

Already struggling to overcome the devastating effects of September 11 attacks on the World Trade Center and Pentagon, the crash of American Airlines Flight #587 has impacted our Nation's Dominican community deeply. Almost all 260 persons aboard the flight were of Dominican ancestry and, as was pointedly demonstrated during the conference, it seems as if every person of Dominican heritage in the United States has been personally touched by this tragedy. During the opening session Moises Perez, Executive Director of Alianza Dominicana a social service community based non-profit agency located in northern Manhattan illustrated this with this with a story of personal quest to find one person who did not know someone aboard the plane. He has yet to find one person.

Our ability to gather and reflect on these recent occurrences was essential in providing a discourse for this community to begin to make sense of these horrific events. It also provided a forum to discuss the next forward step. As the Dominican community continues to mourn the loss of so many loved ones, we must support its efforts to continue its work to address the items that impact the community.

This year's conference celebrated the opening of the DANR's Washington DC office. The DANR seeks to bring the voices of all people of Dominican origin who lived in the United States together and provide a forum for analysis, planning, and action to advance the primary interests of the community. The office will serve as the coordinating center for the Dominican American's agenda, ensuring that their voice is heard at the national level and their interests are being addressed in the legislative arena. Representing the largest Dominican community in the United States, I am strongly supportive of the opening of this office and I pledge my support to this community as it continues to grow in strength and size in the United States.

This year's theme, "Empowerment through Education" demonstrates the importance of education to the future of this community. Like many Americans, education is high on the list of critical priorities for the Dominican American community. However, the Dominican American population is plagued by sky rocketing drop out rates, poorly funded and dilapidated schools, educators ill-prepared to face the challenges of migratory communities and bilingual education, and a lack from or familiar with the community.

I commend the DANR's commitment to its youth. In addition to the participation of so many key leaders within the community, the presence of a large number of young people was particularly heart-warming and telling of the potential success this community will find if it is given the opportunity to participate in the framing and addressing of the issues and challenges which face it. From high school to graduate school, these students represented the future leaders of the Dominican American community and their dedication to their roots in the Dominican Republic and United States is evident. Too often our children are forced to shed and hide the heritage that defines them. Our culture is not a curse; it is a blessing, and we must never let our youth forget that where we come from is essential in determining who we will become.

I would like to thank all those whose hard work made the weekend possible, especially the DANR President Adriano Espallat. I would

also like to extend my appreciation to the DANR Board of Directors including Alejandra Castillo, Raysa Castillo, Miguel De Jesus, Ana Garcia, Epifanio Gil, Josefina Infante, Rafael Latingua, Mania Luna, Manuel Matos, Rafael Morel, Barbara Perez, Moises Perez, Felipe Rodriguez, Ydanis Rodrigues, Elvis Ruiz, Luis Salcedo and Slivio Torres-Saillant and the DANR staff consisting of Jose Bello, Rademes Peguero, Victor F. Capellan, Ninoska Uribe, Roberto Alvarez, and Margarita Cepeda.

I look forward to continuing our work to supporting and advancing the Dominican American community.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO SOUTHEAST ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 18, 2001

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Southeast Elementary School for earning the Golden Apple Award for educational excellence.

The annual Golden Apple Award is awarded by Governor John Engler for improved scores in the 4th and 5th grades on the Michigan Education Assessment Program, which test the sections of math, science, reading, and writing. Schools must attain a 60-point increase over three year period to receive the honor.

Last year 54 percent of the students successfully passed the reading portion of the MEAP test compared to 77.3 this year. Also, 74 percent of the students passed the math portion last year compared to 90.7 this year.

The advances by Southeast Elementary School were a result of aggressively employing strategies to help students who placed in the bottom 20–30 percent for the MEAP. Southeast employed dozens of teachers, tutors, and volunteers in a 6–8 week program last winter. The program students focused on reading, writing, math, and science on a daily basis. Further, the school utilized a full-time literacy leader to concentrate on English skills and an educator to concentrate in math. Both programs centered on working with small groups or individuals to help the students improve in the areas in which they were lacking in.

Therefore Mr. Speaker, I respectfully ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Southeast Elementary School for earning the Golden Apple Award. I salute their commitment to teaching our nations future leaders and commend each educators commitment to teaching these important skills.

TRIBUTE TO THE HOUSE OFFICE OF EMPLOYEE ASSISTANCE

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 18, 2001

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, I would like to acknowledge that the House Office of Employee Assistance has been recognized with the EAP Digest/Employee Assistance Professionals Association Quality Award for EAP Excellence for 2001.

