

It is my sincere hope that my colleagues will join me in honoring Michael J. Shannon, Jr. for his inexhaustible enthusiasm and many achievements in the progress of organized labor and his community.

INTRODUCTION OF THE AGRICULTURE EDUCATION FREEDOM ACT

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2001

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce the Agriculture Education Freedom Act. This bill addresses a great injustice being perpetrated by the Federal Government on those youngsters who participate in programs such as 4-H or the Future Farmers of America. Under current tax law, children are forced to pay federal income tax when they sell livestock they have raised as part of an agricultural education program. Think about this for a moment. These kids are trying to better themselves, earn some money, save some money and what does Congress do? We pick on these kids by taxing them.

It is truly amazing that with all the hand-wringing in Congress over the alleged need to further restrict liberty and grow the size of government "for the children" we would continue to tax young people who are trying to lead responsible lives and prepare for the future. Even if the serious social problems today's youth face could be solved by new federal bureaucracies and programs, it is still unfair to pick on those kids who are trying to do the right thing.

These children are not even old enough to vote, yet we are forcing them to pay taxes! What ever happened to no taxation without representation? No wonder young people are so cynical about government!

It is time we stopped taxing youngsters who are trying to earn money to go to college by selling livestock they have raised through their participation in programs such as 4-H or Future Farmers of America. Therefore, I call on my colleagues to join me in supporting the Agriculture Education Freedom Act.

STILL A NATION AT RISK

HON. BOB SCHAFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2001

Mr. SCHAFER. Mr. Speaker, today marks the eighteenth anniversary of "A Nation at Risk." The sobering report on declining student performance in American public schools was first published in 1983 by the National Commission on Excellence in Education (NCEE). Its impact on the American education empire has been tragically negligible.

Created in 1981, the NCEE was appointed by then Secretary of Education T.H. Bell and was comprised of university presidents, high school principals, teachers, a former governor, and school board members. The commission's purpose was to "help define the problems afflicting American education and to provide solutions," according to its chairman, David Pierpont Gardner.

In its report entitled "A Nation at Risk: The Imperative for Educational Reform," the NCEE noted the United States, which once enjoyed "unchallenged preeminence in commerce, industry, science and technological innovation, is being overtaken by competitors throughout the world." Eighteen years later, the United States is still a nation at risk.

Last October, a subcommittee of the U.S. House attributed the nation's stagnant student achievement to the government's failure at prioritizing student performance and its reluctance to reward results. America's poorest children are too often trapped in schools that can't teach. Moreover, the Congressional "Education at a Crossroads" report exposed rampant waste, fraud and abuse within the U.S. Department of Education. While states and local schools are held to strict standards for use of federal funds, the Department cannot account for hundreds of millions of dollars.

Despite the NCEE's early warning that America's education system is at risk, little has changed. The government's monopoly on public school services remains unchallenged. Except for poor children in a few courageous communities, real school choice is a privilege for only the rich.

Yet while state and local schools receive billions more in federal spending, they are constrained by new burdensome regulations, unfunded mandates and paperwork requirements which divert scarce resources from classrooms. Today there are more than 760 education-related programs administered by 39 federal agencies at a cost of \$120 billion a year, according to the National Center for Education Statistics.

The federal government's first big offensive into local school management occurred in 1965 with the passage of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA). Since that time, federal policy has consistently expanded its bearing on America's classrooms and has tied the hands of state legislators and local school board members, despite the U.S. Constitution's suggestion of state and local primacy of authority. Results have been pathetic.

For example, the federal government's most massive program, Title I, was designed to improve the academic level of poor and underserved students. Federal investments totaling \$118 billion since 1965 have left 19% of Title I schools still failing to make adequate annual achievement gains, officially classified as "in need of improvement."

In testimony before Congress, Colorado's state schools chief, Dr. William Moloney explained the government's failure: "ESEA has remained, as always, a neutral phenomena based on inputs rather than results, more on accounting than accountability, an entity always more interested in what you were rather than what you were doing."

Eternally hopeful for their children's futures, taxpayers have shown remarkable patience with the government's education monopoly. So have Republicans. Since capturing the majority in Congress, the GOP has substantially outspent Democrats pumping billions into government-owned schools. In 1983, the average expenditure per student was \$3,300, while the average today tops \$8,000. Still, American students trail their international peers considerably.

According to the 1999 Third International Mathematics and Science Study Repeat (TIMSS-R), American students have not im-

proved in the areas of math and science since the first TIMSS test in 1995. The comparison included students in 38 industrialized countries. According to the Center for Education Reform, American 8th graders are outranked by 18 other nations in math and by 17 others in science.

