

Neighborhood Kids. This two-part program is bringing the community together to help keep children safe—and to help recover them if they should ever be lost or taken.

Under the WINK Program, safe houses are being established across the city. These are homes and businesses, screened by the Weirton police, that volunteer to open their doors to children who are lost, hurt or threatened. The goal is to eventually have one on every block.

The approved safe houses are given a logo sign to post in their windows. They also are given information on helping children in danger. Children are told about the program in school, and parents are encouraged to show them where safe houses can be found in the neighborhood.

Mr. Speaker, this kind of vigilance and communication is a good way to protect our children. But sometimes, no matter how careful the precautions, young people are lost or missing. That is why the second part of this program is vitally important as well.

In addition to the safe houses, WINK has established a child identification program. It sponsors free registration events across the community. Parents bring in their children for digital photos, for fingerprints or footprints, and for a DNA mouth swab. All of these items—these key identification tools—are given to parents to take home, and keep close at hand.

Experts tell us that when a child is missing, an immediate response is the best response. It helps to increase the odds of a successful recovery. Thanks to the child I.D. program, parents have up-to-date information ready to give to police should the unthinkable happen.

Mr. Speaker, the safety of children is a concern that we all share. Today, I am pleased to salute a special group of people who truly take this concern to heart, and have channeled it into real community action. I ask the House to join me in recognizing the caring volunteers who are behind Weirton's watching its neighborhood kids.

A BILL TO MAKE CHANGES TO THE MAGNUSON-STEVENSON FISHERY CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT ACT AND TO MAKE ADJUSTMENTS TO THE BERING SEA CRAB RATIONALIZATION PROGRAM

HON. DON YOUNG

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 21, 2003

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing a bill to make a number of changes to the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. I believe there are three areas of the current Act that need to be changed. While the language I am proposing may not be the best way to address these concerns, I would like these proposed changes to spark a debate in the coming months.

In addition, I am including language to amend the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands crab rationalization program to address what I believe was an oversight in the plan. I believe this plan to rationalize the Bering Sea crab fishery is a living plan which will continue to be modified as changes are needed. I believe

that the safety issues of this fishery necessitate some action, and I don't believe that no action is an option. Congress asked the North Pacific Fishery Management Council to give the Congress a proposal and they did so. We have studied this fishery for too long without doing something to make it safer. Having said that, I also believe that the plan to rationalize this important fishery needs to be dynamic and we need to be able to make adjustments as we see how the plan works. Everyone involved in this debate has good intentions, but we need to be mindful that good intentions sometimes cause unintended consequences. We need to watch the implementation of the plan very carefully.

Finally, I am asking the Secretary of State to determine whether the retired U.S. staff of two international fisheries commissions who worked in Canada were unduly harmed by exchange rates and to what extent their retirement packages have suffered as a result of the exchange rate.

THE AFRICAN GROWTH AND OPPORTUNITY ACT

HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 21, 2003

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, partisan divisions are common in the Congress, but a few issues regularly escape those boundaries. International trade typically is one of them. Although the votes that gave President Bush Trade Promotion Authority confirm that even international trade can be an intensely polarizing issue, it frequently garners support across the political spectrum.

I first traveled to Africa in 1961 with Operation Crossroads to build a school in Ghana. Africa in the '60s underwent a vibrant surge of optimism as independence from colonial rule spread throughout the continent. My experience in Ghana changed my view of the world, and many Members of Congress have had experiences similar to mine. Many Members also believe, as I do, that when the United States opens its markets to poor countries, we extend an enormous opportunity to create jobs and raise living standards, and also provide greater value to American consumers. The African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA), signed into law by President Clinton in 2000, underscores the common goals that Republicans and Democrats can share.

By any measure, AGOA is a resounding success. It is spurring economic growth and bolstering economic reforms. It is fostering stronger ties between sub-Saharan Africa and the United States, and it is reaffirming Africans' conviction that they can compete in any market.

AGOA, which provides temporary benefits, requires periodic review by the Congress to assess its effectiveness. It was designed this way in part because policy makers, like myself, did not know the precise recipe to attract the type of investment in sub-Saharan Africa we were seeking. We made a few good guesses in this regard, but we probably missed the mark in other areas.

We guessed right when we decided that we should provide sub-Saharan Africa greater access to the U.S. textile and apparel market.

Over the last three years, tens of thousands of jobs were created in this industry, thanks to AGOA benefits. Expiring next year, however, is the provision in AGOA that allows Africa's poorest countries to buy fabric outside the region—where it is inexpensive and high in quality—to create finished apparel products for export to the U.S.

