

Members of Congress and their staff enhance the program by discussing current constitutional issues with students and teachers and by participating in other educational activities.

It is inspiring to see these young people advocate the fundamental ideals of our government. It is important for our next generation to understand these values and principles which we hold as standards in our endeavor to preserve and realize the promise of our constitutional democracy.

In addition, I would like to recognize the commitment and support received from all of Incline Village, community organizations and parents. Individually, Bob Heilig, a community volunteer, has helped out a great deal with the students in the program. Judy Simpson, the State Coordinator of the program, and Daniel Wong, the district Coordinator of the Program have also contributed countless hours into making these students better citizens.

It is also important that we recognize the participants of this program individually. I would like to commend David Allison, Rochelle Comeaux, Ashley Hanna, Kristi Cole, David Gregory, Jonathan Shoop, Meghan Flanders, Daniel Herr, Danny St. John, Betsy McCann, Lee Rogers, Britt Van Hees, Elliot Becker, Ali Deroche, Jamie Ellsworth, Brooke Downey, Erin Myrmeel, and Meredith Tiras for their hard work and tireless dedication.

The class from Incline High School diligently conducted research and prepared for their participation in the national competition. I again commend these young "constitutional experts" on their work for and commitment to the We the People . . . national finals. They represent the future leaders of our Nation.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS OWNERSHIP DIVERSIFICATION ACT OF 2003

HON. BOBBY L. RUSH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 9, 2003

Mr. RUSH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Telecommunications Ownership Diversification Act of 2003. This bill would level the playing field so that economically disadvantaged businesses owners could enter the communications field. As you know, since the passage of the 1996 Telecommunications Act there has been an unprecedented growth in the Telecom sector, which has often been referred to as the telecommunications revolution. However, conspicuously absent from this revolution has been minority and economically disadvantaged business owners. They have in essence been left on the fringes of this telecommunications revolution. There are many factors attributed to this lack of participation but chief among them is the lack of capital. Because entry into the telecommunications field is extremely capital intensive, many deserving, well qualified small business owners have been denied entry into this vital sector because they lack access to the needed capital to compete with large companies.

My bill would remedy this problem by making minor changes to the existing tax code, so that individuals who are currently under-represented in the ownership of telecommunications would be able to compete on an equal footing with large companies. It would provide

owners of telecommunications assets a tax deferral when those assets are bought for cash by certain small businesses. And it would provide investors an incentive to consider certain small businesses by providing a reduction in tax on gains from investing in these companies.

Former Chairman Kennard once eloquently stated that "ACCESS" is the civil rights of the 21st century. I believe the Telecommunications Ownership Diversification Act embodies the essence of this statement by making economically disadvantaged small business owners not only consumers of technology but also producers of technology. I hope that all my colleagues will join me in supporting this important initiative.

TRIBUTE TO MR. ROCCO BALDELLI

HON. PATRICK J. KENNEDY

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 9, 2003

Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize native Rhode Islander, Mr. Rocco Baldelli, of the Tampa Bay Devil Rays, and his accomplishments during this past month of April. As a rookie this season, Rocco has demonstrated his baseball savvy and athleticism while drawing on experience from his outstanding high school career at the Bishop Hendricken High School. We hope that this achievement serves as an inspiration to Rhode Islanders of all ages.

The Devil Rays's 6th pick in the first round of the Major League Baseball draft, this centerfielder recently, on April 30th, hit his first home run in the major leagues against the Minnesota Twins. This day also marked a special occasion, as Rocco's fortieth home run set a record for the most runs hit by a rookie in the month of April. He now has a fantastic batting average of .364 with 40 hits, and 20 runs batted in. As the House Resolution from the Rhode Island General Assembly I've included notes, Rocco reminds spectators of a young Mickey Mantle, Joe DiMaggio, or Willie Mays.

I congratulate Rocco on his spectacular achievements so far this season, and look forward to following his continued success.

[H. 6396: State of Rhode Island, in General Assembly, January Session, A.D. 2003]

HOUSE RESOLUTION CONGRATULATING NATIVE RHODE ISLANDER ROCCO BALDELLI FOR SETTING THE MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL RECORD FOR MOST HITS BY A ROOKIE IN THE MONTH OF APRIL

Introduced By: Representatives T Brien, Reilly, Menard, Laroche, and Murphy.

Date Introduced: May 1, 2003.

Referred To: House read and passed.

