

of progress since then and today. But the real point is, as I visit Lincoln, the real point is that this is our government, your government. If we are not happy with pieces of it, clearly we have a responsibility to try to impact it, to push it, to shove it down a pathway that makes a lot more sense from our perspective.

□ 1645

Mr. Speaker, I went to India that summer thinking that maybe I might actually go into politics some time. I thought then I would probably run for office as a Democrat. I came back from India convinced, as I went through the summer trying to figure out the differences between the two great parties, that for me, Jerry Lewis, I probably absolutely would run for public office one day, but if I did so, I had made the decision that the place where I could have the biggest impact was on the Republican side of the aisle instead.

I draw the painting regarding the Potomac for one reason, and the quest for the difference between one or the other, I would love to hear from some of you in the months and years ahead, hear from you about what you decide to do in terms of your pathway in life, and what you decided to do if you involved yourself in partisan politics. Because it is people like you who make the two great parties great. But, more importantly, you can continue to make sure that our country is by far the best and the most important force for freedom in the world.

Thank you for what you have done, and it is a pleasure to have been with you.

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank, obviously, the chairman for sharing some time with us. I have a few last things to mention that are more serious, and then we will have a few lighthearted comments.

I would challenge you to find out what motivates yourself. What you have learned as a page going through this program is what is going to serve you well. You have learned a good work ethic and how to work hard. That is going to be important throughout the rest of your life. You have learned the importance of a good education. That will tide you over as you continue to pursue that.

You have learned how to respect one another. I think what our world needs more of is people learning how to respect one another, and I think the program does a great job in doing that.

Also, do not give up. Whatever happens, do not give up. At West Point, my alma mater, we say much of the history we teach was made by the individuals we taught; and I think that is true, what can be said of the page program and the page school, because much of the history that we know now today has been made by former pages.

You have in essence now a great tradition to follow, and I want to encourage you to make us proud. And you already have made us proud. You all in

this group have completed more than 1,400 hours of community service. We need to tell that story. You know it, but this helps us get the message out. That breaks down to an average of 21 hours per page.

Some examples of the things that you have done are Horton's Kids Tutoring Program. That was covered in one of the local papers. The Multiple Sclerosis Walk, Calvary Women's Shelter, Martha's Table, Ronald McDonald House and work at the Congressional Cemetery.

As a class, you have also proven to have the most terrible luck with weather. From the misty Sunday morning you moved in until the misty night of your prom, you have slogged through countless seminars and residence hall trips in the rain. In fact, the sun just came up today after many, many days of overcast skies. You did not even get a reprieve on the day that you were led through the Shenandoahs in the rain. You braved the elements recently on a trip to Six Flags and when you rode the roller coasters despite the rain.

You have proven that rain cannot dampen your enthusiasm and good humor, and it looks like you may be in luck: No rain forecasted for tomorrow's departure ceremony, but, given your track record, I would not count on it. I am going to echo Mrs. Miranda's advice, bring rain gear.

Also, we have discovered that the future President of the United States, Bryce Chitwood, who was in charge of the page auction which raised a record-breaking amount of money for the page prom, \$9,000, it looks like his fund-raising skills are well organized for future goals and aspirations.

Our future Major League baseball player, Ben Hanna, who, it has been said, has great baseball player's hair. I have no idea what that means. All I know is what I am reading here.

One future NASCAR driver, Katie Murray, just has to learn to keep all four wheels on the track.

We have one future tycoon, John Malcovitch, who was born to wear a tuxedo and will be in the same league as Bill Gates, who was also a page. And I have also been told that at least three of our pages are going directly to college, skipping their senior year, and congratulations, I think. They are Sam Rykaczewski, Lauren Conn, and Michael Tanner. This is just one example of all the great successes.

But also as exciting is Democratic pages last week participated in the annual "How many pages can you fit into a cloakroom phone booth?" That is not a tradition on the other side, and I hesitate to mention it because it might become one. The answer is 11, and congratulations. I do not know if that is a record or not. I will have to talk to your folks and see where the record might be. I cannot imagine getting 11 in one of those phone booths.

You also have discovered the nook between the page desk and the storage

cabinet. You all call it the reading corner. Mrs. Ivester calls it the sleeping corner, and Democratic pages rush to work each day in hopes that they will find the secret candy drawer filled. When the drawer is empty, they can always count on the Democratic cloakroom managers feeding them bags of Georgia peanuts throughout the day. Democratic pages often say they work for peanuts.

