

These students are shining examples of the best and brightest in Texas and America. They deserve a Lone Star size applause. Congratulations. We are proud of you.

COMMEMORATING THE INTRODUCTION OF "MEDAL OF HONOR"

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 21, 2003

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to commemorate the upcoming introduction of the book, "Medal of Honor," at the National Boy Scout Museum in Irving, Texas. The book honors the more than 3,400 Medal of Honor recipients that have served our Nation so valiantly in time of war or crisis and will be introduced on November 8, 2003. Mr. Speaker, this event is being coordinated by the North Trail District of the Boy Scouts of America under the direction of Chairman Gary V. Hill and Mr. Rob Kyker, the Friends of Scouting Chairman and host of this event.

Mr. Speaker, during the introduction of the book, seven (7) of the living 138 Medal of Honor recipients will be presented and honored along with Mr. Michael E. Thornton, U.S. Navy—retired, who is the spokesman for all Medal of Honor recipients. These individuals embody the virtues of sacrifice, courage, and leadership, which the Boy Scouts work to instill. Since 1861, the Congressional Medal of Honor has been awarded to our Nation's bravest Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines, and Coast Guardsmen. This book, by Mr. Peter Collier, honors them for their courage, character, and leadership and will serve as a wonderful example to future generations, especially the Boy Scouts of the future.

The introduction of this book, affords a new generation the opportunity to once again learn of the leadership and courage of those service men and women who have received the Congressional Medal of Honor. This presentation at the Boy Scout National Museum is a great moment to honor and remember all the Medal of Honor recipients and I count it an honor to be involved and to be present at this wonderful ceremony.

AMENDING TITLE XXI OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 20, 2003

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to voice my support for passage of H.R. 3288, but do so with disappointment that the House did not take up S. 1547, thereby failing to expedite the process of ensuring that New Mexico does not lose their unused SCHIP funds.

My New Mexico delegation colleagues in the other chamber were able to secure passage of S. 1547 on July 31, 2003 by unanimous consent. This legislation allows states, including New Mexico, to keep unused allotments under the SCHIP Program.

Prior to recessing for the August District Work Period, we in the House passed H.R.

2854—what was supposed to be a final compromise covering \$2.7 billion in SCHIP funds, about half of which technically expired September 30, 2002, and the rest of which was scheduled to expire September 30, 2003. Without this action, the funds would have reverted back to the Federal treasury, consequently depriving New Mexico and other states of sorely needed health care funds.

However, because of a technical error in H.R. 2854 that excluded New Mexico from retaining their SCHIP funds, S. 1547 was passed to ensure that New Mexico was rightfully included. Now, with passage of this legislation today, New Mexico and other states will again be required to wait for their much-needed SCHIP funds since this bill will now have to be referred back to the Senate, passed once again, and then sent to the President for his signature.

While I by no means seek to diminish the importance of the other states now included under H.R. 3822 for a similar fix that was required for New Mexico, I am nevertheless disappointed that S. 1547 could not be passed as a lean technical fix to expedite New Mexico's funds. New Mexico is ranked second in the Nation for uninsured individuals, which makes the SCHIP program that much more important so that children can have health coverage.

I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 3288, but do so in the hope that this legislation can be expeditiously passed in the other chamber. The sooner we can get this legislation into law, the sooner the funding can go to its intended purpose—providing health insurance coverage for the children in our respective states.

FIVE TRUE HEROES IN AMERICAN LIFE

HON. BERNARD SANDERS

OF VERMONT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 21, 2003

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. Speaker, if we were to believe the television and radio and even the newspapers, we would think that the most important figures in America are professional athletes, movie stars, rock performers, and financial tycoons.

But we all know that this is not true. There are millions of Americans who do heroic work every day. Some are teachers, some nurses, some work in day care. Some prepare meals for the elderly; others take care of their elderly parents or of spouses or children who are ill or disabled. Men and women all over America go off to work each day, sometimes at two or even three jobs, to make sure that there is food on the table for their families, and money to send their children to college.

Today, I want to recognize five citizens of Vermont who are heroes: Mary Jean Inglee, Emma Katherine Ely, Bev Priest, Theresa Emmons, and Christina Crawford. They come from every corner of Vermont, and each has been tireless in advocating for the needs of the low-income citizens of our state.

Mary Jean Inglee was born in Whitehall, New York and raised in an Irish Catholic Democratic family. She graduated from Whitehall High School, Class of 1968, and married Harold Inglee in November of that same year.

She and her husband now live in Rutland; they have two daughters and three granddaughters.

Mary Jean Inglee's interest in low-income issues started when she was a child, when a poor family lived in a shack on the rocky area above her house. To Mary Jean's own family, it was a natural thing to share what they had with that family. Her parents provided them with rides to doctors and food and clothing whenever they could.

