

TRIBUTE TO U.S. ARMY PFC JEREMY RICARDO EWING OF MIAMI, FLORIDA

HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 5, 2004

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the memory of U.S. Army PFC Jeremy Ricardo Ewing, who was killed on April 29th in a car bomb attack in Iraq. He served his country with dignity and honor, and he was a true hero.

Private First Class Ewing's death is particularly saddening to me as he grew up in our community and was one of my constituents. He graduated from Miami Central High School in 2000. He was known for his independence and ambition, and for his sense of duty. He enlisted shortly after the September 11th attacks and became a member of the 1st Armored Division of the Army's 4th Battalion's 27th Artillery Regiment.

The 1st Armored Division's tour of duty was recently extended due to increased insurgency in Iraq. Private First Class Ewing, 22, was one of eight soldiers mortally wounded last Thursday, in a car bomb attack on his Army convoy near Mahmoudiyah, south of Baghdad.

Private First Class Ewing is a symbol of bravery and freedom, and the sacrifice he has made for his country will never be forgotten.

My heartfelt condolences go out to Private First Class Ewing's parents, Arthur and Hilda Lewis, and to his family and friends. All of America mourns their loss.

SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF FINANCIAL LITERACY MONTH

SPEECH OF

HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 27, 2004

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 578, a resolution supporting the goals and ideals of Financial Literacy Month. This bill, introduced by my colleagues Congresswoman JUDY BIGGERT and Congressman RUBÉN HINOJOSA, supports the goals and ideals of Financial Literacy Month and requests that the President issue a proclamation calling on the Federal Government, States, schools, businesses, and others to observe the month with appropriate programs and activities.

Our financial services industry benefits millions of people, allowing individuals and families to build homes, buy cars, finance educations, and start businesses. Financial literacy is particularly important for the Hispanic and minority communities. It empowers individuals to make wise financial decisions in an increasingly complex economy. Despite the importance of financial literacy, the numbers show that our work is just getting started.

Recent studies have found that high school seniors know less about principles of basic personal finance than did high school seniors 5 years ago. Between 25 and 56 million people over the age of 18 do not use mainstream, insured financial institutions and are consid-

ered "unbanked." Over one-third of Hispanic families do not have bank accounts. Despite these figures, fewer and fewer States include personal finance in education standards for students in kindergarten through high school.

That is why the National Council on Economic Education, the Jump\$tart Coalition for Personal Financial Literacy, and its partner organizations have designated April as "Financial Literacy Month." Our goal is to educate the public about the need for increased financial literacy for youth in the United States. In today's world, we must continue to expand access to mainstream financial institutions and provide all Americans the tools they need to become productive members of our society.

RECOGNIZING VALUABLE CONTRIBUTIONS OF MILITARY IMPACTED SCHOOLS, TEACHERS, ADMINISTRATION, AND STAFF FOR THEIR ONGOING CONTRIBUTIONS TO EDUCATION OF MILITARY CHILDREN

SPEECH OF

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 4, 2004

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today during the National Teacher Appreciation Week of 2004 in strong support of H. Res. 598, which recognizes and commends the teachers, administration, and staff of Military Impacted Schools, as well as those serving at the Department of Defense Education Activity schools world-wide.

As a member of the House Impact Aid Coalition, I would like to thank these teachers and staff for their dedication to the over 750,000 children of military personnel.

In our current War on Terrorism, it is especially important for the children in these schools, many of whom have at least one parent deployed abroad, to have the support of these extraordinary teachers. Teachers serving Military Impacted schools encounter unique challenges every day as they help military children achieve a high degree of educational attainment.

While none of the schools in the Texas 26th District are militarily impacted, the State of Texas is home to thousands of military personnel, and I would like to thank each and every one of the teachers who provide military children with support and an excellent education.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO JEANNINE FORD ARTAZ

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 5, 2004

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to rise today before this body of Congress and this nation to recognize a remarkable woman from my district. Jeannine Ford Artaz of Glenwood Springs, Colorado has displayed the kind of selfless dedication to her community that enriches the lives of all around her, and it is my pleasure to thank her for her many

contributions to Glenwood Springs and the State of Colorado.

In 1950, Jeannine moved to Colorado and began her career in television and radio. She served as the Butternut Weather Girl for KBTV, Channel 2 in Denver, was "Miss Jenny" on Romper Room, and was an editor and journalist for Channel 9 News. In 1965, she moved to Glenwood Springs and had radio programs on KGLN and KDNK, and Television Talk shows on Cable 12.