The House of Representatives, for the last fourteen years, has been privileged to have a high-performing team in its Office of Employee Assistance. Those of us who have worked with these individuals have often experienced their high level of service and passion for their work. Now, the entire nation will know too, as the House Office of Employee Assistance has been recognized with the EAP Digest/Employee Assistance Professionals Association Quality Award for EAP Excellence for 2001.

The award states, "Evaluation and quality improvement has always been a key component of the U.S. House of Representatives program. Whether through client satisfaction surveys, peer reviews or more innovative techniques such as customer interviews and the system-wide evaluation, all modes of evaluation came to the same finding: The Office of Employee Assistance demonstrates exemplary continuous improvement efforts that enhanced the quality of EAP services."

The House team of Bern Beidel, Liz McBride, Debbie Frank, Kristin Welsh-Simpson, and Patty Prince should feel quite proud of its accomplishments and for this recognition that is well deserved.

It's also appropriate to pay tribute to a number of former House Members and employees who laid the groundwork for this program. First, former Clerk of the House, Donald K. Anderson, whose initiative and vision were instrumental in the House instituting an employee assistance service. Second, thanks goes out to the initial Members of Congress who were critical to winning the endorsement of the elected Members—former Speaker Tom Foley, former Minority Leader Bob Michel, former Members Bill Emerson, Rod Chandler, Ben Jones, Mary Rose Oakar, and current Senator Pat Roberts.

The combined work of these professionals has yielded an exemplary level of support for House employees through a program that is now recognized as among the best in its field. Congratulations to the Office of Employee Assistance team, and keep up the outstanding work!

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 1, NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND ACT OF 2001

SPEECH OF

HON. THOMAS E. PETRI

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 13, 2001

Mr. PETRI. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the H.R. 1 Conference Report, which is the result of months of relentless effort on the part of Members and particularly staff in both chambers in both parties. It is also a great achievement for President Bush, who made education the top priority of his domestic agenda from his first day in office. This conference report largely reflects his priorities and his active support and involvement in this process have been crucial in bringing us to this point.

In the context of a bipartisan, bicameral compromise final product, there are many features of this bill that represent significant departures from the old, failed Federal education policy. In this bill, we have given states and school districts an unprecedented level of

flexibility to use Federal funds as they see fit. We have included, as one of the many new options for children trapped in failing schools, an opportunity to use Title I money to purchase supplemental services such as tutoring, which is a reform that many in this House have advocated for years. We have also consolidated many of the current duplicative education programs to better focus money to the students who need help the most.

Additionally, this conference report makes a strong statement that, where Darwinian evolutionary theory or other controversial scientific topics are taught, students should be exposed to multiple viewpoints. Too often, students are taught only one theory where evolution is concerned, and this language gives support to those at the local and state level who uphold the value of intellectual freedom in the teaching of science. This statement is especially important to make now because H.R. 1 requires all students eventually to be tested in science on a regular basis as a condition of aid.

I am also pleased that the conference report reauthorizes and updates the Troops-to-Teachers program, which assists qualified former members of the military in finding employment in the teaching profession. Since this program's beginning in 1993, Troops-to-Teachers has a proven track record of supplying high-quality teachers, even though it has thus far received little funding. I am hopeful that, when the appropriators finish their work in the coming days, this program will receive the full \$30 million dollars authorized in H.R. 1.

To be sure, I have some misgivings about the new accountability provisions in this conference report. Many states, such as Wisconsin, have spent years developing successful accountability systems that do not necessarily involve testing all students on an annual basis. For the Federal Government to now demand that annual testing in reading and math take place every year in grades 3–8 amounts to a new mandate placed on states over and above what we already ask of them in other areas. On the other hand, given that the national government has poured upwards of \$130 billion dollars into elementary and secondary education over the last 36 years with no discernible improvement in educational outcomes for our most disadvantaged students, I fully understand the urgent need to find some way to make sure that new federal resources are tied to results.

In any case, I am pleased that the conference report makes a credible attempt to address my concerns about saddling states with this new responsibility. For example, the conferees increased the amount of money authorized to help states develop and administer the new tests. Both the House bill and Senate amendment provided \$400 million, however the conference report increases this to \$490 million. If this account is fully funded by the appropriators, states will be able to put in place high-quality accountability systems that provide the data that parents need about their child's school. Additionally, we included a Senate provision that makes state administration of the new testing contingent on adequate funds being provided.

This bill is a significant improvement over current law that, when fully implemented, might actually achieve its intended effect of making sure that henceforth no child is left behind, and on that basis I am pleased to sup-

port it and urge my colleagues to do the same.

WOMEN SPEAK FOR PEACE RESOLUTION

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 18, 2001

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the September 11th attack on the people and institutions of America has eliminated any illusion that we are safe from the violence and discord which seem to plague the rest of the world.

