

HONORING WAYNE GYENIZS ON
THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIRE-
MENT

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 31, 2001

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I pay tribute today to a man whose tireless efforts have left an indelible mark on the State of Connecticut. Today, after nearly 40 years of dedicated service to the International Union of Operating Engineers Local 478, Wayne Gyenizs will celebrate his retirement.

Over the course of his career with IUOE Local 478, Wayne's innumerable contributions have strengthened the voice of tradesmen across the State of Connecticut. One of his most impressive achievements has been the establishment and continued expansion of Local 478's Joint Apprentice Training and Skill Improvement School. Each year, the Joint Apprentice Program provides training, skill enhancement, and refresher courses to over 600 apprentices and journeymen. This program give individuals the ability to acquire a skilled trade and lifetime opportunity—giving working families the sense of contentment that comes with economic independence. As the present of the Local 478 for the past decade, Wayne has provided a unique combination of leadership and commitment that has promoted stability among his membership and in the union's relations with its local employers.

In addition to his work with the Local 478, Wayne has been an active voice in local and national labor activities. As a member of the AFL-CIO Executive Board and the State Building and Construction Trades Council Wayne has fought for better wages, more comprehensive health benefits for workers and their families, steady and substantive employment, and safer work environments. He has been a true leader for our working families, giving them a voice during the hardest of economic times.

Wayne's generosity and commitment extends beyond his professional contributions. Serving in the U.S. Air Force for 12 years, Wayne dedicated over a decade of his life to protecting the fundamental freedoms we so often take for granted. As a member of the Easter Seals Board of Directors, Wayne has given his time and energy to improving the lives of some of our most vulnerable citizens. Throughout his life, Wayne has demonstrated a unique commitment to public service and to improving our community.

I would like to extend my deepest thanks and sincere appreciation to Wayne for his many years of service of working families throughout Connecticut. I am proud to stand today and join his wife, Judy; Sons, Glenn, Garry, and Gregg; family friends; and colleagues in saluting my dear friend, Wayne Gyenizs as he celebrates his retirement. My best wishes for many more years of health and happiness.

IN HONOR OF THE LATE RICK
PACURAR

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 31, 2001

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I rise with pride and deep sadness to pay my respects to a San Francisco leader, Michael "Rick" Pacurar, who tragically passed away last month from AIDS-related complications. Rick was a tireless advocate for the causes he believed in, and his work touched the lives of many people. He will be long remembered with great affection and respect.

Rick Pacurar graduated Phi Beta Kappa from Stanford University with a degree in psychology. He began attending Harvard Business School but soon moved to San Francisco after deciding his studies there were not taking him in the direction he wished to go.

He found the satisfaction from his work which had been missing in business school as an activist in San Francisco. Early on in the AIDS crisis, Rick helped to publish a pamphlet, "Can We Talk," and founded the Harvey Milk AIDS Education Fund to raise awareness about the disease. For these and other efforts, he was asked to serve on the San Francisco Joint Task Force on HIV. Rick was also an advocate for San Francisco artists and served as the director of a live-work complex for artists named Project Artaud.

Rick's activism extended into his work for candidates and elected officials. He worked on campaigns for Senator BARBARA BOXER, former San Francisco Mayor Art Agnos, and San Francisco Supervisor Tom Ammiano. He also served as an aide to former Supervisor Harry Britt and to then-Assemblyman John Burton.

Rick's passing is a great loss for San Francisco. Despite his illness, he was always ready and willing to fight for what he believed in. His activity and commitment were inspirational, and he put his heart into everything that he did. Rick was a true friend to the community, and he was loved for it. We will miss him greatly.

My thoughts and prayers are with his partner, Mike Housh; his parents, Victor and Doris; his sister, Vicki Lekas; and all of his family and friends.

**THE EXCELLENCE AND ACCOUNT-
ABILITY IN EDUCATION ACT**

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 31, 2001

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join my colleague Mr. KILDEE and other Democratic members of the House in introducing the Excellence and Accountability in Education Act, a comprehensive K-12 education reform bill.

Along with proposals last week from President Bush and from Senator JOE LIEBERMAN and Representatives TIM ROEMER and CAL DOOLEY, this is the third education proposal unveiled so far this year to improve America's public schools. All three proposals share a great deal in common.

Our schools are in a crisis. The school system, in too many instances, is failing to properly educate all of our kids. Frankly, it is nothing short of a crime that we have tolerated failing schools for so many years.

