

the importance of obtaining higher education is rising, so is college tuition and the amount of debt that students must borrow to earn a college degree. Since 2002, the cost of college has increased over 40 percent, with North Dakota's largest schools increasing their tuition by double digits in the past two academic years. In addition, last year 9.7 million students received federal education loans, with the typical student borrowing \$15,500 to finance a bachelor's degree.

In this climate, the bill before the House today does not adequately address the problem of college accessibility. First, the bill does not reverse the changes made in the budget reconciliation bill passed earlier this year, which included the largest cuts to the student aid program ever. The reconciliation bill increased interest rates for new loans to students and parents and imposed new consolidation fees on borrowers, making the repayment of loans more difficult. Second, although H.R. 609 does include some improvements to aid programs, these changes are not adequate to address the problems outlined above. For example, although H.R. 609 increases the maximum Pell grant award, the award was only increased \$200—not enough to meet the increasing costs of college tuition. Unfortunately, H.R. 609 does not do enough for students and parents facing college costs and I am hopeful that this bill can be improved as it progresses through the legislative process.

RECOGNIZING DELL ROVANSEK AS THE RECIPIENT OF THE CARE AWARD

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 4, 2006

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dell Rovanseck of Fairfax, Virginia, upon receiving the Commonwealth Academy Recognition for Educators (CARE) Award.

The CARE award presented by Commonwealth Academy of Alexandria, Virginia honors outstanding educators who work to enhance the lives of their students. This year's honorees are recognized for their unrelenting work to enhance the lives of the students they serve. Dell Rovanseck, a second grade teacher at Bonnie Brae Elementary School in Fairfax, Virginia, is honored for her work in promoting academic achievement for all in the spirit of the No Child Left Behind Act.

Ms. Rovanseck has been teaching for twenty-one years, and has extensive experience working with special needs students. She is originally from Wadley, Alabama, and received her B.S. in Education from Auburn University and her master's in Education from George Mason University.

Ms. Rovanseck has been teaching in the Fairfax County Public Schools for the past fifteen years, and she calls teaching her "calling." She says, "I have the opportunity to directly impact children's lives, hopefully in a very positive way. Even at my level, early childhood education, I feel a great obligation to prepare children for future challenges, academic and social. I want children to walk into my classroom and feel safe and happy."

Ms. Rovanseck has traveled extensively as the wife of an Army officer. She calls living in

Hawaii and Korea "great adventures." She and her husband have a daughter, Kelly, and a son, Joey.

I ask my colleagues to join me in applauding Dell Rovanseck and congratulating her on this distinguished achievement.

COLLEGE ACCESS AND OPPORTUNITY ACT OF 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 29, 2006

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 609) to amend and extend the Higher Education Act of 1965:

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. I would be remiss if I did not make clear to the Chairman and to the Ranking Democrat on the Committee my very real concern about the Committee's failure to address an obvious shortcoming in this bill resulting from the creation of the Academic Competitiveness Grants and the SMART Grants in the Omnibus Deficit Reduction Act of 2005 (P.L. 109-171). Namely, while we have offered low-income, language minority, and "first-generation" college students an attractive reward—significant grant aid to help pay for college—especially for those who major in the STEM areas and in foreign language—we have not provided a means for many of them to qualify for such grants.

Two things must be done to ensure that we build a pipeline for these students to qualify for these important new additions to our Federal Student Aid arsenal if we are to pave the way for access and educational opportunity for all of our students. First, we must help prepare low-income, language minority, and "first-generation" students to be successful in the eighteen core courses that the extent research tells us will help ensure academic success in college. Second, we must work to be sure that those courses—Algebra I and II, Plane Geometry, Biology, Chemistry and Physics, World History, Geography, Economics, Government, English, and Foreign Language—are all well-taught in every high school in America.

In many urban and rural high schools, academically rigorous college preparatory courses are simply not taught, and our students and the Nation suffer as a result. This week, the Center for Education Policy released the results of a recent survey under the No Child Left Behind Act. The Center for Education Policy survey not only found that teachers are "teaching to the test," but that non-reading and math course work is being short-changed or eliminated to ensure that poor performing students achieve the NCLB performance levels. This means that history and science are not being taught so kids can perform well on reading and math tests. Clearly this will achieve one goal, but it will sacrifice these students' future preparedness for post-secondary academic success.