Mary Jean at times got in trouble at school because she believed it was her duty to advocate for classmates that were being treated unfairly. She remembers those classmates as the kids who experienced the cruel realities of poverty.

Mary Jean worked in the public school system for 10 years in a special education classroom. She had a first-hand look at how state systems worked—and how they didn't work for kids that had the least going for them. Once again some saw her as a troublemaker, for she took advocacy for families who needed extra consideration, very seriously. She says this kind of work brought her to know BROC (the community action agency in southern Vermont), which was a worksite for some of the students she worked with. Going there on a weekly basis, she was able to observe the difficult situation facing clients and workers.

Mary Jean has worked for the Department of Vocational Rehabilitation for the past 15 years, an agency charged with removing barriers to employment for people with disabilities. Most of the people she works with have no income or the minimal benefits of Supplemental Security Income or Social Security Disability payments. This translates into poverty. She advocates every day for programs, training, and dollars to help people improve their lives.

A new opportunity to help came in 1992 when she was asked to join the BROC Board of Directors as a low-income representative. The timing was perfect for Mary Jean to be called into service. Her husband was ill and not able to work. This gave her an instant "reminder course" in what it was like to owe rent and wonder how it would be paid. In their 35 years together, they have been there a few times, but unlike many of the people BROC serves, there was usually someone in the family who could help out.

Mary Jean has worked tirelessly for others, but she has also pursued a path of learning for herself. She received a Bachelor of Science degree in Human Services from Springfield College in 2002. She is currently a Masters Candidate and expects to receive her Masters in Human Services with a concentration in Community Psychology in the spring of 2004.

Emma Katherine Ely is another outstanding advocate for low-income people. During the past 15 years (and probably longer than that!) Ms. Ely has served the low-income community of northeastern Vermont. While being a parent in the program—she is the mother of ten children—Ms. Ely served on the Champlain Valley OEO Head Start Policy Council. That interest in parent advocacy led to seats on the New England Regional Head Start Board and also on the Vermont State Head Start Parents Association. For the past 10 years, Ms. Ely has played a central role organizing the Vermont Early Childhood Conference. In addition to this work, Ms. Ely has been active in many roles

at the King Street Youth Center in Burlington. She currently organizes the Holiday Program at that Center.

She represents the needs and interests of the whole community, not just of children. Ms. Ely has also been a member of the Chittenden Emergency Food Shelf Advisory Board for the past 14 years. She is currently a low-income representative on the Champlain Valley OEO Board of Directors, and is at the present moment serving in her second term. She does all of these things as a dedicated, spirited advocate.

Bev Priest is another dedicated advocate for low-income people. A resident of Jay, Vermont for over 25 years, she served as a low-income representative on the Northeast Kingdom Community Action Board of Directors for 10 years. During that time, she regularly attended the Low-Income Association meetings, Physically Disabled Association meetings, and other meetings in the state capital of Montpelier: at all of them she unstintingly shared with everyone her knowledge of what she learned.

Bev Priest opened a food shelf and clothing center in the Jay Town Clerk's building and provided many holiday baskets to the local families. During the Christmas season she often played Santa at the low-income children's Christmas parties; she herself acquired many of the gifts that were distributed. She has been a consistent advocate for people in crisis; she has assisted in any way she could in helping people in crisis locate the resources they needed. Bev would many times call the NEKCA office stating, "If I had transportation I would be on your desk right now." As one Vermonter in her community stated, "Bev promoted the continual awareness of others of the struggles that low-income families face by 'pointing out the squeaks in the wheel'."

Theresa Emmons has been involved with the Central Vermont Community Action Council for over 20 years. It is safe to say that without her influence, CVCAC would not have accomplished as much as it has. Theresa served on the Board of Directors as a representative of the town of Washington in Orange County. She also has the distinction of having the longest tenure on the CVCAC Board, which she has served in every possible way: as President, as Vice President, as Treasurer and as Secretary.

As if this weren't enough, she has also served on the Head Start Policy Council and has been a leader in the Vermont Head Start Parent's Association. She has been a long time volunteer for the USDA Commodity food distribution program and local food shelves; she was also involved in the conception and growth of the Vermont Food Bank. As far as Theresa is concerned, if people are in need they deserve to receive help. If there is a cause that will help someone in need, that cause deserves to be supported—and Theresa is always first in line to volunteer and to recruit others to volunteer.

Christina Crawford of Springfield, Vermont has been an outstanding example of persevering in the face of difficulties, and of triumphing over many of them.