While many people in Colorado might have known Jeannine as a television and radio personality, she became a beloved member of her Glenwood Springs community through her generosity and extensive community involvement, where she was known affectionately as Grandma Nene. A small sampling of her participation includes volunteering for the Valley View Hospital Auxiliary; Glenwood Springs Sheriff's Department; Brownies, Girl Scouts, and Boy Scouts; and Glen Valley Nursing Home. For the annual Newcomers Fashion Show she designed and made the featured wedding ensemble, initiated some of the first efforts in starting a local animal shelter, and was the Strawberry Days Grand Marshall in 2001.

Mr. Speaker, it is clear Jeannine Ford Artaz plays a vital role in her Glenwood Springs community. Her dedication and selfless efforts have done much to enhance the lives of those around her, and is worthy of recognition before this body of Congress and this nation. Thanks for your service to your community Jeannine, and I wish you all the best in your future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO MRS. THEODORA JOHNSON: A TRULY GREAT LADY

HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 5, 2004

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate the life of a quiet and dignified matriarch, the late Theodora Johnson. Her passing last week has cast a veil of deep sadness over our community.

"Mamma Dear" Johnson was an extraordinary person by any measure. Her life was a delicately drawn picture of a calm, confident, dignified and strong woman with an unwavering commitment to the well being of her family and to those who shared her vision of a community of service and faith. She volunteered her time at Christ the King Catholic Church in South Dade—she was a founding member of the parish—and dedicated countless time and effort to enhancing her community.

She taught and volunteered in her parish school because she firmly believed in the high stakes involved in the education of children. Her work with children literally transformed their lives. She was keenly aware of the fact that giving our children the care and attention they need in life was her vocation.

She understood full well that either we pay now or we pay later. And so, she reached out to the parents of these children because she instinctively knew that the future of society is inextricably linked to the education of the young. Her approach to motivating youth emphasized personal responsibility and communal sharing.

Theodora Johnson lives on in the lives of the people she touched, in the good works she left behind, and in the wonderful memories we have of her. I know that I speak for all my colleagues in extending to her family our deepest sympathy and condolences.

RECOGNIZING EAST PIKELAND ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 5, 2004

Mr. GERLACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the East Pikeland Elementary School on its 75th anniversary and for its exemplary dedication and service to the children of the East Pikeland Township and the Phoenixville School District.

Originally, East Pikeland School was a one-room schoolhouse that in 1928 followed the national trend of school consolidation, in consolidating with two other schools, the Schuylkill School and the Charlestown School. This consolidation was made possible through the generous philanthropy of a local entrepreneur, Frank B. Foster.

In its early years, the East Pikeland School was one of the first in Pennsylvania to start an elementary school newspaper. In 1932, Miss Helen Ottinger created "The Tattler" and the newspaper later won an award for being the best elementary newspaper in the Commonwealth.

Beginning in the 1970s, the East Pikeland School further exhibited its excellence in teaching and learning when students in grades five, eight, and eleven were required to begin participating in the Pennsylvania System of School Assessment. Each year, the East Pikeland School students' scores were among the top in Chester County and the state in both reading and math. This outstanding performance by the students led to numerous awards, including a citation from the Pennsylvania House of Representatives. In the year 2000, the School was recognized by the East Pikeland Township for ranking highest among Chester County schools in reading and math. In 2000–2001, East Pikeland received a Maintenance of High Standards Award for maintaining high scores for three consecutive years. In 2002–2003, East Pikeland received an achievement improvement award from the East Pikeland Township for increased scores in reading and math.

Aside from an impressive academic record, the East Pikeland School has also excelled in extracurricular activities starting as early as 1946. Basketball was a popular sport, with the East Pikeland boys' team winning the West Chester playoffs in 1946. And in 2004, an old tradition of basketball games between Phoenixville area schools was reinstated. Fourth and fifth grade boys named "the Future Phantoms" represented East Pikeland in the tournament. Along with participation in sports, the students of East Pikeland participate in band and chorus and perform twice a year in the winter and spring concerts. In 2000, the East Pikeland Chorus won a superior rating in its first participation in the Music in the Parks competition in Hershey, Pennsylvania. Two years later in 2002, the tradition of a second grade play began with all students singing and acting in the spring performance.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me today in recognizing the East Pikeland School for its 75 years of dedication and excellence in teaching and for its considerable contributions to and unparalleled achievement within the East Pikeland community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROB PORTMAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 5, 2004

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, yesterday I was absent attending meetings in my Congressional District in Ohio and missed the votes on rollcall No. 139, on H. Res. 600, Congratulating charter schools; Roll Call Number 140, on H. Con. Res. 380, Recognizing school-based music education; and Roll Call Number 141, on H. Res. 599, Congratulating the University of Connecticut men's and women's basketball teams.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on rollcall No. 139, "yea" on rollcall No. 140, and "yea" on rollcall No. 141.

