

RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF AVID

HON. SUSAN A. DAVIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 18, 2005

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a tremendous and extremely valuable asset to public education in the United States.

I am referring to the Advancement Via Individual Determination or AVID program that began in my hometown of San Diego 25 years ago.

Since then, it has helped hundreds of thousands of underachieving students across the United States learn the study habits and the skills needed for college. It has also helped thousands of students excel in the core subjects of reading, math, and the sciences.

Mary Catherine Swanson, a school teacher at San Diego's Clairemont High, created AVID in 1980 because she wanted to find a way to help students with mediocre academic records.

What has happened since then is nothing short of amazing.

AVID has grown from one classroom to 2,200 middle and high schools in 36 states.

The program emphasizes individual achievement while teaching new study habits. In addition, AVID encourages goal setting and works to lift self-expectations and self-esteem in students.

Nearly 260,000 students have benefited tremendously from these ground-breaking teaching methods.

Amazingly, over 95 percent of those who complete the AVID program attend college and nearly all of these students return for their sophomore year.

It is difficult to choose from the thousands of success stories produced by AVID. I am inspired each time I hear one of these stories.

Please allow me to share just a few of these stories with you today.

Some of you may remember Joanna Hayes for winning Gold in the women's 100-meter hurdles during the 2004 Summer Olympics in Greece.

Joanna's teachers remember her for her drive and determination to achieve in her classes.

Earlier in high school, however, Joanna faced a problem. She was a promising student athlete and knew she could likely land an athletic scholarship at a number of schools around the nation.

Unfortunately, her grades were low and she did not possess the academic credentials to attend her dream school, UCLA.

Joanna's high school guidance counselor told her about the AVID program and how it had helped a number of students greatly improve their grades.

She signed up and her grades began to improve dramatically.

She attended UCLA and became a world-class athlete attributing a great deal of her success to AVID.

I was also moved by the story of Truong-Son Vinh who arrived in the United States when he was 9 years old.

He fled Saigon just before it fell into the hands of the North Vietnamese in 1975. Tragically, his father was killed during the war.

Truong-Son Vinh's family ended up in San Diego where he found the AVID program.

With the help of AVID, he maintained an "A" average and excelled in math and the sciences throughout high school.

He applied the skills and study habits he learned through AVID and earned degrees in mechanical engineering and applied math from the University of California at San Diego and a master's degree from Cal. Tech.

This was just the beginning for Truong-Son Vinh.

After college, he went to work for NASA and contributed to the Space Shuttle program during the 1980s.

He later returned to school and earned a Ph.D and an MBA.

Mr. Speaker, it is stories like Joanna Hayes and Truong-Son Vinh's that have inspired me to introduce a resolution recognizing AVID and honoring the program on its 25th anniversary.

I am pleased to have the opportunity to introduce this resolution with my friend and colleague from Delaware, Congressman CASTLE.

Because of AVID, thousands of students have had the opportunity to achieve in our public schools and have had the opportunity to go on to college.

Again, this program has far exceeded anyone's expectations.

I thank Mary Catherine Swanson for having a vision and working hard to implement this vision beginning with one classroom at Clairemont High.

In addition, please allow me to thank the administrators of the AVID program for their hard work promoting the program on a national level.

Also, the work the teachers and tutors do in the AVID program is nothing short of amazing. Because of their dedication, AVID has turned the lives around of thousands of our young people.

Finally, I would just like to take a moment to recognize the students who had the courage to take on the rigorous academic track required by AVID and who had the desire to one day go to college.

I introduce this resolution today to honor AVID and all it has accomplished.

If we are to eliminate the achievement gap in the United States, I believe we need to build upon the programs that have already decreased the size of the gap successfully.

AVID is clearly one of these programs.

We will also need to turn to AVID and other proven programs already showing success in assisting our kids make gains in the areas that our nation is lagging far behind. I refer specifically to math and the sciences.

If we are to be competitive in the world economy, we need programs such as AVID to help our children excel in math, the sciences, and other key programs.

IN HONOR AND TRIBUTE OF JOAN DIDION

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 18, 2005

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of Joan Didion, established author, wife and mother. Her current novel, *The Year of Magical Thinking*, traces

her journey through one year after her husband's sudden death and her daughter's grave illness.

