

added devastation to our community, environment, and quality of life would have been unimaginable. Their tireless commitment throughout the fire season has served as an inspiration to us all and I extend my sincere gratitude to everyone in the department.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 4546,
BOB STUMP NATIONAL DEFENSE
AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL
YEAR 2003

SPEECH OF

HON. JO ANN DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 12, 2002

Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak on H.R. 4546, The Bob Stump National Defense Authorization Act of Fiscal Year 2003. I believe that this year's Defense Authorization package is a compromise that does many good things. In particular, I was extremely happy to see that the Committee would offer its full support for restoring the original schedule for CVNX-1.

However, Mr. Speaker, I must point out that I am disappointed at the lack of progress that we have made on the issue of concurrent receipt. Yes, this legislation would allow some of our retired veterans to receive both their VA disability and retirement pay. However, in a real sense, this is not true concurrent receipt as payments are authorized through the Special Stipend for the Severely Disabled Retirees. It is a step, but quite frankly, it is not enough.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to reemphasize my support for inclusion and passage of a full version of concurrent receipt in future years. It is something our veterans deserve and is owed to them. I am fully aware of its costs. The Administration, simply put, should either add the money and program for it, or request that this be made a mandatory spending measure.

Mr. Speaker, I am aware that many members do not fully support this and see it as simply "pork". However, let's look at what this is for. VA disability payments, in a very real sense, are earned. The military life is a job unlike any other profession. That's why it is often referred to as a calling. The risks associated with this profession are higher than most and often result in injury that years later becomes debilitating. That is why we have disability payments for our service members.

Mr. Speaker, as we hold this debate, we stand on the cusp of another war, one which will surely cause more casualties and more debilitating injuries to our young servicemen. We should do the right thing and grant concurrent receipt to our current and future veterans.

TRIBUTE TO SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGISTS IN SUFFOLK COUNTY, NY

HON. STEVE ISRAEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 14, 2002

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the work of school psychologists in Suffolk County, NY, during the week of November 4, 2002.

The children of Suffolk County, NY, have a natural desire and propensity to learn and the inalienable right to an education. It is imperative that our society supports the needs of children and youth and invest in education as our top priority.

Children's mental health is closely linked to their successful learning and development. Schools must apply sound psychological principles to instruction, learning and oversight, cultivate children's intellectual, social and emotional development, meet the educational and developmental needs of culturally diverse student populations, and promote prevention and early intervention to ensure students' achievement.

Suffolk County schools must ensure a safe, healthy learning environment for all children and be able to recognize and respond to their emotional and psychological difficulties.

Suffolk County school psychologists help parents and educators foster healthy child development and are the school-based experts in children's learning and development.

Suffolk County school psychologists and other trained school-based professionals have the opportunity and ability to help parents identify and access needed community resources to help their children.

Suffolk County school psychologists are leaders in delivering mental health services to children. It is appropriate that Americans recognize the important and vital role that school psychologists play in the personal and academic development of our nation's children.

HONORING MR. MIKE ALLEN, DIRECTOR,
HOUSE RECORDING
STUDIO

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 14, 2002

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, on the occasion of his retirement at the end of this year, we rise to thank Mr. John Michael Allen for his exemplary service to the U.S. House of Representatives. The following statement by Robert F. Kennedy truly defines the caliber of work that Mike has provided to the House during the past 23 years: "Few of us have the greatness to bend history itself; but each of us can work to change a small portion of events, and in the total of those acts will be written the history of this generation." Mike's strong commitment to providing professional and flawless broadcast coverage of the House floor proceedings has made history. Every day that this House of the People is in session, Mike has guided a professional and dedicated team to provide flawless daily coverage to the country. We who are here and can just cross the street to watch history being made, may not appreciate what Mike has been helping to "make happen" for 23 years. Mike is to be admired and praised for providing this notable service to the House.

Mike is currently leading the House Recording Studio from operating in an analog environment to operating in a digital environment and to providing broadcast coverage of Committee Hearings. He continues to lay the groundwork for these technological transitions as he approaches the end of his career with the House. The strength and commitment of the team he has developed will ensure the

success of these efforts even after he moves on to his new job of "retirement."

On behalf of the entire House community, we commend Mike for his dedication and long, selfless service to the House of Representatives. We wish Mike and his wife Sheila many wonderful years in fulfilling their retirement dreams.

