

miles from Mt. Rushmore, where summer attendance averages 25,000 daily.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak to this issue. The time is now for Congress to express its concern for the future of our public lands and the risk of wildfire in the West.

DISAPPROVAL OF NORMAL TRADE RELATIONS TREATMENT TO PRODUCTS OF VIETNAM

SPEECH OF

HON. DOUG BEREUTER

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 23, 2002

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, this Member would like to express his opposition to H.J. Res. 101, which would provide for the disapproval of the Bush Administration's extension of the waiver of Jackson-Vanik trade restrictions on Vietnam. In considering the disapproval resolution, it is important, of course, for us to recognize what the Jackson-Vanik waiver actually does and does not do.

By law, the underlying issue here is about emigration—the freedom for their citizens to leave Vietnam in order to live in another country. Based on Vietnam's record of progress on emigration and its continued cooperation on U.S. refugee programs over the past year, renewal of the Jackson-Vanik waiver will continue to promote greater freedom of emigration. Disapproval would, undoubtedly, result in the opposite.

Actually continuing the Jackson-Vanik waiver for Vietnam is really also reflective of an American interest in further developing a positive relationship with that country and its people. Having lifted the trade embargo and established diplomatic relations five years ago, the United States has tried to work with Vietnam to normalize, incrementally, our bilateral political, economic and consular relationships. Such an effort, if it brings positive results, is in America's own short-term and long-term national interest. It complements and tests Vietnam's own policy for political and economic re-integration into the world. No doubt such a re-integration will be a difficult and perhaps lengthy process. However, there is certainly no compelling rationale for reversing course on gradually normalizing our relations with Vietnam.

Now, for example, Vietnam reportedly continues to cooperate fully with our priority efforts to achieve the fullest possible accounting of American POW-MIAs. The granting of a Jackson-Vanik waiver has contributed to this cooperative process.

Mr. Speaker, the Jackson-Vanik waiver certainly does not constitute an endorsement of the Communist regime in Hanoi. Of course, we have made it abundantly clear that we do not approve of a regime that places severe restrictions on basic freedoms, including the right to organize political parties, freedom of speech, and freedom of religion. We condemn such restrictions. On many occasions, with this Member's support, this body passed resolutions condemning just such violations of civil and human rights.

The Jackson-Vanik waiver does not provide Vietnam with any new trade benefits, including Normal Trade Relations (NTR) status. However, with the Jackson-Vanik waiver, the

United States has been able to successfully negotiate and sign a new bilateral commercial trade agreement with Vietnam. Congress will have an opportunity to decide in the future whether to again grant a waiver and decide, eventually, whether Vietnam deserved to be considered for NTR. But, that is a separate process—for the future. The renewal of the Jackson-Vanik waiver only keeps this process of improved cooperation and progress going forward.

Finally, it also is important to note that the renewal of the Jackson-Vanik waiver does not automatically make American exports to Vietnam eligible for possible coverage by U.S. trade financing programs. The waiver only allows American exports to Vietnam to be eligible for such coverage.

Mr. Speaker, the Vietnam War is over and we have embarked cautiously on a new and expanding set of relationships with Vietnam. Now is not the time to reverse course. Accordingly, this Member supports the Administration's request by voting "no" on the resolution of disapproval.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO STEPHANIE HERRERA

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 24, 2002

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate an outstanding individual from Colorado whose hard work and commendable deeds have recently earned her the Minority Small Business Advocate of the Year award. Stephanie Herrera of Denver, Colorado is described as a small business owner, insurance professional, professor, dancer, mentor, community activist, and caring friend. Stephanie believes that "when you want to get something done, find a busy person" which is precisely how she has been described, and I am honored to bring forth her accomplishments before this body of Congress and nation.

Stephanie's efforts are currently focused on children, helping other small businesses, continued active involvement in the Denver Community, her own business, and her husband of eight years, Dan Herrera. She is also currently pursuing a Doctorate degree in Business Administration with an emphasis in International Marketing, while finding time to teach management and marketing classes at the Community College of Denver. A long believer in community service, she is the founder of and director of Dancers of Americas, a multi-cultural dance program that focuses on providing young girls, predominantly from low-income families, the opportunity to dance.

The Colorado Enterprise Fund has recently recognized Stephanie for her work at North High School in northwest Denver called Bizworks. Bizworks is a youth entrepreneurial program designed to build the skills and capacity of next generation entrepreneurs promoting self-employment and business ownership as a career choice among high school aged youth.