President George W. Bush has boldly called on Congress to "leave no child behind." He outlined his desire to empower parents, emphasize local control of schools, send dollars to the classroom and improve basic academics. Incredibly, Congress has so far drafted a 900-page-thick bill, translating Bush's sensible objectives into sizable new programs, fresh mandates, scant choice, and an outrageous 11.5 percent increase in federal education spending over last year.

Before another year of dust begins to settle on "A Nation at Risk," President Bush and the Congress should reassess Washington's education spending and regulatory frenzy. Republicans should stake their majority on free-market solutions to school reform, dramatically shrink the bureaucracy, and give real decision-making power—money—to parents of school-aged children.

America's schoolchildren deserve to be treated like real Americans; like they matter. So long as Republicans look to the federal education empire to rebuild the nation's academic prominence they do nothing to distinguish themselves nor maintain the public trust. They will only become part of the problem further betraying America's children to languish in a nation at risk.

HONORING WORLD WAR II VETERAN C.U. "PEG" O'NEILL

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2001

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute and give thanks to a Colorado resident who risked his life for our country in World War II. C.U. "Peg" O'Neill joined the U.S. Army in 1943. He became a C-47 pilot, and was stationed in England.

Peg flew 11 missions into war-torn Europe. "We could see the German antiaircraft fire coming straight at us," said Peg in an article from the Montrose Daily Press. "We lost four planes out of our squadron of 18 planes that night." Peg's first mission began in England on June 5, 1944, were 1,000 C-47 cargo transports flew to the coast of France. The paratroopers mission on D-Day, was to disrupt German communications, secure bridges, and incite confusion, chaos and panic. This was a far cry from his days working at the Hartman Brothers Auto Dealership in Montrose.

Peg participated in the battle for Nijmegen Bridge. During the famous mission for the "bridge to far", Peg survived a mid-air collision with another allied plane trying to catch cover from anti-aircraft fire. "The Germans had opened the sea gates and had flooded the fields," said Peg of his first mission. "I had 14 men from the 101st Airborne to drop. The lightest man weighed 258 pounds in full field gear. Some of them never got out of the swamps. They were drowned."

Peg returned to the dealership after the war with several medals, and most of all, his life

and his health. Peg earned the Air Service Medal with seven bronze stars and the prestigious Presidential Citation, which was awarded to his squadron for its valor on the eve of D-Day.

Mr. Speaker, men like Peg O'Neill deserve our thanks and praises for the life threatening situations they were in during World War II. Peg's story is only one of many stories from our World War II soldiers. We owe them our thanks now and in the future.

#### TRIBUTE TO KENT KRUKEWITT

##### HON. TIMOTHY V. JOHNSON

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 26, 2001*

Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, recently, Mr. Kent Krukwitt was named a Master Farmer by Prairie Farmer magazine. I rise today to congratulate Mr. Krukwitt on this prestigious nomination. Kent represents the fourth generation of his family to farm in Champaign County. Not only does he farm approximately 1,800 acres, he is also a leader in the local campaign to get farmers online, connected with the world and to information that can help them conduct business and communicate with landowners. Kent's eventual goal is to create a secure link on his extensive Web site that allows landowners to dial in and find out information regarding their fields. There are very few members of a community that serve their fellow citizens with the ambition and sacrifice that Kent has displayed over the years. Kent a current co-chairman of the CCNet Ag Task Force, ditch commissioner, and active member of the Homer United Methodist Church has also served as past president of the Champaign County Farm Bureau, Illini FS director, member of the Champaign County Zoning Board of Appeals, and member of the Homer School Board. I am proud and honored to have such a dedicated and influential person in the 15th District.

#### RECOGNITION OF MAGGIE WALKER

##### HON. ERIC CANTOR

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 26, 2001*

Mr. CANTOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in tribute to one of our nation's most distinguished women. Maggie Walker, a native of Richmond, Virginia, will be recognized for her vast accomplishments as the country's first African American female bank president on April 26, when she will be inducted into the Junior Achievement National Business Hall of Fame.

Maggie Walker was born in 1867 and grew up in a rented house in downtown Richmond. Her stepfather died when she was a young girl, leaving her mother to raise two children, and Ms. Walker helped support the family by taking in laundry. In describing her childhood, Walker once said: "I was not born with a silver spoon in my mouth, but instead, with a clothes basket almost upon my head."

At the age of 14, Ms. Walker joined the Independent Order of St. Luke, a fraternal insurance society created for African Americans to help the sick, bury the dead, and promote

humanitarian causes during the post-Civil War period. She quickly moved up through the Order's ranks, and by 1899 she held a national leadership position in the organization. Ms. Walker greatly contributed to the success of the St. Luke Penny Savings Bank and by 1920, the bank had financed 645 African American homes.