Joan Didion was born in Sacramento, California and graduated from the University of California at Berkeley. Didion is the author of five novels and eight books of non-fiction. Her distinguished works and publications were collected into *Slouching Towards Bethlehem* released in 1968 and *The White Album* in 1979. These books established Didion's name as an author and observer of American politics and culture with deepening personal reflections mixed with analysis.

Didion married John Gregory Dunne, also an established writer, in 1964 and together they had a daughter, Quintana. The family lived in California until moving to New York City in 1988. In 2003, their family was shocked to learn that Quintana had a fatal illness. Months after learning their daughter's bad news, John suddenly died.

They had just returned home from visiting their daughter in the hospital. Joan later learned her husband died of a massive coronary attack. Unable to bear with the grief that settled in, Joan began writing what turned into her latest book, *The Year of Magical Thinking*. This book chronicles her feelings and memories after John's death and the sickness of her daughter. Sadly, even after a brief recovery, Quintana died months after Joan finished the book.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in recognizing Joan Didion on her accomplishments as a writer and her courage as a grieving wife and mother. Her unwavering strength during difficult times should be an inspiration to all of us.

HAPPY 101ST BIRTHDAY TO MAGGIE KATIE BROWN KIDD

HON. DAVID SCOTT

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 18, 2005

Mr. SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to fulfill an annual obligation to wish a happy birthday to Ms. Maggie Katie Brown Kidd. This year, it is my distinct pleasure to wish Ms. Kidd a happy 101st birthday. Although her birth date is December 8th, she will be celebrating with her family on November 25, 2005.

Ms. Kidd has led a long life of devoted service, always lending a helping hand to any of her relatives or neighbors. She carries on the tradition of her beloved husband "Doc" who earned that nickname precisely for such a reputation. So in addition to celebrating her birthday, we are celebrating another year of her contributions to our community. To mark this occasion and her contributions I am awarding her a "Certificate of Special Congressional Recognition."

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me, Maggie's children, her grandchildren and her great-grandchildren in wishing her a happy 101st birthday.

RECOGNIZING THE
CONTRIBUTIONS OF EVE NEWMAN**HON. TOM DAVIS**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 18, 2005

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mrs. Eve Newman for her contributions and dedicated service to the Commonwealth of Virginia.

I first met Mrs. Newman when I was a teenager working alongside her daughter, Lee, as a volunteer for the Republican National Committee. Her impressive, professional nature inspired the young volunteers she was overseeing at the time. Mrs. Newman and her husband, the late Eugene L. Newman, were longtime residents of Fairfax County and unselfishly served their community over the years. Mrs. Newman and her daughter now reside in Strasburg, Virginia, where she remains active in her community.

Over her lifetime, Mrs. Newman has held several distinguished positions and has received countless awards for her service. Mrs. Newman served as the general registrar for Fairfax County for eight years, was president of the Voter Registrars Association of Virginia, president of the Republican Women's Club and Board member of the State Board of Republican Women. With each organization, she dedicated herself fully to each cause and came up with innovative ideas to improve the organization. While serving on the State Board of Republican Women, she organized a scrap booking contest that was an instant success for a number of years. While serving as the registrar for Fairfax County, she created a tabulation system utilizing age brackets as an election prediction tool.

Her love and dedication to the Republican Party is matched by her love for the arts. She studied at the Art Institute in Philadelphia, and has she served on the Board of Directors of the Wayside Theatre located in the Shenandoah Valley. Mrs. Newman was not a board member that simply warmed a seat; she served as an active participant who contributed immensely to the theatre. Her assistance was merited in 2002 when she was awarded the theatre's highest honor, the Leo M. Bernstein Award. Mrs. Newman is also an accomplished artist; her most notable artistic contribution can be seen on each official document of the Virginia Federation of Republican Women, as she is the designer of the official seal.

On Saturday, November 20th, many from around the Commonwealth will gather with Eve at a luncheon in her honor. Mr. Speaker, in closing, I call upon my colleagues to join me in recognizing her accomplishments and applauding her for all that she has done.