Mr. Speaker, it is clear that Stephanie Herrera is a woman of great dedication and commitment to her professions and to the children of Denver. Her success is well earned and I

am honored to bring forth her accomplishments before this body of Congress and this nation. Stephanie is a remarkable woman and it is my privilege to extend to her my congratulations on her selection for the Minority Small Business Advocate of the Year award. Stephanie, congratulations, and all the best to you in your future endeavors.

ARIZONA'S VOICE OF DEMOCRACY SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT

HON. BOB STUMP

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 24, 2002

Mr. STUMP. Mr. Speaker, the Veterans of Foreign Wars and its Ladies Auxiliary have a long history of promoting patriotism and values through its Voice of Democracy audio and essay competition. The program, now in its 55th year, requires high school student entrants to write and record a three to five minute essay on a theme. This year, the theme, "Reaching Out to America's Future," attracted more than 85,000 student entrants nationwide.

Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to announce that Alison Boess, who resides in the Third Congressional District of Arizona, is a national winner of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Voice of Democracy Scholarship. Alison, a senior at Ironwood High School, was among 58 national scholarship recipients in the 2002 Voice of Democracy Program and the recipient of the Department of Pennsylvania Joseph L. Vices Memorial Award. VFW Post 1433 and its Ladies Auxiliary in Glendale, Arizona sponsored Alison. I am pleased that Alison was among the 58 national scholarship recipients. I commend Alison's efforts and call to the attention of my colleagues Alison's award winning script on "Reaching Out to America's Future."

2001-2002 VFW VOICE OF DEMOCRACY SCHOLARSHIP CONTEST—REACHING OUT TO AMERICA'S FUTURE

(By Alison Boess)

Imagine yourself in a life where freedom, dignity and the acquisition of knowledge have been stripped from you. The walls surrounding you are dark with grim mortality and incarceration, imposed by a government that views you as a threat to its authority. Your beaten body rests heavily in the prison cell, immersed with thoughts of your family's safety and the terror they are to suffer through. Perpetual gunshots keep your heart darting wildly in your chest. Outside the walls that have become your asylum, your wife and children attempt to flee from their fate, but are shot dead by their assailants. Your people have been overcome by a government that withholds basic God-given rights and affords you no control over your conditions.

This is not a dramatization of what could be. It is an image of what already is, right now, in countries currently run by powers over which citizens have no influence—an image far outside the experience, understanding, and appreciation of most American youth.

The idea that the future of America depends upon its youth is a widely received and valid notion. French statesman Alexis de Tocqueville observed that "Among democratic nations, each new generation is a new people." Bearing that in mind, the responsibility that our new generation understands

and values the principles of democracy falls squarely on the shoulders of our parents, leaders, and educators.

Parents face the task of bringing up their children to be moral and upstanding members of the community. To be a good citizen, one needs to embrace not only the rights, but also the responsibilities of living in a democracy. Voting for officials is one of the key components. Voters must be well-informed so they can choose the candidate who will truly represent their beliefs and concerns. John F. Kennedy commented that "The ignorance of one voter in a democracy impairs the security of all." If parents demonstrate a desire within themselves to be knowledgeable about those who they vote for, then their children will see this as the proper example of responsible voting. Citizenship and morality are also important attributes that parents should teach to children. While democracy promotes freedom of speech, it also calls for citizens to respect the ideas and opinions of others. Accordingly, children should be taught to listen to what others have to say with the same enthusiasm with which they speak their mind. In addition, if youths are clearly taught the difference between right and wrong, then they can adhere more effectively to laws. Parents serve a vital role by reaching out to their sons and daughters to teach them lessons in civility that result in an understanding and appreciation for democracy.

Leaders and politicians need to exemplify the ideals of democracy in our world. It is their duty to honor the wishes of those they represent in order to show the effectiveness of voting. Leaders also should embrace and fill the role of a diplomatic and law-abiding citizen so that future generations of politicians may look to them for good example. Politicians would be well suited to speak to classes or youth groups about what being a leader in a democracy means. If our nation's leaders reach out to our young generation, they will help to ensure the comprehension of our government and safeguard its liberties with the abilities of tomorrow's leaders.

It is hard for students to imagine what life would be like without the presence of a democratic government system. Young Americans have taken democracy for granted because it is the only form of government they have truly understood. It is far easier to appreciate the impact of restrictions imposed on foreign populations when the events occur during the student's lifetime. Educators can play a crucial role not only by teaching the history of oppressive governments, but by describing and detailing situations in the present where the people's lack of power has resulted in an unjust and often corrupt system. Recently, for instance, our attention has turned to impoverished countries in the Middle East such as Iraq and Afghanistan, and many are beginning to see for the first time the demoralizing conditions under which many of the world's people live. As important as our history is, current events are more persuasive and influential learning resources because they help students directly empathize with those suffering under tyranny. Educators will instill in students an earnest appreciation for the democracy they live in if they can open the eyes of students by revealing the circumstances of those for whom democracy is not a reality.

