

I have long admired Wendy for her dedication to our community, particularly with respect to safeguarding the environment. She is committed to making the world a better place and ensuring that future generations of Americans will inherit a thriving and healthy planet.

Wendy has worked on both the national and local level to protect the environment—on issues ranging from conservation to climate change and the impact of environmental policies on the developing world. She is highly knowledgeable about current environmental issues and a passionate advocate for positive change.

Wendy is a member of the National Council of Environmental Defense, an organization that finds ways to preserve our environment while also strengthening the economy, such as market incentives that reward governments and businesses for lowering pollution levels.

In addition, Wendy is a member of the National Advisory Council of the Sierra Club Foundation, which is dedicated to preserving wildlife and promoting responsible use of the Earth's ecosystems and resources.

Wendy's interests and influence reach beyond environmental concerns to include other matters important in our community. For example, she has been an active participant in the Holocaust Education Foundation and is an owner of Medline Industries, Inc., a private medical equipment distributor. Wendy has always expressed a strong interest in effective health care reform as well as a broad array of other important public policy initiatives.

Mr. Speaker, Wendy Abrams is helping to make the world a safe and healthy place for our children. I am proud to call Wendy a good friend, and I thank her for her contributions to public service. I wish Wendy, her husband Jimmy, and their four children continued good fortune on the occasion of her 40th birthday.

COMMENDING WHITKO HIGH SCHOOL ART STUDENTS

HON. MARK E. SOUDER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 6, 2004

Mr. SOUDER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the artistic achievements of students at Whitko High School in South Whitley, Indiana. Whitko High School was one of 11 schools in the United States that recently participated in the 35th World School Children's Art Exhibition in the Republic of China, Taipei. The purpose of the exhibition is to promote mutual understanding and friendship among the younger generation of the world.

It is a tremendous honor for Whitko High School students to be recognized for their artistic abilities on an international level, especially considering 47 countries were represented at the exhibition.

I'd now like to recognize by name each of the eight Whitko students who participated in the competition: Renae Banks, Julianne Haines, Wendy Chalk, Amanda Crosser, Callista Duggins, Kylee Brown, Jill Wendel, and Shannon Sleighter. Two of these students—Julianne Haines and Shannon Sleighter—were recognized by the World School Children's Art Exhibition for their outstanding artistic skill and talent and were awarded selected medals for their work. I send them my sincere congratulations.

I also commend Whitko High School's art teacher Walter C. Malicki for his dedication and enthusiasm. Under his guidance, Whitko High School students have received 32 national and 97 international awards. These honors are due, in large part, to Mr. Malicki's leadership and the encouragement he gives each of his students.

Once again, I extend my congratulations to the Whitko High School art students for their achievements in the 35th World School Children's Art Exhibition.

TRIBUTE TO THE EAST BAY REGIONAL PARK DISTRICT CELEBRATING 70 YEARS OF REGIONAL PARKS

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 6, 2004

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, my East Bay California colleagues Mr. GEORGE MILLER, Mrs. ELLEN TAUSCHER, and Ms. BARBARA LEE, join with me to recognize the 70th anniversary of the East Bay Regional Park District (EBRPD), headquartered in Oakland, California. The Park District spans Alameda and Contra Costa Counties and encompasses 1,745 square miles on the eastern side of San Francisco.

In 1934, a unique "regional park" concept, unheard of at the time, was presented to the voters on a November ballot measure. A vote for the proposed new Park District meant an increased five-cent tax on every \$100 worth of property. Even in the economic hardships of the Great Depression, where a nickel still went a long way, citizens approved the initiative by a 2½ to 1 margin and the Park District was created.

The East Bay Regional Park District opened its first three parks in 1936, which included present-day Tilden Regional Park, Sibley Volcanic Preserve and Lake Temescal. Redwood Park was added to the list of parks a few years later.

In the intervening years, the Park District grew from seven cities—Alameda, Albany, Berkeley, Emeryville, Oakland, Piedmont and San Leandro—to encompass all of Alameda and Contra Costa counties.

Today, the East Bay Regional Park District is the largest local park agency in the United States. It encompasses over 95,000 acres of parkland in Alameda and Contra Costa Counties for outdoor recreation, wildlife habitat, and nature education.

The Park District's vision is to "preserve a priceless heritage of natural and cultural resources, open space, parks and trails for the future and will set aside park areas for enjoyment and healthful recreation for generations to come. EBRPD states "an environmental ethic guides us in all that we do."

The Park District's core mission is to "acquire, develop, manage, and maintain a high quality, diverse system of interconnected parklands which balances public usage and education programs with protection and preservation of our natural and cultural resources."

The vision and mission of the East Bay Regional Parks continues to be achieved with commitment and efficiency. For 70 years, the East Bay Regional Parks has been dedicated to preserving open space and offering enjoy-

able and healthy recreation opportunities for local residents.