TO RECOGNIZE THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY COMMISSION OF SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY

HON. WILLIAM M. THOMAS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 18, 2005

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 40th anniversary of the founding

of the Economic Opportunity Commission of San Luis Obispo County (EOC), which will be celebrated on December 9th. I would like to congratulate the board members, staff and volunteers of the EOC for all they have accomplished and wish them well as they continue to serve the residents of San Luis Obispo and nine other counties in California.

The EOC is a private, nonprofit public benefit community action agency (CAA) that was designated by the San Luis Obispo County Board of Supervisors as the CAA for the County in December 1965. The EOC strives to address and alleviate poverty in San Luis Obispo County, in part through community-based programs designed to help individuals and families develop the skills needed to enhance their stability and economic independence. In addition, the EOC also uses strong community partnerships with churches, county government, and other service providers to assist the local community.

I appreciate the assistance the EOC provides to the residents of San Luis Obispo County. Its Board of Commissioners, employees, and volunteers are to be commended for their efforts, which have helped thousands of people over the past 40 years. Accordingly, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the EOC as they celebrate their 40th anniversary.

REGARDING WASHINGTON STATE
PROFESSOR OF THE YEAR
BRUCE PALMQUIST**HON. DOC HASTINGS**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 18, 2005

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I wish to pay tribute to 2005 Washington State Professor of the Year—Mr. Bruce Palmquist.

The U.S. Professors of the Year awards, sponsored by the Council for Advancement and Support of Education, recognize college and university professors for their excellence in undergraduate teaching and mentoring.

For over a decade, Mr. Palmquist has taught science to students at Central Washington University using innovative teaching strategies to actively engage his students in learning. He has taught his students to embrace the University's motto "by teaching, we learn." This teaching approach has motivated students to achieve a higher standard.

Mr. Palmquist recognizes the importance of access to higher education. He worked to establish a teacher education program at a community college one hundred miles from Central Washington University, so that students could more easily access higher education. Mr. Palmquist's dedication to the program and students is apparent as he travels over 200 miles per week to advise enrolled and potential students, promote the program, and help students with course work.

In a society where teachers do not always receive the appreciation they deserve, I am pleased to honor and commend Mr. Palmquist for his dedication to students in Central Washington. Mr. Palmquist is a teacher who is willing to work hard for his students, and expects his students to work hard for him in return.

To Mr. Palmquist and the professors across America that are educating tomorrow's leaders, thank you.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TIMOTHY V. JOHNSON

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 18, 2005

Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 597, I was inadvertently detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

AZERBAIJAN ELECTIONS

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 18, 2005

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the opportunity to share a few thoughts with my colleagues on recent the elections in Azerbaijan.

While the recent November 6th parliamentary elections in Azerbaijan failed to meet U.S. and international standards for a free and fair process, there were some notable improvements over the previous elections.

According to the State Department, the Government of Azerbaijan: allowed large numbers of candidates to register; provided candidates with greater access to the media; allowed exit polls and extensive monitoring by domestic and foreign observers; improved voter lists; and took other actions contributing to a more orderly and transparent vote.

However, there were widespread reports of major irregularities and fraud—including concerning vote tabulation, as well as intimidation of voters and observers—that may have disenfranchised voters in many districts.

In response, Azerbaijani leader Aliyev has, thus far, reportedly: ordered the Justice Minister to fully investigate the election results; dismissed two governors and other officials for election fraud; annulled the outcome of the elections in a fourth voting district; and is probing the results from 20 of the country's voting constituencies for possible violations.

Just this week, it was reported that Aliyev dismissed Vagif Ragimov, the governor of Zagatala, a region in western Azerbaijan near the border with Georgia, for alleged interference in ballot counting. Two days earlier, after a three-hour discussion, the Central Election Commission (CEC) reportedly canceled results in the #110 Zagatala constituency in response to reported violations in a majority of the polling stations.

Ragimov was reportedly the third governor to be dismissed for attempted vote tampering.

These are positive steps but further corrective actions must be taken. For example, investigations should not be limited exclusively to election day problems but must address reports of post-election crackdowns and suppression of dissent.

I therefore urge Mr. Aliyev to continue to work closely with the United States, the rest of the international community, and all segments of Azerbaijani society to undertake the necessary reforms to provide for a future in which free, fair and transparent elections are regularly held in a fully democratic Azerbaijan.