

real. Claims adjudication is, and will remain for some time, a labor-intensive work. Let our deeds match our words of commemoration and remembrance. Let us provide the critically needed funding to pay for the resources needed to address the backlog and let us do this now.

During the campaign for President, then candidate Bush said, "health care for veterans is a complicated, bureaucratic process involving too many delays and uncertainties in coverage. Disability compensation claims can be an even longer ordeal, taking an average of 165 days to complete. So chaotic is the process there is now a backlog of nearly one-half million claims. This is no way to treat any citizen, much less a veteran of our Armed Forces. The veterans health-care system and the claims process will be modernized, so that claims are handled in a fair and friendly way." Mr. President, I agree and now is the time for you to act.

Candidate Bush also said, "I have great faith in those who serve our nation—in the temper of their will and the quality of their spirit. Our men and women in uniform love their country more than their comfort. They have never failed us, and we must not fail them." Mr. President, we must not fail those who have served and sacrificed. Take action now to request the additional funding so desperately needed for our Nation to keep faith with our veterans. It is time for your words and deeds to be one.

TRIBUTE TO CAPTAIN DAVE WALKER

HON. C.L. "BUTCH" OTTER

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2001

Mr. OTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a great American, Dave Walker, who today will be laid to rest in Arlington Cemetery. Captain Dave Walker served his country on the sea, in the sky, and among the stars.

Captain Walker graduated from the United States Naval academy in 1966, completed his flight training, and became an F-4 Phantom Pilot. He led many combat missions over Vietnam. After returning from Vietnam, Dave became a test pilot and helped the Navy transition from the F-4 to the F-14 Tomcat that is still flown today. During his naval career, he was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross, six Air Medals, and the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry, among others.

In 1978 Dave was selected by NASA for astronaut training and graduated in 1979. He served in many important support roles, including chase plane pilot for STS-1, and mission support leader for STS-5 and 6. Dave first went into space aboard the Space Shuttle discovery during Mission STS 51-A in 1984—the first salvage operation completed in space.

Dave Walker returned to space in 1989 as commander of STS-30 aboard the Space Shuttle *Atlantis*. Dave and his crew again contributed to scientific knowledge by launching the Magellan space probe to Venus. He also commanded the Space Shuttles *Discovery* and *Endeavour* on important missions in recent years.

After leaving NASA in 1996 Dave Walker entered the private sector, and he and his wife

purchased a home in McCall. Dave quickly advanced as President of the Idaho Aviation Association and the Idaho Aviation Foundation, and worked tirelessly to promote and protect the aviation community. He was particularly interested in working to reopen Cascade Reservoir Air Strip, one of the most beautiful fields in Idaho.

Sadly, Dave will never get the chance to fly into Cascade Reservoir airstrip again. He was diagnosed with cancer in March and passed away on April 23rd. He is survived by his wife Paige, his children Michael and Mathieson, and a grateful nation. Heroes are buried in Arlington Cemetery, but heroes like Dave Walker will live on in the lives of the people he fought to protect in Vietnam, the knowledge he contributed to space technology and aviation, and the friendships he made in Idaho.

RECOGNITION OF GLENN ROYAL BATTY

HON. GEORGE R. NETHERCUTT, JR.

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2001

Mr. NETHERCUTT. Mr. Speaker, this coming weekend, the United States will observe Memorial Day and honor the service of America's soldiers, sailors, airmen and marines. As we take time this weekend to reflect on the sacrifices of members of our Armed Forces, I commend to the attention of my colleagues a poem written by a constituent, which I am entering into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. Glenn Royal Batty, of Spokane, Washington, has authored a moving poem entitled "The Soldier," which serves as a reminder of both the hardships of military life and the dedication of the American soldier. As Mr. Batty noted in a personal letter introducing his poem, "There can be no greater sacrifice than to give one's life for another but no greater shame than to spend life for less." I urge my colleagues to take a moment from their busy lives and reflect upon the message in this poem.

THE SOLDIER

(By Glenn Royal Batty)

I am one of a chosen few, a warrior of might.
And I will stand or I may fall, but I will join the fight.
I am he who fights for you, throughout history.
While vain men speak of glory, to hide hypocrisy.
The captain calls for volunteers, to mount a bold defense,
While shades are drawn and shutters closed with indifference.
And as the ranks are gathered, above the rolling plain.
The soldier takes his courage into battle once again.
Battle is begun, and with it fear's perfume.
When this day is done, we'll see a bloody moon!
As you sing of glory and righteousness of cause,
We march courage six abreast, into the devil's jaws.
There to face our destiny with honor or in shame.
But to face it not, is not a thing we know, or can explain.
You won't feel my deadly steel or taste this fearsome blade,
But it will haunt your dreams at night, until its price is paid.

