

Army Headquarters. During this duty he briefed former President Bush, allied heads of state and the NATO Secretary General. He has also testified before Congress on numerous issues, including Conventional Forces in Europe, our NATO commitments and Army force structure.

Most notably, I personally got to know Dan Christman during his time as Commanding General, United States Army Engineer Center and Fort Leonard Wood and Commandant, United States Army Engineer School, Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri. During that time, I witnessed Dan as a remarkably talented military leader at the base and in the surrounding communities. His contributions to Fort Leonard Wood will truly be one of the many positive legacies he leaves to the Army.

Mr. Speaker, General Christman has had an impressive career in the military and established a great relationship among the civilian community. I know that the Members of the House will join me in paying tribute to this fine soldier.

FOREIGN RELATIONS AUTHORIZATION ACT, FISCAL YEARS 2002 AND 2003

SPEECH OF

HON. KEN BENTSEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 16, 2001

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1646) to authorize appropriations for the Department of State for fiscal years 2002 and 2003, and for other purposes:

Mr. BENTSEN. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of this authorization bill, which includes many important State Department priorities including funding for our diplomatic and Consular programs, embassy security, international peacekeeping activities, and migration and refugee assistance. I am also pleased that this measure also authorizes the release of the second and third installments of \$926 million in back payments of arrears to the United Nations.

While I supported passage of the underlying bill, I have strong concerns about a number of the amendments offered, and the lack of consideration for an important amendment I attempted to offer to this bill. I am particularly concerned, and strongly opposed the Hyde-Smith amendment which would reinstate the so-called "global gag rule." This heavy-handed policy not only prevents overseas non-governmental organizations from using their own separate funds to provide information on the full range of family planning options, but forces them to withhold information on the abortion option. Moreover, this policy constrains such NGOs from engaging in any public debate on the abortion issue. Mr. Chairman, this policy does not block U.S. funds from being spent on abortions. The fact is, not since 1973, has U.S. aid been used to fund abortions. This undemocratic policy simply disqualifies otherwise qualified overseas groups from eligibility for U.S. family planning aid for engaging in speech-related activities that are at the heart of the U.S. political system and constitutionally protected for U.S. citizens. Accordingly, Mr.

Speaker, I am hopeful that our colleagues in the Senate will vote to remove this misguided amendment.

Mr. Chairman, I would also like to express my disappointment that the Committee on Rules did not make in order a very important amendment that I had planned to offer to the State Department Authorization bill. Under the amendment, which I have introduced as a separate bill, H.R. 1338, the Secretary of State would be required to designate an existing Assistant Secretary of State to monitor efforts to bring justice to U.S. victims of terrorism abroad. Each year, hundreds of thousands of U.S. citizens work and travel overseas, including a growing number of U.S. employees who work for the energy industry, including many in my home state of Texas. Because of the confusing blend of multijurisdictional concerns, U.S. victims of terrorism and their families are often unable to obtain justice, even when the perpetrator's whereabouts are known by Federal authorities.

Under this measure, the Assistant Secretary of State would be required to work directly with the Justice Department and other applicable Federal agencies to identify and track terrorists living abroad who have killed Americans or who are engaged in acts of terrorism that have directly affected American citizens. In addition, the Assistant Secretary would provide an annual report to Congress on the number of Americans kidnapped, killed, or otherwise directly affected by the actions of international terrorists. Also included in the annual report to Congress would be a thorough detailing of what actions State and Justice are undertaking to obtain justice for U.S. victims of international terrorism and a current list of terrorists living abroad. I regret that the committee did not see fit to report my amendment which addresses a very critical and legitimate issue. I am hopeful that my legislation will be considered by the Chairman and Ranking Member of the Committee on International Relations in the coming weeks.

I also strongly supported passage of the amendment offered by my colleague, HIRC Ranking Member TOM LANTOS, to prohibit International Military Education and Training (IMET) funds for Lebanon's military forces unless the President certifies that the Lebanese Army has deployed to the internationally recognized border with Israel. One year ago, Israel unilaterally withdrew from Lebanon, and the UN subsequently certified Israel's pull-out as complete, and called on the Lebanese government to take control of its southern region. However, Israel continues to face attacks, kidnappings and the threat of rocket attacks from southern Lebanon. Hezbollah terrorists, with the support of Syria and Iran continue to operate freely in Southern Lebanon because the government of Lebanon refuses to assert its authority in the region, as called for by the UN Security Council Resolution. I strongly support this amendment, which would block IMET funding to the Lebanese military, but does not block any other assistance. It simply mandates a Presidential report in six months about a possible termination of economic assistance. While I understand the concern of those who believe this amendment will embolden Hezbollah and increase Syrian influence in Lebanon, tens of thousands of Israeli citizens are within range of Hezbollah rockets and kidnappers, and the U.S. must take steps to ensure that the Lebanese government takes firm control of its own territory.