TRIBUTE TO WILLIAM THIEBAUT,
JR.

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 14, 2002

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to a man that has selflessly devoted his time and energies towards the betterment of the state of Colorado. A member of the Colorado State Legislature, the hard work and dedication of William Thiebaud, Jr., known as Bill, is a testament to the Western pride and character of my state and its citizens. Bill is now leaving the Colorado State Legislature after serving since 1993, and I can think of no better way to celebrate Bill's retirement than to honor his many achievements before this body of congress, and this nation.

Educated in Canon City and now living in Pueblo, Bill has not only experienced the best the state has to offer but also has been inspired to give back to the state and its people. He has served in both the House and the Senate as both an appointee and an elected official. During his time in the Colorado General Assembly he has served on countless committees and dedicated countless hours to improving the lives of Coloradans. Most notably he has diligently served as the Senate Majority Leader and has selflessly given his time to the Legislative Councils Subcommittee on Sexual Harassment, the Criminal Justice Commission, the Governor's Job Training Coordination Council, the Federal Budget Task Force, and the Task Force on Worker's Compensation Premium Rate Increases. In addition he has worked on the issues of election reform, worker's rights, and children's rights. When Bill is not working in the General Assembly he is serving in his other roles as loving husband and devoted father of an amazing fifteen children.

Mr. Speaker, it's clear that Bill Thiebaud is a man of dedication and commitment to his state and its citizens. He has achieved many things in his distinguished tenure in the Colorado General Assembly, and I am honored to be able to bring his hard work and dedication to the attention of this body of congress. It is my privilege to be able to express to him, and to this country, my gratitude for all that he has done for our wonderful state, and I wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

HONORING WORCESTER COMPREHENSIVE CHILD CARE SERVICES

HON. JAMES P. MCGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 14, 2002

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Worcester Comprehensive Child

Care Services, Incorporated, WCCCS, Inc. Since its inception as Great Brook Valley Child Care in 1972, the agency has been serving the after-school needs of children who live in the Great Brook Valley. Building upon its success with that first class of school-age children, WCCCS, Inc. has grown into an agency that serves nearly 300 low-income Worcester children in 5 locations. In order to reflect its mission, the agency changed its name to Worcester Comprehensive Child Care Services, Inc.

WCCCS, Inc. employs 65 staff members and is proud that its national association has accredited all of its teaching personnel and centers for the Education of Young Children, NAEYC. Some of the staff have been working with the agency since its inception, and many of the staff have 10, 15, and 20-plus years of experience. Many of the staff members are themselves WCCCS alumni, and many of their own children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren participate in the program.

WCCCS, Inc. is proud of its policies of providing entry-level jobs for a culturally and ethnically diverse staff, paying for their education and professional development, and offering excellent pay and benefits. The agency is a 501-C3 not-for-profit, and a volunteer board of directors leads it.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to commend the WCCCS, Inc. Board of Directors and staff for 30 years of dedicated service to the children of my hometown, Worcester, MA. I congratulate them as they celebrate the 30th Annual Meeting of the Board of Directors.

CONGRESSMAN SONNY
CALLAHAN'S RETIREMENT

HON. J. RANDY FORBES

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 14, 2002

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to our distinguished colleague, SONNY CALLAHAN, as he retires from Congress after 18 years of representing Alabama's first district.

Chairman CALLAHAN has dedicated most of his life to public service. In addition to his long and noteworthy career in the House of Representatives, he served in the Alabama legislature for 12 years and he has served his country in the Navy. I congratulate him on his remarkable record of service. I commend him for his proven dedication to his constituents and his countrymen.

Most recently, SONNY has served as the chairman of the Energy and Water Appropriations Subcommittee. In this role, he has had a direct, lasting, and positive impact on the basic infrastructure that enables America's economic might. Nearly every congressional district represented in the House, Mr. Speaker, has directly benefited from SONNY's leadership of this committee.

I have personally benefited from SONNY's leadership. His office in the Rayburn Building is next to mine. Because of his proximity, he has provided me with guidance and support in my first term in Congress. I am grateful, Mr. Speaker, for direct and positive impact Mr. CALLAHAN has had on me in his final term.

Our Nation is better off because of SONNY CALLAHAN's long and distinguished career. We

in Congress are better off for knowing him. I wish him well in his future endeavors, and I thank him for his accomplishments.

