

home should not mean being without an education. Yet that is what homelessness means for far too many of our poor and runaway children and youth today.

Congress recognized the importance of educating homeless and runaway youth when it enacted in 1987 the McKinney Education program. But despite the progress made over the past decade, we know that homeless children continue to miss out on what often is the only source of stability and promise in their lives—school attendance.

That's why I introduced H.R. 623, the McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Act of 2001, which was included in the No Child Left Behind Act that became law at the beginning of this year.

By incorporating the innovative provisions contained in my legislation, H.R. 1 strengthened the McKinney program, ensuring that a homeless or runaway child is immediately enrolled in school. That means no red tape, no waiting for paperwork, and no bureaucratic delays. A school liaison helps runaway or homeless youth make certain decisions about their education, and upon enrollment, ensures they have access to the special assistance and services available to runaway and homeless youth.

This is one small way that more is being done to help children who are runaways or homeless. There are many others—individuals and organizations—who are doing whatever they can to assist America's runaway youth by providing food, shelter, clothing, and counseling. Others are working with families to prevent a child from running away in the first place. And still others are intervening and advocating on behalf of children and giving them options other than running away.

One such organization is the National Runaway Switchboard, which provides crisis intervention and referrals to reconnect runaway youth with their families, and to link young people to local resources that provide positive alternatives to running. I am compelled to call attention to this important resource because it originated in Chicago.

Founded by a group of Chicago agencies, the National Runaway Switchboard was established in 1971 to provide comprehensive crisis intervention services for young people in Chicago. It was conceived as a centralized organization with free, 24-hour services, expertise in all youth-related issues, and as an information clearinghouse. In 1974, it became a national resource, and now is the federally designated national communication system for runaway and homeless youth. The Switchboard is still available 24 hours a day, and fields more than 100,000 calls each year from the nation's runaway and homeless youth.

The National Runaway Switchboard and the National Network for Youth have designated November as National Runaway Prevention Month. The purpose of this month is to call attention to the problem, its causes and impacts, and all those organizations and services that exist to help both runaways and their families.

It is fitting for Congress to support the goals and ideals of National Runaway Prevention Month, and I urge my colleagues to cosponsor this resolution.

TRIBUTE TO MR. LES SCHWAB

HON. GREG WALDEN

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 10, 2002

Mr. WALDEN of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to pay special tribute to an outstanding business leader and gentleman from Oregon's Second Congressional District, Mr. Les Schwab. I am pleased to announce that this year marks the 50th anniversary of the company he founded, Les Schwab Tires.

In 1952, Les bought a small tire store in the city of Prineville, deep in the heart of Central Oregon, for \$3,500. From that simple investment, Les Schwab Tires has grown to become the nation's leading independent tire business with over 330 stores throughout the West. Today, there is hardly a town in Oregon that does not fall under the shadow of a Les Schwab Tires sign.

His innovative business programs inspire a fierce loyalty that few other companies can match. The tenets for achievement are the same for all of his 7,000 employees: start at the bottom, work hard, and never rest on your laurels. The many profit sharing programs he pioneered ensure all employees have a stake in the success or failure of a store. To this end, the company returns over forty-nine percent of each store's profits to its employees. As Les explained in his inspirational book, "Pride In Performance", this return investment is "unselfish for good reasons." It is his sincere wish to instill within his current and future employees a desire to succeed in business to last for many generations to come.

The same honesty and fairness that Les shows his employees is bestowed upon his customers as well. Customers know that Les is a man of his word. Westerners, especially Oregonians, appreciate his commitment to customer service and satisfaction, and have rewarded his efforts with 50 years of loyal business. Now, at 85 years of age, Les continues to lead by example. He comes to work daily at his headquarters in Prineville, right where it all started. Ultimately, it is Les' own straightforward leadership and no nonsense Oregon values that have made Les Schwab Tires an American success story.

Les is also known for his civic leadership. He gives back generously to the communities that made his company thrive. Les Schwab Tires sponsors numerous charitable events to support local food banks, youth shelters, and several different scholarship foundations. The state All-Star high school football game, the Les Schwab Bowl, benefits athletic programs for disadvantaged youth in the greater Portland area and provides free equipment and sportsmanship education for underprivileged youth in all Oregon high schools. Les is also the chief supporter of the Les Schwab Invitational, a four-day basketball tournament that showcases the top Oregon high school basketball teams and matches them against other outstanding teams from around the country. This event, now in its seventh year, expects to raise \$30,000 to help curb the dramatic cuts in the state's athletic programs.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating this extraordinary man and great American, Mr. Les Schwab. I wish continued happiness for him and Dorothy, his

wife of 66 years. Personally, I would like to thank him for all the opportunities he has provided to the people of Prineville, the Second District, and all of Oregon.