We can do better and we must. I want to work with my colleague Representative FATTAH, with you Mr. Chairman and with my friend from California Mr. MILLER to fashion a solution that will work.

IN HONOR OF KATHLEEN'S KITCHEN

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 4, 2006

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of Kathleen's Kitchen, located in the heart of Cleveland's Westside neighborhood, as they are closing their doors on April 1, following a twenty-four year run of great food, great service, laughter and lively conversation.

The restaurant, located in Kamm's Corners, is owned by sisters Kathleen Verrell, Cindi Condol and Micki Speck. The sisters took over the business when their mother, founder Kathleen Finnerty, passed away. Mrs. Finnerty opened Kathleen's Kitchen in 1982, and her kind heart and generous nature was continued on through her daughters, whose collective goodwill consistently extended out into the neighborhood, as they offered hot meals or coffee to those in need.

Kathleen's Kitchen's warm and inviting atmosphere evolved from a corner diner into a favorite gathering place for residents, families, business owners, and people in all lines of work, from plumbers to presidents. President Bill Clinton visited Kathleen's Kitchen several times during his presidency. Though customers came from differing backgrounds, everyone was connected by a common quest—a familiar place to relax, enjoy a great meal, connect with others and capture the viewpoints of the day's events.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honor and gratitude of the owners, staff and customers of Kathleen's Kitchen, whose energy, warmth and friendship served as a daily reflection of real life in America. Although Kathleen's Kitchen will be missed by countless people, including myself, our wonderful time spent there will remain in our memories forever.

IN MEMORY OF GEORGE L. BROWN

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 4, 2006

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to my dear friend and an exemplary American, George Brown, who passed away Friday, March 31, 2006. George made history in his lifetime, as a civil rights trailblazer and a political leader who made a career of serving his community and his country.

Born in Lawrence, Kansas on July 1, 1926, George excelled educationally, and in World War II served his country as a member of the famous Tuskegee Airmen. Following the war, he went off to college at a time when only the GI Bill made it possible for African Americans to do so in the face of racial discrimination and economic hardships. He graduated from the University of Kansas in 1950. In the 1960's, as a reporter for the Denver Post, he was part of that cadre of journalists who chronicled the heroic struggles of African Americans and their supporters in the civil rights movement. The tumult of that era helped forge his deep social consciousness.

George's entire career was devoted to public service. In the 1950's, he was named to head the Denver Housing Authority. In 1955, he was appointed to the Colorado House of Representatives, and later became the first African American elected to the Colorado State Senate. In 1974 he gained national attention when he was elected Lieutenant Governor of Colorado—the first African American so honored in U.S. history. As a major public figure, he became an influential spokesman for justice and equity in Colorado and beyond.

Following retirement from government George worked as a consultant in the private sector in Washington while remaining involved with public causes, including the Boys Choir of Harlem. Just two weeks before his passing, George co-chaired the National Black Peoples Unity Convention in Gary, Indiana, addressing economic strategies to empower African Americans.

With all of his professional success, George was first and foremost a family man. I remember his joy with the addition of each new grandchild to his family. He is survived by his wife, Modeen; two sisters, Harriet Baskerville and Laura Gilyard; nine children, Gail Chandler, Cindy Brown, Kim Brown, Laura Mitchell, Angela Ashley, Carolyn Smith, Sharolyn Williams, Nyra Crenshaw, and Ronald Crenshaw, as well as seven grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

George was not only a great man, but a loyal friend who would always be there to lend a helping hand or to just listen. He was a source of inspiration to me and to everyone who knew him. May God bless him and his family.

TRIBUTE TO GREEK INDEPENDENCE DAY

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 4, 2006

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Greek Independence Day. I am proud to represent Greek-town in Chicago and the many Greek-Americans that live on the near west side.

185 years ago, on March 25, 1821, Greece declared its independence from the Ottoman Empire. On that day, a great friendship was born between the two nations. Americans went to fight for Greece's independence and Americans and Greeks have fought side by side since that time. Over the past 185 years many Greeks have immigrated to the United States and a great number live in my district today.

Greece's location at the southern end of the Balkan Peninsula on the Mediterranean has positioned Greece at the crossroads of Europe, Asia, and Africa ensuring that it shares not only the cultural richness of that diverse region, but also some of the great troubles that have plagued that area.

Hopefully this Congress we can work together to ensure peace in the region, the sovereignty of Greece, and a strong and lasting friendship between the United States and Greece.

