkes-Barre, and I wish him all the best.

#### CRIMINAL ALIEN VISA DENIAL ACT OF 2001

#### HON. CHRISTOPHER SHAYS

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 25, 2001*

Mr. SHAYS. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the Criminal Alien Visa Denial Act of 2001 to ensure the State Department and Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) have access to U.S. criminal databases before they let aliens into the country.

The State Department and INS currently lack the ability to access the FBI's National Criminal Information Center's Interstate Identification Index (NCIC-III) database. That means an alien can come into our country, commit a crime, leave, and get a reentry visa from our State Department or cross the border without being stopped.

There is evidence this has already happened. Between 1998 and 1999, serial killer Angel Maturino Resendiz, the "Texas Railroad Killer," a Mexican with a lengthy criminal record in the United States, was allowed to

cross the border because the INS didn't know he had a record. And when he got here, he killed at least six people before his capture. And just last week, we heard unconfirmed reports one of the terrorist hijackers may have been allowed to cross the Canadian border even though he too had a criminal record in the United States.

Strengthening national security, particularly border security, against dispersed but deadly criminals and terrorists requires interagency cooperation and coordination on an unprecedented scale. Data matches between federal agencies today are often the product of good luck and the happenstance of personal relationships. The modern threat demands a more systematic collection and dissemination of the information needed to identify suspects or prevent known criminals from entering the United States.

The gap in data-sharing between Departments is no longer simply a matter of bureaucratic inertia, but a threat to national security.

In 1996, the FBI and State Department issued a joint report recommending the State Department receive limited access to the NCIC-III database so the State Department could better identify aliens with a criminal background in our country and prevent their entry. Nevertheless, for four years this report lay dormant while the Departments could not find a mutually agreeable way to institute their recommendations. The language in this bill should meet with the approval of both the Justice and State Departments.

Last year the House Committee on Government Reform's Subcommittee on National Security, Veterans Affairs, and International Relations, began a series of meetings and briefings to discuss data-sharing. On July 24th of this year, the Subcommittee held a hearing on Federal Interagency Data Sharing and National Security. That hearing taught us effective border security begins with our embassies, where U.S. visas are issued.

#### CELEBRATING THE 250TH ANNI- VERSARY OF CANE CREEK FRIENDS MEETING

#### HON. HOWARD COBLE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 25, 2001*

Mr. COBLE. Mr. Speaker, on October 7, 2001, the Sixth District of North Carolina will be celebrating with Cane Creek Friends Meeting its 250th anniversary. The Cane Creek Friends Meeting opened its doors for worship for the first time in 1751, when George Washington was just 19 years old.

The Cane Creek Friends Meeting is a Quaker Church that opened to serve 30 families. These families desired a place to worship near to their homes. It was two women, Abigail Pike and Rachel Wright, with some others, who traveled some 200 miles to the governing body of the Friends in Perquimans, North Carolina, to secure permission for the establishment of the Cane Creek Meeting. As you may have realized, this all happened before our great country had a Constitution or even its first President. Cane Creek Friends Meeting has witnessed every event in our proud history.

During the first 13 years of the Meeting's existence, it was located on a parcel of land,

which was a part of the original grant of John Stanfield. Since 1764, Cane Creek Friends Meeting has been located on a 26-acre site donated by William Marshall.

The Meeting's Sesquicentennial Committee, has planned and carried out several projects to celebrate this remarkable anniversary. Some of these projects include the publication of a pictorial history book, the design and stitching of a heritage quilt, and the construction of a memorial garden at the Meeting-house.

Cane Creek Friends Meeting places a strong emphasis and takes great pride in its belief regarding the equality of women. Over the years there have been several female ministers, beginning with Abigail Pike in 1751. Furthermore, the Meeting prides itself on the fact that it has conducted many educational programs for children in the area.

Through the years, Quakers have had a very important input into the development of this country. Many elected officials have been Quakers. Indeed, despite the fact that I am a Presbyterian, I went to school at Guilford College in North Carolina, which is a Quaker institution, so Quakers have affected my upbringing and education as well.

On behalf of the Sixth District of North Carolina, I would like to wish Cane Creek Friends Meeting our congratulations on reaching this historic and momentous anniversary. Only a very small number of organizations in this country can claim to have been operating for 250 years. It is a truly remarkable achievement.

#### HONORING THE FRIENDS OF THE OPERA OF MICHIGAN ON THE OC- CASION OF THE INAUGURAL OPERA PERFORMANCE AT THE FORD COMMUNITY AND PER- FORMING ARTS CENTER

#### HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 25, 2001*

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Friends of the Opera of Michigan as they celebrate the opening of the city of Dearborn's wonderful new Ford Community and Performing Arts Center. The Friends of the Opera will christen this impressive new facility with its first opera on September 22, 2001. A performance of Verdi's *Messa da Requiem* has been chosen for this inaugural event. An impressive cast of international artists directed by the Friends of the Opera's own Quinto Milito will showcase their talents to an appreciative audience in Dearborn.

Additionally, a statue of Verdi will be unveiled at the opening. Verdi stands as a monumental figure in Italian opera and his compositions are greatly admired by the large Italian-American population in Dearborn, the communities of Downriver and throughout metropolitan Detroit. We are blessed to have such a fine facility and such extraordinary talent available to us here in Dearborn.

I am pleased to extend my best wishes to the Friends of the Opera of Michigan and to the Ford Community and Performing Arts Center for many years of beautiful performances.