

START MAKING A READER TODAY
(SMART) READING PROGRAM

HON. PETER A. DeFAZIO

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 7, 2004

Mr. DeFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, as Congress looks for innovative solutions to educate our Nation's children—our next generation of leaders—I'd like to call attention to a nonprofit reading program called SMART: Start Making A Reader Today. SMART is making a measurable difference for Oregon children who are falling behind. It has tremendous potential as a model for the Nation.

SMART's mission is to hook children on reading at an early age. By connecting children with community volunteers for weekly one-on-one reading sessions—and giving each student free books to take home and keep—SMART cultivates a supportive environment where reading skills build quickly and confidence grows just as fast.

Perhaps most importantly, SMART delivers proven results. Independent research shows that children who participate in SMART develop key reading skills faster than their peers, and maintain these gains after leaving the program. In fact, fifth graders who have been in SMART are 60 percent more likely than their peers to reach the state benchmark in reading.

SMART began 12 years ago in eight schools and has since grown to serve more than 11,000 children annually in 31 of Oregon's 36 counties. About 9,000 adults each year volunteer with SMART in more than 260 public elementary schools.

SMART's unique track record of mobilizing whole communities to invest in their local schools has been pivotal to the program's ongoing success. By engaging so many people to make community literacy a priority, SMART is helping to create an educated workforce for the next generation. It is helping Oregon build a solid economic future.

Please join me in making SMART and other proven early reading programs a funding priority this year.

IN CELEBRATION OF THE OUT-
STANDING TEACHING CAREER
OF JULIAN SMITH

HON. BOB ETHERIDGE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 7, 2004

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to praise a great North Carolinian and teacher in the Chatham County public schools, Mr. Julian Smith.

Mr. Smith received a B.S. degree in Agriculture Education from the University of North Carolina in 1965. In July of 1965 he began teaching in the Chatham County Schools where he remains to this day. He augmented his education with a Masters degree in Agriculture Education from North Carolina State University in 1971. This is truly a man who gathers knowledge in order to impart more to his students.

Mr. Smith has taught and continues to teach horticulture and floriculture to Chatham county

students. He is well-liked, admired and respected by the students, parents and faculty of Chatham Central High School and throughout the county's schools because he has tremendous knowledge about his field of teaching. He began winning first place awards for Horticulture and Floriculture in 1975 and is still winning. I will submit his list of awards so that Congress can see his many, many awards!

In addition, Mr. Smith has been recognized county-wide by Chatham County public schools as their Teacher of the Year for the school years, 1980–1981, 1981–1982 and 1986–1987. He has been named Chatham County Central High School Teacher of the Year for the school years 1980–1981, 1981–1982, 1986–1987 and 1993–1994. In 1995 he was one of only 6 teachers to be recognized as a National Regional Teacher of the Year.

His principal at Bear Creek Central High School had this high praise for him, "Mr. Smith is one of the educators that will come along once in a lifetime. He is a mentor, and an innovator. He is humble, yet driven to succeed. His students will fondly remember the impact that he made for several years after they leave Chatham Central High School. They will realize that they weren't simply taught the subjects of horticulture and floriculture; they were trained for the real world application of both."

Mr. Speaker, North Carolina is truly blessed to have the abilities and talents of a teacher like Julian Smith teaching and shaping its young minds. I am pleased that Chatham County recognizes the talents of this wonderful teacher, and I am pleased to be able to recognize him in the U.S. House of Representatives.

JULIAN SMITH RESUMÉ

HONORS

1997 North Carolina State Outstanding Alumni from Agriculture Education
1995 National Regional Agriculture Teacher of the Year (Six in the U.S.)
1980–1981; 1981–1982; 1986–1987 Chatham County Teacher of the Year
1980–1981; 1981–1982; 1986–1987; 1993–1994 Chatham Central High School Teacher of the Year
Tarheel of the Week—Raleigh News & Observer—January, 2000

NORTH CAROLINA STATE FFA TITLES

1965 First Place Tool Identification
1966 First Place Tool Identification
1970 North Carolina State FFA Officer
1971 First Place Parliamentary Procedure
1974 First Place Horticulture
1977 First Place Horticulture
1978 First Place Horticulture
1979 First Place Floriculture & Nursery/Landscape
1980 First Place Nursery/Landscape
1981 First Place Floriculture
1982 First Place Floriculture and First Place Nursery/Landscape
1983 First Place Floriculture and First Place Nursery/Landscape
1984 First Place Floriculture and First Place Nursery/Landscape
1985 First Place Floriculture and First Place Nursery/Landscape
1986 First Place Floriculture and First Place Nursery/Landscape
1987 First Place in Prepared Public Speaking
1988 First Place Nursery/Landscape
1989 First Place Floriculture and First Place Nursery/Landscape
1990 First Place Floriculture and First Place Nursery/Landscape
1991 Second Place Floriculture and Second Place Nursery/Landscape
1992 First Place Floriculture and First Place Tool Identification