It was seven years ago that Chris left an abusive relationship. She left with a broken foot, no transportation, four children and the clothes on her back. After three months of being homeless, she found a place to live. She studied for the GED and passed. She then began taking administrative classes at

the local high school as well as taking on a part-time job at an agency where she was given the opportunity to use the skills she was learning, although the job at the agency was temporary.

At the age of 30 Chris took driving lessons and eventually got her driver's license and a vehicle for the first time in her life. She then went to the Employment & Training agency in search of part-time, entry level work in the clerical field. She was offered an opportunity to enroll in an on-the-job training program and was placed at Southeastern Vermont Community Action. Chris has worked at SEVCA for nearly four years now as receptionist.

Three years ago, one of Chris's children was diagnosed as having an autistic disorder. She has since spent much of her time researching her daughter's disability and working tirelessly to put the needed supports in place for her daughter to be able to attend school. Chris is now in the process of trying to form a local support group for parents of special needs children.

Chris currently represents SEVCA and the southeastern part of Vermont on the Vermont Low Income Advocacy Council. She attended her first meeting in September and looks forward to attending as many as she can to use the opportunity to speak out about the struggles she has overcome and the struggles she has yet to face. She hopes to inspire other low-income people to speak out and create change.

In spite of the heavy load Chris continues to carry, she hopes that one day she will be able to go to college and obtain a degree in Human Services.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 21, 2003

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, due to an event in my district, I was unable to be present for rollcall votes 563–565 on Monday, October 20, 2003. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall votes 563, 564, and 565.

HONORING THE SERVICE AND LEADERSHIP OF THOMAS N. KUHN

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 21, 2003

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I wish to extend my respect and gratitude to Mr. Thomas N. Kuhn for 44 years of military and civilian service to his country.

Mr. Kuhn enlisted in the United States Army on July 22, 1959, and served on active duty for over 25 years, attaining the rank of Sergeant Major. While on active duty, he served overseas in Germany, Vietnam, Korea, and Italy, and in the United States at Fort Stewart, Georgia; Fort Monroe, Virginia; Fort Lee, Virginia; and Fort Sill, Oklahoma. Mr. Kuhn retired from active duty in October 1984.

Upon retiring, he was appointed Deputy Director of the Field Artillery Proponency Office

at Fort Sill, Oklahoma, where he previously had served as Sergeant Major. In January 1986, Mr. Kuhn then joined the Department of the Army Personnel Command Task Force in Alexandria, Virginia. Next, he became Branch Chief of the Combat Service Support Branch of the Army Occupational Survey Division in the Soldier Support Center—National Capitol Region.

Mr. Kuhn continued civilian support for his country nearly 20 years, holding numerous leadership positions such as: Deputy Chief of Staff for Operation, U.S. Total Army Personnel Command; Deputy Director, Casualty and Memorial Affairs Operations Center; Adjutant General Directorate, U.S. Total Army Personnel Command; and Acting Director.

Throughout his distinguished career, Mr. Kuhn has been recognized with both military and civilian honors. For his military service, he was awarded the Legion of Merit, the Bronze Star Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal with Four Oak Leaf Clusters, the Army Commendation Medal with Three Oak Leaf Clusters, the Army Achievement Medal, and the Good Conduct Medal with Eight Awards. For his civilian service, he was awarded the Superior Civilian Service Award and the Commanders Award.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I wish to honor Mr. Kuhn's exceptional dedication to his country. I ask that my colleagues join me in commending Mr. Kuhn on 44 years of military and civilian service to the United States.

EMERGENCY SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT FOR DEFENSE AND FOR THE RECONSTRUCTION OF IRAQ AND AFGHANISTAN, 2004

SPEECH OF

HON. NICK J. RAHALL, II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 17, 2003

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3289) making emergency supplemental appropriations for defense and for the reconstruction of Iraq and Afghanistan for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2004, and for other purposes:

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Chairman, when Mr. Bush told the American People he was against nation building, no one, including me, thought he was talking about America. Let me at the outset make clear my support for our valiant soldiers who are pursuing our enemies in Afghanistan, and who are securing the peace in Iraq. But the bill before us today, just as it ignites the Iraqi economy and keeps Iraqi kids out of more debt—it costs America's great great grandchildren more long term debt, while America herself crumbles.

Mr. Chairman, let us look at this bill's priorities and all of the unanswered questions it raises. There is plenty of money in here for Iraqi health care, but not one dime of the \$1.8 billion American Veterans need for their health care, which the majorities in this Congress seem hell bent on ignoring. Why is that? The White House won't fund the No Child Left Behind education initiative, but we're supposed to pay Iraqi teachers' salaries. Why is that? President Bush says he needs more than \$4 billion for water infrastructure when there are