

A TRIBUTE IN HONOR OF 2004
LEGRAND SMITH SCHOLARSHIP
WINNER MATTHEW CHARLES
WIXSON, OF ALBION, MICHIGAN

HON. NICK SMITH

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 11, 2004

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect for the outstanding record of excellence he has compiled in academics, leadership and community service, that I salute Matthew Charles Wixson, winner of the 2004 LeGrand Smith Scholarship. This award is given to young adults who have demonstrated their true commitment to playing an important role in our Nation's future.

As a winner of the LeGrand Smith Scholarship, Matthew is being honored for demonstrating the same generosity of spirit, intelligence, responsible citizenship, and capacity for human service that distinguished the late LeGrand Smith of Somerset, Michigan.

Matthew is an exceptional student at Concord High School. Aside from being at the top of his class academically, Matthew possesses an outstanding record of achievement in high school. He has run Varsity Track for four years and Varsity Cross Country for two years. Notable among his many school activities is his participation in Quiz Bowl, National Honor Society, and S.A.D.D. Matthew is also Treasurer for his graduating class.

On behalf of the United States Congress, I am proud to join his many admirers in extending our highest praise and congratulations to Matthew Charles Wixson for his selection as winner of the 2004 LeGrand Smith Scholarship. This honor not only recognizes his efforts, but represents a testament to the parents, teachers, and other individuals whose personal interest, strong support, and active participation contributed to his success. To this remarkable young man, we extend our most heartfelt good wishes for all his future endeavors.

IN HONOR OF DELPHINE
METCALF-FOSTER

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 11, 2004

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to invite my colleagues to join me in congratulating Ms. Delphine Metcalf-Foster on the occasion of her election as State Commander of the California Disabled American Veterans.

Delphine Metcalf-Foster was recently elected Commander of the California Disabled American Veterans, the first female to hold this position in the organization's 81 year history. Before that she was the Senior Vice Commander and Junior Vice Commander of the California Disabled American Veterans; again the first woman to hold these positions. As you will soon understand, Ms. Metcalf-Foster is a remarkable woman, a remarkable American and a great asset to her community and our country.

Ms. Metcalf-Foster retired from the Army Reserve as a First Sergeant after 21 years of

service, including as a combat veteran in the Gulf War/Desert Storm/Desert Shield 12 years ago. She is a recipient of a Bronze Star. Delphine retired from the Department of the Navy at the Alameda Naval Air Station as a Quality Assurance Specialist after 20 years. She has an Associate of Arts degree in psychology and a Bachelor of Arts degree in Liberal Studies from Sonoma State University (SSU). She is also active with the Women's Army Corps (WAC) and a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

First Sergeant Metcalf-Foster has been awarded the following decorations and medals: Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal (10c), National Defense Service Medal, Armed Forces Reserve Medal, Army Reserve Component Achievement Medal, Southwest Asia Service Medal, Bronze Star, NCO Professional Development Ribbon-3, Army Service Ribbon, Overseas Ribbon, and the Army Label Button.

Ms. Metcalf-Foster's work with the Disabled American Veterans includes positions as the Past Chapter 21 Commander, the Past District 1 Commander, the Past Department Commander's Aide for the North, and the Past National Commander's Aide.

In 2003 Ms. Metcalf-Foster agreed to join a Veterans Advisory Board that I formed with Congresswoman ELLEN TAUSCHER to help us stay in close contact with veterans in our districts. Delphine has been very helpful to us in that role.

In addition to her current position with the California Disabled American Veterans, Ms. Metcalf-Foster is also Adjutant for Chapter 21, attends Graduate School at Sonoma State University, volunteers as a mentor for teen mothers, speaks at history classes at SSU regarding women in the military, and is the annual speaker at Solano College during Women's History Month. She is married to Jimmie S. Foster Sr., is the mother of three, grandmother of six including Sgt. Jacare Hogan who just returned from Iraq after a 13-month tour, and great-grandmother of two. She lives in Vallejo.

Mr. Speaker, it is appropriate that we recognize Ms. Metcalf-Foster for her service to her country, her many remarkable contributions to her fellow veterans and her community, and that we wish her well in her new position as Commander of the California Disabled American Veterans.

STATEMENT OF JOHAN
SCHÖLVINCK, DIRECTOR, DIVISION FOR SOCIAL POLICY AND DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS, UNITED NATIONS ON "INTERNATIONAL DISABILITY RIGHTS: THE PROPOSED UN CONVENTION" BEFORE THE CONGRESSIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS CAUCUS, MARCH 30, 2004

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 11, 2004

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, on March 30th, the Congressional Human Rights Caucus held a groundbreaking Members' Briefing entitled, "International Disability Rights: The Proposed

UN Convention." This discussion of the global situation of people with disabilities was intended to help establish disability rights issues as an integral part of the general human rights discourse. The briefing brought together the human rights community and the disability rights community, and it raised awareness in Congress of the need to protect disability rights under international law to the same extent as other human rights through a binding UN convention on the rights of people with disabilities.