RECOGNIZING THE CONVOY OF HOPE IN SPRINGFIELD, MO

HON. ROY BLUNT

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 10, 2002

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Convoy of Hope being organized in Springfield, MO on October 26, National Make-A-Difference Day. Volunteers make a difference in the quality of a nation and how we treat the less fortunate. A great number of community services rely on volunteers. Volunteers come from all walks of life and often have the skills and experiences of a lifetime of work that make them invaluable resources and problem solvers.

On October 26, the Convoy of Hope will bring 1,000 volunteers together to honor 5,000 guests—the working poor and the needy. These guests will receive a hot lunch, medical and dental screenings at a health carnival, a KiddsZone carnival, free haircuts, services from state and local agencies, and job search activities.

This is an effort by dozens of local churches to reach out to the poor and needy and raise awareness of local needs in our communities. The goal is to improve the quality of life for the less fortunate and to share a message of spiritual faith and hope.

These churches in Springfield, Missouri share the same goal as the U.S. Congress. In the last five decades, Congress has created and expanded and re-created dozens of programs to help the less fortunate. In contrast, the churches and faith-based organizations of our nation have an even longer history and a greater number of success stories to tell about these compassionate endeavors. These organizations also seem to accomplish their goals more efficiently and with less cost than many programs created by the Congress.

The Convoy of Hope will touch the lives of thousands of volunteers and guests on October 26, 2002 and unite them in a meaningful expression meant to change lives not only for that day but for days to come. I wish them great success in this undertaking.

IN MEMORY OF "SNOOKY" SALEH

HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 10, 2002

Mr. HALL of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of a great friend and great American, Jameel Joseph "Snooky" Saleh, of Tyler, Texas, who leaves behind a powerful legacy of hard work, generosity, and dedication to his family, community and country. He was a friend to so many—and a special friend of mine.

Snooky passed away in August at the age of 78. The son of Lebanese immigrants, he attended Tyler Junior College and spent two years at Texas A&M before being called to

service in World War II. After the war he began a business venture with his brother, George—George Wholesale Company. He married his wife of 51 years, Angel Kotsiones of Dallas, in 1951, and they had three children.

In 1964 Snooky purchased his brother's interest in the company. His son Danny joined the business in 1977 and later became a partner. In 1998 the father and son team sold the business to free themselves to pursue charitable works. Snooky was very generous to the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception and the diocese of Tyler. He supported the United Way, American Heart Association, Muscular Dystrophy Association, Catholic Charities, B'nai B'rith Anti-Defamation League, and Alexis de Tocqueville Society. He also supported the East Texas Food Bank, Habitat for Humanity, East Texas Crisis Center, Hospice of East Texas, Literacy Council of East Texas and many other agencies.

Snooky won many awards, including the Southwest Candy Merchandiser of the Year in 1984, the National Association of Tobacco Distributors' award in 1991, Southwest Tobacco Man of the Year Award in 1992, America Wholesale Marketers Annual Citizenship award in 1994, National Catholic Charities award in 1995, and the Career Achievement Award of the Southern Association of Wholesale Distributors in 1998. He was also a recipient of a Texas House of Representatives resolution noting the contributions to all the lives he has touched, and he was named an honorary Admiral of the Texas Navy.

He is survived by his wife, Angel; son and daughter-in-law Gerald and Barbara Saleh; daughter and son-in-law Beverly Saleh Mamey and husband Nelson; son and daughter-in-law Danny and Denise Saleh; sisters Evelyn Saleh and Rose Marie Saleh Pilcher; six grandchildren and other family members.

Mr. Speaker, Snooky will be missed by all those who knew him and loved him and by all those he helped and who sought his advice—and his influence will be felt in Tyler for years to come. As we adjourn today, let us do so in tribute to this great American—Jameel Joseph "Snooky" Saleh.

AMBER ALERT: A POWERFUL TOOL TO PROTECT KIDS

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 10, 2002

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise to call the attention of my colleagues to the successes of the AMBER Alert program. As my colleagues know, this is a program that utilizes media alerts to help locate missing children within hours after they are abducted.

When a child is abducted, every minute is crucial. Statistics show that, when abducted, a child's greatest enemy is time. In those critical first hours, the AMBER Alert works to aid in a child's safe return by enlisting the entire community in their recovery.

The AMBER Plan idea was created in 1996 in response to the tragic murder of 9-year-old Amber Hagerman, a little girl who was kid-

napped and killed while riding her bicycle near her home in Arlington, Texas. That tragedy shocked and outraged the entire community. Residents contacted radio stations in the area and suggested they broadcast special "alerts" over the airwaves to help in the future.

