

us stunned and saddened at the loss of such a wonderful individual.

John was a loving husband and family man, and a friend to many in the Galveston community. John, or "Johnny" as those close to him knew him, served as President of Ducks Unlimited's national organization, was on the board of Galveston College, and was a strong supporter of the School of Nursing at the University of Texas Medical Branch. He participated with these organizations because he knew the importance of core, fundamental values that aid us all not only locally, but nationally. In addition, John's grandfather was former Congressman Clark W. Thompson, who served proudly in this very chamber, and who was a great friend and mentor of mine as well.

I express my deepest condolences and sympathy to John's wife Susan, and the rest of his family and loved ones, and know that he is now at peace with the Lord.

#### GARRETT LEE SMITH MEMORIAL ACT

SPEECH OF

#### HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 8, 2004*

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of S. 2634—A Youth Suicide Prevention Bill.

Suicide knows no boundaries. It affects children of every race, ethnicity, religion, and economic background and takes the lives of 3,000 young people every year. Suicide is the third leading cause of death for children and young adults between the ages of 10 and 24.

My neighbors and close personal friends, Doug and Sharon Strouse, tragically lost their daughter, Kristin, to suicide shortly after the September 11th Terrorist Attacks in New York. Kristen was a gifted student at the Parson's School of Design in New York at the time of her passing and had a promising future in the design field.

In Kristin's memory, the Strouses used their grief to help other young people who may be depressed or considering suicide. Kristin's sister, Kim, established a non-profit organization that runs art workshops to provide suicide prevention education and crisis intervention. The Strouses also support suicide awareness through a moving videotape that helps young people and their parents identify the signs of depression while offering solutions to help them address the issue.

I believe S. 2634 also known as the Garrett Lee Smith Memorial Act of 2004 will help the Strouses and other families further these important programs. The bill will also improve nationwide access to prevention and intervention techniques for youth.

The bill authorizes \$82 million over three years for mental health services, including screening, assessment, mentoring, and counseling, on the local, state, and federal level. These services will be offered in a variety of settings including schools, juvenile justice systems, foster care establishments, and substance abuse programs.

The legislation will also help establish a comprehensive federal strategy to share data, disseminate research, and coordinate the

evaluation of early intervention and prevention programs for youth.

I believe S. 2634 will help fund some very important work to help families like the Strouses avoid the pain of losing a loved one.

#### GARRETT LEE SMITH MEMORIAL ACT

SPEECH OF

#### HON. JOSEPH R. PITTS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 8, 2004*

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, S. 2634, the Garrett Lee Smith Memorial Act, contains some very important language that I would like to point out to my colleagues. The bill requires written, informed parental consent before a child may participate in the programs funded under this bill. The bill provides an exception for this in cases where there is an emergency and the safety of the child or other students is at risk and in cases where parental consent cannot reasonably be obtained.

Mr. Speaker, this language is very important. The topic of suicide and death is very sensitive, especially for younger children who are very impressionable. I believe that parents, not schools, should be the first line of defense for educating against and preventing their children from considering suicide. Studies have shown that in some cases, suicide education has actually led to suicides. Parents should have the option of keeping their child out of such classes. In addition, if parents are aware that their child is in such a class or program at school, they will be able to look for any warning signs that their child is considering suicide.

The exceptions included in the parental consent requirement are intended to be very narrow—emergency situations and cases where parental consent cannot reasonably be obtained. Emergency situations will be obvious—this would be a situation where a student is threatening his life or the life of someone else. Obviously, in such a case, the counselor or teacher should immediately counsel the student to stop the threatened activity.

Some may wonder what is meant by cases where parental consent cannot be "reasonably" obtained. This is intended to mean situations where the parent, despite the best efforts of the school or other organization operating a suicide intervention program, cannot personally give consent. One such situation would be where a single parent in the military has gone overseas for duty and the child is temporarily staying with grandparents. But let me be clear—this is not a loophole for those who find obtaining parental consent to be inconvenient or time-consuming. It is for those rare and very limited situations in which a parent simply is not able to provide consent.

I would like to thank Chairman BARTON for working so diligently on this important language.

HONORING THE MARRIAGE OF  
BETHANY ANNE KORCZYNSKI  
AND DOMINIC A. ZUCCHERO

#### HON. WILLIAM O. LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 9, 2004*

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor and recognition of Bethany Korczynski and Dominic Zuccherro as they celebrate their devotion to each other and to their future together.

