

onto the Oakland Raiders roster, long odds do not dampen the enthusiasm of Orange County community leaders like Paul Salata, who puts Irrelevant Week together. That is because we recognize that fame is fleeting, that humility is a virtue, and that even the last round NFL draft pick is a significantly better athlete than any member of Congress.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join with me in congratulating Ryan Hoag and everyone else who is involved in the Irrelevant Week celebration. In some ways, this celebration has outgrown its name, for I cannot think of anything more relevant to our spirit of community and our common humanity than doing nice things for other people. On behalf of the U.S. Congress and the people of Orange County whom it is my privilege to represent, congratulations to everyone associated with Irrelevant Week XXVIII, for being more relevant than you care to admit.

TRIBUTE HONORING 2003 LEGRAND
SMITH SCHOLARSHIP FINALISTS

HON. NICK SMITH

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 23, 2003

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, It is a sincere pleasure to recognize the finalists of the 2003 LeGrand Smith Congressional Scholarship Program: Ashley Herlein of Spring Arbor, Michigan; Kristen Przybylski of Clinton, Michigan; Brian Jones of Battle Creek, Michigan; and Evelyn Levine of Albion, Michigan. This special honor is an appropriate tribute to the academic accomplishment, demonstration of leadership and responsibility, and commitment to social involvement displayed by these remarkable young adults. We all have reason to celebrate their success, for it is in their promising and capable hands that our future rests.

The finalists of the LeGrand Smith Congressional Scholarship Program are being honored for showing that same generosity of spirit, depth of intelligence, and capacity for human service that distinguished the late LeGrand Smith of Somerset, Michigan. They are young men and women of character, ambition, and initiative, who have already learned well the value of hard work, discipline, and commitment.

These exceptional students have consistently displayed their dedication, intelligence, and concern throughout their high school experience. They stand out among their peers due to their many achievements and the disciplined manner in which they meet challenges. While they have already accomplished a great deal, these young people possess unlimited potential, for they have learned the keys to success in any endeavor.

As a Member of Congress of the United States of America, I am proud to join their many admirers in extending our highest praise and congratulations to the finalist of the 2003 LeGrand Smith Congressional Scholarship program.

INTRODUCTION OF DC PARENTAL
CHOICE INITIATIVE ACT OF 2003

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 23, 2003

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation, along with Education and Workforce Committee Chairman JOHN BOEHNER, that would provide relief to some of the long-standing challenges facing students in the District of Columbia public school system. The "DC Parental Choice Initiative Act of 2003," H.R. 2556, would authorize the appropriation of \$15 million in new Federal funding to the District of Columbia to provide individual students up to \$7,500 in scholarship money to be used at private schools of their own choosing in the District of Columbia.

One thing is clear: too many kids in our Nation's capital are not getting the education they need and fully deserve. Lower-income families concerned about the quality and safety of their children in District of Columbia public schools should not have to resign to sending their children to under-performing schools where students are not adequately motivated to perform.

At the same time, a school should not take for granted that it will automatically enroll every child that lives within a given radius of the school. Instead, that school should be striving everyday to ensure that it provides a learning environment that will attract new students and parents.

Over the past decade, Congress has spent considerable time and resources working with the District to reform its education system. Enacted laws, such as the "District of Columbia School Reform Act of 1995" and the "D.C. College Access Act of 1999," have provided an impetus to level the playing field and brighten the future for D.C. students.

However, the ability of D.C. schools to meet key performance goals has long been plagued by financial mismanagement as well as a host of other problems. Despite concerted efforts by local officials to improve the public school system, little evidence of progress in improving academic performance is available.

Poor academic achievement scores are unsettling to say the least: Only 6 percent of 4th graders in the District tested "proficient" or higher in math.

Standardized test scores remain stagnant for D.C. public schools: the average D.C. SAT score is 799 while the national average is 1020.

The National Assessment of Educational Process just released a "Reading 2000" Report Card: the District's school children were ranked as the worst readers in the country.

The disparity is too glaring to ignore. The drop out rate is about 40 percent. The current condition of schools is unacceptable.

I have traditionally opposed Federal dollars going to private schools because I think Federal dollars ought to be targeted to public schools. But, for the District, I think we have to ask this question: Wouldn't more choices funded by Federal dollars provide a needed alternative for low-income children attending low-performing schools?