And you might wish to turn away, before the bugle sounds.

For righteousness is hard to find within a battleground.

Battle is begun! May God be on our side.
We pray a kingdom come, where peace may yet abide.

For fame or notoriety, what is the value there?

For land or grudge, we cannot see. What purpose? I declare!

For names, twice whispered on men's lips or tails of great renown,

We will march to battle, for honor is our crown!

Battle is begun! The day is warm, the wind blows sweet.

It stirs the banners with each breath,
While valiant souls together meet to share ignoble death.

Battle is begun no matter where or when,
We will fight and die. That's how it's always been.

I am one of a chosen few You're not to blame, It's what I do.

And if God's mercy will decree, with hardened heart and strength of will,
Throughout the flow of history, I will be fighting still.

THE CONSERVATION SECURITY ACT

HON. JOHN R. THUNE

OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2001

Mr. THUNE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank all Members who joined as original co-sponsors of H.R. 1949. A special thank you goes to Ms. KAPUR of Ohio, the lead cosponsor and Ranking Member of the Agriculture Subcommittee of the House Committee on Appropriations. In this spirit of bipartisanship, we can move forward to address the conservation needs of the farmers in rural America.

The Conservation Security Act (CSA) would create a win-win situation for farmers and the environment. The bill would allow farmers, ranchers and other agricultural producers to participate in a voluntary, incentive-based conservation program. Under this legislation, the farmer or rancher would not have to set aside land. It would give them resources to carry out conservation practices on working lands as they work to make a living off the land.

CSA would allow landowners and operators to enter into contracts and receive payments based on the type of conservation practices they are willing to plan, implement and maintain. Conservation practices may include soil and residue management, contour farming, and cover cropping as well as comprehensive farm plans that take into account all the resource concerns of the agricultural operation.

CSA would establish three tiers of progressive conservation practices, plans and payment levels while allowing for continued participation in other agriculture conservation programs. Under the legislation, a participant may also receive payments based on established practices and for adopting innovative practices and systems, pilot testing, new technologies, and new conservation techniques. The program is voluntary.

I believe CSA is a balanced, responsible approach to encouraging conservation on our agricultural lands. As Congress moves forward

on reshaping federal farm policy, conservation, and CSA specifically, will be an important part of the discussion. I hope my colleagues will consider cosponsoring this bill.

TRIBUTE TO COMMANDER JAMES F. STADER

HON. DAVID L. HOBSON

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2001

Mr. HOBSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an outstanding Naval Officer, Commander James Stader, who has served with distinction and dedication for almost two years for the Secretary of the Navy, as the Congressional Liaison Officer for Civil Engineering, Appropriations Matters Office under the Assistant Secretary of the Navy (Financial Management and Comptroller). It is a privilege for me to recognize his many outstanding achievements and commend him for the superb service he has provided to the Department of the Navy, the Congress, and our great Nation as a whole.

During his tenure in the Appropriations Matters Office, which began in August of 1999, Commander Stader has provided members of the House Appropriations Committee, Subcommittee on Military Construction as well as our professional and personal staffs with timely and accurate support regarding Department of Navy plans, programs and budget decisions. His valuable contributions have enabled the Subcommittee on Military Construction and the Department of the Navy to strengthen their close working relationship and to ensure the most modern, well trained and well equipped naval forces attainable for the defense of our great nation.

Mr. Speaker, James Stader and his wife Clara have made many sacrifices during his career in the Navy. His distinguished service has exemplified honor, courage and commitment. As they depart the Appropriations Matters Office to embark on yet another great Navy adventure in the service of a grateful nation, I call upon my colleagues to wish them both every success and the traditional Navy send-off "fair winds and following seas."

HELP SCHOOLS HELP PUPILS

HON. GARY A. CONDIT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2001

Mr. CONDIT. Mr. Speaker, we hear a lot about the crises in education and the failure of our public schools. Recently, Mr. James Enochs, the Superintendent of Modesto's schools, addressed this issue at a district meeting. I think we can all benefit from the comments and opinions of those who are involved in the front lines of education. I submit Superintendent Enochs' comments for insertion into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

HELP SCHOOLS HELP PUPILS

(By James C. Enochs)

I have been asked to comment briefly on what the schools need. It seemed like an agreeable enough topic. But, as with much of the discussion about education, if the answer

is neat and simple, it is probably wrong and misleading.

I am not a great pep-talk speaker. I think it is more important that we all face up to some of the grim realities that confront us. I get a lot of unsolicited advice in my job. Much of it from my friends in business, or as they prefer to call it, the "real world." Our conversations invariably end with my reminding them that they have three distinct and important advantages over schools:

You get to screen your applicants. You can take them or reject them based on the qualifications or lack of qualification they bring to the opening. We can't do that. We are required to take everybody irrespective of their qualifications.

