

LIBERTY HIGH SCHOOL IN  
ELDERSBURG, MD, RECOGNIZED  
AS A GRAMMY SIGNATURE  
SCHOOL FOR ITS OUTSTANDING  
MUSIC EDUCATION

**HON. ROSCOE G. BARTLETT**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 8, 2003*

Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, Liberty High School in Eldersburg, Maryland and its Instrumental Music Director Joseph Fischer has been recognized as one of only 50 Grammy Signature Schools nationwide in 2003 for its outstanding music education. Along with the recognition, the Grammy Foundation awarded Liberty High School with \$1,000 toward its music education program.

The Grammy Foundation, a nonprofit arm of the Recording Academy, coordinates the Grammy Signature Schools recognition program for outstanding music education by public schools. Most of us are probably familiar with the Grammys awarded by the Recording Academy to outstanding recording artists. The Grammy Foundation is dedicated to engaging students of all ages through music and arts-based education programs. For more information about the Foundation and its programs, you can visit its website [www.grammy.com](http://www.grammy.com). A list of all the winners is at [www.grammy.com/foundation/signature\\_schools.html](http://www.grammy.com/foundation/signature_schools.html).

Liberty High School was one of 20,000 public high schools invited to submit detailed applications for the Grammy Signature Schools award.

Finalists for the Grammy Signature School award were determined on the basis of a scoring system applied and critiqued by a panel of top music educators and professionals. Finalists then had to submit additional documentation such as recordings of school concerts, sample concert programs and repertoire that were further reviewed by an independent screening committee.

As my colleagues are well aware, I was a scientist before I was elected to the Congress. However, I was also a teacher. I taught on the college level for more than 20 years. I support and applaud music education because it teaches participants the important life skills of discipline and team work. Liberty High School would not even have been considered as a Grammy Signature School without the leadership provided by its Instrumental Musical Director Joseph Fischer. It is the work of an excellent individual teacher, such as Mr. Fischer, that opens the door and inspires students to achieve success not just in their particular field of study, but in all future endeavors. I know that I am just echoing the gratitude of his students, their parents, faculty and administrators at Liberty High School when I salute Joseph Fischer.

ASSAULT WEAPONS BAN AND LAW  
ENFORCEMENT PROTECTION ACT  
OF 2003

**HON. CAROLYN MCCARTHY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 8, 2003*

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the "Assault Weapons

Ban and Law Enforcement Protection Act of 2003." This legislation will renew and strengthen the current assault weapons ban set to expire this Congress. I am joined by 68 of my colleagues in support of this legislation and overall goal of keeping illegal firearms out of the hands of criminals.

In September 2004, the assault weapons ban, which is supported by virtually every Federal, State and local law enforcement agency, is set to expire. Since its introduction in 1994, the ban has increased public safety and prevented dangerous weapons from falling into the hands of violent criminals, including gang members and terrorists. Unfortunately, even with its many successes, would-be criminals have demonstrated the ban's limitations.

A gun manufacturer's ability to slightly modify an assault weapon, and the sale of "parts kits" which permit criminals to assemble unlawful assault weapons, is a massive loophole in the current law, allowing these weapons to flood the market and jeopardize the lives of law enforcement officers.

Additional steps must be taken to address these types of problems. This legislation begins by improving upon the current definition of a semi-automatic assault weapon to include any semi-automatic weapon that accepts a detachable ammunition magazine and possesses, a single, narrowly defined, assault weapon characteristic. Furthermore, it contains a provision that makes it more difficult for individuals to purchase or sell parts that make it possible to convert a lawful semi-automatic weapon into an unlawful assault weapon.

During the 2000 election cycle, then-Governor Bush made a campaign promise to support the extension of the ban, as did Attorney General Ashcroft during his 2001 Senate confirmation hearing. I am glad to hear of their support and look forward to working with them in the upcoming months. I can think of no legitimate reason for civilians to have access to military-style weapons that are useless for recreational activities and only serve the purpose of furthering unwanted criminal activity.

IMPROVING EDUCATION RESULTS  
FOR CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES  
ACT OF 2003

SPEECH OF

**HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 30, 2003*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1350) to reauthorize the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, and for other purposes:

Mrs. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of H.R. 1350, to reauthorize the Individuals With Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). Although I have outstanding concerns about this bill that I will continue to work with my colleagues to resolve, this bill responds to the needs of special education teachers and the children they serve. It also authorizes much-needed funding levels for our States and local school districts.