Mr. Chairman, the State Department Authorization bill helps fund some of the most critical programs administered by the State Department. I regret that the bipartisan-supported language stripping the Mexico City provisions was included in the final version of the bill we approved in this chamber. However, whenever possible, I believe Congress should stand in support of an Administration's foreign policy agenda. I believe that the underlying bill makes good on our commitment to fund many critical priorities. That is why I believe that amendments such as those that would disqualify legal medical services had no place in this bill. The Mexico City policy is not the way to cease abortions, and I hope that the original language—which was approved by the House Committee on International Relations without this provision—will be reinstated by the time this bill is delivered to the President's desk.

TRIBUTE TO TEACHERS FROM NORTHWEST INDIANA

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 17, 2001

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, It is my distinct honor to commend seven dedicated teachers from Northwest Indiana who have been voted outstanding educators by their peers for the 2000–2001 school year. These individuals, Darwin Kinney, Zita Dodge, Mary Hedges, Judy Seehausen, Sandra Baker, Pat Reyes and Pat Nemeth, will be presented the Crystal Apple Award at a reception sponsored by the Indiana State Teachers Association. This glorious event will take place at the Broadmoor Country Club in Merrillville, Indiana, on Wednesday, May 16, 2001.

Darwin Kinney, from Crown Point Community School Corporation, has taught for 34 years at Crown Point High School. While Darwin carries a heavy teaching load of Biology and Life Science, he has always been dedicated to maintaining personal interaction with his pupils. His commitment to students is obvious. As an educator, Darwin works closely with his students during and after school, ensuring that they maximize their potential. His desire to educate and enlighten the minds of the young adults who enter his room is evident in the way in which he interacts with his classes.

Zita Dodge, from Hanover Community School Corporation, uses several different learning styles to reach every student. The love and care that she shows the children is reflected on every student's face. Zita started teaching in Hanover in 1970, where her career began as a music teacher. She then taught kindergarten and later moved on to teach first grade. During her service as an educator, Zita has served on several district and building committees. Continuing to challenge herself through education, Zita went back to school to become a counselor and was hired as a Home School Facilitator. For the past five years, Zita has enjoyed being back in the classroom teaching first grade. Zita has always unselfishly dedicated herself to the field of education, both to the children who were in her many classes and to all the adults that she helped become better parents and teachers.

A dedicated teacher for 32 years, Mary Hedges of the School Town of Highland is a role model, inspiration and an outstanding professional. Mary is a wonderful caring teacher who frequently creates hands-on lessons for her students. She is always ready to listen to others. Mary is very active in the School Corporation. She is an officer of the PTO, sits on the Science Curriculum Committee and the Textbook Committee, and helps with the Performance Based Assessment.

Judy Seehausen began her teaching career in 1974 in Columbus, Georgia, and is currently employed in the Lake Central School Corporation in St. John, Indiana. When Judy and her family moved to Indiana, she taught at Kahler Middle School. In 1979, Judy earned a life license in English, Guidance and Counseling and began working as a counselor at the high school. Judy returns to the classroom every summer to teach English, maintaining her teacher-student perspective. Teachers turn to Judy as their strongest advocate and her peers describe her as an outstanding and dedicated professional. She is a diplomat, creative problem solver and a mediator for all.

As a professional educator during her thirty years of service to the School Town of Munster, Sandra Baker has been a valuable asset. Sandra is a leader in civic education, and has led her classes to superior rankings in the regional and state "We the People" constitutional hearings for eight consecutive years. In 1995, the American Lawyers Auxiliary named Sandra "Elementary Teacher of the Year." For the past 15 years, she has taught a full-time magnet class for academically talented 5th graders. Sandra's greatest desire is to leave a positive mark on the world through her work with children.

Pat Reyes from North Newton School Corporation in Morocco, Indiana, has been a third grade teacher at Lincoln Elementary School for twenty-six years. Pat is conscientious about having her students meet the standards expected of them, but she also gets involved in many extracurricular activities. For example, Pat works with the National Arbor Day Foundation in order to involve the school in an annual tree planting ceremony. She also is instrumental in coordinating special observances such as Read Across America Day, Grandparents' Day and PTA sponsored events. Pat is a continuous source of enthusiasm for her student and others.

Pat Nemeth's high school teaching career is coming to a close as she nears a well-deserved retirement. Pat has taught at North Newton High School, Hanover Central High School, and for 24 years at Lowell High School. In addition to teaching business courses in the Tri-Creek School Corporation, she also teaches courses at Davenport University. Pat is the past recipient of the Inland-Ryerson Steel Outstanding Teacher Award. I wish Pat a long, happy, and healthy retirement.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my distinguished colleagues to join me in commending these outstanding educators on their receipt of the 2000-2001 Crystal Apple Award. The years of hard work they have put forth in shaping the minds and futures of Northwest Indiana's young people is a true inspiration to us all.