Today, I join several of my colleagues, like Representatives ED ROYCE, AMO HOUGHTON and CHARLES RANGEL, to introduce legislation to extend AGOA and spread its benefits to other sectors of sub-Saharan Africa's economy. The AGOA III Act, H.R. 3572, marks the beginning of another bi-partisan effort to develop a plan to improve U.S.-Africa trade.

When my colleagues and I set out to write this bill, we saw the need to address four key issues. First, the third-country fabric provision available to Africa's poorest countries through AGOA expires at the end of next year, at the very same time as worldwide quotas on apparel disappear due to the WTO's Multi Fiber agreement. Third-country fabric must be extended to allow sub-Saharan Africa to participate in a market dominated by the Asian giants. There will be robust debate about how long Congress should extend this provision. We suggest in the AGOA III Act that these benefits should last as long as four years.

Second, the United States needs to provide technical assistance to African farmers to enable them to export their products to America. To do this, the AGOA III Act places dozens of American agricultural experts throughout sub-Saharan Africa to work with farmers and their governments.

Third, the biggest barrier to investment in sub-Saharan Africa is the lack of infrastructure. But building roads, ports, energy grids, telecommunication and water systems solely to increase trade flows is simply not feasible. It is the "chicken or the egg" dilemma. We cannot increase trade flows without adequate infrastructure, yet why build infrastructure if trade capacity is not at a level that requires it? We must find ways to develop and maintain new infrastructure in sub-Saharan Africa as trade capacity improves. One way we can do this is by fostering sustainable ecotourism in sub-Saharan Africa. This industry is expected to grow 30 percent over the next decade. We can help sub-Saharan Africa position itself to take advantage of this because the region enjoys an international comparative advantage with its extensive protected areas that host a variety of ecosystems and cultures. National parks and reserves in sub-Saharan Africa can become a basis for regional development, involving the communities living within and adjacent to them. The infrastructure used to support an ecotourism industry can also be used to increase trade flow. There are several initiatives in the AGOA III Act that seek to help sub-Saharan Africa develop its infrastructure, in part by helping build a viable ecotourism industry.

Fourth, we must address AIDS, which is not just a health crisis. AIDS is an economic catastrophe. In the 1990s, AIDS reduced Africa's per capita annual growth by nearly 1 percent. In the most heavily affected countries, 2 percentage points will be sliced off per capita growth in coming years. This means that after two decades, many economies in sub-Saharan Africa will be about 20–40 percent smaller than they would have been without AIDS. That is an enormous decline that no trade policy

can overcome. In addition to fully funding international programs to combat the virus, we can provide tax incentives through AGOA to leverage private-sector contributions to the Global Fund to Fight HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria. The AGOA III Act would provide a tax deduction to U.S. firms operating in AGOA-eligible countries when they make a cash donation to the Global Fund.

As I speak with African entrepreneurs, civil society, and the African diplomatic corps, the enthusiasm about AGOA and sub-Saharan Africa's economic possibilities remind me of the excitement of 1960s. But unless all of us work together as we did before—Democrats, Republicans, civil society, and the governments of sub-Saharan Africa—to build a consensus about extending and enhancing AGOA, I fear that this enthusiasm will go the way of our '60s optimism, as genocide, apartheid, civil war, and famine swept over Africa. We have a rare opportunity to ensure that Africa continues to share our markets. We must not let this moment pass us by. I hope that when the Congress convenes next year, addressing U.S.-African trade will be at the top of Congress's agenda.

TRIBUTE TO ROBINSON HIGH
SCHOOL PRINCIPAL KEVIN
MCCARTHY

HON. JIM DAVIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 21, 2003

Mr. DAVIS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Robinson High School Principal Kevin McCarthy, who tragically passed away this week at the age of 39. Kevin's dedication to excellence and passion for serving his students, faculty and Robinson High School family will be sorely missed.

After earning two masters degrees and a doctorate, Kevin chose to become a science teacher in 1989. In 1997, he came to Tampa to serve as the science department head at Blake High School.

Kevin's ambition, enthusiasm and record of success served him well in the Hillsborough County School District. He progressed from department head to assistant principal for student affairs at Wharton High School and assistant principal for curriculum at King High School before he became principal at Robinson.

Along the way, he touched the lives of countless students, faculty and parents and left his mark on the schools in which he served. At Robinson, with his love of science, he helped create the MacDill Aeronautical Academy, which gives students the chance to engage in hands-on aerospace training and offers internship opportunities at MacDill Air Force Base.