But I believe strongly that this year is going to be different.

For many years, we have debated whether we have the will or the wallet to really fix our schools. I believe we are now at a time in history when we have both the will and the wallet to improve public school education. We have a President who has clearly indicated he has the will to impose real accountability and fix failing schools. But we must also provide real resources to get the job done.

There is no point in misleading parents and schools by telling them we will help but without providing the investments that are necessary. This must be an honest process with respect to the policies and the resources that must go with them. In exchange for the resources we are going to demand accountability. That will be a winning formula if we give it a chance. That is what we do in this bill today.

In the last Congress, Mr. KILDEE and I, and other Members of Congress, worked to enact many of other policies included in our bill. I am energized and encouraged that there now appears to be a great deal of agreement across party lines and political sectors on what is needed to improve public school education for all children.

There is widespread agreement that if we provide adequate resources to schools and in return hold them accountable for meeting high standards, that all children, no matter their background, can have the opportunity to succeed in school. Such widespread agreement did not exist even one year ago.

Here is what our bill would do.

Our bill would hold schools accountable to high standards. It places particular emphasis on closing the "achievement gap" between different groups of kids—rich and poor, minority and non-minority. This is something President Bush and I both believe in strongly.

Our bill would provide the greatest amount of resources of any proposal yet to help schools meet their standards.

And our bill will continue to target resources on the most vulnerable children in the most difficult schools.

Our bill provides real money in return for real reform.

For example, we would double funding for the Title I program, boost funds to the lowest performing schools, and provide funds to improve assessment and accountability systems to make them fairer and more accurate.

Let me clear about the differences between our bill and the approach taken by President Bush.

Our bill would not divert public funds from public schools to private and religious schools, through vouchers or through any other means. Neither would the Lieberman/Roemer/Dooley bill.

The issue vouchers, in my opinion, is a non-starter.

Nor would our bill dilute or eviscerate key local education programs, such as the After-School and Safe-And Drug-Free Schools programs, school renovation, and the e-rate program that funds school and library Internet connections.

I am open to discussing with my Republican and Democratic colleagues what we can do to

streamline federal education programs at the state and local level. But the history of reduced funding and weakened accountability that comes with block grants suggests that we should approach this issue very cautiously.

I want to add that our bill places greater emphasis in certain areas where the President places less and where we hope to work together to find agreement, specifically, in the areas of: raising teacher standards; creating financial incentives such as loan forgiveness and pay bonuses to attract teachers to high-need schools; improving state and local assessment and accountability; and investing more resources.

I think the Miller/Kildee bill is the best approach in terms of committing new resources to schools, targeting effective programs, and holding schools accountable to high standards without abandoning them.

I am encouraged by the beginning of this Congress and this new Administration. I take the President's commitment to education and to working with Congress very seriously and I look forward to making a difference this year for all children.

PUBLIC EDUCATION REINVESTMENT
REINVENTION AND RESPONSIBILITY ACT

HON. ELLEN O. TAUSCHER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 31, 2001

Mrs. TAUSCHER. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to join my colleagues in highlighting some important aspects of the Public Education Reinvestment Reintervention and Responsibility Act.

This legislation, often referred to as the Three R's, would refocus our national education policy by giving school districts the money and local control they need to improve. And, it demands that they get results.

This bill is the way to help American public schools be a true path to equal opportunity for all students by closing the achievement gap; improving teacher quality; helping immigrant students master English; promoting public school choice; and stimulating local initiatives.

It will increase public education funding by \$35 billion in the next five years and let local schools spend more time with our children, rather than wasting time applying for the same grants year after year by consolidating about 50 federal programs into 5 performance-based grants. This new process would ensure a strong stream of funding with fewer strings attached. In exchange for this increased investment and fewer strings, states and schools would be held accountable for results.

Although increased funding is a critical component to reform, it is not the only one. If we expect states to meet high standards for students, we must give them broad flexibility and strong incentives to try bold new ideas—returning the power to decide how to best educate our children to the teachers who spend the most time with them.

Because education should be a national obsession, as well as a local possession.

INTRODUCTION OF THE SELF-EMPLOYED HEALTH INSURANCE FAIRNESS ACT OF 2001

HON. DONALD A. MANZULLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 31, 2001

Mr. MANZULLO. Mr. Speaker, today I will introduce my bill, the Self-employed Health Insurance Fairness Act of 2001, to accelerate the health insurance deduction for the self-employed to 100 percent immediately.