We join in honoring the individuals whose vision created an unprecedented Regional Park System and the individuals who continue to ensure the East Bay Regional Park District's success.

IN MEMORY OF DOLLY NASH, A DISTINGUISHED AMERICAN

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 6, 2004

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise to remember a distinguished South Carolinian, Janet Dolly Nash. Dolly Nash and her husband always flew the American flag at their home in Beaufort, South Carolina. She was a proud American. Not long ago, Dolly "passed" (a term often used in my state). She died in Cape May, New Jersey, a community with which Beaufort shared her. A retired school teacher, Dolly gave of her wide knowledge to many others—others who will remember her and her lessons of life.

Dolly Nash believed it was her mission to promote the legacy of her great grandfather, Robert Smalls, a legend in the Beaufort area. Despite his status as a slave of only 23 years of age, Robert Smalls learned to be a pilot in Charleston Harbor. During the Civil War, he "commandeered" the Confederate vessel *Planter* and delivered it to Union forces. He rose to the rank of major general in the South Carolina militia. After the war he founded the Republican Party in the Beaufort area and was elected to the United States House of Representatives. In April of this year, the Army Supply Ship, *Major General Robert Smalls*, was christened in Mississippi, the first Army vessel to bear the name of a black American.

"Dolly was everywhere, just like sunshine," says Delores Nevils of St. Helena, South Carolina, a close friend of Dolly's and herself a fine American. In a recent article in the Beaufort Gazette, Mrs. Nevils extolled Dolly and described her extensive service to her community. As Mrs. Nevils described it, at her 75th birthday party, Dolly gave gifts rather than received them. Dolly Nash gave many gifts to many people in her lifetime. She herself was a gift to the people of Beaufort, of South Carolina and of America. I would like to share with you the memory of Dolly Nash.

TRIBUTE TO SHIRLEY CONNOLLY

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 6, 2004

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Shirley Connolly, who was recently honored with the prestigious St. Madeleine Sophie Medal by the Schools of the Sacred Heart in Atherton, California.

Shirley was born in Helena, Montana and became a San Franciscan at the age of seven. She graduated from the San Francisco College for Women, better known as Lone Mountain College, with a Bachelor's Degree in History and World Literature, and later received a Master's from Lone Mountain in

American History. Shirley also completed graduate courses in Education at Boston University and Harvard University.

Shirley's heart was always with Lone Mountain and she continued her dedication to her alma mater, always being a shining example of her willingness to take on a tough job whenever needed. After Lone Mountain closed, official alumnae activities understandably waned and it became difficult to keep graduates and faculty in touch with one another. This became Shirley Connolly's challenge. She has worked hard to preserve this community, leading the Alumnae Association for many years and enabling students and their RSCJ teachers to continue or rekindle their Lone Mountain relationships.

Shirley began her own teaching career over 40 years ago at St. Joseph's School in Atherton. After 4 years at Lone Mountain and 3 years in the Religious Formation Program, Shirley was ready, willing and able to begin her career educating girls and young women. Her first teaching assignment was a classroom of 35 eighth-grade girls and boys. Shirley's warmth and wisdom were more than a match for the eighth graders, and this was the beginning of her long and tremendously successful relationship with St. Joseph's.

Shirley spent 2 years in what was then Menlo Park, and then moved to San Francisco where she served as a teacher, Dean of Students and Director of Studies at the Schools of the Sacred Heart there. After a brief stint in Newton, Massachusetts, Shirley joined the California Province of the Sacred Heart. This role gave her the opportunity to develop one of her greatest gifts, the ability to train teachers. Even today, she is highly regarded and remembered throughout the Sacred Heart community for this skill. One of her pupils described her as someone who had the common sense to sort through all the academic training and understand and pass on what young teachers really needed to know. After this stint with the Province, Shirley returned to Menlo Park in 1973, serving as Principal of the high school under Sister Nancy Morris until 1975.

In 1976, Shirley set off on a new path, joining the Catholic Telemedia Network in Menlo Park. She stayed with CTN until 2002, rising through several positions to become General Manager for her last 10 years there.

Shirley has a gift for combining crystal clarity and great wisdom with diplomacy, humility and kindness. She is the most generous, selfless person one could ever know. She is always available to assist whomever needs help, whenever they need it, without question, complaint, or regard to her own needs.

Shirley has been the best friend to the resident of Oakwood over the years, always dropping whatever she is doing to help with whatever needs to be done. She served as Chair of its Board of Directors for several years, and has recently accepted an invitation to return to this Board.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring this great and good woman, Shirley Connolly, as she is honored with the St. Madeleine Sophie Medal.