Many of the youth in this nation have not had the opportunity to truly appreciate America's democracy. The harrowing account of the reality of others must not go unacknowledged and our own reality must not go unappreciated. If the parents, leaders, and educators reach out to America's youth and reveal to them why this system is looked to as an example by all the world,

then interest and the desire of youths to participate will be exponential. We must instill in youth the values of democracy and the importance of its endurance within our nation in order to ensure the strength of the American democracy for generations to come.

DONNA EULER: ANGELS IN ADOPTION AWARD

HON. C.L. "BUTCH" OTTER

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 24, 2002

Mr. OTTER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize the achievements and service of Donna Euler of Coeur d'Alene, Idaho.

Donna has served as the Adoption Coordinator with Lutheran Community Services Northwest, located in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho for 16 years. Prior to her work at Lutheran Community Services she served the State of Idaho by providing adoption services for families and children. For years Donna has been instrumental in placing numerous children in good homes with good parents.

Donna has continually utilized her expertise in adoptions to enhance adoption services in the State of Idaho. In 1992-93 she served on Idaho's Adoption Task Force to improve adoption practice within the State.

In 1996, she participated in the Idaho Focus group that implemented the President's Adoption 2002 Initiative in Idaho.

In 1999, Donna served on the Idaho Children's Treatment Rulemaking Project to assess and gather public input on the revised rules and regulations for licensure of children's agencies and foster homes.

Her knowledge, passion, and commitment are unmatched. I am pleased I am able to nominate her for the Congressional Coalition on Adoption's Angels in Adoption Award.

HONORING RICHARD DARMANIAN

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 24, 2002

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Richard Darmanian. Mr. Darmanian is being honored for "50 years of service to his community" at the annual banquet of the Armenian National Committee of Central California.

Mr. Darmanian has lived in California's Central Valley since he was a young man. He graduated from Caruthers High School and received his B.A. in History and his Masters Degree in Guidance & Counseling from California State University, Fresno. Richard began teaching at Roosevelt High School in Fresno; where he also served as counselor and Dean of Boys. In 1969 he moved to Edison High School where he became principal in 1972. Shortly thereafter, he moved to Hoover High School as Principal.

Richard served his community through his active involvement within the school system, but at the same time he contributed greatly through other organizations. He became a member of the Armenian Cultural Foundation in 1950, and served as a member of the Re-

gional Executive Committee and the Central Executive Committee. Mr. Darmanian's educational expertise was well utilized when he became a founding member of the Armenian Community School of Fresno. He is also a very spiritual man who has been highly involved in the Holy Trinity Apostolic Armenian Church, where he was a member of the Board of Trustees and a member of the Executive Council of the Western Prelacy of the Armenian Apostolic Church of North America.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Richard Darmanian for his recognition by the Armenian National Committee of Central California for his years of service. I invite my colleagues to join me in thanking him for his tremendous service to the community and for his dedication to excellence.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO JENNIE ADRIAN

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 24, 2002

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to the Southeast Colorado Cattlewoman of the Year, Jennie Adrian of La Junta, Colorado. Jennie was chosen for Cattlewoman of the Year because she possesses all the specific traits of a great Cattlewoman. She is dependable, caring, smart, trustful, creative, and a hard-working partner in a ranching family. She is a generous soul whose good deeds and generous acts certainly deserve the recognition of this body of Congress, and this nation.

Jennie was born in La Junta, Colorado and lived on a ranch near Kim until her family moved to Prescott, Arizona, where she finished school and later met her husband. Together they moved to Aspen, Colorado where they bought a ranch near Salida and raised their two children, Rusty and Audra. Jennie first became involved in Cowbelles in Chaffee County in 1967 where she served as Chairman for several committees and held several offices including President in 1981. She currently holds the office of Cowbelle Vice President in Otero County.

Mr. Speaker, Jennie Adrian has proven herself to be a committed mother and wife as well as an extraordinary Cattlewoman and it is my honor to congratulate Jennie on her most recent and well-deserved award before this body of Congress and this nation. Congratulations Jennie and good luck to you and your family in all your future community endeavors.

A SPECIAL TRIBUTE TO SISTER MARY MICHEL ON HER RETIREMENT FROM THE TEACHING PROFESSION

HON. PAUL E. GILLMOR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 24, 2002

Mr. GILLMOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a very special teacher who has touched many lives. Seldom do we acknowledge the importance of the job or the depth of a teacher's commitment to our children. While