Since that time, the AMBER Alert idea has spread across the country. Since the original AMBER Plan was established, 66 modified versions have been adopted at local, regional, and statewide levels; 24 states have a statewide plan. In my home State of New Jersey, Governor James E. McGreevey, together with the Office of the Attorney General and the State Police have been working to implement an AMBER Alert system.

In my own district, we know something about the plague of child abduction. Megan's Law, the law that requires authorities to notify residents when a sexual predator resides in their neighborhood was named after Megan Kanka, a central New Jersey child who was the victim of a ruthless child killer. My predecessor in Congress, Representative Dick Zimmer, worked with Megan Kanka's parents to pass Megan's Law.

I am proud to have recently joined with my colleagues here in Congress, Representative MARTIN FROST and Representative JENNIFER DUNN and other legislators to introduce legislation calling for an expansion of the AMBER Alert concept nationally. Protecting our children against violence is nothing less than a national priority, and we are committed to passing this bill immediately to begin the creation of a nationwide network of AMBER Alert programs.

Unfortunately, passage of an AMBER Alert package into law this year is very much in doubt. Earlier this week, Congress passed legislation that included provisions to promote a national AMBER Alert program. While that would seem to be good news, I'm afraid that passage of this bill may actually delay, not speed up, the implementation of AMBER nationally.

The components that were unnecessarily added to the AMBER Alert Bill had previously been passed as stand-alone bills and I have previously voted in favor of them. On March 14, I voted to pass the "Two Strikes and You're Out Child Protection Act." On May 21 I voted to pass the "Child Sex Crimes Wiretapping Act." On June 25, I voted to pass the "Lifetime Consequences for Sex Offenders Act." And on June 26, I voted to pass the "Sex Tourism Prohibition Act."

A week ago, at the White House Conference on Missing and Exploited and Runaway Children, President Bush called on us in the House to pass the AMBER Alert legislation passed by the Senate. I completely agree with the President. Bipartisan legislation to create a national AMBER Alert System quickly passed the Senate and it should have passed the House and been put into law by now.

Unfortunately, instead of enacting this bipartisan plan to protect kids, House Congressional leaders added all of these other provisions to the AMBER bill, an action that may make it impossible to pass this legislation prior to adjournment because some members of the Senate do not support them. In fact, several of the provisions have been pending in the Senate for over four years without action. The likely result is that we will have no national

AMBER Alert system for at least another year. That is unfortunate and unnecessary. I suspect that the leadership of the House presented the legislation more for the sake of appearance than to actually bring about a national AMBER Alert system.

We in Congress have a chance to do something positive to keep our children safe. I call on all of my colleagues to come together and redouble our efforts to pass AMBER Alert legislation before Congress adjourns next week. We owe it to parents and kids in central New Jersey and the nation.

RECOGNIZING DAVID FLEMING FOR HIS OUTSTANDING SERVICE TO THE PEOPLE OF SOLANO COUNTY

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

HON. DOUG OSE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 10, 2002

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, we rise today to recognize the Mayor of the City of Vacaville, David A. Fleming, who is leaving office after 24 years of service to his community.

Mr. Fleming was elected to the City Council in 1978 and has served as Mayor since 1990. During his tenure, Mr. Fleming has promoted the city's Growth Management Ordinance, the City of Vacaville Planned Growth Ordinance and the Vacaville/Dixon Greenbelt. He also led fundraising efforts for public art projects celebrating the community's historical milestones.

Mr. Fleming has also served as the President of the League of California Cities, President of the League of California Cities North Bay Division Executive Committee, Chairman of the Solano County Mayors Conference and as a member of the Board of Directors of the Solano County Transportation Agency, the Solano County Water Agency, and the Yolo-Solano Air Quality Management District.

Mayor Fleming has also been active in civic organizations, including the Air Force Association, the Retired Officers Association, the Napa-Solano United Way Executive Board, the North Bay YMCA Executive Board, the Vacaville Chamber of Commerce, the Vacaville Elks Club, the Veterans of Foreign Wars, and the Vietnam Veterans Association, among others. He was also a Charter Member of the Board of Directors of the Travis Air Force Base Museum and currently serves as President of the Travis Air Force Base Jimmy Doolittle Air and Space Museum Education Foundation.

Mr. Fleming has been married for 47 years to his wife, Buff, and they have three sons. Mr. Fleming retired from the Air Force with the rank of Lt. Colonel. He is a Vietnam War combat veteran and earned three Distinguished Flying Crosses for his service to his country.

Mr. Speaker, because of Mayor David Fleming's many contributions to the city, his community and his country, it is proper for us to honor him today.