RECOGNIZING THE WEEDSPORT HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL TEAM

HON. SHERWOOD BOEHLERT

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 6, 2004

Mr. BOEHLERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Weedsport High School football team for their outstanding achievements and victory in the New York State Class D Championships.

The No. 1 ranked Weedsport Warriors finished their season undefeated, with an impressive 13-0 record. Setting another milestone, this is also the first state championship in school history to be awarded to any team sport.

Their 22-21 victory over the Tuckahoe Tigers was an amazing feat. After the Tuckahoe Tigers claimed the lead during the 4th quarter, the Warriors were able to narrow that lead on a heroic 83-yard kickoff return by senior Brad Bach. Trailing 21-20, the Warriors opted to attempt a crucial two-point conversion that would give them the lead, thanks to the speed and agility of junior quarterback Mike Coolbaugh. The Weedsport Warriors spent the remainder of the game maintaining an impenetrable defense and refusing to buckle under the pressure of the determined Tuckahoe offense.

I commend the coaching staff and the players of the Weedsport Warriors for all of their training and dedication to the game. Congratulations; I am proud of all of you and your achievements.

The 2004 Weedsport High School football team members include: Roster: Brad Bach, Brandon Bach, Jeff Bibbens, Mike Bond, Robert Bradtke, Mike Case, Chris Chorny, Mike Coolbaugh, Mike Davis, Matt Drury, Matt Duby, Kerry Green, Brandon Magill, Mike Maltese, Ken McCloud, John Meitz, Troy Nelson, Tyler Nevidomsky, Jeff Whiting, Dave Roden, Ed Rooker, Jim Scarbrough, Adam Sweet, Jeff Whiting, Jeff Williams, and Ryan Wright. Coach: Calvin Mosher. Assistant Coaches: Tim Spingler, Jason Trousedale.

TRIBUTE TO CONGRESSMAN DOOLEY OF CALIFORNIA

HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 6, 2004

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to have had the opportunity to serve with such an outstanding Member of Congress over the past eight years. I would like to congratulate him on his retirement from the United States House of Representatives at the close of the 108th Congress. Serving with him in Congress has been an honor, and I hope to maintain our friendship in the upcoming years.

Since coming to Congress in 1997, I have had the pleasure to work with CAL on numerous issues in addition to building and growing the influence of the New Democrat Coalition (NDC). If there is one word that best represents CAL, it is integrity. Upon my arrival in Washington, DC, I immediately turned to him as both a mentor and a friend. As founder and co-chair of the NDC, he was always a respected voice on critical issues.

The NDC, through CAL's leadership, transformed how the Democratic party worked in the late 1990s. Intent on modernizing both the Democratic party and the country, New Democrats support policies that expand economic growth and see that all Americans have the opportunity to benefit from that growth; ensure a fiscally responsible and efficient government; secure the homefront; and advance a robust foreign policy that includes trade, constructive U.S. leadership throughout the world, and a modern and strong military. As a testament of CAL's leadership, the Clinton Administration frequently sought allies in the NDC. The Clinton Administration turned to the NDC for the critical support of the coalition's major legislation initiatives such as welfare reform and trade with China.

CAL is a fourth-generation farmer and partner in his family farm, growing cotton, alfalfa and walnuts at his farm in California's San Joaquin Valley. Through his tenure in the House, CAL has concentrated heavily on Agriculture issues. During the last farm bill, I served on the Agriculture Committee and was able to see firsthand how knowledgeable he is when it comes to farm policy. I look forward to working with him again on the next farm bill in his new role as the President and CEO of National Food Processors Association (NFPA). The NFPA is extraordinarily lucky to get one of the top leaders in food policy today.

CAL, in addition to his other accomplishments, is a great student of the big issues facing our country today. As long as I have known him, he has always had a willingness to dive into new subject matters and learn them as quickly as possible.

I want to thank CAL for his leadership and his friendship. I wish him the best of luck on his new endeavors.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 4818, CONSOLIDATED APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. CHRISTOPHER SHAYS

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, November 20, 2004

Mr. SHAYS. Mr. Speaker, I support the Fiscal Year 2005 Omnibus Appropriations Act, but I would like to state my opposition to the Weldon refusal clause provision.

The Weldon provision would exempt health care companies from any federal, state or local government law that ensures women have access to reproductive health services, including information about abortion.

If passed, this provision would have many negative effects.

It would override federal Title X guidelines that ensure women receive full medical information. A fundamental principle of Title X, the national family planning program, ensures pregnant women who request information about all their medical options, including abortion, be given that information, including a referral upon patient request.

I am also concerned this bill does not include an increase in funding for Title X. Each year approximately 4.5 million low-income women and men receive basic health care through 4,600 clinics nationwide that receive Title X funds. This program reduces unintended pregnancies and makes abortion less