It seems that we face a challenging time regarding one of the "lode stones" of our society: the family unit. It may seem that the moral fiber of America is being tested. During these times of changing attitudes, I believe that we can encourage the traditional values that have made our country strong. Those values that are best learned and practiced within the family unit based on the holy, loving union of a man and a woman.

The union of these two individuals from the Chicagoland region, Bethany Anne Korczynski, daughter of Edwin J., pilot and Chief Airport Operations Supervisor and Diane M., teacher of special education, and of Dominic A. Zuccherro, son of Theodore J. and Andrea L. of the Chicagoland area, will be on October 9, 2004. The wedding will take place at the landmark Catholic Church of Notre Dame De Chicago established in 1864 by the first settlers who were of French descent. The church is located at 1334 West Flourndy Street in Chicago.

It is with great excitement and anticipation that both the Zuccherro's and Korczynski's share in the happiness of this union. The commitment of this couple is both impressive and deserving of special recognition and honor.

I ask all my colleagues to join me in wishing this great couple many years of health and happiness.

#### PROPOSED CHANGES IN FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE LAW FOR 527 POLITICAL ORGANIZATIONS

#### HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 9, 2004*

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to draw my colleagues' attention to a bill I have introduced to address concerns that have been expressed about political organizations referred to as "527's". This bill, H.R. 5013, would give the Department of the Treasury, the Federal Election Commission, and the American people a better understanding of 527 organizations by attempting to subject them to the same type of reporting requirements as PAC's and other political organizations.

This bill would make 527's, which is the section of the Internal Revenue Code under which they are registered, more transparent through the four main components of this bill.

First, any political organization that meets defined minimum financial requirements must disclose this information to the Department of the Treasury. Second, political organizations that raise, spend or intend to raise and spend over \$25,000 in an election year will have to

file disclosure reports with the IRS monthly. Previously, organizations in this category were only required to file quarterly. Third, organizations that have less than \$25,000 in receipts must file quarterly. Fourth, the Department of the Treasury and the Federal Election Commission must work together to improve the database disclosure system.

This bill will provide the American people with more information about who is donating to the political process and how that money is being spent. If we want to inspire and encourage more Americans to participate in the political process, we must make all aspects of the process accessible to them.

The guidelines in my bill will expose political organizations' donors and demonstrate they have nothing to hide. Moreover, this information will help Americans to make more informed choices.

I believe that efforts to restrict 527 organizations could raise First Amendment concerns and may merely result in their reconstitution as 501(c)4, 501(c)5 and 501(c)6 organizations, which have virtually no public disclosure requirements. I believe that it would be more beneficial to our political process to mandate greater transparency of 527's rather than attempting to shut them down or otherwise curtail their participation in the political process. Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

#### HONORING MARTIN FUNERAL HOME

#### HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 9, 2004*

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today to acknowledge the 75th anniversary of the Martin Funeral Home, of Mt. Morris, MI. On Saturday, September 11, 2004, the funeral home along with the community will commemorate this milestone with a full day of festivities that will include the sealing of a time capsule, a replica of President Lincoln's coffin, and free workshops on grief management.

Mr. Miles B. Martin established the Martin Funeral Home in November of 1929. Miles received his mortuary license from Worsham School of Anatomy in Chicago on June 28, 1928. He married Mildred C. Doyle and of this wonderful union were born three sons, Patrick J., Michael A. and Miles T. "Tom". Mrs. Martin worked alongside her husband as a licensed funeral director to build one of the largest family owned funeral businesses in Genesee County. Of the three sons, Miles T. "Tom" Martin took on the interest of mortuary science. He received his degree in Mortuary Science from Wayne State University. His desire to assist his father in the business was delayed by the call to serve his country in the U.S. Army as a combat medic in Vietnam. On January 1, 1972, Miles T. acquired the family business from his father. On October 21, 1988 Miles B. Martin passed away and Mildred C. Martin on August 30, 1993.

Miles T., in his commitment to honor his father's mission of providing affordable and caring funeral service for Genesee County, has expanded the operation by opening homes in Vassar and Fairgrove. The process of bereavement can be overwhelming. The commu-

nity has come to know they can depend on the Martin family to help them through this difficult process. I commend the Martins for taking on, and being committed to this delicate task.