I know that Helen and Pat back in the Republican cloakroom want to make sure that we have a special thanks for Matt Buckham for all his work carrying groceries for them.

We have talked through the aspect of this point in time in history and you all being involved in that. I think Members have been able to relay our thanks to you for your commitment to the institution. As chairman of the page board, I can speak for my colleague from Michigan and the gentlewoman from New Mexico (Mrs. WILSON) to say we thank you for upholding the honor and the integrity of the program. It makes it a lot easier for us.

Not only that, but the good work that you have done in volunteering. I think you have set a new standard for future page classes. We are definitely going to miss you, but life goes on. You have great challenges ahead. Always remember this important time in your life will not only be in your memory, but it will be in ours. We look forward to seeing you when you come back to visit.

God bless you all, and may God bless the United States of America.

DEPARTING PAGES, 2002-2003

Yvonne Aguilar, Claire Anderson, Candice Armstrong, Harry Bond, Trisha Belle, Robert Brown, Matthew Buckham, Donald Burke, Samuel Burke, Simona Burke, Thomas Carroll, Chris Cantrell, Stephanie Chesnov, Bryce Chitwood, Daniel Clayson, Kevin Clout, Lauren Conn, Christopher Denton, Ben Fendler, Susan Forrester, Doug Gill, David Gorgani, Laura Greenwood, Emily Hagan, Benjamin Hannan, Margaret Hartley, Jane Heaton, Alicia Hines, Margaret Hobbs, Chris Kataros, James Kotecki, Jeffrey Lakin, Erica Lally, Julie Leonard, Rong Li, Alejandra Lopez, John Malcovich, Tania Martinez, Emily McCarthy, Emily MacMillan-Ladd, Jennifer McDervitt, Laura Meixel, Greta Meyers, Michael Mullee, Kiera Murphy, Kaitlin Murray, Kristine Nagle, Amber Nixon, Lauren Noyes, Garrett Payne, Lisandro Rivera, Alex Rochester, Rene Rosales, Sam Rykaczewski, Matthew Schmitz, Allie Smoot, Neva St. Morris, Sarah Stafford, Elizabeth Sterling, Annabell Talamoa, Michael Tanner, Michael Tedori, Emily Toner, Emily White, Rebecca Williams, Leandra Wilson.

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO THE MEXICO-UNITED STATES INTERPARLIAMENTARY GROUP

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PORTER). Pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 276h and the order of the House on January 8, 2003, the Chair announces the Speaker's appointment of the following Members of the House to the Mexico-United States Interparliamentary Group, in

addition to Mr. KOLBE of Arizona, Chairman, appointed on March 13, 2003:

Mr. BALLENGER of North Carolina, Vice Chairman,
Mr. DREIER of California,
Mr. BARTON of Texas,
Mr. MANZULLO of Illinois,
Ms. HARRIS of Florida,
Mr. STENHOLM of Texas,
Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA of American Samoa,
Mr. PASTOR of Arizona,
Mr. FILNER of California, and
Mr. REYES of Texas.

CELEBRATING NATIONAL TRAILS DAY

(Mr. BEREUTER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, this Saturday, June 7, marks the 11th National Trails Day. This important event, held the first Saturday of every June, is coordinated nationally by the American Hiking Society and locally by trail clubs, parks, agencies and businesses.

National Trails Day provides an outstanding opportunity to enjoy trails and thank the countless volunteers who build, maintain and protect them.

As cochairman of the House Trails Caucus, this Member encourages his colleagues to show their support for trails on June 7 and throughout the year.

The theme for National Trails Day 2003 is "Healthy Trails, Healthy People." It will emphasize the many health benefits associated with trail use.

The existing network of trails throughout the U.S. would not be possible without the assistance provided by grassroots trails groups and individuals who are determined to make a positive difference in their communities. The tireless efforts on behalf of trails by countless volunteers across the nation help to ensure that future generations will be able to discover the wonders of our country's rich diversity and history.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, trails play an important role in communities throughout the country and this Member urges his colleagues to join in the celebration of National Trails Day on Saturday, June 7th.

This effort fits well with President Bush's "Healthier U.S. Initiative" to encourage physical activity. In addition to promoting healthier and more active lifestyles, trails provide outstanding, family-oriented recreational opportunities to all Americans. They also offer important economic development benefits to nearby communities.