FOURTH DISTRICT JUNIOR CONFERENCE

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 5, 2004

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I recently received a letter from a constituent of mine who is an Americanism Chairman for the American Legion in Osage, Iowa. This person asked for the attached article's inclusion in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. Because of the exceptional work that the American Legion and the American Legion Auxiliary do for our country, I believe that this gesture is a small token of the appreciation of the Congress.

4TH DISTRICT JUNIOR CONFERENCE

The Osage Unit 278 hosted the Fourth District Junior Conference on March 21, 2004 with about 70 people in attendance.

The new officers for the coming year will be:

President—Nicole Schroeder, Unit 672 Fort Atkinson.

Vice-President—Alicia Brandau, Unit 278 Osage.

Secretary—Mallory Schweiger, Unit 278 Osage.

Historian—Amy Schroeder, Unit 672 Fort Atkinson.

Chaplain—Kelsey Klimesh, Unit 266 Calmar.

Sergeant-at-Arms—Brittney Shannon, Unit 9 Oelwein.

Assistant Sergeant-at-Arms—Kalinda Kolek, Unit 605 Protivin.

The many talents of the young people of the Fourth District shown through once again in the form of contest entries that were submitted for judging. Congratulations to all who worked so hard on their projects. The top place contestants were:

Poppy Posters: Class I—1st—Jake Tyler, Hawkeye, 2nd—Dustin Elsbend, Calmar, 3rd—Miranda Walz, Monona Class II—1st—Holly Randall, Guttenberg, 2nd—Lukes Elsbend, Calmar, 3rd—Megan Fink, Fort Atkinson Class III—1st—Emily Faust, Colesburg, 2nd—Kelsey Klimesh, Calmar, 3rd—Lindsy Franzen, Calmar

Poppy Corsages: Class I—1st—Grace Blocker, Fort Atkinson, 2nd—Kalinda Kolek, Protivin, Class II—Micki Schuck, Oelwein, 2nd—Carrie Pout, Oelwein, 3rd—Cassidy Pout, Oelwein, Class III—1st—Jessica Milbrandt, Fort Atkinson, 2nd—Kristen Milbrandt, Fort Atkinson, 3rd—Kerri Boies, Oelwein

Chaplain's Book of Prayers & Inspirations: Class II—1st—Jessica Milbrandt, Fort Atkinson, 2nd—Kristin Milbrandt, Fort Atkinson, 3rd—Kalinda Jo Kolek, Protivin

Junior History Book: Kristin Milbrandt, Fort Atkinson.

Junior Scrapbook: Jessica Milbrandt, Fort Atkinson.

Americanism Essay Contest: Kristin Milbrandt, Fort Atkinson.

Handiwork: 1st place all classes—Fort Atkinson.

A wonderful lunch was served by the host Unit and the entertainment of Hawaiian dancing very enjoyable. The Oelwein Unit will host the 2005 conference and I hope to see many Juniors in attendance. Mary E. Lukes, Fourth District Junior Chairman.

TRIBUTE TO VINCE DEMUZIO, ILLINOIS STATE SENATOR AND MAJORITY LEADER

HON. WILLIAM O. LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 5, 2004

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the memory of an exceptional statesman from Illinois, Senate Majority Leader Vince Demuzio. Throughout his career, Senator Demuzio has been a tremendous leader for the State of Illinois. His efforts in the Illinois Assembly, too numerous to even mention, serve as a model for each of us in public service.

For twenty nine years, Senator Demuzio proved to be a true leader in the state legislature as he worked to represent the needs of his constituents while reaching out to all of his colleagues. Senator Demuzio was admired and respected on both sides of the aisle. His spirited partisanship, which included a reputation of being both tough and fair, brought members together across party lines, for the good of Illinois.

Senator Demuzio consistently possessed a keen understanding of what it truly meant to be a public servant. Vince put the needs of his community first and foremost in everything he did. The people of Illinois have truly benefited from Senator Demuzio's legislative initiatives that included massive education reform, transportation projects, agricultural research, and necessary state-wide water and sewage improvements. He remained focused on state government throughout his entire political career and has greatly contributed to the development of downstate Illinois.

Senator Demuzio's leadership and political abilities have been recognized by his colleagues throughout his entire career. Vince served as the state chairman of the Democratic Party from 1986 to 1990, becoming the first downstate official to hold the post in decades, giving the areas surrounding the 49th district a greater voice in the state government. In 2003, Senator Demuzio became the Dean of the Senate, having served more