1993 First Place Nursery/Landscape, First Place Tool Identification, First Place in Creed
1994 First Place Floriculture
1995 First Place Floriculture
1996 First Place Floriculture, First Place Nursery/Landscape, First Place Forestry
1997 First Place Floriculture, First Place Nursery/Landscape, First Place Extemporaneous Public Speaking, First Place Tool Identification, Seventh Place Forestry and North Carolina State FFA Officer
1998 First Place Floriculture
1999 First Place Nursery
2000 First Place Tool Identification
2001 First Place Floriculture
2002 First Place Floriculture and First Place Nursery/Landscape
2003 First Place Floriculture
2004 First Place Floriculture and First Place Nursery/Landscape

NATIONAL FFA TITLES:

1974 Tenth Place Horticulture
1977 Fifth Place Horticulture
1978 First Place Horticulture
1979 Ninth Place Floriculture and Nursery/Landscape
1980 Third Place Nursery/Landscape
1981 Second Place Floriculture
1982 Third Place Floriculture and Third Place Nursery/Landscape
1983 Ninth Place Floriculture and Fifth Place Nursery/Landscape
1984 First Place Floriculture and Second Place Nursery/Landscape
1985 First Place Floriculture—students also placed First, Second and Third individually—and First Place Nursery/Landscape
1986 First Place Floriculture and Second Place Nursery/Landscape
1987 Second Place Prepared Public Speaking
1988 Second Place Nursery/Landscape
1989 Second Place Floriculture and First Place Nursery/Landscape
1990 Fifth Place Floriculture and Third Place Nursery/Landscape
1992 First Place Floriculture
1993 First Place Nursery/Landscape
1994 Fifth Place Floriculture
1995 First Place Floriculture
1996 First Place Floriculture and Second Place Nursery/Landscape and Eighth Place Forestry
1997 Second Place Floriculture and First Place Nursery/Landscape (students also placed First, Second and Third individually)
1998 First Place Floriculture (high individual)
1999 First Place Nursery/Landscape
2001 Second Place Floriculture
2002 Fourth Place Floriculture and First Place Nursery/Landscape (top two individuals)
2003 Second Place Floriculture Team
2004 Yet to be determined

THE "UNITED STATES BOXING
COMMISSION ACT"**HON. CLIFF STEARNS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 7, 2004

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation to help protect professional boxers throughout our country. I am introducing the "United States Boxing Commission Act" to create a Federal entity responsible for coordinating, implementing, and enforcing uniform standards for the sport of boxing. Currently, the states and tribal organizations regulate professional boxing. Although they have taken great effort to require minimum standards for the sport, uniform enforcement has been a problem.

Congress has enacted legislation to address the sport of boxing twice in the past decade. In 1996, we enacted the Professional Boxing Safety Act. In 2000, we again addressed boxing reform and passed the Muhammad Ali Act. The idea of a Federal Boxing Commission was raised in previous Congresses and it was deemed unnecessary at that time. However, after carefully reviewing the effectiveness of the laws we passed, I am convinced it is now time for a Federal Commission for professional boxing. Despite our previous efforts, enforcement of the law remains an issue and the sport continues to face problems that cannot be addressed by the states. In fact, at a hearing I held in my subcommittee, a current state boxing commissioner testified that the states need the Federal government to be directly involved.

I do not think lightly of creating a new Federal commission. I would typically be reluctant to introduce such a bill because I believe strongly in states' rights, and most of them do an excellent job in regulating boxing. However, the history and nature of the sport provide overwhelming evidence that it only takes one state to lower its standards—usually in the name of money—and undermine the integrity of the sport. More importantly, the safety of a boxer is supposed to be paramount and protected by the state authority. When a state lowers its standards or fails to follow the law, it jeopardizes every boxer's safety.

This legislation is intended to implement changes that are within the Energy and Commerce Committee's jurisdiction and is therefore narrower than what is required to fully address the issues boxers face. It creates the United States Boxing Commission which will have the power and authority to set minimum standards for the states to follow. It will not replace the state regulation, but will work with the states to develop appropriate minimum standards and to ensure their rules and standards are enforced.