Remarkably, more than 44 million Americans are uninsured. Over 60 percent of the 44 million uninsured Americans have one thing in common: they are either self-employed or have a family member who is employed by a small business that cannot afford to provide health benefits to its employees. Among self-employed families, approximately 5 million Americans and their children or other dependents are uninsured. These families represent small businesses operating as sole proprietors, S corporations, limited liability companies, and partnerships—including the majority of farmers and ranchers. Congress should make health insurance more accessible and affordable to these working families by accelerating their health insurance deduction to 100 percent immediately.

We have the opportunity this year to provide tax fairness and parity on the deductibility of health insurance for all employers. Larger businesses can deduct 100 percent of their health insurance costs. Under current law, the long-standing disparity between the self-employed and large employers does not end until the year 2003. Three more years is a long time to ask small-business families with no health insurance to wait for simple tax fairness. For most of us, the prospect of having no health insurance coverage for ourselves and our children for even a few months is daunting—imagine three years.

As critical as this bill is to eliminating the tax disparity between small and large businesses, the bill would also provide small businesses greater access to affordable health care; expand the ability of small employers to provide health insurance to their employees, and simplify taxes for small businesses.

Mr. Speaker, as Chairman of the Committee on Small Business, I am proud to offer this bipartisan bill together with our ranking Democrat NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ of New York, and Representatives PHIL ENGLISH of Pennsylvania and KAREN L. THURMAN of Florida of the Committee on Ways and Means. We urge its prompt passage in this Congress.

TRIBUTE TO DOUG JACOBS

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 31, 2001

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to pay tribute to a fallen detective from Riverside, CA. Detective Doug Jacobs died Saturday, January 13, in the line of duty for his Riverside community. We send our condolences and prayers to his family, neighbors, and the community.

Doug Jacobs was 30 years of age and employed with the Riverside Police Department

since 1995. He leaves behind his young wife, Tamara, daughter Rachel, and stepson Nicholas Sohn. He also leaves behind neighbors and a community that will miss his constant self-sacrifice, generosity, and deep faith in God. And, now those left behind must pull together to support and strengthen each other during the coming months and years.

Being a police officer was all that Doug ever dreamed about when growing up—his family remembers him as a child riding in the car and pretending to talk to officers in passing police cars through the spare seat belt buckle. His career ambition only grew stronger as he grew older, joining the Riverside Sheriff's Department as an Explorer at 14. And recruiters saw in Doug an applicant who not only talked the talk of being an officer, but walked the walk. His love for police work led him to service in the police and sheriff's departments of Los Angeles, before returning home to work for Riverside in 1995.

The National Law Enforcement Officer Memorial, says it the best, that it is not how these officers died that made them heroes, it is how they lived." And as Riverside Police Chief Russ Leach noted at the funeral, Detective Jacobs "Lived His Dreams." Many of us cannot truly understand the latent danger associated with the day to day routine of our law enforcement officers. They put themselves in danger everyday when they stop a vehicle, respond to an incident or a noise complaint—like Detective Jacobs. The danger and violence they face day in and day out is very real and it is times like these, sadly, that make us stop and honor our law enforcement officers. We hope that they be given such honor, respect and thanks always—not only when life's fragile nature is revealed. Detective Doug Jacobs lived his life protecting others and we can best serve his memory by honoring, respecting, and thanking our law enforcement officers.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and our colleagues join us today to remember this fine detective. On behalf of the residents of the city of Riverside, we extend our prayers and most heartfelt sympathy to his family and loved ones.

IN HONOR OF THE SOCIETY OF AMERICAN FLORISTS

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 31, 2001

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, it's with great pride that I rise today to honor the work of the Society of American Florists and specifically, my constituents John and Eda Muller of Half Moon Bay, California, for their breathtaking work which displayed during the Inauguration.

The Society of American Florists has provided the floral needs for inaugural events since John F. Kennedy's administration. This year, more than 150 floral industry volunteers from 32 states and the District of Columbia arrived in Washington, D.C. a week before the inaugural festivities to create the floral themes for inaugural festivities. Together, the volunteers donated over 5,000 hours during pre-inauguration week, creating elegant and exquisite works of floral art for nine balls, three dinners and other events. Designers used their skills to arrange 150,000 roses, tulips, lilies