

Zach Vanderham, Jessica Parks, and Darren Mann, who are seniors at Mt. Whitney High School in Visalia, California in my district. These three young people have developed an anti-smoking program aimed at their peers that I hope will serve as a model for other schools throughout the country. They have created a CD ROM titled "Teens Kick Ash" that explains the dangers of smoking in a manner to which other young people can relate and understand.

As part of a competition organized by a national student marketing organization, Zach, Jessica, and Darren developed this CD in order to dissuade their fellow students from taking up this destructive, dangerous habit. Their project has proven so effective that the CD's have been distributed to dozens of other schools in the Visalia Unified School District, which have incorporated the project into their curriculum. Mr. Speaker, all Americans now know the dangers that smoking presents, and realize that we must do more to prevent our young people from starting this destructive habit. I am very pleased that these three students from Tulare County, California have had the good sense and initiative to educate their peers on smoking's dangers and to do their part to keep the next generation of Tulare County citizens from starting to smoke.

I have an article from the Visalia Times Delta newspaper that I ask unanimous consent be included in the RECORD in its entirety.

STUDENTS DESCRIBE SMOKING DANGERS  
LA JOYA SHOWS PROJECT CREATED BY THREE  
MT. WHITNEY DECA STUDENTS  
(By Melinda Morales)

Twenty three seventh-grade students sat in the dark in Dave Rodgers' health class at La Joya Middle School Tuesday, waiting not for the lights to come on but for the show to begin.

They would be the first group of students to view a CD-ROM production called "Anti Tobacco Education 2000, Teens Kick Ash," created by three Mt. Whitney High School students.

The students, members of DECA—an association of marketing students—had taken on the job of creating the CD-ROM as part of a marketing project for the annual DECA competition in Jan Jose next month. They wanted to see how other students would react to what they saw.

"We felt smoking was a big problem in our community and we wanted to produce a CD about it," said Zach Vanderham, a senior and DECA member. "They seemed to really enjoy it."

What captivated the students were the video vignettes, produced by drama students at Mt. Whitney, interspersed throughout the disc. One that got a reaction from the class showed students coughing and choking as they smoked for the first time and asked why anyone would want to continue smoking after that kind of reaction.

The CD-ROM presentation is the first of its kind, produced by students in the Visalia Unified School District. Rodgers, a health education specialist, said getting information to students in the middle schools is a priority for him.

"Any opportunity I get to have someone come in from the outside and talk to my students about drugs and the dangers they present, I jump on it," he said. When they get to high school, sometimes it's too late."

He said the combined video and audio presentation in CD form, organized format and worksheet for the lesson are easy to use.

"We try to incorporate technology as much as possible," Rodgers said. "And kids like visuals."

Beatrice Mejia, 12, said the facts and grim photos on the effects of chewing tobacco made an impression on her.

"I didn't know that the tobacco could do so much damage," she said.

The project was the brainchild of Mt. Whitney DECA adviser Stephen Rogers, who worked with the Tulare County Health and Human Services Agency to get the money for the project.

"We got a \$5,000 grant to buy the equipment for the project," Rogers said. He made arrangements with a production company in Los Angeles to show his students how to use the equipment and create their own story. Then he let them go.

"They really did it all themselves," he said. The grant enabled them to buy the equipment and produce 350 copies of the disc that will be used in schools throughout the district.

The grant came from the state's Tobacco Use Prevention Education fund which is to be used strictly for educating kids about the dangers of tobacco. Lucinda Mejdell-Awbrey, coordinator of student support services for health and human services, said the tobacco education money was used last year to put on health fairs in the middle schools in the district.

"The money comes from the tax on tobacco sales, and the amounts have been dropping each year because tobacco sales are going down," Mejdell-Awbrey said. Most of the money is used to purchase educational materials for health teachers of fourth-through eighth grades.

Jessica Parks, a junior, helped Vanderham lead the presentation to the class, guided the students through the worksheets and answered questions. Darren Mann, senior, operated the computer and navigated the course for Parks and Vanderham. He also did much of the hands-on computer work for the project.

The three students, who began working on the project in November, will now complete the written requirements for the presentation and submit it for the competition in March.

CONGRATULATIONS TO ST.  
FRANCIS HOSPITAL ON 45 YEARS  
OF SERVING OUR COMMUNITY

HON. GERALD D. KLECZKA

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 24, 2001

Mr. KLECZKA. Mr. Speaker, on Saturday, April 28, 2001 the Milwaukee community will gather to celebrate the 45th Anniversary of St. Francis Hospital.

The blessed Felician Sisters opened the doors to this beautiful new facility in 1956, and with the leadership of its first administrator, Sister Mary Liliose, started to minister quality and compassionate health care to those in need.