As I indicated, I support additional reforms that are necessary to fully address the problems of the sport and protect boxers. While it is my preference to do more, because those reforms are not within the Committee's jurisdiction, I am committed to work with my House colleagues and the Senate to address those concerns and ensure they become Federal law as well.

CONGRATULATIONS TO MACOMB
COMMUNITY COLLEGE ON ITS
50TH ANNIVERSARY**HON. SANDER M. LEVIN**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 7, 2004

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate an excellent educational institution in Michigan, Macomb Community College, as it celebrates its 50th anniversary. "Community" is central to the vision of Macomb Community College (MCC), and over its fifty years of service I am confident it has touched nearly every home in Macomb County in one way or another.

MCC was founded as part of a K-14 system and was known as "South Macomb Community." Approximately 84 students attended classes, \$2.00 per credit hour, in seventeen basic course areas at night in space borrowed at Lincoln High School. Today its reach extends to six campus sites and outreach centers and it enjoys an annual enrollment of 44,000 students with 1100 courses offered in the day, night, and online.

Every decade has seen expansion and distinction at MCC. In the 1960s their service area was expanded to include the entire county, and its two main campuses, South and Central, became realities so it could serve both, urban and rural areas.

Enrollment continued to climb in the 1970s and, at one point in the 1980s, MCC was the third largest college in the state behind the University of Michigan and Michigan State University. They also added a world-class facility, the Macomb Center for Performing Arts, which now holds nearly 700 events annually, enjoyed by some 260,000 individuals. It was also in the 1980s that a third campus site was added to house police and fire academies, workforce development and training, and continuing education programs.

In the 1990s, the College partnered with nine universities and upper division public and private colleges to launch the University Center where approximately 2500 students could pursue bachelors and masters degrees closer to home. Also in this decade, its fourth campus, the Emergency Services Training Center was constructed as a state-of-the-art training facility for police, fire, first responder, emergency medical and municipal services.

In 2002, MCC partnered with the State of Michigan on the site of the former Army Tank Plant, after the property was transferred from military to public use, to build its most recent addition, "The Michigan Technical Education Center" (M-TEC) to house the College's comprehensive Workforce Development Institute.

Mr. Speaker, one might say that fifty years ago South Community College planted seeds in borrowed space. Today, those seeds have sprouted throughout the entire County. The residents of Macomb County have indeed been fortunate to have such a progressive institution committed to the educational needs of everyone in the area. The College has been forward-thinking in their approach to the needs of the County and they have been committed to the vision of a "better future for those growing up in the community as well as the community itself."

It has been my pleasure to work closely with MCC in so many important areas, like school-

to-work and re-training programs, and to spend time with the students there. I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking all those who have helped build this remarkable institution, and to extend our best wishes for their important endeavors in the future.

SERVICEMEMBERS AND VETERANS
LEGAL PROTECTIONS ACT OF 2004

SPEECH OF

HON. SUSAN A. DAVIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 6, 2004

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank my colleagues for acting to protect the benefits of a vulnerable class of America's brave veterans.

Over 100,000 of America's military veterans or their dependents are not able to manage their own finances because of physical or mental disabilities. In these cases, the Department of Veterans' Affairs (VA) appoints a family member, a guardian, or another person to act as a "fiduciary" to protect and manage their monetary payments and VA benefits.

Caring for a dependent veteran involves using the payments the VA sends each month to pay utility bills, buy food, and to meet the other needs on behalf of the veteran. It is a tremendous responsibility.

Last year, during an oversight hearing into the VA's fiduciary program, I learned that some of these veterans are not always cared for by the appointed fiduciary.

In fact, the Inspector General has found cases in which a fiduciary has withheld payments completely for several years—defrauding the veteran out of several thousand dollars.

In my District Office in San Diego, my staff has tried to assist veterans who lost out on their payments only to learn that under current law, the VA does not have the authority to replace the benefits when misuse has occurred.

Because it was our veterans suffering from the lack of oversight, I introduced the Veterans Fiduciary Act of 2004 or H.R. 4023 to provide veterans with protections similar to those recently enacted to protect Social Security beneficiaries. Surely our Nation's veterans also deserve the same protections as Social Security beneficiaries.

H.R. 4032 gives veterans new avenues to recoup their losses if they fall victim to fraud. In addition, the VA will conduct more thorough background checks and will have new authority to take action against fiduciaries who are not fulfilling their obligations.

I am pleased provisions of H.R. 4032 have been included in the servicemembers Legal Protection Act of 2004 or H.R. 4568. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation today.

MARRIAGE PROTECTION
AMENDMENT

SPEECH OF

HON. TOM DELAY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 30, 2004

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, I know some wanted to pick a fight here today, trying to get