

# RECOGNIZING BENEFITS AND IMPORTANCE OF SCHOOL-BASED MUSIC EDUCATION

SPEECH OF

**HON. DANNY K. DAVIS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 4, 2004*

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Con. Res. 380, to acknowledge the great benefits and the importance of music in our Nation's schools.

We know music education helps young minds to develop creativity and expression of emotions. Studies show that early music training can enhance a child's ability to reason and think critically, that children exposed to music at a young age learn better in other subjects, and that children trained in music score significantly higher on reading tests than those who were not. Unfortunately, these programs are being cut from more and more schools with the majority of students attending public schools in inner city neighborhoods having virtually no access to music education, which places them at a disadvantage compared to their peers in other communities.

Although studies show the great outcomes of having music education, local budget cuts are depriving approximately 30,000,000 students of an education that includes music. It is not only at the local level that is forcing schools to abandon music education but the lack of federal funding as well. As our schools struggle to meet No Child Left Behind guidelines without full funding, provide education to all students without full funding for IDEA, schools are faced with making the decisions to cut music, art, after school activities or being labeled a failing school. We need to not only recognize the benefits and importance of music education, but embrace it, realize the need for it and other art education programs in all of our nation's schools and most importantly save music education from becoming extinct. Without music education so many of our great musicians that we admire today—would be doing something else. But the school music program was there for them and we need to have it there for the next generation of musicians.

COMMENDING DAVID LEESON AND CHERYL DIAZ MEYER OF DALLAS MORNING NEWS STAFF, WINNERS OF 2004 PULITZER PRIZE FOR BREAKING NEWS PHOTOGRAPH

**HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 6, 2004*

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate two great journalists, David Leeson and Cheryl Diaz Meyer of Dallas Morning News, who were recently awarded the 2004 Pulitzer Prize for Breaking News Photography.

We Texans saw blood spill, tears shed and conflict unfold in the trenches of Iraq through their camera lens.

Mr. Leeson, who was with the U.S. Army's Third Infantry Division for six weeks, captured

an image of an Iraqi rolling out of a vehicle engulfed in flames, only to be shot by an American soldier; Ms. Meyer photographed a gripping scene of American troops risking their lives to save a wounded civilian.

The Pulitzer is Leeson's first. He had been a Pulitzer finalist three other times. The Iraq war is the 11th major conflict Leeson has covered. He has also produced work on the apartheid in South Africa, a portion of the Gulf War and flooding in Southeast Texas.

It was the first Pulitzer for Ms. Meyer also, a News photographer since 2000. In late 2001, she traveled to Afghanistan to photograph the war on terrorism and its effects to topple the oppressive Taliban regime. She has received numerous awards for her body of work there including the John Faber Award from the Overseas Press Club. In April 2002, Ms. Meyer traveled to the Philippines and Indonesia where she photographed Muslim and Christian extremism and the violence caused by religious hatred.

Mr. Speaker, I also congratulate the Dallas Morning News' entire staff for their seventh Pulitzer.

Mr. Leeson and Ms. Meyer, I commend you for this great accomplishment. Keep capturing those shots because they are worth a thousand words.

IN MEMORY OF CAPTAIN ARTHUR L. FELDER

**HON. MIKE ROSS**

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 6, 2004*

Mr. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Captain Arthur L. Felder of Lewisville, AR, who died on April 24, 2004, fighting for his country in Taji, Iraq. Arthur "Bo" Felder, just 36 years old, was one of four soldiers killed during an attack on the base camp of the Arkansas's 39th Infantry Brigade. I wish to recognize his life and achievements.

Bo spent nearly two decades serving the Army and National Guard. During that time, he served in peacekeeping missions in Bosnia and Honduras. While not serving our country, children were Bo's passion, and he spent much of life involved with youth. He worked at Step One Alternative school in Little Rock, a school for kids with legal troubles, and served as a youth director at St. Luke Missionary Baptist Church in North Little Rock.

I am deeply saddened by the tragic loss of soldiers from Arkansas's 39th Brigade, who died while supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom. These brave Americans lost their lives while making the ultimate sacrifice to serve our country, and I will be forever grateful to them for their courageous spirit.

Bo gave his life to serve our country and will forever be remembered as a hero, a son, and a father. My deepest condolences go out to his son Jaelun, eight years old, his daughter Amari, four years old, his mother, Dr. Cheryl Stuart, his brothers, Robert Stuart and Little Felder, and two sisters, Gwendolyn Gingery and Kelana Greer. I know Bo was proud of his service to the U.S. Army and to our country. He will be missed by his family, fellow soldiers, and all those who knew him and counted him as a friend. I will continue to keep Bo and his family in my thoughts and prayers.