In the years that have followed, St. Francis Hospital has grown and matured, combining a patient-centered, healing ministry with the latest in advanced technology. Today, the facility offers an array of services, specializing in areas such as laser/laparoscopic surgery, orthopedics, sports medicine and women's health services. In addition, this 260 bed, general acute care hospital is internationally recognized for its outstanding cardiac care programs.

Now a St. Francis Hospital Center for Cancer Care is currently being constructed in

Franklin, Wisconsin, to provide comprehensive services to cancer patients throughout south-eastern Wisconsin. The facility has been designed with input from cancer survivors and will provide a healing environment to attend to the unique medical and spiritual needs of cancer patients and their families.

A large part of what makes St. Francis Hospital such a special place is its strong commitment to building a healthier community. From its free health care screenings for seniors to its Angel of Hope Clinic located in a homeless shelter on Milwaukee's south side, the staff of St. Francis consistently serves with great care and compassion.

On behalf of all the people whose lives have been touched by the Felician Sisters and the physicians, nurses and support staff at St. Francis Hospital, thank you for 45 years of outstanding care to the community, and God's blessings for many more years of exceptional service to the people of Wisconsin.

IN RECOGNITION OF JUAN NEKAI  
BABAUTA AND HIS WORK WITH  
THE CLOSE UP FOUNDATION

HON. ROBERT A. UNDERWOOD

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 24, 2001

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I take this opportunity today to recognize my friend Juan Nekai Babauta, the Resident Representative to the United States from the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI), for his efforts on behalf of the Close Up Foundation. I particularly commend Mr. Babauta for his continued commitment to the issue of civic education for young people and especially for his diligent work with the Close Up Foundation, the nation's largest nonprofit, nonpartisan citizenship education organization.

Mr. Speaker, as many of my colleagues know, the CNMI became a territory of the United States and an American commonwealth in 1976. Since then the citizens of the CNMI, with whom my constituency, the people of Guam, share indigenous identity and Chamorro heritage, have elected a Resident Representative to serve them in the Nation's capital. To date the CNMI is the only American jurisdiction that has not been afforded representation in Congress, thus I often feel compelled to offer remarks here in the House for Guam's Pacific neighbors.

As you know, Mr. Speaker, many of the islands of Oceania face daunting challenges in the area of economic stability and growth. Their relatively limited size, small population and extended distance from major markets, makes building a strong and sustainable economy among the most difficult tasks facing contemporary government. With the competing needs of various sectors of society, the government is forced to make tough choices. Roads must be maintained and airports must be modernized, hospitals must be improved and schools must be expanded and repaired, health care must be available to all and social safety nets must be in place for the neediest citizens. Pressing demands on an island's resources must be balanced with an eye towards meeting the needs of the day, while not ignoring future needs. Public servants like Juan Nekai Babauta make invaluable contributions to the extremely difficult balancing act

between available resources and societal needs.

All of the islands of the Pacific are also confronting numerous problems when it comes to their youth. In CNMI, as is also the case in Guam, the government must find ways to combat apathy and cynicism among their young people. There is a constant concern with ensuring that young people will enter adulthood committed to being active, contributing citizens of their communities. For public servants like Juan Nekai Babauta, there is a recognition that preparing the next generation of leaders is a priority for the future welfare of the islands. Throughout his years of service, Mr. Babauta has been a champion for education and a strong advocate for young people. As the Resident Representative for CNMI, he has aggressively and successfully lobbied this Congress to provide \$3 million in federal funds for an endowment at the Northern Marianas College. He also achieved success in his attempt to open admission to our U.S. service academies to CNMI students. These and other pursuits demonstrate Mr. Babauta's effectiveness and his work on behalf of his constituency.

Throughout his career, Mr. Babauta has recognized that preparing the next generation of leaders must include preparation through a focus on civic education. His commitment to this end is evidenced through his unwavering support of the Close Up Foundation's program in the Pacific Islands.

Mr. Speaker, as you and my other colleagues in the House know well, the Close Up Foundation operates one of the most successful and innovative civic education programs in the country. Most of us have had the privilege of meeting students who are in Washington for an intensive course of study about the federal government. Annually, I personally meet with students and teachers from Guam who are participants in Close Up's civic education program that is specially designed for Pacific Islands students and educators. As an educator by profession, I have been personally impressed with Close Up's Island-based activities, including their development of island-specific curricular materials, teacher training seminars and programs related to teaching young people about the merits of community service.

Mr. Babauta, when back home in Rota and Saipan has encouraged students and teachers to participate in the program. He has used his position and contacts to assist educators and schools to raise funds that would allow students to participate in the Close Up program, including taking advantage of local media outlets to promote the program. Mr. Babauta even assists students and teachers with the process for obtaining passports and other travel documents that will allow them to travel to Washington for the Close Up program. All of these activities speak to his deep belief in the importance of civic education to CNMI students, including the need for them to explore the historic ties between the United States and the Pacific Islands. Equally important, Mr. Babauta's support for the Close Up program signals his conviction that for the CNMI and other Pacific Islands to secure a future of engaged citizenry committed to democratic government, it is important that they be educated in how democracy is reliant upon the involvement and input of the people.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I wish to thank Mr. Babauta for his work with Close Up Pacific Is-

lands program. His efforts over the years demonstrate his commitment to the welfare of the young people of the Pacific, and his conviction that educating young people about democracy, the importance of community service, and the rights and responsibilities of citizenship is indispensable for the future of the CNMI and other Pacific Islands.

