

Madawaska Elementary School in Madawaska, Maine, for being named a Blue Ribbon School. This is an incredible achievement, and one which the students and staff in Madawaska are celebrating this week.

The Department of Education's Blue Ribbon Schools Award recognizes schools that are models of excellence and equity, schools that demonstrate a strong commitment to educational excellence for all students, and that achieve high academic standards or have shown significant academic improvement over five years. Madawaska Elementary School had met these high standards, earning a Blue Ribbon School Award.

Madawaska Elementary School is truly a model to which others may look for inspiration. Principal Mary Lunney and the entire staff strive to create an environment where everyone is a learner—students, teachers, staff and the community. The school's mission statement says it all: "Our goal is to create a school system where student learning is optimized; where students achieve clearly stated and understood Learning Results; where we continually ask ourselves what will students know and be able to do and how will they demonstrate their knowledge and skills; and where the focus is on what the student is learning and success for all." The school strives to serve the whole child, paying careful attention to academics, physical fitness, co-curricular activities, and supportive services.

Education is the foundation for our future. Quality education in Maine means a higher quality of life for all the people of the state. I am pleased that the Madawaska Elementary School has been recognized for its dedication to excellence and high standards. I know that they are extremely proud of their achievements, and I am pleased to have the opportunity to bring them to your attention.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BOB RILEY

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 5, 2001

Mr. RILEY. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained for rollcall No. 466, H.R. 3323, the Administrative Simplification Compliance Act. Had I been present I would have voted "yea."

I was unavoidably detained for rollcall No. 467, H.R. 3391, the Medicare Regulatory and Contracting Reform Act of 2001. Had I been present I would have voted "yea."

I was unavoidably detained for rollcall No. 468, S. 494, the Zimbabwe Democracy and Economic Recovery Act of 2001. Had I been present I would have voted "yea."

INTRODUCTION OF H.R. 3381

HON. SANDER M. LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 5, 2001

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, last week, I introduced a bill, H.R. 3381, for Mr. CAMP, other members of the Michigan delegation, and myself, that would clarify that certain bonds issued by local governments should be treated as tax-exempt. This issue has particular importance to local governments in Michigan.

In Michigan, counties collect real property taxes to fund their school systems. To facilitate the collection of delinquent real property taxes levied for local school districts, the counties issue bonds (General Obligation Limited Tax Notes). The counties have been doing this since 1973. Until 1987, interest on the bonds was treated as tax exempt.

In 1987, a cloud was cast upon the tax exempt status of these bonds due to issues unrelated to the bonds. Michigan counties have continued to issue bonds under the delinquent property tax program, but since 1987 the bonds have effectively not been treated as tax-exempt, costing the counties millions of dollars per year.

This bill would restore the valuable General Obligation Limited Tax Notes program to a tax-exempt status, reducing borrowing costs, and providing badly needed support for education in the State of Michigan. While it would be highly beneficial to local schools, the Federal revenue cost of this bill would be negligible.

I urge all of my colleagues to join me in co-sponsoring this bipartisan bill.

TRIBUTE TO ANN FLETCHER CELEBRATING HER 90TH BIRTHDAY

HON. DAVID E. BONIOR

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 5, 2001

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize Ann Fletcher, who is celebrating her 90th birthday on Sunday, October 14, 2001. Truly a milestone occasion, 2001 marks 90 years of hard work and is celebration for a unique and endearing individual. Happy Birthday!

A pioneering woman in the fields of engineering and public service, Ann Fletcher has set an excellent example of hard work and dedication throughout her lifetime. Born in Latrobe, Pennsylvania in 1911, Ms. Fletcher was raised and educated in Detroit, attending Cass Technical High School until 1929 and the Wayne State University College of Engineering from 1942–1944. During school she worked as a patent illustrator for Bendix Aviation Corporation Research Laboratories in Detroit, continuing on until 1947. From there her career took her to the Ford Motor Company patent section and the Shatterproof Glass Corporation. Ms. Ann Fletcher became a self-employed technical consultant until her retirement in 1980. Her unfailing commitment allowed Ms. Fletcher to break through the barrier to women that existed in a male-dominated profession.

Married to Stanley Ostaszewski in 1932, they soon celebrated the birth of her son, Carl Ostaszewski, whom she raised while her husband was serving in the military and while she attended Wayne State University. Widowed in 1948, Ms. Ostaszewski married Mr. Cicero Fletcher in 1953. Her commitment to her family is as strong as her commitment to public service and the field of engineering.

Today we can all look up to Ms. Fletcher as a pioneer for working women in America and praise her contributions to Southeast Michigan and the Polish-American community. A former board member of the Engineering Society of

Detroit, Ms. Fletcher was given the Distinguished Service Award, an award which now bears her name. Other awards throughout her notable career include the "Top Ten Working Women in Detroit" in 1966 and the "Distinguished Pioneer" of the Society of Women Engineers in 1994.