As the United States Representative representing a district neighboring the District of

Columbia, I have worked with the District on a number of initiatives to improve the standard of living in the District of Columbia, and along with it, the standard of living of the entire capital region. That is why I cannot ignore the grave challenges facing the District of Columbia public school system and that is why I am introducing the "DC Parental Choice Incentive Act of 2003."

The goal of school choice in the District of Columbia is to be an addition, not a subtraction. We all want the District's education system to improve, and this is at the very least a short-term effort to do something about it.

The bill I am introducing today, along with Chairman BOEHNER, would expand educational opportunities to D.C. students in under-performing elementary and secondary schools. The D.C. Choice Program would be established through a competitive process administered by the U.S. Department of Education to ensure that the public or private entity administering the initiative would be dedicated and capable of carrying out a top-notch program.

The D.C. Choice Program would provide scholarships of up to \$7,500 to eligible students to cover the cost of tuition, fees, and transportation expenses, if any. The scholarship would be considered assistance to the students and not the schools. In order to ensure accountability, an evaluation would be conducted that would consider the impact and academic achievement attained by the program.

This legislation is the result of considerable negotiation and consultation with city officials, the Administration and the key committees of jurisdiction in Congress. And for the first time ever, the Mayor of the District of Columbia has come to the conclusion that ". . . if done effectively, this program would provide even more choices for primarily low income families who currently do not have the same freedom of choice enjoyed by their affluent counterparts."

I look forward to working with my colleagues on this important legislation.

HONORING THE DISTINGUISHED
SERVICE OF LT. COL. STEVE GAY

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 23, 2003

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding service of Lt. Col. Steve Gay, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Nashville district engineer and commander. His command at the Nashville district is coming to an end next month, as he will retire from the Corps.

Colonel Gay has been a tremendous asset to the Corps and its Nashville district, which covers parts of seven states and more than 59,000 square miles of the basins of the Cumberland and the Tennessee rivers. He is an invaluable leader who has performed his duties with great distinction and honor.

Colonel Gay's leadership at the Corps' Nashville district has helped make the region a better place to live through excellent management of water resources. Projects enhancing and protecting those resources have made Middle Tennessee a desirable location for

many top-notch companies, which brought with them good jobs for our residents.

Colonel Gay has served the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers well and has garnered extensive awards and decorations in the process, including the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal with two oak leaf clusters, the Army Commendation Medal, the Joint Service Achievement Medal, the Army Achievement Medal with one oak leaf cluster, the Air Assault Badge, the Parachutist Badge and the Ranger Tab.

I congratulate him for all the good work he has done with the Corps and for Middle Tennessee and wish him well in his retirement and his future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO SCOTT GILES, DEPUTY CHIEF OF STAFF, SCIENCE COMMITTEE

HON. NICK SMITH

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 23, 2003

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the contribution and service of Mr. Scott Giles to the United States Congress. Scott is an outstanding public servant, truly committed to effecting positive change and improving the lives of all Americans.

I have had the pleasure of knowing Scott since January 2001, when he was appointed to serve as deputy chief of staff for the House Committee on Science. And as Chairman of the Subcommittee on Research, I have had the benefit of Scott's expert advice and diverse legislative talents on a wide range of issues.

Scott's expertise on Federal research and development and education policy has been key to our Subcommittee's legislative success, and to the Science Committee's growing influence in the House of Representatives. Scott was lead staff negotiator on several pieces of legislation we successfully shepherded through the Committee, to the House floor and eventually, onto the President's desk. Most notable of these pieces of legislation were the Cybersecurity Research and Development Act (Public Law 107-305) and the National Science Foundation Authorization Act of 2002 (Public Law 107-368), which included the National Math and Science Partnerships Act and the Tech Talent Act.

But Scott's impressive career began long before he came to the Science Committee. From 1982 to 1986, he served as legislative director for his Rochester, NY hometown Representative, the Honorable Frank Horton (R-NY). In 1986, he took a job as a senior associate and team leader at Cassidy & Associates. At Cassidy he provided government and public affairs services to colleges, universities, hospitals and non-profit organizations.

After 10 years at Cassidy, Scott and his wife, Kate headed to the University of Virginia, where Scott pursued a doctorate in ethics. In 1997 he felt the lure of Congress once again when he was asked to serve on the professional staff of the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions HELP. On the HELP Committee, Scott advised the Chairman on budget, education and research policy, served as the Committee's

chief staff negotiator for budget and appropriations and was a principal staff member on the National Science Foundation Authorization Act of 1998, and the Higher Education Act Amendments of 1998.