RECOGNITION OF MR. ANDREW JACKSON HIGGINS

**HON. TOM OSBORNE**

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 6, 2004*

Mr. OSBORNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the accomplishments of Mr. Andrew Jackson Higgins whom President Eisenhower once said is "The man who won the war for us", referring to his development and production of Patrol Torpedo (PT) boats that landed on the shores of many beaches during World War II.

Andrew Jackson Higgins was born on August 28, 1886, in Columbus, Nebraska, to John Gonigle and Anna Long (O'Conner) Higgins. His innovative mind showed itself at an early age, and by 12 years old, he was motivated to build his first craft in the basement of his home. The shallow water boats that floated along the Loup and Platte Rivers during his childhood inspired him.

His passion for boats did not stop in his childhood; Mr. Higgins organized Higgins Industries, Inc. in 1930, to build boats for his lumber business. He began designing boats because of navigation problems he encountered involving the moving of logs in shallow waterways. The structure of these shallow boats eventually led to the development of the PT boats and their capability to travel in shallow water.

He also created PT boats, which were also known as Higgins Boats. Higgins Boats, constructed of wood and steel, transported fully-armed troops, light tanks, field artillery, and other mechanized equipment essential to Allied versatile operations including the decisive D-Day attack at Normandy, France. He continued to design boats and eventually engineered over 20,000, including rocket-firing landing craft support boats, high-speed boats and various types of military landing craft.

Following the D-Day attack, thousands of lesser-known assaults employed Higgins Boats, which included landing on the beaches of Guadalcanal, Iwo Jima, Tarawa, Okinawa, Leyte, and Guam. Mr. Higgins not only specialized in landing craft such as PT boats, but also constructed freight supply ships and airborne lifeboats that could be dropped from B-17 Bombers.

The production of Higgins Boats enabled Mr. Higgins to establish four major assembly plants in New Orleans for mass construction of landing craft and other vessels vital to the Allied forces' conduct of World War II. He also trained over 30,000 Navy, Marine, and Coast Guard personnel on the safe operation of landing craft at the Higgins' Boat Operators School.

Mr. Higgins had another great accomplishment during World War II that established a progressive social policy at Higgins Industries Inc. He employed a fully integrated assembly workforce of black and white men and women. His policy was equal pay for equal work, decades before integration and racial and gender equality became the law of our land.

In 1964, the former President Dwight D. Eisenhower said of Andrew Jackson Higgins, "He is the man who won the war for us. If Mr. Higgins had not developed and produced those landing craft, we never could have gone in over an open beach. We would have had to change the entire strategy of the war."

Mr. Higgins enriched the lives of everyone fortunate enough to have known him. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the House of Representatives, we extend our deepest appreciation to Mr. Higgins' family and friends. Please join me in honoring Mr. Andrew Jackson Higgins, an exceptional individual who dedicated his life to the service of our country.

#### COMMENDING THE ALAMEDA CORRIDOR TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY

**HON. XAVIER BECERRA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 6, 2004*

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commend the Alameda Corridor Transportation Authority (ACTA). Earlier today, ACTA representatives formally presented the U.S. Department of Transportation with the final payments for a loan, including interest, which totals nearly \$573 million. This final payment was made 28 years ahead of schedule.

Opened on time and within budget, the Alameda Corridor is a 20-mile rail expressway connecting dock terminals in the Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach to transcontinental rail yards located in downtown Los Angeles. The project proceeds primarily along and adjacent to Alameda Street—with grade separations to safeguard local communities and pedestrian and vehicle traffic—through or bordering the cities of Vernon, Huntington Park, South Gate, Lynwood, Compton, Carson, Los Angeles, and the County of Los Angeles.

Much of the Corridor's success was made possible by an innovative federal loan, which deferred debt service repayments in the early years of the project and allowed for financing at reasonable interest rates through the bond market. In fact, this novel financing approach was the basis for the Transportation Infrastructure Financing and Innovation Act of 1998 (TIFIA), a national program to select projects for credit assistance.

The Alameda Corridor is a project of national significance as it facilitates the movement of commerce from around the world to the entire nation. The Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach together handle more than 40 percent of the nation's imports by value. More than 2 million jobs nationwide are associated with trade through these ports. These workers, and this country, benefit from the Federal government's role in assuming the early project risk that made the Alameda Corridor possible.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, let me again congratulate the ACTA team for their management of the project and the early loan repayment completed today. The Alameda Corridor is a model project and has set a new standard for excellence. I look forward to working on future "goods movement" projects such as this that will benefit our region and the Nation.