Today Ann Fletcher celebrates 90 years of life on this earth. I ask that all my colleagues join me in celebrating Ms. Fletcher's 90th birthday and celebrating all of the hard work she has accomplished as a woman pioneer and Polish-American.

ZIMBABWE DEMOCRACY AND ECONOMIC RECOVERY ACT OF 2001

SPEECH OF

HON. CYNTHIA A. MCKINNEY

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 4, 2001

Ms. MCKINNEY. Mr. Speaker, at the international Relations Committee meeting of November 28, 2001, which considered the Zimbabwe Democracy and Economic Recovery Act of 2001, I asked a question of my colleagues who were vociferously supporting this misdirected piece of legislation: "Can anyone explain how the people in question who now have the land in question in Zimbabwe got title to the land?"

My query was met with a deafening silence. Those who knew did not want to admit the truth and those who didn't know should have known—that the land was stolen from its indigenous peoples through the British South Africa Company and any "titles" to it were illegal and invalid. Whatever the reason for their silence, the answer to this question is the unspoken but real reason for why the United States Congress is now concentrating its time and resources on squeezing an economically-devastated African state under the hypocritical guise of providing a "transition to democracy."

Zimbabwe is Africa's second-longest stable democracy. It is multi-party. It had elections last year where the opposition, Movement for Democratic Change, won over 50 seats in the parliament. It has an opposition press which vigorously criticizes the government and governing party. It has an independent judiciary which issues decisions contrary to the wishes of the governing party. Zimbabwe is not without troubles, but neither is the United States. I have not heard anyone proposing a United States Democracy Act following last year's Presidential electoral debacle. And if a foreign country were to pass legislation calling for a United States Democracy Act which provided funding for United States opposition parties under the fig leaf of "Voter Education," this body and this country would not stand for it.

There are many de jure and de facto one-party states in the world which are the recipients of support of the United States government. They are not the subject of Congressional legislative sanctions. To any honest observer, Zimbabwe's sin is that it has taken the position to right a wrong, whose resolution has been too long overdue—to return its land to its people. The Zimbabwean government has said that a situation where 2 percent of the population owns 85 percent of the best land is untenable. Those who presently own more than one farm will no longer be able to do so.

When we get right down to it, this legislation is nothing more than a formal declaration of United States complicity in a program to maintain white-skin privilege. We can call it an “incentives” bill, but that does not change its essential “sanctions” nature. It is racist and against the interests of the masses of Zimbabweans. In the long-run the Zimbabwe Democracy Act will work against the United States having a mutually beneficial relationship with Africa.

NEED FOR REESTABLISHING THE OFFICE OF TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 5, 2001

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, complex issues are facing Congress, many in the realm of science and technology. Current events are challenging our traditional understanding of medicine, engineering, science, environment, and telecommunications. Mail decontamination is just one issue where Congress needs better science advice.

Thousands of people have been affected by anthrax in our mail—millions more by the uncertainty and fear it has caused. Congress still has not received mail, severing a vital link to our constituents. Part of the reason for this delay is that there is no precedent for killing anthrax spores.

If the Office of Technology Assessment (OTA) existed today, we could expect to have already received information about rapid ways to decontaminate our mail. During its 23 years of existence, OTA provided Congress with well-respected, impartial analysis and advice, including valuable reports on terrorism, national security, and communication. If OTA existed today, they would have already completed reports useful to us in making decisions about the current war on terrorism.

Congress needs better scientific information. We need unbiased analysis and advice on the impact and use of technologies. We need to understand how technology can be used to hurt us and how we can use it to strengthen and defend our nation.

When OTA's funding was eliminated due to government downsizing in 1995, Congress lost a valuable and unique resource. Please join me, along with 55 of my colleagues, in cosponsoring H.R. 2148, bipartisan legislation to reestablish the Office of Technology Assessment (OTA).

TERRORISM RISK PROTECTION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 29, 2001

Mr. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to H.R. 3210, the Terrorism Risk Protection Act.

In the last two months, the Financial Services Committee, on which I serve, has held two hearings plus a roundtable on the state of

the insurance industry after the September 11 terrorist attack. From these meetings, a consensus on several facts emerged. First, the lack of available terrorism reinsurance may cause significant disruption in the primary commercial insurance markets.

Second, without assurances that commercial firms can receive terrorism coverage, lenders (such as banks or other institutional investors) will not underwrite new loans for construction projects necessary to grow our economy.

Finally, and most importantly, is the fact that prompt congressional action on this issue is essential, since most reinsurance contracts will be renewed on January 1. Absent some form of terrorism coverage, the economic effects to our country will be devastating.