H.R. 1350 will help schools identify special needs students at an earlier age and avoid misidentification of children. When a child is identified as having a disability at an early

age, their parents and teachers are better able to address their needs and integrate them as much as possible into the regular educational curriculum. I have worked hard to secure funding for newborn hearing screening programs, which save schools millions of dollars in special education costs by ensuring early detection and intervention of infants with hearing loss. Further efforts to increase early identification, as H.R. 1350 will accomplish, will surely save our schools millions more in special education costs.

H.R. 1350 puts us on the right track to provide funding that has been promised to our States and local school districts for 28 years. Many of us would have preferred that this bill provide mandatory IDEA funding increases, but by authorizing a plan to reach full funding of 40 percent of the excess cost of educating students with disabilities within seven years, H.R. 1350 is a step in the right direction. This bill will provide funding that our schools desperately need now.

This reauthorization will also help us learn how to reduce excessive paperwork for teachers. H.R. 1350 requires the General Accounting Office to conduct a study on Federal requirements under the Individuals With Disabilities Education Act that result in excessive paperwork burdens for teachers. This study will help policymakers better understand how we can improve conditions for teachers.

I will continue to work with all community leaders to improve the discipline and procedural safeguards provisions in this bill. During my time in the Minnesota House of Representatives, our State crafted a careful balance between the rights of children with disabilities and non-disabled students. This allows schools to maintain a safe learning environment for all children and at the same time, resolve discipline issues. I hope to offer Minnesota as a model to create Federal policies that best meet the needs of students and schools.

The bill before us today, while not perfect, will make notable improvements to the Individuals With Disabilities Education Act. In the coming weeks, I will work very hard with the disability community and my colleagues in the Senate to pass a final version of this reauthorization that allows for the best educational opportunity for all children.

GEORGIA CELEBRATES CHIEF  
WARRANT OFFICER RON YOUNG,  
JR.

**HON. PHIL GINGREY**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 8, 2003*

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Speaker, the capture of Chief Warrant Officer Ron Young, Jr. by Iraqi forces terrified not only his family back in Lithia Springs, Ga., but also all the Americans watching the news clips of the POWs.

When our Nation goes to war, our soldiers answer the call to sacrifice with honor. In the War on Iraq, they proved once more that they're the greatest fighting force the world has ever known.

Yet, even with the best trained soldiers, even with the best equipment, real dangers confront our fighting men and women.

Such was the case on March 24, when the helicopter of Chief Warrant Officer Young and

Chief Warrant Officer David Williams went down and they were captured by Iraqis.

For several days, the families of the captives and the American public watched the excruciating television footage of our brave soldiers being interviewed by their captors.

We could tell by the looks on their faces that they were unsure of their fates. In fact, as Ron Young recently said, death seemed to be an inevitability.

But their families held out hope. Without new information, hope was all they had.

Weeks passed with no news and hope turned to despair.

And on Palm Sunday, our despair turned to jubilation, as advancing U.S. forces liberated the POWs.

Many of us woke up that day to see the Young family celebrating Ron's freedom.

The Young family talked of their lasting faith, of their hope. They talked of their love for Ron and their excitement over his imminent return. Mrs. Young, a day from her birthday, had her wish come true: She would, indeed, be reunited with her son.

Their joy was our joy. When American soldiers face danger in the name of freedom, their compatriots rally behind them. We mourn their setbacks; we hail their victories.

We celebrate the safe return of Ron Young Jr., an American patriot and hero, to his family in Georgia.

On May 9, the people of Douglas County, Ga., will gather by the thousands to welcome home Chief Warrant Officer Young.

And we also want to say thank you to Ron Young and the thousands of other soldiers who put their lives on the line to defend their country and its people.

May God bless this country and its military.

IN RECOGNITION OF HEADMASTER  
WILLIAM MECKLENBURG POLK  
OF GROTON SCHOOL

**HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 8, 2003*

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise today to honor William Mecklenburg Polk, Headmaster of the Groton School in Groton, Massachusetts for twenty five years of dedicated service as Headmaster.

Like his illustrious predecessors John Crocker and Endicott Peabody, Bill Polk has left a remarkable legacy at the school and has touched the lives of thousands of young men and women who attended Groton over that span of time.

In his own words, "everyone who has attended Groton or entrusted their children to its care knows that Groton is a small, singular school. Today, in a society that seems increasingly to prize celebrity over character and self over service, Groton puts character, intellectual rigor, values, and service first."

Mr. Speaker, from his days as a Groton student, Bill Polk has epitomized Groton School values in all his academic, athletic, religious and pedagogic pursuits.