HONORING VIJAY MITAL

HON. JAMES T. WALSH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 14, 2002

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the retirement of Vijay Mital, the City of Auburn, New York's Director of Planning and Economic Development. Vijay, who retires next month, has been a dedicated public servant in the Auburn community for 32 years. Having worked with this exceptional individual for 14 years, I can say he will be missed by all those who have come to know and respect his work.

If anyone can attest to living the American dream, it is Vijay Mital. He grew up near New Dehli, India before immigrating to the United States in 1970 at the age of 30. While visiting his sister in my hometown of Syracuse, Vijay came across an employment ad for an opening in Cayuga County's planning department. He applied for the job, was hired five days later, and as they say, the rest is history. He has worked for the county for 20 years and spent the last 12 years with the City of Auburn in his current position.

A humble and modest man, Vijay is the only Director of Planning and Economic Development the city's ever had. Here are just some of the extraordinary accomplishments of his career. Vijay and his staff have diligently worked to bring over \$50 million in state and federal aid for local projects. At one point, the Department of Housing and Urban Development awarded the city 19 consecutive grants. This is record at the agency that still stands today.

Upon learning SnyderGeneral, now McQuay International, was going to close its local plant and move elsewhere, Vijay led a city delegation to the company's headquarters in Texas. There, he convinced the company to stay open in Auburn saving 350 jobs. Since that time, the company has more than doubled its workforce, adding a new marketing division. Vijay has also been instrumental in developing the Stryker Homes and the Boyle Center senior citizen complexes, the Holiday Inn, and the new Falcon Park minor league baseball field.

As everyone can see, Vijay is truly an extraordinary person. I join his wife Nisha, daughter Seema, and son Mansha in saluting his lifetime of work for the people of Cayuga County and the City of Auburn. Vijay Mital has made a difference in his community and I wish him well in his future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO STANLEY T.
MATSUNAKA

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 14, 2002

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to Stan T. Matsunaka and thank him for his contributions to the State of Colorado while serving as a

state senator. After serving his state for eight years, Stan is leaving the Senate Assembly to continue his political career in other arenas. It is with a great deal of respect that I pay tribute to him today, in front of this body of Congress, and thank him for his hard work and dedication while in office.

Born and educated in Colorado, Stan has long held an interest in politics. As a student at Fort Morgan High School, Stan was elected student body president. He is known as a devoted father of three, and a loving husband. Stan has gone beyond the walls of the Capitol to serve his fellow citizens as a valued member of the community. He has led Boy Scout troops, Odyssey of the Mind teams, and coached his children's athletic teams for years. He has also served as a member and chairman of the Namaqua School Accountability Committee, the Thompson Valley Preschool, Hospice, Loveland Daycare Center and the Loveland Sertoma Club. Stan also acts as a deacon and elder in his church, and is well respected by his community.

Stan was elected to the State Legislature in 1994 and again in 1998 and has dedicated countless hours to his work. He currently serves as President of the Senate, chair of the Education Committee, and a member on the Public Policy and Planning and Senate Services committee. During his time as a state senator, Stan has worked on the issues of education, housing and government finance.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to bring to the attention of this body of Congress, the service of Stan Matsunaka. His contributions to his state and constituents through his many years of public service are an example for our state. His service and commitment should serve as serve as an example for us all, and I wish him the best of luck in the future.

REMEMBERING UKRAINE'S
FAMINE

HON. CURT WELDON

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 14, 2002

Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, this Saturday, Ukrainians around the world will honor the millions that died in the man-made famine created by Josef Stalin's Soviet government. In 1932-33, citizens of Ukraine, the northern Caucasus and the lower Volga River regions died as a result of Stalin's implementation of forced collectivization. The heaviest losses occurred in Ukraine, where an estimated 7 to 10 million people perished.

This artificial famine was instituted to break the spirit of the Ukrainian farmer and force them into collectivization. Stalin was determined to crush Ukrainian nationalism and to do so required an ethnic cleansing of the most horrific nature. The task took the form of a man-made famine where the quota for grain from Ukraine was brutally increased. The extraordinarily high quota resulted in a severe grain shortage, effectively starving the Ukrainian people.

Additionally, the peasants were threatened if they did not perform the work expected of them and the Soviet government issued a decree stating that anyone found hiding food products or produced materials would be shot.

The end result was a demoralized and depleted Ukrainian ethnic population. Stalin covered up this genocide so effectively that little