Whereas, Rocco Baldelli was a standout baseball player for Bishop Hendricken High and was the 6th player chosen in the first round of the Major League Baseball draft by Tampa Bay Devil Rays; and

Whereas, Rocco plays centerfield and his athleticism and baseball savvy reminds folks of a young Mickey Mantle, Joe DiMaggio or Willie Mays; and

Whereas, On April 30, 2003 Rocco not only hit his first Major League home run against the Minnesota Twins, but his home run also set the Major League Baseball record for most hits by a rookie in the month of April, with 40; and

Whereas Rocco broke the record of 39 previously held by Seattle's Ichiro Suzuki; and

Whereas Rocco, thus far in the season, has a spectacular batting average of .364, with 40 hits and 20 runs batted in; now, therefore be it

Resolved, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations hereby congratulates Rocco Baldelli for setting this new Major League Baseball record and wishes him a spectacular baseball career and future induction into the Major 16 League Baseball Hall of Fame.

INTRODUCTION OF THE NURSE EDUCATION PROMOTION ACT

HON. MICHAEL E. CAPUANO

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 9, 2003

Mr. CAPUANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize National Nurses Week and honor the essential work that America's nurses do every day. It is important to raise public awareness of the value of nursing and to help educate the public about the vital roles nurses play in meeting the health care needs of the American people. Nurses constitute the nation's largest group of health care professionals. They serve in hospitals, nursing homes, schools, managed care facilities and community health centers, and their work is invaluable.

Unfortunately, fewer and fewer people are choosing nursing as a career. In recognition of National Nurses Week, I am pleased to join my friend and colleague Congressman ERNIE FLETCHER in introducing important legislation that helps address the nursing shortage by encouraging students to enter the profession. According to the General Accounting Office, between 1993 and 1996 enrollments at two-year associate nursing degree programs dropped 11 percent, while enrollments at three-year diploma programs dropped more than 40 percent. Between 1995 and 1998, enrollments at four-year bachelors programs dropped 19 percent. Even so, the demand for qualified nurses is increasing, and it will only grow as the baby boomers retire. The Bureau of Labor Statistics projects that more than one million new nurses will be needed by the year 2010.

This crisis threatens to compromise the quality of healthcare in this country. The Department of Health and Human Services reports that there is a "strong and consistent relationship" between nurse staffing and patient health. The GAO reports that between 2000 and 2030, the group of Americans who are 65 years of age and older will double. At the same time, the number of women between 25 and 54—the group that traditionally comprises most of the nursing workforce—is expected to remain the same. Mr. Speaker, today, more than ever before, we need nurses to care for our seniors. Unless we create incentives and opportunities for men and women to choose nursing as a career, this country will face a crisis in the next ten years.

To help address this problem, Congressman ERNIE FLETCHER and I are introducing the bipartisan Nurse Education Promotion Act. Our bill addresses the nursing shortage in a number of important ways. First, it establishes a competitive grant program for associate degree nursing schools to be used for nursing

student recruitment, student scholarships, and the hiring of faculty.

Second, the bill establishes a competitive grant program for professional nurses associations, so that they may create and administer continuing education programs in cooperation with area hospitals and higher education institutions.

The nurses associations would coordinate class work at a central location for which nurses could receive college credit towards a BSN or equivalent degree and/or training in an understaffed and critical nursing specialty. The clinical portion of the continuing education could be done at any of the participating hospitals.

While we support other legislation to alleviate the nursing shortage, we believe that by focusing on the two-year schools our bill gets nurses into the field more quickly. By providing money for continuing education, we hope to ensure that nurses are able to meet the changing and increasingly complex demands of our healthcare system. As we celebrate National Nurses Week, we hope our colleagues will join us in our efforts to alleviate the nursing shortage and head off a major healthcare crisis that is just on the horizon.

IN HONOR OF THE HISPANIC ORGANIZATION OF STUDENTS IN TECHNOLOGY/SOCIETY OF HISPANIC PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS AT NEW JERSEY INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 9, 2003

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Hispanic Organization of Students in Technology (HOST), the student chapter of the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers (SHPE) at the New Jersey Institute of Technology (NJIT). They were honored for their outstanding achievements at the HOST/SHPE Gala Banquet on April 30, 2003.

The Hispanic Organization of Students in Technology/Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers represents a group of extremely talented and dedicated students, who, at a young age, have already shown amazing promise and success. Under the leadership of Student President Danial Calles, HOST/SHPE attained the second highest membership of a Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers student chapter nationwide and was responsible for the third-highest attendance to the 2002 Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers Eastern Technical Career Conference.

Moises Cordero, Daniel Nunez, and Randy Weston, three students who form the Web Site Competition Team, made new strides for New Jersey Institute of Technology and for aspiring students when they won first place for the first ever Web Site Competition at the 2002 Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers Eastern Technical Career Conference. Their success illustrates not only the strength of NJIT, but the drive and potential of these promising students.