Our expert witnesses included Deputy Assistant Secretary of State Mark P. Lagon; the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Ecuador to the United Nations, Ambassador Luis Gallegos; the United Nations Director of the Division for Social Policy and Development in the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Johan Schölvinnck; the distinguished former Attorney General of the United States, former Under-Secretary General of the United Nations and former Governor of Pennsylvania, the Honorable Dick Thornburgh; the President of the National Organization on Disability (NOD), Alan A. Reich; Kathy Martinez, a member of the National Council on Disabilities (NCD); and a representative of the United States International Council on Disabilities (USCID) and Executive Director of Mental Disability Rights International, Eric Rosenthal.

As I had announced earlier, I intend to place the important statements of our witnesses in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, so that all of my colleagues may profit from their expertise, and I ask that the statement of Mr. Schölvinnck be placed at this point in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

PRESENTATION BY JOHAN SCHÖLVINCK

Mr. Chairman, thank you for inviting me to this historic briefing on the proposed UN Convention on the Rights and Dignity of Persons with Disabilities. It is an honour and a pleasure being here with you.

I will confine my remarks to describe the situation faced by persons with disabilities in developing countries. I believe that the disheartening picture that will emerge from what I am about to say will be further proof of the need for a UN Convention.

First let me cite some statistics: 80 percent of people with disabilities and their families live in a developing country. Between 400 and 500 million people living in a developing country have a disability.

Persons with disabilities are often trapped in a cycle of poverty and exclusion. For 150 million of them, disability has been caused by malnutrition and contagious diseases while conflicts and war accounts for a few millions. As many as 1 in 5 of the poorest people have a disability.

These are staggering figures.

Furthermore, persons with disabilities are frequently cut off from employment opportunities and suffer unemployment rates far higher than that of the non-disabled workforce. In many developing countries, it is estimated that 80 percent or more of the disabled are unemployed, which further contributes to their high incidence of poverty and social exclusion.

While persons with disabilities also face similar challenges in developed countries the situation is far worse in developing countries where both disability benefits and vocational rehabilitation services may be virtually nonexistent. In such cases, the disabled are often left dependent, destitute and despairing. Given the relatively small size of the formal labour market in most developing countries, particularly in rural areas where many of

the disabled live, opportunities for integration of persons with disabilities through employment largely rest on informal work, particularly self-employment. Unfortunately, persons with disabilities are often denied loans by banks and lenders.

Improving the living conditions of persons with disabilities in developing countries is an overlooked developmental challenge. As James Wolfensohn, the President of the World Bank once said, "unless disabled people are brought into the development mainstream, it will be impossible to cut poverty in half by 2015 as agreed to by more than 180 world leaders at the United Nations Millennium Summit in September 2000". So is the goal to give every girl and boy the chance to achieve a primary education by the same date.

Every child is unique and has a fundamental right to education. Yet in developing countries, only a small minority of disabled children is in school. Less than 10 percent of children with disabilities attend formal education and over 9 in 10 are illiterate. When denied the basic right of education, disabled people become severely restricted in terms of their economic, social and political opportunities as well as the prospects for their personal development. Without an education it is more difficult to secure a job, particularly one that pays a decent wage, to participate actively and fully in the community and to have a meaningful voice in policy making, especially on issues that directly concern the affected population.

Given the dynamics of disability and health, access to adequate health care services is essential for the promotion of independent living for the disabled. Health services play a critical role in the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of illnesses and conditions which can cause physical, psychological and intellectual impairments. Yet for the majority of persons with disabilities living in developing countries, poverty precludes access to these vital services—either because health care facilities and practitioners are not sufficiently available, or there are not enough funds to purchase needed medications and devices. Particularly dramatic is, beyond the lack of orthopedic surgeons, the greatly insufficient number of medical rehabilitation centers to help people adapt to disabling conditions. According to the World Health Organization, at most only 5 percent of the disabled in developing countries have access to rehabilitation services.

The potential for enhancing the possibility of persons with disabilities to carry on independent lives rests on the integration of the disabled into the general community, rather than placing them in exclusionary institutions or relegating them into "colonies" of disabled. Community Based Rehabilitation programmes, which are in the process of becoming fairly well established in industrialized countries tend to be part and parcel of these strategies, but remain rare in developing countries.

In developing countries, persons with disabilities are often excluded from the mainstream of the society, discriminated against and denied their human rights. Violations of the human rights of persons with disabilities are seldom addressed in society. Many disability legislation and policies are based on the assumption that persons with disabilities are simply not able to exercise the same rights as non-disabled persons. Consequently, the situation of persons with disabilities is often addressed in terms of rehabilitation and social services. In many countries, existing provisions do not provide for the rights of disabled persons in all their aspects—that is, political, civil, economic, social and cultural rights—on an equal basis with persons without disabilities. Further-

more, anti-discrimination laws often have weak enforcement mechanisms, thereby denying opportunities for persons with disabilities to participate on the basis of equality in social life and development.