IN RECOGNITION OF ELAINE PATTERSON

(Mr. SHAW asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SHAW. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to acknowledge the contributions to the academic excellence of St. Anthony's Catholic School in Fort Lauderdale,

Florida, through the efforts of its principal, Elaine Patterson, who is retiring. St. Anthony's School is the oldest Catholic school in Broward County, Florida, and Elaine has guided thousands of students throughout her 22-year tenure.

Elaine has served as St. Anthony's principal from 1986 to 2003. In that time, she introduced the school's pre-kindergarten program, forwarded technology by way of computers, and promoted innovative programs which helped in the total development of the children in her care.

Mr. Speaker, through the years, Elaine has earned the respect of fellow principals in the Archdiocese of Miami, as well as many of the teachers who have worked with her.

As a grandfather whose grandchildren have benefited from Elaine's professionalism, I can say that her retirement will be a loss to the school and the families she has guided during her career.

Mr. Speaker, congratulations to Elaine Patterson on a distinguished career educating South Florida's youth; and on behalf of the entire Shaw family, I wish to thank Elaine for her great service.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the contributions made to the academic excellence of St. Anthony's Catholic School in Fort Lauderdale, Florida through the efforts of its principal, Elaine Patterson, who is retiring. St. Anthony's School is the oldest Catholic school in Broward County, Florida, and Elaine has guided thousands of students throughout her 22-year tenure.

Elaine received a Bachelor of Science Degree at Southern Connecticut State University and a Master's Degree in Guidance at Florida Atlantic University. Her experience includes elementary classroom teaching, guidance counseling, and serving as a vice-principal before becoming a principal.

Elaine has served as St. Anthony's principal from 1986 to 2003. In that time, she introduced the school's pre-kindergarten program, forwarded technology by way of computers, and promoted innovative programs which helped in the total development of the children in her care. She worked very closely with St. Anthony's Pastor, Father Timothy Hannon, in achieving these goals and was very active in fund raising activities which made attaining them possible.

In addition to her administrative activities, Elaine has served with distinction on numerous committees for the Archdiocese of Miami and has headed two very successful Self Study Committees. She served as a member of the St. Anthony's Advisory Board, the Parish Council, St. Anthony's Foundation for Education, the Home and School Association and the Victoria Park Civic Association of Homeowners.

Mr. Speaker, through the years Elaine has earned the respect of fellow principals in the Archdiocese of Miami, as well as, the many teachers who have worked with her. Elaine's leadership and example have made her a mentor to many. She believes in an open-door policy for everyone and will be remembered as a kind and compassionate administrator. As a grandfather whose grandchildren have

benefited from Elaine's professionalism, I can say that her retirement will be a loss to the school and the families she has guided during her career.

Mr. Speaker, congratulations to Elaine Patterson on a distinguished career educating South Florida's youth, and on behalf of the Shaw family, I thank Elaine for her service. God bless Elaine Patterson and the entire St. Anthony's family.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2001, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

TRIBUTE TO GENERAL ERIC K. SHINSEKI

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mr. LEWIS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I have before me an outline of information regarding General Eric Shinseki, Chief of the United States Army, who is on the verge of his retirement. The material before me involves much more than the 5 minutes that is available to us at this moment, but the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MURTHA) and I want to make sure that all of this is in the RECORD.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a genuine American hero, our retiring Chief of Staff of the United States Army, Eric K. Shinseki. After leading the Army during successful campaigns against terrorism in Afghanistan and Iraq and putting the Army on an irreversible track towards transformation, General Shinseki is stepping down as Chief of Staff of the Army next week.

Mr. Speaker, there is many a thing that I would say, but most of us in the House have come to know and be spellbound by the story of General Shinseki's life. Indeed, Hollywood could not have written a better story that would reflect an Horatio Alger kind of hero during our very age.

Mr. Speaker, when I first met General Shinseki, I was a newly elected chairman of the Subcommittee on National Security of the Committee on Appropriations. Shortly after assuming that responsibility, I was asked to go to the swearing-in of the new Army Chief, meeting a general whom I had really not known at all for the first time, the beginning of a very deep and growing friendship.

Eric Shinseki, upon being sworn in, was introduced; and in that introduction I learned for the first time when he was born, Rick Shinseki was born a foreign alien, for he was of Japanese descent, born in Hawaii, and World War II was raging. So a foreign alien. Think of that and think of the reflection and what that says about our country that some years later that same individual rises to be the Chief of the United