Mr. Speaker, as a member of Congress, I ask my colleagues in the 108th Congress to please join me in honoring the Martin Family and their Funeral home for 75 years of unwavering support and guidance to those who have lost loved ones.

#### SALUTING MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND, STUDENTS, TEACHERS, PRINCIPALS, SCHOOL PERSONNEL AND PARENTS FOR OUTSTANDING SAT SCORES

#### HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 9, 2004*

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to share with my colleagues the news that the highest systemwide average SAT score (1102) ever achieved by the Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) was produced by the graduating class of 2004, marking the first time the average score has exceeded 1100. The average included the highest ever average mathematics score (561) and the highest average verbal score in 12 years (541), the first increase in the average verbal score in five years. The improvements were achieved with a student participation rate of 80.2 percent, representing the largest group (7,263 students) ever to take the test in the school district.

The higher SAT scores mark the achievements of the first graduating class of students taking the SAT who were exposed to the full range of the ongoing high school reforms in Montgomery County. The reforms began when the students were ninth graders in the 2000–2001 school year and have expanded greatly the opportunities for more rigorous coursework in preparation for college.

In addition, the improvement included a significant gain in the system's "average highest score," the same number used by colleges to identify the best performance among students on the SAT. The system's average highest score increased to 1115 last year, the best result ever and an increase of eight points over the year before.

Overall, there were numerous achievements in the 2004 SAT results for which MCPS should be proud:

Highest ever average SAT score of 1102, a gain of eight points;

Best ever "average highest SAT score" of 1115, a gain of eight points;

Highest ever average math score (561);

Largest number of students ever taking the SAT (7,263 students);

Highest average score for white students (1163), a gain of 10 points;

Highest average score for Asian American students (1160), a gain of 33 points;

Most high schools (four) with average scores above 1200;

Most high schools (11) with average scores above 1100; and

Average score of students receiving special education services increased by 26 points to 924.

The average scores for African American and Hispanic students receiving Federal meal assistance also increased significantly—up 17 points among African American students (854) and six points among Hispanic students (837). This is an important point because the percentage of both groups of students participating in the Free and Reduced-price Meal System (FARMS) is increasing, lowering the overall average score for each group even as the specific subgroup scores increase.

According to Dr. Jerry D. Weast, Superintendent of the Montgomery County Public Schools, all of this has occurred during a significant demographic change in student enrollment, characterized by greater cultural and racial/ethnic diversity, a rise in students from low-income families, an increase in the number of students for whom English is a second language, and more students with disabilities.

I want to commend Dr. Weast, the Members of the Montgomery County Board of Education, and all teachers, principals and staff for implementing school improvements including strengthened curriculum, improved assessments, greater coordination among and within schools, and increased staff training and professional development. The improvements also included increased student enrollment in expanded Advanced Placement (AP) and honors courses.

Mr. Speaker, public schools are truly the backbone of our community. Young people across America face ever-changing social and economic challenges. We have an obligation to prepare them for the challenges that lie ahead, and I applaud the great work of the teachers, principals and other education personnel in Montgomery County who offer so much support to our families.

#### HONORING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF GAYLE RUDOFSKY

#### HON. STEVE ISRAEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 9, 2004*

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Gayle Rudofsky, a Half Hollow Hills High School East student who has been named a 2003–04 High School All American in Diving.

Ms. Rudofsky has a long history of diving accolades, including being named one of the Top 40 High School Divers in the United States, winning the 2003 New York State Public High School Women's Diving Championship and winning the Lester J. Schloen Jr. Memorial Award for Most Promising First Year Diver. She recently broke her own Suffolk County 11–dive meet record and also set a new Suffolk County 6–dive meet scoring record. In addition to these record-breaking performances, the National Interscholastic Swim Coaches Association ranked Ms. Rudofsky the third best high school diver in 11–dive competitions and the fourth best diver in 6–dive meets. She is also a member of Long Island Divers, a U.S. Diving Team, and is qualified to represent the Long Island region in the 2004 Empire State Games.

Not only has Ms. Rudofsky accomplished much on the diving board, she is also gifted in the classroom. She has managed to balance an outstanding athletic career with equally impressive academics. Ms. Rudofsky has been