Mr. Chairman, the adoption of the UN Convention will not provide a magic wand in overcoming the dismal conditions faced by persons with disabilities in developing countries. However, without such an instrument their chances of becoming fully integrated in their societies will remain infinitely difficult to attain.

YVONNE ROBERTSON HONORED BY THE GREATER CINCINNATI REGION OF THE NATIONAL CONFERENCE FOR COMMUNITY AND JUSTICE AT ITS 60TH ANNIVERSARY AWARDS DINNER

HON. ROB PORTMAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 11, 2004

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Yvonne Robertson, a friend, constituent and outstanding community volunteer, who will be honored for her distinguished service to our community at the Greater Cincinnati Region of the National Conference for Community and Justice's (NCCJ) 60th Anniversary Awards Dinner on May 27, 2004.

Yvonne has dedicated over 30 years of community service as an active volunteer. As a former educator, she has focused much of her community service on youth. Yvonne has served on the boards of Cincinnati's School for Creative and Performing Arts; the Adolescent Clinic; the Greater Cincinnati Scholarship Foundation; and the Greater Cincinnati Youth Collaborative. In addition, she is the Immediate Past President of Advocates for Youth Education, which grants need-based college scholarships to area students.

Yvonne has a special interest in social service organizations. She was the first chair of The Gathering, a day long conference for African American women centered on personal, spiritual, social, health and work related issues. She chaired the Negro Spiritual Festival, and has been a trustee of the Cincinnati chapter of the Red Cross; the Cerebral Palsy Center; and Family Services of Cincinnati.

Active locally and nationally in arts organizations, Yvonne was appointed national director of the arts for The Links, an international women's service organization, and during her tenure established a collaboration with the Smithsonian Institution. She has also served as trustee for the Cincinnati Ballet; the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra; and the Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park.

All of us in Greater Cincinnati thank Yvonne for all she has done to make our community a better place, and we congratulate her on receiving this prestigious award.

CONGRATULATING THE BOB JONES ACADEMY MOCK TRIAL TEAM

HON. JIM DeMINT

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 11, 2004

Mr. DEMINT. Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege to congratulate the Bob Jones Academy Mock

Trial team for winning the Championship at the National High School Mock Trial Competition in Orlando, Florida. The team represented their families, school, and State in an outstanding way and are an example of excellence, dedication, and teamwork to the country. I am very proud of their achievement.

Success is never achieved alone, and I would like to extend congratulations to the families, friends, and teachers who share in this moment as well. Principal, Dr. David Fisher, and head coach, Mr. Michael Murphy, as well as his assistants Miss Ruth Hindman, Mr. Allen Fretwell, and Mr. Chuck Nicholas share in this honor by their investments in preparing the team.

For over 75 years, Bob Jones Academy has maintained a tradition of excellence in Christian education with a faculty committed to preparing young lives—both in mind and character—to serve Christ in all walks of life. Ashleigh Millard, Matt Miller, Daniel Hindman, Ben Adams, Kerry Weigand, Richie Patton, Elizabeth Sowers, Emily Sowers, Alex George, Betsy Apelian, and Daniel Nickerson continue this tradition of excellence.

RECOGNIZING FRANCES WILLIAMS PRESTON FOR HER CONTRIBUTIONS TO MUSIC AND HER SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY

HON. JIM COOPER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 11, 2004

Mr. COOPER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize one of popular music's most effective and accomplished champions, Frances Williams Preston, on the occasion of her retirement. Ms. Preston, whom Fortune magazine has called "one of the true powerhouses in the pop music industry," steps down this year after 18 years as President and CEO of Broadcast Music, Inc. (BMI). And while her daily presence as the leader of BMI will be missed, she will no doubt continue to make her mark on the industry that she has come to lead.

Since entering the music business through the mailroom of WSM Radio in Nashville forty years ago, Ms. Preston's passion for music and acumen for business have shaped the art both in Nashville and nationwide. Tapped by BMI to open its Nashville office in 1958, Ms. Preston oversaw the growth of an industry giant which now employs 400 people in Nashville and thousands all over the globe. Under Ms. Preston's leadership, BMI became a driving force in Nashville's music scene, helping songwriters make a living doing what they loved, much as she did, herself. And although she eventually left Music City for New York in 1986 to take the helm of BMI's national and international operations, she has always remained an active fan and supporter of Nashville music and Southern artists.

Ms. Preston's numerous awards and commendations barely do justice to her lifetime of achievement, yet she retires as one of the most decorated individuals the music industry has ever seen. Ms. Preston has received nearly every honor available to a music industry executive, including a Trustees Grammy in 1998, and membership in the Country Music, Gospel Music, and Broadcasting & Cable