COLLEGE ACCESS AND OPPORTUNITY ACT OF 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 29, 2006

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 609) to amend and extend the Higher Education Act of 1965:

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I rise today to address the need for high quality teachers in our Nation's schools. In many of our urban and rural school districts there continues to be a shortage of teachers who have a solid background in the subjects of math, science and foreign language. This shortage is resulting in sub-standard education for these students where in many cases college preparatory courses are not available in upper level math, calculus, physics, chemistry and biology. As a result many of these students will not complete high school or pursue a college education. Even if students go onto higher education, they face numerous obstacles completing their college coursework as they have not had the same college preparatory background as their counterparts. Providing high quality teachers in these critical subject areas is key in ending the achievement gap that exists throughout this country.

I fully support the ideas behind the Amendment offered by Ms. MCMORRIS, Mr. HOLT, and Mr. DREIER. For low-income urban and rural schools an Adjunct Teacher Corp. could offer a lifeline for these students. It is extremely unfortunate that there were not provisions within the amendment that would expand training requirements for these faculty members. We must ensure that our students not only have teachers with a strong background in their subject area, but also have the proper training to convey that knowledge to their students. While I agree, that it is imperative to get these teachers into the classroom as soon as possible, there needs to be specific training requirements and adequate monitoring of faculty. In addition, I continue to have serious reservations regarding the undercutting of collective bargaining laws within this amendment. Without clarification on these provisions, I unfortunately could not support this amendment.

I do however, applaud my colleagues for their efforts on this important issue, and would like to work with them in the future on efforts to provide high quality teachers in every classroom.

IN HONOR OF EUGENIA STOLARCZYK'S POLISH RADIO PROGRAM

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 4, 2006

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in tribute and recognition of the 45th Anniversary of Eugenia Stolarczyk's Polish Radio Program, broadcast every Sunday morning on Cleveland's WCPN 90.3 FM and WERE 1300 AM,

as she is honored by the Polish American Cultural Center of Cleveland, established in 2001.

The native language, music and news of Poland streams from the radio on Sunday mornings, here in Cleveland and around the country, connecting Americans of Polish heritage to their beloved homeland. The music and song of Poland, from classical to polka, serves as a living bridge that transcends time and distance, connecting the memories, history, spirit and culture of Poland.

Eugenia Stolarczyk's talent, passion and joy in promoting Polish music, culture and news brings the soul of Poland into the kitchens and living rooms of people living on Fleet Avenue in Cleveland and along avenues across the country. American citizens who emigrated here from Poland add significant depth, richness and brilliant color to the diverse fabric of nations that comprise the cultural fabric of Cleveland, reflecting the heart and soul of our nation—a nation founded on, and unified by, the grit and struggle for freedom—a nation of immigrants.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring Eugenia Stolarczyk, whose dedication, talent and energy has illuminated the radio waves from Cleveland to California every Sunday morning for the past 45 years, echoing the spirited melodies and language of Poland. This vital radio broadcast serves as a guardian of ancestry, protecting and preserving the song and spirit of Poland for every new generation to come to embrace—with just a turn of the dial.

ACKNOWLEDGING THE TENTH AN- NIVERSARY OF THE DEATH OF RONALD H. BROWN, FORMER SECRETARY OF COMMERCE

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 4, 2006

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the legacy and memory of Ronald H. Brown, the former Secretary of Commerce on this tenth anniversary of his untimely passing and to enter into the RECORD an article written to Ron Brown's legacy entitled "The Constituency for Africa Remembers Ron Brown".

On April 3, 1996, Ron Brown and a 34-person United States delegation had concluded a trade mission to the Balkans and were returning to the United States when their airplane crashed into the side of a mountain in Croatia.

Ronald Harmon Brown, the first African American to hold the office of U.S. Secretary of Commerce, was born in Washington, D.C. in 1941. He grew up in New York, and with the help of a scholarship attended Middlebury College in Vermont. He received his law degree from St. John's University, attending at night while working by day as a welfare case-worker for the City of New York. He also served for four years in the Army in both Germany and Korea.

Brown, a strong, independent leader, was a lawyer, a skilled negotiator, a pragmatic bridge builder and a highly successful past chairman of the Democratic National Committee. He brought this wide range of experiences to the position of Secretary of Commerce and vowed to reach out to our neighbors abroad to promote long-term economic growth that included