You can pay them to get them to do what you want. We can't do that.

And, of course, if they don't please you, you can fire them. We can't do that, either.

And thank goodness we can't. Because those are hardly solutions to the kind of issues we face. Which is why I have chosen to be very direct and begin by telling you that you probably can't help us very much with the things schools need most. We need—we desperately need: More stable families; fewer abused children; less dope, alcohol and violence in the lives of our students; fewer gangs in the schools and more parents; we need kids who are fed before they come to school; we need more parents with the sense to discipline their children and guts enough to turn off the television; we need young children whose parents have taken the time to read to them; we need fewer fathers—and recently mothers—who think the axis of the earth passes through the 50-yard line; adults, suffering from a prolonged adolescence, who mistakenly believe that Saturday's hero is more important than Monday through Friday's good citizen and scholar; and we need 400-500 fewer pregnant unwed girls every year.

That's what schools need most. And, of course, that is what society needs most. In effect, my problems are yours; I only have to deal with them before you. And they certainly don't yield to something as simple, and unthinking as just don't accept them, or "can't" them if they don't shape up. And I do think that an understanding of that—an understanding that not all failure is institutional failure—is a necessary precondition for a genuine partnership between schools and business.

Modesto City Schools, with nearly 35,000 students, is among the 25 largest school districts in California. And one of every eight children in America lives in California. . . Our school enrollment is greater than that of the 24 smallest states combined. And the public needs to understand something about that school population. And if you understand California, you will understand Modesto City Schools.

There is no place on the face of the earth with a more diverse population. Two-thirds of the state's newcomers are foreign-born. In fact, 15 percent of California's population was born in another country; and in the public schools, more than 30 percent of the children are of parents born in a foreign country; and for one-third of the children in California, English is a foreign language.

In Modesto City Schools, we have nearly 7,000 students who speak more than 40 different languages. That's an increase of 157 percent in the past 10 years. While it is hard for some people to accept, Modesto and, as a result, Modesto City Schools has taken on the characteristics of most urban areas in California: A very low educational level of parents. Nearly 30 percent of the parents of MCS children did not graduate from high school; a high percentage of welfare recipient families: nearly 9,000 of our students.

Families constantly on the move: We measure mobility on the number of students who leave or enter school after the first school month: nearly 10,000 students a year. Only 30 percent of the students who start kindergarten with us are still enrolled—by the eighth grade.

And I have mentioned the high and increasing number of children who do not speak or read English as their primary language. Just to translate that into something more manageable, the raw material resulting from these trends and the social disintegration of the family, has turned a typical class of 10th graders into a statistical nightmare in the Golden State:

Eight students will be on public assistance; Three students will have sexually transmitted diseases;

Four will speak no English—none;

Three will be teen parents;

Three will grow up in public housing;

Two will be victims of child abuse;

Three will be regular drug users;

Three of them will have been born out of wedlock;

And half of them will have experienced at least one divorce in their family.

Now, if you look at that list, it must occur to even the greatest critic of public schools that educators didn't do it—we didn't introduce them to drugs, or break up their families, or force them onto public assistance, or get them pregnant, or any of the other myriad problems they pack with them to school. So, it's no good to say, "That's your problem, Mr. Superintendent; I pay my taxes and that's enough." Well, today's social dynamite piling up in the nation's school is tomorrow's headache for all of us, including the business community.

Among other consequences, the link between the social ills that plague many young children and early school failure, later high school dropouts, and ultimately a functionally illiterate or marginally literate, unskilled work force is an inexorable progression.

And to paraphrase that oil filter commercial, we can deal with it now, or we can deal with it later. But we have a problem. It was captured very nicely about a year ago in a cover article in Time magazine with the rather sharp title, "A Nation of Finger Pointers."

The major premise of the article was that we are becoming a nation of passive crybabies. People who absolve themselves of any individual responsibility, sit on their duffs, and assume the status of victims as a result of someone else's incompetence or even malice.

I get it from both ends. Some teachers and administrators want to blame it on the absentee parents who are sending us all these undisciplined kids who do not value education and are loaded down with problems created by those parents. It's the ill-prepared raw material argument: "How can we teach kids like that?"

On the other end of the process, I get it from the business community who says much the same thing, but substitutes "educators" for "parents." Educators are sending us all these undisciplined kids who do not value work and are loaded down with problems created by the schools. It's the same ill-prepared raw material argument: "How can we hire kids like that?"

So, what we have here is a problem in which everyone is either a victim or a scapegoat. If we have a problem, don't join hands anymore, point fingers. What we don't have is that old-fashioned American interdependency, shared responsibility, mutual understanding, the common ground where people meet and solve problems. And that is what this is about today.