When gunshots at Rembrant Garden apartments, adjacent to Robinson's campus, threatened the safety of students, Kevin spearheaded community meetings including local law enforcement and Tampa housing officials to address the problem. Just three months later, a plan was in place to tear down Rembrant apartments to make way for a new, safer complex.

The Robinson family, however, will most likely remember Kevin's leadership in helping

the campus come to grips with the death of Lance Cpl. Andrew Aviles, a Robinson High School graduate who was killed in Iraq.

Kevin McCarthy was what every school district in America needs—a rising star who sets high expectations for students and faculty and has the talent to help them to meet those goals. All of us who got to know him and work with him were and continue to be inspired by his integrity, energy and intense focus on his students. Kevin was one-of-a-kind and will undoubtedly influence countless others to follow his example in serving the community in many ways.

On behalf of the Tampa Bay community, I would like to extend my deepest sympathies to his family.

IN MEMORY OF PFC. JONATHAN
CHEATHAM

HON. MIKE ROSS

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 21, 2003

Mr. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Army Pfc. Jonathan Cheatham, of Camden, AR, who died on July 26, 2003, fighting for his country in Iraq. I am saddened by this tragedy. I wish to recognize his life and achievements.

Jonathan attended Camden Fairview High School where he played soccer and the trumpet in the band. Upon graduation in 2002, Jonathan immediately entered the military. Jonathan served in the 489th Engineer Battalion of U.S. Army Reserve.

Jonathan gave his life to serve our country and will forever be remembered as a hero, a terrific son, and a courageous brother. My deepest condolences go out to his mother, Barbara Porchia, his sister, Portia Cheatham, family, friends, and those in his hometown of Camden whose lives he touched. I am sure Jonathan was proud of his service to the U. S. Army and to our country. I know he will be missed by his fellow soldiers, and all those who knew him and counted him as a friend. Furthermore, his fellow soldiers also know how much he contributed to the accomplishment of his unit's mission and to the U.S. Army. I will continue to keep Jonathan and his family in my thoughts and prayers.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS
OF VIRGINIA DEMMLER

HON. SHELLEY BERKLEY

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 21, 2003

Ms. BERKLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the memory of an outstanding Nevadan who dedicated her life to the highest ideals of civic life. Virginia Demmler, served the causes of justice and equality throughout her more than 20 years as a resident of Nevada, providing boundless energy, tireless work and inspiring leadership for Washoe County's Democratic Party and other civic organizations.

At the recent memorial service that celebrated Virginia's life, former United States Senator Richard Bryan described her as "the essence of a citizen activist, totally selfless

and committed." Virginia was recognized at "the heart of the Democratic Party of Washoe County," by Mary Connelly, State Director for United States Senator HARRY REID.

Virginia Demmler's service as Chairman of the County Party as its Executive Director set the standard for principled, effective activism. Washoe County's Democrats have appropriately marked their respect for Virginia's legacy by naming their annual Honor Roll Dinner the Virginia Demmler Honor Roll Dinner, where hundreds of her fellow citizens will attend in tribute to her.

As a young woman I became involved in politics and public service in Las Vegas, hundreds of miles from Reno. But Virginia reached out to me to provide guidance and vision that helped chart my course to achieve elected office and to serve all Nevadans with the passion and principle epitomized. I hope my service measures up to her example.

Virginia never shied away from helping a good cause. From Common Cause, to Planned Parenthood, to the American Civil Liberties Union, she served with distinction and was always there for people in need, to right a wrong, and to help build a better state.

Nevada is a better place, and her citizens enriched, because of the life of Virginia Demmler.

VETERAN TRIBUTE FOR STAFF
SERGEANT JOSEPH PENA

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 21, 2003

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the contributions and sacrifices of Staff Sergeant Joseph Pena.

Staff Sergeant Pena served our country during the Korean War in the United States Air Force. He received the Korean Service Medal and the National Defense Service Medal. Staff Sergeant Pena is also a recipient of the Republic of Korea War Service Medal and the United Nations Service Medal.

At a time when we are once again at war, it is necessary to recognize the achievements of these national heroes. Due to their dedication, service, and sacrifice, they deserve our unwavering admiration and our unending gratitude.

Our country often takes for granted the freedoms and liberties our service men and women risk their lives to protect; yet by continuing to honor our veterans we preserve our nation's future by commemorating their past.

Thank you, Staff Sergeant Pena, for your service and sacrifice. You are a true hero.

TRIBUTE TO ZOELSMANN'S
BAKERY

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 21, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to rise and pay tribute to a remarkable business in my district. Zoelsmann's Bakery has been serving the community of Pueblo, Colorado for