

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN HONOR OF JOHNNY UNITAS

**HON. BRIAN D. KERNS**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 12, 2002*

Mr. KERNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to an individual who many consider to be the greatest quarterback of all time, Johnny Unitas.

The Johnny Unitas story is one that serves as an inspiration to us all.

Hailing from what once was called “low rent Pittsburgh,” his rags to riches career began in 1955, when he was drafted in the 9th round, but then cut, by the Pittsburgh Steelers.

A year or so later, after playing semi-pro ball for \$6 a game, Unitas signed a pro contract with the Baltimore Colts.

His career then skyrocketed, and he was a key player in the Colts 1958 championship victory over the Giants. That contest came to be known as the greatest game ever played.

Always known for his black high top shoes, Johnny U. passed for over 40,000 yards in his career, which was highlighted by throwing a touchdown in an N.F.L. record 47 consecutive games. This is a record that still stands and one that some say is unbreakable.

A few years ago, here in the Nation’s Capitol, it was my honor to meet Mr. Unitas and shake his hand. I can tell you he was truly a gentleman.

As you may know, the Baltimore Colts eventually moved to my home State of Indiana.

In honor of Johnny Unitas, there are reports that current Colts quarterback Peyton Manning will be wearing black high tops this Sunday, when the Colts play the Miami Dolphins.

I think I speak for many when I say Johnny Unitas, #19 of the Baltimore Colts, was one of the toughest and greatest players to ever grace the football field.

Johnny Unitas embodied what it means to be an American. He chased the American Dream. Despite the odds . . . through hard work, determination and sheer guts, he became a champion N.F.L. quarterback.

On behalf of the millions of fans that admired your play on the field let me say thanks for all the great memories.

God bless you Johnny Unitas and may he watch over your family.

EDUCATION SAVINGS AND SCHOOL EXCELLENCE PERMANENCE ACT OF 2002

SPEECH OF

**HON. DENNIS MOORE**

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 4, 2002*

Mr. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my great concern with provisions of H.R. 5203.

Supporters of this legislation will tell you it shows their support for the education of our children. I believe that if Congress is serious about supporting elementary and secondary education, we should fully fund the provisions of the No Child Left Behind Act passed overwhelmingly last year. The President’s budget not only fails to provide all the funding authorized for this legislation, it actually cuts funding for these programs by \$90 million from the 2002 enacted level, to \$22.1 billion for 2003. This is \$4.2 billion below the \$26.3 billion authorized for 2002.

Mr. Speaker, every member of the House has heard from their local school districts how the unfunded mandate of the special education law leaves them struggling to balance the books. I voted for the No Child Left Behind Act and I made a commitment to my local school districts that I would do everything in my power to ensure that this new law is fully funded.

Unfortunately, the bill before us today will divert funds from the commitments we made when passing the No Child Left Behind Act in favor of initiatives for which there is no strong consensus. For example, the Coverdell Savings Account provisions of this bill could divert scarce resources from our public school system, a system that serves over 90% of our nation’s kids. These Education Savings Accounts (ESA) provide tax breaks, equivalent to vouchers, for private schools. ESA’s drain funds from the treasury that could be used for other purposes—including full funding of the No Child Left Behind Act. Further, ESAs offer no real choice to low-income families, who do not have the funds to put aside for private school, or families with disabled kids, who can still be turned down by private schools.

Mr. Speaker, while I am concerned with the affect certain provisions of this bill will have on scarce public school funds, I do support several provisions in this bill. I have long supported efforts to expand the student loan interest deduction. This policy affirms my belief in the importance of higher education to our nation’s future and my hope that the opportunities of college can be made more affordable to more individuals. I also support legislation that would help local communities with school construction and renovation needs. The average age of school buildings in my congressional district is 30 years, and 25% of my schools use portable classrooms. The need is great in both areas, and during my time in office I have actively worked to address these problems. It is regrettable that I was unable to support this bill due to the unfortunate legislative vehicle chosen and that it was brought to the floor by the majority in their zeal to vote yet again for school vouchers.

Finally, I am opposing this bill because it was brought to the floor under an unfair procedure that prevents the consideration of any amendments and even a motion to recommit. Perhaps if the majority had utilized the regular order of the committee process, members like me would have had an opportunity to have our

concerns addressed and this legislation, stripped of its controversial elements, could have passed the House overwhelmingly.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO JOHN A.F. WENDT

**HON. SCOTT McINNIS**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 12, 2002*

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sadness that I take this opportunity to recognize the life and accomplishments of John A.F. Wendt, Jr., of Delta, Colorado, before this body of Congress. Mr. Wendt has just recently passed away and as his family mourns their loss, I would like to pay tribute to the extraordinary contributions he made to his community and to his country. Throughout his life, Mr. Wendt embodied the unrelenting principles of honor, character, and sincerity that we, as Americans, should always strive to emulate.

Mr. Wendt was a World War II and Korean War veteran who courageously served his country in the Army’s elite 11th Airborne unit in the Pacific. His resolute character and principled demeanor won him the approval and respect of his fellow servicemen who viewed him as a dedicated soldier and a loyal comrade. In fact, Mr. Wendt’s courage was so commendable that he was awarded the prestigious Silver Star, Bronze Star, and Purple Heart medals for his military service.

After graduating from University of Colorado in 1951, Mr. Wendt became a very successful and distinguished lawyer. He was a practicing attorney his entire life; he served as a judge and a district attorney and was on the Board of Directors of the Colorado Bar Association for many years. Mr. Wendt loved the law profession and the genuine interest and enthusiasm that he brought to his work won him the esteem and admiration of his colleagues.

Despite the pressures of a demanding career, Mr. Wendt found the time to make significant contributions within his community. Mr. Wendt was a committed member of the Pony Club, a horsemanship education program for children. Mr. Wendt served on the Board of the Pony Club but also took the time to participate directly with the children within the organization. Mr. Wendt was also a sportsman and founded the Roaring Fork Hounds Club, where he eagerly participated in the organization’s events.

Mr. Speaker, it is with profound sorrow that I recognize Mr. John A.F. Wendt before this body of Congress and this nation for the outstanding service and commitment he made to his country. My condolences go out to his brother Allan and his children John, Eric, Wendy, and Hilary. Mr. Wendt lived his life with courage and with honor and I commend him for his conduct. His loss will be deeply felt and a grateful nation will be forever in his debt.

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