Currently, the United Nations has peace keeping missions in every corner of the world including the Golan Heights; Lebanon; Iraq/Kuwait; Angola; the Western Sahara; Kosovo; Cyprus; Georgia; Tajikistan; Sierra Leone; East Timor; Congo and Ethiopia/Eritrea and has established war crimes tribunals in Yugoslavia and Rwanda. Our unfortunate global picture of war, ethnic conflict, civil war and terrorism serves as a strong indication of the need to establish and maintain a dialogue leading to a blueprint to establish lasting peace in war-torn and strife ridden areas of the world. Several studies have shown that while women are not usually combatants in these hostilities, women and children tend to disproportionately form the ranks of the displaced and victimized.

Today, I will introduce a resolution encouraging worldwide efforts seeking the greater involvement of women to challenge the belief that violence is an acceptable tool in resolving conflicts. While every member of a community should take affirmative steps to ameliorate violence, the role of women in these efforts are often undervalued. My resolution will encourage women of every race, class and economic circumstance to work together to form coalitions and strengthen communities to work toward international peace-building efforts and will encourage governmental leaders to seek the participation of women at all levels of peacebuilding and peace-keeping efforts.

My resolution encourages the use of the week following Mother's Day to hold forums, conferences, and other activities dedicated to examining the need for peace and the role of women in establishing and maintaining peace-building efforts. I am asking each Member of this House to join me in my efforts to raise the volume of women's voices and encourage non-violent solutions to domestic, national and international disputes, by co-sponsoring this legislation.

TRIBUTE TO REIKO KAWAKAMI

HON. ROBERT T. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 18, 2001

Mr. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise in tribute to Reiko Kawakami, my dear friend and a most loyal and dependable staff member for the last twenty-three years. As her friends and family gather to celebrate Reiko's wonderful career, I ask all of my colleagues to join with me in saluting one of Sacramento's finest citizens.

The youngest child of George and Ann Kashiwada, Reiko was born in Sacramento on July 8th, 1941. As a youngster in midtown Sacramento, where her parents owned a neighborhood market, Reiko demonstrated her trademark responsibility at a very early age. Reiko and her sister Ellen assumed the task of making sure that things were in order at home. Reiko would often prepare meals and perform various household chores when her parents were busy tending to the family business.

When World War II broke out, Reiko and her family were sent away to the Tule Lake Internment Camp. During the internment, Reiko first demonstrated her gregarious nature and agreeable personality by socializing and playing with the other children in the camp. In the years since the internment, Reiko has remained open to share her experience with others. Reiko has been a clear and thoughtful voice in educating the people of Sacramento about the Japanese American internment experience.

After the internment and a two-year stay in Denver, Colorado, Reiko and her family returned to Sacramento in 1948. It was during my early years at William Land Park Elementary School that I began my lifelong friendship with Reiko. While at McClatchy High School, Reiko caught the eye of Hachi Kawakami. Although a school boundary change forced Reiko to finish her senior year at Sacramento High School, Reiko and Hachi's romance continued and they were soon married after Reiko's graduation from high school in 1958.

For the next two decades, Reiko devoted her energy to raising her five wonderful children; Deann, Cynthia, Mark, Susan, and John. While most people would rest on their laurels and look for less demanding pursuits after raising five children, Reiko decided that she was ready to embrace another challenge by starting a career. After serving as a tireless volunteer on my first congressional campaign, Reiko took on the position as my first district Staff Assistant.

Many things have changed about our world since Reiko first assumed the position of Staff Assistant in my district office in January of 1979. We have seen five different occupants of the White House, the fall of the former Soviet Union, and the rise of the information superhighway. But, one thing has always remained constant in my office over the past twenty-three years; Reiko has been a stalwart part of ensuring that business in my office is handled professionally and in the proper manner. Reiko has truly been the epitome of a leader through example to her peers from Sacramento to Washington, DC over the years. For that, I will always be grateful for her twenty-three years of unparalleled service and life long friendship.

Although Reiko's professional career may be coming to an end, she certainly has much to look forward to in her retirement years. In addition to her five children and their spouses, Reiko can look forward to taking an active role in the lives of her lovely grandchildren; Nicole, Rachelle, Jordan, Dylan, Brett, and Taylor. Reiko and Hachi can also look forward to pursuing their dream to travel to fun and exciting places in their leisure time.

Mr. Speaker, as Ms. Reiko Kawakami's friends and family gather to celebrate and honor her illustrious twenty-three year career I am honored to pay tribute to one of my dearest friends. Her contributions to my office and