

Myra has excelled in each of her professional positions and given of herself freely to every student, the most rewarding experience of her career was her work with children with severe emotional disabilities.

Myra's dedication to education was also evident in her own life. And like all good teachers, she practiced what she preached. Ms. Kelly's academic credentials are truly impressive. She received both a Bachelors and a Masters degree from Lehman College, her Professional Diploma from the City College of New York, and a School District Administrator's credential from the College of New Rochelle. Except for her dissertation she has also completed all of her work for a Doctorate in the Learning, Language, and Literacy program at Fordham University.

I hope that new teachers and school psychologists are inspired by Myra's dedication to her chosen career. The New York Department of Education will sorely miss her.

I would like to join the New York Department of Education, her family and friends in thanking Myra for her years of service and wishing her congratulations on the occasion of her retirement.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF  
BATON ROUGE ADVOCATE RE-  
PORTER JOAN MCKINNEY

**HON. CHRISTOPHER JOHN**

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 12, 2003*

Mr. JOHN. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to have been a member of this body for the past seven years. In that time our world and our Congress have gone through times of grief, destruction, joy and prosperity. Through it all, there has been a constant voice at my side asking me the tough questions and reporting news of my actions in Congress to the news consumers in Louisiana.

As of today, that voice will move on to ask others the tough questions and aid Capitol Hill's press gallery reporters in relaying the latest news to their vast readerships. After 24 years as the Baton Rouge Advocate's Washington reporter, Joan McKinney is putting her skills to use in a new arena as Deputy Director of the U.S. Senate's Daily Press Gallery.

My colleagues and I in the Louisiana delegation will miss her energy, her attentiveness, and most of all her objectivity. Joan's depth of historical and institutional knowledge of both House proceedings and the Louisiana Congressional Delegation is unrivaled. Having begun her career as press secretary to U.S. Senator FRITZ HOLLINGS of South Carolina, Joan understands the challenge of being both question asker and information giver.

Her colleagues at The Advocate describe Joan as "an excellent reporter who worked very hard to understand the complex issues she covered through the years. She understood the federal system and was able to anticipate developments on important stories. And, she was very good at understanding and communicating how federal issues might play out in Louisiana and how they might affect people here."

We will all miss Joan's coverage of our lively delegation, her ear for a unique angle and her inquisitive spirit. She's not going far—per-

haps only a few desks from her current one in the Senate Press Gallery—but she leaves a gaping hole for her predecessor to fill.

Joan, I wish you all the best in your new job. You'll be missed. Congratulations!

THE CHILDREN OF WORKING AND  
WELFARE FAMILIES ARE ON  
THE FRONT LINES

**HON. MAJOR R. OWENS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 12, 2003*

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, on a suspension vote we reauthorized the current Temporary Assistance For Needy Families (TANF) legislation leaving in place a very hard hearted and contemptuous piece of the so-called safety net. Farm subsidies may go as high as 200,000 dollars per recipient with few qualifying provisions attached; however, welfare recipients with a family of four receive between 4,000 and 6,000 dollars per year. On the day before the reauthorization there was yet another nasty Republican slur at the poor and at families on welfare: "These people want a welfare check, not a child care tax credit." This demonization of the poor has escalated among Republicans despite the fact that it has clearly been established that on the front lines in Iraq, Afghanistan, the Baltic states and elsewhere more than ninety per cent of our troops are from poor and working class families. Because most of them were draftees it is probable that more than two-thirds of the heroes whose names are carved on the Viet Nam Memorial Wall came from families eligible for welfare and other social services. Washington decision-makers should try to imagine the emotions of welfare mothers who search for the names of their sons at the Viet Nam Memorial Wall. To prime the imagination of those who will soon be deciding how many more American sons and daughters are going to be sent to Iraq I offer the following RAP meditation:

WELFARE MOTHER AT THE VIETNAM WALL

O so long I saved  
For the Greyhound bus fare  
To travel to this great wall  
Just to sit and stare.  
From across the park  
They all look the same  
But take it slow  
I find each separate name.  
Girls names you can play with—  
Towana Shoshana Sojourner;  
But all my boys I gave  
Names from the holy bible—  
Joshua, Joseph and Paul  
Now they decorate this great American Wall.  
Officers respected my boys  
And found them strong,  
They used to get rough  
But they did no wrong.  
Angry snakes inside me  
Keep coiling,  
Maybe I shouldn't be bitter  
But nobody asked  
When they drafted my litter.  
O God!  
Stop my streaming blood  
From boiling,  
All my days  
Are filled with toiling;  
Never owned a dress of silk  
But my breasts  
Filled up rich with milk.