Ms. Walker eventually became the President of the St. Luke's Penny Savings Bank, a post she held for almost 30 years until poor health led to her retirement in 1932. Ms. Walker's bank later merged with two others to become the Consolidated Bank and Trust Company. This bank still operates in Richmond and is the oldest continually operating African American bank in the country. The bank carries on some of Walker's goals by teaching children the value of money and providing loans to African Americans for home ownership.

Throughout her life, Walker worked closely with other groups and organizations to benefit women and her race. She was a member of the Virginia State Federation of Colored Women's Club and the Executive Committee of the National Association of Colored Women's Clubs. She helped organize the Richmond Chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and participated on its National Board of Directors. She was also affiliated with Virginia Union University, the National Negro Business League, the Richmond Community Hospital, and the Commission on Interracial Cooperation.

This year Maggie Walker will be inducted into the National Business Hall of Fame. The Junior Achievement National Business Hall of Fame was established in 1975 to recognize those individuals who have made outstanding contributions to free enterprise and society. The criteria for selection includes a demonstration of business excellence, courageous thinking and acting, inspired leadership and community mindedness. Since its inception, the Hall of Fame has welcomed 195 laureates. Their achievements are honored in a permanent exhibit in the Chicago Museum of Science and Industry.

Mr. Speaker, Maggie Walker was able to achieve unparalleled success in a society that was governed by prejudice, in a business dominated by men, and in a poor community where poverty was accepted. Her efforts improved the lives of countless Americans, helped revitalize an impoverished community, and allowed many people to realize the American dream of home ownership. She truly embodied the spirit of the American entrepreneur and I commend Junior Achievement for their recognition of this distinguished Virginian.

#### TRIBUTE TO THE LATE SARAH PATRICIA McCAMMAN

##### HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 26, 2001*

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to mourn the loss of Sarah Patricia McCamman, who died suddenly at her home on Tuesday, April 17. She was the sister of John McCamman, my Chief of Staff, who has been with me since I started my career here in the House of Representatives.

Sarah was born in Bakersfield, California on November 27, 1951 to Gertrude Wachob and Kenneth Taylor McCamman. She was a Kansas City, MO resident for the past 26 years.

She was a graduate of University of California at Davis with a Bachelor of Science in Dietetics and Nutrition, and earned a Masters Degree in Dietetics and Nutrition from the University of Kansas.

Sarah was a pediatric nutritionist at the Kansas University Medical Center where she was the Director of Training and Nutrition in the Child Development Center. Sarah trained medical personnel to teach mothers breastfeeding techniques and taught parents of developmentally disabled children how to provide nutrition support.

Sarah was recognized as Young Dietitian of the Year of the Kansas and Missouri Dietitian Association (1978 & 1981) and was awarded the US Public Health Service Medallion in 1986. She was listed in Outstanding Young Women of America (1977). She published numerous articles and training materials associated with lactation management education and promotion and lectured nationwide. Sarah was on the non-profit Board of Directors of Open Options for many years, and was key to the development of the Southern Road group home.

In addition to her many professional accomplishments, Sarah traveled widely in Asia and Central America, and particularly enjoyed exotic and challenging destinations. Sarah was active in Chinese adoptive groups and in ensuring the continued interest of her adopted children in their native culture. Sarah and her daughters were active members of the All Souls Unitarian Universalist Church.

She is survived by her two young daughters, Kai Li (7) and An Mei (3) McCamman; her partner Rick Zbinden; her mother, Gertrude Wachob McCamman formerly of Ventura, CA and now of Kansas City, sisters Claire Westdahl of Atlanta, GA, Jean McCamman of Oakland, CA; brother John McCamman of McLean, VA. She was devoted aunt to Meaghan, Sarah and Michael McCamman of Virginia and Steven and Jon Westdahl of Georgia. Sarah leaves behind many friends and associates.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in offering the McCamman family are sincerest thoughts and prayers as they cope with the loss of their beloved sister, aunt, mother, and friend.

#### HONORING THE "CITIZENS OF THE YEAR," THE BACON FAMILY

##### HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 26, 2001*

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to pay special tribute to the "Citizens of the Year" in Grand Junction. Herb Bacon, his wife Laura May, and their four children, Steve, Andy, Linda Reid, and Amy Hill were presented the award by the Grand Junction Civic Forum for their involvement in nonprofit organizations. Clearly, the Bacons are highly deserving of this great honor.

Through the Bacon Family Foundation, Herb and his family have been heavily involved in numerous nonprofit organizations, wonderful