Now, Scott, Kate and their three children, Abigail, Sam and Eliza, are embarking on a new adventure. They are moving north to Vermont, where Scott has been appointed Vice President of Policy, Research and Planning for the Vermont Student Assistance Corporation. Although the students and universities in Vermont are thrilled with this move, Congress is losing a valuable, incredibly talented staff member.

On behalf of Chairman BOEHLERT and all the members and staff of the Science Committee, thank you for your service to Congress. Scott, we wish you all the best in your future.

IN HONOR OF SOLOMON NEWBORN

HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 23, 2003

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a great American and a great New Yorker, Solomon Newborn, who passed away on June 16, 2003 at the age of 86, after a life dedicated to public service, his community of Plainview, the Town of Oyster Bay, his religion, and—most importantly—his family.

After growing up as the poor child of Austrian immigrants, Solomon worked his way through New York University, where he received both his Bachelor of Science in Accounting and his Master's Degree in Education.

During World War II, Sol decided to enlist in the Navy. But the Navy told him that it was no longer enlisting men, so Sol, determined to serve his country and his flag, enlisted in the Army Air Corps, the forerunner of the United States Air Force. Solomon Newborn became a decorated Captain who served valiantly in flight and in uniform fighting the Nazi regime.

Sol's dedication to the highest standards of his profession was always evident in his work. A Certified Public Accountant and recognized specialist in the fields of municipal auditing, Solomon was elected the Receiver of Taxes of the town of Oyster Bay in 1996, a position he held until 1983. He was also an author on taxation and municipal accounting, subjects he taught at Adelphi University and Queens College, my alma mater.

Sol also understood how important it was to be a part of a community. As soon as he and his wife, Rita, moved into their home in Plainview, New York, in 1953, they began to develop the idea for the Plainview Jewish Center. Sol was not only one of the founders, but the synagogue's first president. Today, The Plainview Jewish Center continues to thrive as one of the largest synagogues on Long Island. Ironically, Sol died a full half century to the day after the first planning meeting was held in the Newborn's own living room.

Solomon Newborn was the organizer of the Annual Brotherhood Conference of Plainview Service Clubs, served as Chairman of the Red Cross for Plainview and was the Senior Vice Commander of the Jewish War Veterans in Hicksville. His tireless efforts on behalf of his

community and various groups have earned him the "Man of the Year" award from Yeshiva University and the "Masada" award from the United Jewish Federation.

Solomon is survived by Rita—his wife of 54 years, four children and one granddaughter: Ira, Evan, Jud, Kym and Stacey.

Solomon Newborn was the kind of man who led by his heart and always encouraged other public officials to be true to themselves. I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to please join me in honoring and thanking Solomon for his service to our nation and to extend to his family our deepest sympathies and condolences.

THANKING THE NATIONAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE

HON. MARILYN N. MUSGRAVE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 23, 2003

Mrs. MUSGRAVE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), specifically Mary Miller and John Knapp of the La Junta, Co., NRCS Office for all of the wonderful work they do for rural Colorado and many of my constituents in Colorado's Fourth Congressional District.

NRCS has worked diligently to help farmers and ranchers in Eastern Colorado through this time of hardship and drought. Moreover, Mary and John have given special attention to briefing congressional staffers on many of the issues facing these farmers and ranchers. Their service to the agricultural communities of Eastern Colorado is greatly appreciated by my staff and myself.

DR. WILLIE MANLEY:
AMBASSADOR OF PEACE

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 23, 2003

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker and colleagues, I am glad to have the opportunity to recognize and congratulate Dr. Willie E. Manley as a recipient of the Ambassador of Peace Award.

I am honored to be presenting this award to Dr. Manley on Tuesday, June 24, 2003. Dr. Manley is one of 100 recipients from around the world. As the award states, it is granted to individuals who have dedicated their lives to promoting "strong family life, interreligious cooperation, international harmony, renewal of the United Nations, a responsible public media, and the establishment of a culture of peace. Transcending racial, national and religious barriers, the Ambassadors for Peace contribute to the fulfillment of the hope of all ages; a unified world of peace wherein the spiritual and material dimensions of life are harmonized." Dr. Manley is certainly deserving of such an award.

Dr. Manley's life has exemplified those very values. At home, he is the loving husband of Vertis, and the dedicated father of seven children. In addition to his work at the Greater Life Baptist Church, he is a community activist: he has traveled as a missionary to South