Nobody ever said thanks  
When my babies  
Climbed into their tanks;  
Never had accounts in banks  
Only crumbs for welfare ranks,  
Butt of jokes and office pranks,  
Pride they always made me smother—  
Despised begging welfare mother.  
Welfare clerks take up  
So many hours of my time  
Shuffling me round from line to line.  
Clerk questions and forms  
Nearly choked me to death.  
Governors and Mayors held me down  
Till I almost ran out of breath.  
Worked in many stores  
Scrubbed a whole lot of floors,  
Once was tempted to hang out  
With a ring of cheap whores;  
At home always heavy chores,  
Too tired to keep a job,  
Then my welfare clerk attacked  
With poison arrow eyes;  
In front of her something in me dies,  
Acts like its her money  
Used to ask if I had a honey,  
Charges me with lies,  
Envious what was once  
Between my thighs.  
Be nice if I still had a man,  
I miss hugging and stuff  
But men are like babies  
And six kids was enough.  
They all had the same daddy  
But my husband died too soon,  
Strangled by escaping gas  
With no mask  
In the factory back room.  
All my kids  
I found some way to feed—  
They grown now  
And your molasses pity  
Don't none of them need.  
I let my daughters-in-law  
Keep all the war insurance money;  
They take good care of their kids  
As far as I can see;  
Don't want my grandsons  
Still standing  
In the soup kitchen line with me.  
Its me alone now—  
My social security  
Covers most of the rent  
But then its all spent;  
For food each month  
I survive on  
Whatever crumbs God has sent.  
My struggle goes on  
With Medicaid Madams  
Demanding my birth certificate  
Again and again  
They keep on trying to break me in.  
Let them shove their questions and forms—  
Don't push on me no more  
I done come through too many storms.  
Why go back to the welfare folks?  
Maybe I'll just die  
Right here and my boys  
Will bear my body home.  
Soldiers hear your mama call!  
Break from the ranks  
And leave the wall!  
From each of your flags  
A little bit of cloth  
To quilt me a coffin cover;  
Maybe somebody will blow a horn  
To let the world know I'm your mother.  
No, God forgive me!  
I am a mighty American mother!  
It wouldn't be right  
To die here and spoil this place,  
I got a duty to uphold our dignity,  
We are a proud and loyal race.  
My bus return ticket is here,  
I'll face that Medicaid Madam  
And swallow my fear;  
My heroes would be ashamed  
If I ever shed another tear.

O God!  
 Stop my steaming blood from boiling;  
 Angry snakes inside me keep coiling.  
 I'll tell the snob  
 To take her fancy form and shove it,  
 Her trashy mind can't spoil me  
 I'll fly high way up above it.  
 Witch look down on me no more  
 I'm ready to settle the score;  
 Tell me face to face  
 Before I crawl—  
 How many of your sons  
 Have their names  
 Carved up on the Vietnam Memorial Wall?

RECOGNIZING WEST POTOMAC  
 HIGH SCHOOL VIRGINIA SCHOLASTIC  
 ROWING CHAMPIONSHIPS  
 GOLD MEDAL WINNERS

**HON. TOM DAVIS**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 12, 2003*

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an extraordinary group of young men and women in Northern Virginia. This year, athletes on the West Potomac crew team took four gold medals at the Virginia Scholastic Rowing Championships. These accomplished individuals are tenacious, driven contributors to their high school community.

On April 26, 2003, West Potomac achieved its unprecedented success on the Occoquan River. The four first place West Potomac boats were the men's first four boat, the women's first four boat, the men's second four boat, and the women's second four boat. Crew is a difficult sport that requires strength, cooperation, coordination, strategy, and persistence. The youthful athletes of West Potomac demonstrated all of these traits in their quest for the state championship, and I am sure that they will continue to excel as sports team members and as citizens.

In a thrilling race, the men's first four earned gold for West Potomac for the first time in 16 years. Trailing McLean for much of their race, the Wolverines sprinted just past their opponents in the closing meters for a photo finish. At the official ceremony, the results of the race were revealed: West Potomac won the 1,500-meter race by four-tenths of a second! The members of the winning men's first four boat were coxswain Helen McGuirk, stroke Kip Wanser, 3-seat Will Aramony, 2-seat Luke Urban, and bow seat Paul Burgess. These Wolverines took the crown from defending champion, McLean in a high-paced, enthralling display of teamwork and athleticism.

The women's first four also came from behind in a tense and hard-fought race to win their gold. Gloucester led for most of the race, with West Potomac taking the lead with about 500 meters remaining and holding off Gloucester for a 1.5-second victory. Coxswain Ashley Morris, stroke Natalie Jones, 3-seat Dorothy Baden-Mayer, 2-seat C.J. Jenkins, and bow Kate Lord made history with their win as the first West Potomac women's varsity quartet to claim Virginia Scholastic Gold.