FALLEN HERO SURVIVOR BENEFIT FAIRNESS ACT OF 2001

SPEECH OF

HON. SILVESTRE REYES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 15, 2001

Mr. REYES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1727, the Fallen Hero Survivor Benefit Fairness Act. This bill would allow a necessary extension of tax free benefits to the survivors of law enforcement and public safety officers killed in the line of duty before December 31, 1996. This bill provides all families of deceased public safety officers the opportunity to receive an exclusion from the income accumulated from any survivor annuity granted on account of the death of a public safety officer killed in the line of duty. This legislation will help the families who have endured the loss of their safety officer family member.

Currently, 1.2 million men and women serve as firefighters or emergency medical technicians. Every year, our country can expect to lose over 100 men and women who bravely provide our communities with these essential public safety services. In 1999, the strong line held by our police and law enforcement agencies thinned by 134 officers killed in the line of duty. Many of these individuals left behind mothers, fathers, brothers, and sisters, wives, husbands, sons and daughters to carry out legacies and lives without their beloved peace officers and safety officials. The families of our deceased public safety officers deserve to continue their lives as free from unnecessary obligation as possible.

Law enforcement officers, their family and friends living in my district of El Paso, Texas will soon hold the El Paso Police Memorial Service in remembrance of police officers killed in the line of duty. This service will be held tomorrow, and will honor officers who have served El Paso and El Paso County from the late 19th century to the present. Officers of all description will be honored, such as Detective Charles Heinrich who died from a gunshot wound to the head in 1985, two years after being shot by a perpetrator; Detective Norman Montion who was killed during a massive gunfight in October of 1989; and Officer Ernesto Serna, a Persian Gulf war veteran working off duty security who was fatally shot in November of 1991. They all served proudly and honorably in the face of danger. With the passage of this bill, their families may enjoy compensation without burdensome taxation.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 1727 allows our country to lend assistance to families who have faced loss for the sake of public safety. We should approve this legislation as a tribute to the service of public safety officers, the lives that they save and protect, and the families who survive them.

TRIBUTE TO MISSOURI INDUSTRY OF THE YEAR—SCHOLASTIC INCORPORATED

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 17, 2001

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, it is with pride that I announce that Scholastic Incorporated,

of Jefferson City, Missouri, has been named Missouri Industry of the Year. Scholastic is Jefferson City's largest private employer.

Scholastic, which ships paperback books to students throughout the nation, was recognized at Missouri Industry Day. Missouri Industry Day was designed to help young people, legislators and the general public become more aware of the role of business and industry in Missouri's state economy. Criteria for the award include use of company resources to contribute to a municipality where the company is located, showing entrepreneurial spirit in the community and providing innovative leadership relating to products or services.

Scholastic excelled in all of these areas. They created an additional 1500 new jobs in Missouri, employing a total of 3000 Missourians. Scholastic offered on-site training programs for employees including English As a Second Language, GED classes and computer application classes. Scholastic employees are also eligible for 50 percent tuition reimbursement for post-high school education. Employees of Scholastic are involved in locals Chambers of Commerce, March of Dimes, United Way and other organizations.

Scholastic and the Missouri General Assembly collaborated for the "Missouri Reads" program. An initiative where legislators read to students and the students receive a free copy of the book. So far Scholastic has donated over 80,000 to Missouri's children.

Mr. Speaker, Scholastic Inc., of Jefferson City, Missouri, has been an example to industry throughout Missouri and the Nation. I wish Scholastic and its employees all the best in the days ahead. I am certain that the Members of the House will join me in congratulating such a fine company.

28TH ANNUAL PASADENA, TEXAS, STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL HONORS COUNCILMAN GENE (IGGY) GARISON

HON. KEN BENTSEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 17, 2001

Mr. BENTSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize my friend and constituent, Councilman Gene (Iggy) Garison of Pasadena, TX. The 28th Annual Pasadena Strawberry Festival which takes place from May 18 through May 20, 2001, will honor Councilman Garison by making him Honorary Grand Marshal of the parade and dedicating the festival to him. In his honor a special monument is being constructed at the Pasadena Fairgrounds for display at the Festival and feature a history of his many accomplishments.

Gene was born in the city of Houston and graduated from Stephen F. Austin High School. He attended the University of Houston while working construction as a Member of Hodd Carriers Local and Carpenters Local. He also worked as a deep-sea diver in Texas and Louisiana. He served in the Air Force and Air National Guard before joining the Pasadena Police Department in 1966. While on the Pasadena Police Force he was also a Pasadena Volunteer Fireman. He started several local businesses, becoming President/CEO of Emergency Safety Products in 1982.

In 1992, Gene was elected Councilman for District D. He will leave this position on June