Appointed Headmaster in 1978, Bill Polk has made it his business, in his own words, to see that "Groton creates opportunities to cultivate individually students' minds and char-

acters (and) as a church school, it inevitably challenges students to discover their own moral and spiritual values. Groton's insistence on the highest academic standards would matter little if its graduates, to borrow Walker Percy's line, 'earned straight A's in school but flunked life.'"

Mr. Speaker, and colleagues, please join me in saluting Headmaster Polk's stewardship and that of LuAnn Polk, his better half, for all of their years of service and love of the young, education and life.

SUICIDE PREVENTION WEEK

**HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 8, 2003*

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, nearly all of our lives have been touched by suicide at some point, be it a family member, neighbor or friend. It represents the darkest moment in a life, and inevitably touches many other lives with sadness and curiosity.

Suicide is a mental health issue that crosses racial boundaries and deeply affects every community in the United States. The Hispanic community is no exception. As in most communities, Hispanics find suicide a difficult topic to broach. The stigma still attached to mental health issues makes asking for help difficult; but the most overwhelming problem for most Hispanics is access to care that will benefit them.

In 2000, 18% of Hispanic females aged 12–17 were considered at risk for suicide, compared to 16% of white females and 8% of Hispanic males. Only 32 percent of Hispanic female youths at risk for suicide receive mental health treatment, according to the 2000 National Household Survey on Drug Abuse.

In 1997, the Attorney General reported a national survey of high school students showed that Hispanic adolescents reported more suicide attempts proportionally than both whites and blacks.

Among Hispanic Americans with a mental disorder, fewer than 1 in 11 contact mental health specialists, while fewer than 1 in 5 contact general health care providers. The figure is even worse among Hispanic immigrants with mental disorders where fewer than 1 in 20 use services from mental health specialists, while fewer than 1 in 10 use services from general health care providers.

Many times access to mental health services can be difficult for individuals in Hispanic communities, due to language barriers, which keep them from accessing the critical assistance they need to cope with their illness.

Mr. Speaker, suicide is a serious problem among Hispanics, and other Americans. I want to thank Congresswoman Napolitano and Congressman Murphy for organizing the Mental Health Caucus to bring members together to shine light on the dark topic of suicide. I also thank the gentlewoman from Brownsville, Texas for organizing this special order to draw attention to this important subject.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF JUDGE JAMES BUCHELE

**HON. DENNIS MOORE**

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 8, 2003*

Mr. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the contributions made by James Buchele of Topeka, Kansas, to his city, county, state and nation, over a lengthy and distinguished public career that spans the thirty-five years I have known him.

Jim Buchele stepped down from the Kansas District Court bench in Shawnee County after eighteen years of service in 1999. Prior to his appointment, he served as United States Attorney for Kansas. His legal career began in 1966 with private practice in Topeka, after graduation from Washburn University School of Law and Kansas State University. He also served as City Attorney for Topeka and as chief of staff for Representative Martha Keys of Kansas' Second Congressional District. He served four terms as a state representative in the Kansas Legislature.

As an attorney and as a judge, Jim Buchele was involved in a wide range of state and federal litigation. After stepping down from the bench, Jim continued to serve as a professional mediator and arbitrator, as well as taking special assignments from the Kansas Supreme Court and serving as a member of the Kansas Children's Cabinet, which made recommendations regarding the management of the funds Kansas receives from the tobacco litigation settlement in order to finance programs and services for children.

Mr. Speaker, Roscoe Pound once said that "Law is experience developed by reason and applied continually to further experience." This sentence sums up Jim's lifetime of service in the law. During his time on the bench, for example, he specialized in handling domestic relations cases, including issues such as divorce, property division, child custody and other related matters. Shortly before he stepped down from the bench, the Topeka Capital-Journal published an article reviewing the special interest and attention that Judge Buchele brought to the family law docket in Shawnee County. I include the article in the RECORD and commend it to you and to my colleagues as evidence of a career in the law that brought tremendous benefits to Jim Buchele's community over a lengthy and successful career. As Owen Fiss wrote in the Harvard Law Review, "The function of the judge—a statement of social purpose and a definition of role—is not to resolve disputes, but to give the proper meaning to our public values."

Please join me in saluting Jim Buchele as he moves into full time retirement, where I'm sure he will continue to serve his community and nation at every possible opportunity.

JUDGE FOUND REWARDS IN FAMILY LAW

(By Steve Fry)

Shawnee County District Judge James Buchele measures his impact as a family law judge, in part, by a handful of cards and letters he has received from people who passed through his courtroom during divorces and subsequent disputes.

"Thanks a bunch. I really appreciate all that you have done," wrote a little girl, who