On November 7, a proposed bipartisan solution to this problem was reported by the House Financial Services Committee (H.R. 3210) by a voice vote. Our committee reported legislation that provided immediate assistance in the case of a terrorist disaster; it spread the risk across the industry, helping the industry to essentially act as its own reinsurer; it spread the costs out over time, to minimize the impact of an event in any given year; and it provided limited liability relief to protect insurers and taxpayers against litigation in the event of an attack.

Mr. Speaker, this bill was considered under regular order—the deliberative congressional process—as all legislation should. Our committee held hearings and markups; we took testimony from all interested parties; we vigorously debated all of the relevant issues; and we reported a well-thought out, well-designed, bipartisan product that met the needs of the marketplace.

Unfortunately, the majority leadership decided yesterday that their pre-September 11 agenda was more important than the deliberative legislative process and the will of the Financial Services Committee, which includes almost one-fifth of this House. At 2:30 p.m., yesterday afternoon, the majority leader introduced an entirely new product that did little to address the real needs of the insurance markets, but rather addressed the majority's desire to change long-standing and well-established legal procedure in this country. Adding insult to injury, the majority party designed a rule that eviscerated the will of the Financial Services Committee by automatically making in order the leader's bill without allowing the full House the courtesy of a vote on our bipartisan product.

Mr. Speaker, I cannot support disregard for the expertise of committees, the erosion of our legislative process, and abuse of minority rights. I can no longer support business as usual.

The real injustice in the majority's actions is the fact that we must pass responsible legislation to provide terrorism coverage for primary insurers and policyholders. I hope the other body quickly enacts legislation to address the real needs of the marketplace, while eliminating the extraneous provisions attached to the product we are considering today. Our country needs that legislation. I want to vote for that legislation. I look forward to soon being able to vote for a conference report that reflects the priorities of the Financial Services Committee and respects the processes of our institutions.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 5, 2001

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Mr. Speaker on December 4, 2001, I had official business in my Congressional District and I missed rollcall votes 466, 467 and 468. Had I been present, I would have voted “aye” on the aforementioned rollcall votes.

HONORING THE 2001 RIVERDALE HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL TEAM

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 5, 2001

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the accomplishment of a dedicated group of young men who worked together in the true spirit of sportsmanship to achieve a distinguished goal.

The Riverdale High School football team of Murfreesboro, Tennessee, won the state 5-A football championship this past season, the school's third state football title in 7 years. The Warriors ended the 2001 season with a perfect 15-0 record by beating Mid-state rival Hendersonville High School 35-7 in the Blue Cross Bowl.

The Riverdale Warriors trained vigorously and played tirelessly the entire season. They deserve recognition for a job well done. I congratulate each player, manager, trainer, and coach for an outstanding season. The Warriors are led by head coach Gary Rankin and assistant coaches Steve Britton, Ron Crawford, Ricky Field, Matt Gardner, Tracy Malone, Thomas McDaniel, Jason Scharsch, Matt Snow, Jeremy Stansbury, Nick Patterson and Greg Wyant. Managers Cody Dittfurth, Markey Burke, Cheryelle Ayers and Jennifer Headly contributed much time and effort to the team, as well, as did trainers Jennifer Snell, Lindsey Robinson and Celcka Akins.

The 2001 Class 5-A state champion Warriors are Corey Hathaway, Ward Poston, Tre' Dalton, Taron Henry, Marcus King, Jamaal Price, Grant Kolka, C.J. Powell, Terrell Coleman, LaBrian Lyons, Kevin Murray, Jervell Ford, Jay Carter, Stephen Britton, Ryan Hallman, Brian Campbell, Keith Bridges, Tron Baker, Alex Watson, Anton Bates, Don Mitchell, Devin Young, Ralph King, Edgar Martin, Jean Paul Gadie, Jeremy Jackson, Spike McDaniel, Edrell Smith, Emanuel Oglesby, Will Bullock, Andrew Morris, Jeremy Hurd, Kevin Davis, David Peterson, Tyler Campbell, A.J. Alexander, John Goodwin, Matthew Pedigo, John Batey, Albert Miles, Brandon Faulkner, Clay Richardson, Daniel Gammon, Brian Sawyer, Kris Kirby, Leon Alexander, Roger Winterbauer, Daniel Puckett, Charles Bigford, Michael Grove, Joe James, Brad Rainer, Ben Brazzell, Matthew Parton, John Awokoya, Ronnie Johns, Andrew Bigford, Wes Hall, William Lee, Marvin Richardson, Edward Belcher, Charles Todd, Kenyon Buford, Travis Livingston, Aubrey McCrary, Cortez Lawrence, Dustin Davis, Daniel Jones, David Varl, David Nickens, Glen Suggs, Curtis Smith, Heath Evans, Chad Neese, Jason Kidd, Jeremy Anderson and Rhyan Maupin.