Under the guidance of Carlomango Ontaneda, the SHPE chapter advisor at NJIT has helped to empower many promising students achieve their goals at NJIT and beyond.

As Assistant Director for Recruitment at New Jersey Institute of Technology's Educational Opportunity Program, Mr. Ontaneda continues to demonstrate his commitment to increasing educational opportunities and helping students attain their dreams. He was recently the recipient of the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers Eastern Technical Career Conference Higher Education Award.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the achievements of Mr. Ontaneda and the talented students of the Hispanic Organization of Students in Technology/Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers at New Jersey Institute of Technology. I applaud their dedication and their success, and wish them the best as they head towards an already bright future.

THE CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION
OF ALL SAINTS EPISCOPAL
CHURCH IN TOLEDO, OHIO

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 9, 2003

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, Saturday, May 31, 2003 begins the centennial celebration of All Saints Episcopal Church in Toledo, Ohio. I am pleased to commemorate this momentous and joyous occasion by sharing it with my colleagues and for inclusion in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

On June 3, 1903, five people under the leadership of Reverend William A. Grier founded the church as an Episcopal Mission Church. It was the only Negro Mission in the Toledo Episcopal Region. The church became a parish of its own in 1952. Since then, it has grown and remained a neighborhood anchor. It even experienced a rebirth in the last decade, with a new sanctuary and office in 1998, and a new parish hall in 2002.

In addition to its celebrational dinner, the church has invited the members of neighboring churches to spend an evening with them in prayer, song, and scripture. On Tuesday, June 3, All Saints will observe its 100th birthday with a Holy Eucharist Service.

As it has since its founding 100 years ago, All Saints Episcopal Church continues to follow the words of Matthew 5:16, "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in Heaven." It remains a beacon of hope and a sanctuary of praise while its congregants forge ahead on a path begun a century ago and built upon through successive generations. We congratulate All Saints on reaching this milestone, and look forward to its life and work in a new century.

IN RECOGNITION OF MR. WILLIAM
MECKLENBURG POLK

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 9, 2003

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me honoring Mr. William Mecklenburg Polk, who has made outstanding contributions to American society. William Polk

has truly distinguished himself throughout an extraordinary career in which he has served as a leader in the field of secondary education or almost four decades. During this time he has been an educator, coach, and mentor to thousands of students and colleagues.

For the last quarter century, William Polk has served with distinction as the headmaster of the Groton School in Groton, Massachusetts, one of the most rigorous and respected secondary schools anywhere in the world. This spring, he will preside over his final graduation ceremony before he and his wife, LuAnn, start their new life in Cambridge, Massachusetts, in what will no doubt be a very active retirement.

William Polk led the Groton School—his alma mater as well as that of President Franklin Delano Roosevelt, Governor and Ambassador Averell Harriman, countless leaders in every walk of American life, and several distinguished members of this body—with extraordinary wisdom and compassion throughout his tenure as Headmaster. His leadership helped assure that Groton's transition to a co-educational environment was successfully completed; helped usher the School through the onset of the digital age; and oversaw its entry into a new century. Fully half of the thousands of living Groton alumni know William Polk as their headmaster.

A Phi Beta Kappa graduate of Trinity College, William Polk is an accomplished theologian who earned a Master of Divinity degree at Union Theological Seminary after receiving a Rockefeller Fellowship. He has excelled in all the many roles in which he has served throughout his career—as a headmaster, teacher, theologian, coach, student, husband, father, athlete and role model for thousands of young men and women. William Polk truly embodies the Groton Scholl motto: "To Serve Is to Reign."

Mr. Speaker, I know that my colleagues will join me and two distinguished alumni of the Groton School, the Honorable BOBBY SCOTT and the Honorable JIM COOPER, in recognizing the extraordinary achievements and contributions to American life made by Mr. William Mecklenburg Polk.

He is indeed an American of whom all of our colleagues and all Americans should be very proud.

IN MEMORY OF CONGRESSMAN
JOHN G. DOW

HON. MAURICE D. HINCHEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 9, 2003

Mr. HINCHEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to memorialize a distinguished former Member of this chamber, Congressman John G. Dow, who represented the lower Hudson Valley region of New York in the 89th, 90th and 92nd Congresses. Congressman Dow passed away on March 11, just two months shy of his ninety-eighth birthday.

I had the privilege to know Congressman Dow during my early career in politics. Others considered him a maverick, but I admired his courage, his honesty and his integrity. From his first days as a member of this chamber, he distinguished himself by taking principled stands on the issues, even though his stances endangered his political future.