Continuing the winning streak for the Wolverines that same day was the men's second four boat, manned by coxswain Stephanie Zvonkovich, stroke Trey Burnett, 3-seat Justin Brown, bow Alex Fedgatten, and 2-seat Andrew Norbert. West Potomac held off Mathews and Gloucester for the win with a time of 5:37.3.

Members of the women's second four boat were: coxswain Ashley Thompson, stroke Stephanie Baker, 3-seat Amber Flynn, 2-seat Kelly Wernecke, and bow Moria Holt. This time it was Fairfax and West Springfield left behind in the Wolverines' wake, as West Potomac posted a winning time of 6:25.6 with their skilled and cohesive rowing.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate all of the athletes of the West Potomac High School rowing program. Their dedication, persistence and resolve deserve our highest praise. I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating this group of extraordinary competitors.

TRIBUTE TO PERK VICKERS

**HON. SCOTT McINNIS**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 12, 2003*

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to rise today to recognize the hours of dedication and hard work that Perk Vickers has invested for the betterment of the Lake Fork community of Colorado. Perk has recently announced his retirement from his seat on the Hinsdale County Planning Commission, a seat he has held for almost 30 years. I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the great leadership that Perk has shown and to highlight the many accomplishments he has made to his community.

Perk has served Colorado with vision and commitment for over half a century. Besides his notable service to the Hinsdale County Planning Commission, Perk has served as chairman of the Hinsdale Republican Party for over 50 years, as well as serving as the 34-year director of the Upper Gunnison River Conservancy District. In addition, Perk has spent 36-years serving as Hinsdale County's representative to the Colorado River Water Conservation District. In the 1950's, Perk was instrumental in the creation of Club 20, which he helped form to bring twenty Western Slope counties together in order to promote roads and tourism. He also founded the Hinsdale County Chamber of Commerce, which celebrated its 50th anniversary this year. In short, Perk's dedication has been inspirational, and Colorado has benefited greatly from his service.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great admiration that I pay tribute today to the many services Perk Vickers has performed on behalf of the citizens of Colorado. I wish to extend my heartfelt gratitude for his many examples of community service that have helped make Colorado a more prosperous, friendlier, and beautiful place to live. I know that men like Perk never rest, and so I wish to congratulate him now on his Lifetime Achievement Award and his retirement. I wish him success in all of his future endeavors. Perk, thank you for your service.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. HENRY E. BROWN, JR.**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 12, 2003*

Mr. BROWN of South Carolina. I was unable to participate in the following vote be-

cause of a death in the family. If I had been present, I would have voted as follows: June 5, 2003, rollcall vote 248, on agreeing to S. 273, I would have voted "yea."

TRIBUTE TO DANA JOHNSON OF  
 BATTLE CREEK, MICHIGAN—EX-  
 CEPTIONAL TEACHER

**HON. NICK SMITH**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 12, 2003*

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, Education is the key for our Nation's future prosperity and security. The formidable responsibility of molding and inspiring young minds to the avenues of hope, opportunity and achievement rests partly in the hands of our teachers. Today I would like to recognize a teacher from Battle Creek, Michigan that most influenced and motivated exceptional students in academics and leadership that were winners of the LeGrand Smith scholarship.

Mr. Dana Johnson teaches mathematics at the Battle Creek Area Mathematics & Science Center. He is credited for instilling in students an enthusiasm for mathematics. In one student's own words, "Mr. Johnson made math come alive, and he always gave real-world examples of even the most abstract topics." The respect and gratitude of his students speaks well of Mr. Johnson's ability to challenge young minds to stretch the mental muscles and strive to achieve the best that is in them.

Mr. Johnson's excellence in teaching challenges and inspires students to move beyond the teen-age tendency toward surface study and encourage deeper thought and connections to the real world. No profession is more important in its influence and daily interaction with the future leaders of our community and our country, and Dana Johnson's impact on his students is certainly deserving of recognition.

On behalf of the Congress of the United States of America, I am proud to extend our highest praise to Mr. Dana Johnson as a master teacher. We thank him for his continuing dedication to teaching and his willingness and ability to challenge and inspire students for leadership and success.

INTRODUCING A RESOLUTION FOR  
 A U.S. POSTAGE STAMP COM-  
 MEMORATING ANNE FRANK

**HON. STEVE ISRAEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 12, 2003*

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce a resolution that expresses the sense of Congress that the United States Postmaster General should issue a postage stamp commemorating the 75th birthday of Anne Frank.

As we all know, Anne Frank documented her life during the Nazi occupation of Amsterdam in a diary that she called "Kitty." The diary became her confidant, and she wrote about her experiences before the occupation, going into hiding, and the tortuous years in hiding. She has come to be a girl we all feel we know well, a personification of good in the face of hatred, murder and genocide.