HONORING MRS. GERRY GEIFMAN,  
RECIPIENT OF THE STATE OF  
ISRAEL BONDS' JERUSALEM  
MEDAL

HON. LANE EVANS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 24, 2001*

Mr. EVANS. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to congratulate one of my constituents, Mrs. Gerry Geifman, who will be honored tonight by the State of Israel Bonds at the Quad City Israel Independence Dinner.

At the dinner, Mrs. Geifman will receive the Jerusalem Medal. The award is given to those who have a distinguished history of efforts on behalf of Israel, the Jewish people and the community.

Considering her deep involvement in issues involving the Quad Cities and the local Jewish community, it is easy to see why she is being so honored. Her charitable works are numerous including: serving as past president of Hadassah, the Tri-City Jewish Center Sisterhood, and B'nai B'rith. She also serves on the boards of the Jewish Federation, Tri-City Jewish center, and the Rock Island YWCA. She has also dedicated much of her time to the Davenport Museum of Art, Friends of Art, the Geifman Endowment Sponsorship of Augustana College, Audubon School, Washington Junior High School, Rock Island High school PTA among others.

It is unfortunate that Mrs. Geifman's late husband is not alive to see her receive this important honor. The charitable and volunteer work they performed together over the years was an inspiration to our community. Her continued efforts have served as a true example of the value of leadership and the spirit of volunteer work.

Again, I commend her for her work and this well-deserved recognition of years of service to our local Jewish community and the Quad Cities.

SENSE OF CONGRESS RESOLUTION

HON. CLIFF STEARNS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 24, 2001*

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce a Sense of Congress resolution that the Constitution of the United States allows for a prohibition against acts of desecration of the flag of the United States.

I do so because I believe that nothing could be more important to most Americans than to preserve and honor our Nation's flag.

In the past, those who have been prosecuted for flag burning have not been prosecuted for what they said, but for the method they chose to express themselves. Justice

Stevens wrote that the government has a legitimate interest in preserving the flag, similar to the government's interest in protecting the Lincoln Memorial from acts of vandalism.

Some say our flag is just a piece of cloth. Well, that's like saying America is just a piece of land, that Florida's just another state. No, there's something special about it. It's our flag. It represents us—you, me, our families, our friends, our heritage and our future. It represents our memories and our dreams.

To desecrate the American flag is to desecrate the memory of the thousands of Americans who have sacrificed their lives to keep that banner flying, intact. It is to desecrate everything this country stands for.

Yes, Congress must be extremely careful when dealing with proposals that would amend the Constitution, particularly the First Amendment. American citizens must have the opportunity to voice discontent, however, that freedom of expression is not absolute.

Supreme Court Justice John Paul Stevens claims that the act of flag-burning has nothing to do with disagreeable ideas, but rather involves conduct that diminishes the value of an important national asset. The act of flag-burning is meant to provoke and arouse, not to reason. Flag-burning is simply an act of cultural and patriotic destruction.

My Sense of Congress resolution reaffirms that Congress should have the power, but doesn't have the power until the constitutional amendment is ratified by the states.

ON THE DELEGATION OF U.S.  
CATHOLIC BISHOPS TO SUDAN  
MARCH 24-APRIL 6

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 24, 2001*

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I want to share with you the findings of the U.S. Catholic Bishop's Conference who recently led a delegation to the country of Sudan.

Since 1983, the government of Sudan has been waging a brutal war against factions in the south who are fighting for self determination and religious freedom. More people have died in Sudan than in Kosovo, Bosnia, Rwanda and Somalia combined. Most of the dead are civilians—women and children—who died from starvation and disease. Over 2 million people have died. The Committee on Conscience of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum has issued a genocide warning for Sudan.

Because of the large-scale death and destruction, the findings arising from the U.S. Catholic Bishops' delegation is noteworthy and timely.

The dire situation in Sudan calls for a high profile, high level special envoy to bring peace and to stop the atrocities. It is my fervent hope that the Bush administration will appoint such an envoy without delay.

DELEGATION OF U.S. CATHOLIC BISHOPS  
TO SUDAN—MARCH 24-APRIL 6  
OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the trip were three-fold: to show solidarity with the Catholic Church in Sudan; to conduct a fact-finding mission to the North and South; and to increase efforts toward advocacy in the U.S. to help promote a just and lasting peace.