#### IN RECOGNITION THE MOTHERS' CLUB OF PINE CREST SCHOOL

**HON. E. CLAY SHAW, JR.**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 6, 2004*

Mr. SHAW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Mothers' Club of Pine Crest School in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. For 60 years, the Mothers' Club has been the lifeblood of Pine Crest School. The organization is comprised of over 450 mothers of current elementary-age students.

The Mothers' Club works diligently behind the scenes to ensure an optimal educational experience for Pine Crest's students. They promote community by organizing orientation programs which help acclimate new students and their parents to Pine Crest School. Every Pine Crest School event benefits from the support, involvement and assistance of the Mothers' Club. The Mothers' Club coordinates family barbecues, holiday gatherings and a festival of the arts.

The Mothers' Club always lovingly and willingly contributes to Pine Crest School, in any capacity necessary. This includes coordinating and chaperoning an annual field trip to Washington, D.C. These dedicated mothers volunteer in the classrooms and tutor students, assist in the library and implement a book share program, and serve lunch to students.

Mr. Speaker, the efforts of the Mothers' Club benefit not only Pine Crest School but also the greater South Florida community. These women coordinate various philanthropic endeavors to benefit local charities. Their hard work is noticed and appreciated throughout South Florida. In honor of their hard work for the last 60 years, I wish to recognize and commend the wonderful women of Pine Crest School's Mothers' Club for their dedicated service to children and elementary education.

#### RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF INCREASING AWARENESS OF AUTISM

SPEECH OF

**HON. STEVEN R. ROTHMAN**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 5, 2004*

Mr. ROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of House Resolution 605 to recognize the importance of generating awareness about autism, increasing research efforts into this terrible disorder, and improving support for those who suffer from autism and those who help care for the autistic. My 13 year old nephew Jack has autism, so I am part of an extended family working to raise a child with this disability. My family's ongoing experience has impressed upon me how critical it is for us, as a society, to give those with autism and their families the support they need to fight this devastating disease, and to commit the resources necessary to determine the cause of autism and to develop a cure for the millions of afflicted individuals.

Autism is not rare. Autism affects approximately 1 in every 166 children in the United States, making it one of the most common childhood medical disorders. In many cases,

those with autism will never marry, they will never live independently, and more than half of them will never learn to speak. Families affected by autism are forced to bear an extraordinary burden. Parents, siblings and friends have to learn to try to communicate with and care for a child who may be incapable of either verbal or nonverbal communication or who may exhibit erratic behavior. The fact that autism is so common is proof that autism research is deserving of our nation's wholehearted support.

Funding for autism research at the National Institutes of Health has been increased from approximately \$93 million in Fiscal Year 2003 to \$96 million in Fiscal Year 2004, but we know that is not enough. Scientists continue to disagree on the cause or causes for the dramatic increase in the number of autism cases diagnosed in the United States. Only with increased research will we be able to understand autism, find better treatments and effective prevention methods, and hopefully, someday soon, develop a cure for this terrible disease.

I am pleased to be here today as a cosponsor of H. Res. 605. I applaud Representative TIERNEY for authoring this Resolution and working to bring attention and resources to an all too common, but devastating disorder. At its peak, there were 20,000 cases of polio each year. Today, less than 10 Americans contract polio annually. By working together and by never giving up, I know we can make autism just as rare. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

#### RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF INCREASING AWARENESS OF AUTISM

SPEECH OF

**HON. LEE TERRY**

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 5, 2004*

Mr. TERRY. Mr. President, I rise in strong support of H. Res. 605 to support National Autism Awareness Month; commend the parents and caregivers of autistic children; support aggressive research into autism; and recognize the importance of early intervention.

If you were to see nine-year-old Jacob Nolan Hirschfeld on the baseball diamond today you might be impressed with his skills in playing our national pastime. Since his middle name was inspired by the great pitcher Nolan Ryan, you might also think that his success on the field was destined. But Jacob's ability to play baseball, and to do everyday things such as attending school and playing with friends, were never guaranteed.

Jacob Hirschfeld has been diagnosed with autism.

Jake struggles with most of the issues common among the autistic. At four years of age he could only speak in one syllable words. He was scared of loud noises and bright lights. He had many of the compulsions that are common with these children, and was fearful of most people outside of his immediate family. Jacob's father, Mark Hirschfeld, has said "our family was literally a prisoner to autism."

Jake's diagnosis was devastating to his parents. But even more difficult was the fact that physicians, educators and other professionals had little understanding of this complex disorder and what could be done to help children like Jacob. Stereotypes abounded.