

Jefferson School's state-of-the-art technology gives students an added dimension to their educational program. Each teacher has a personal classroom computer that is networked to a school-wide web. E-mail and Internet will soon enhance teacher communication and professional discourse. To prepare students for a successful transition to middle school, their sixth grade students are introduced to a morning core block rotation, stressing reading/language and math. Jefferson Elementary, in recognition of the importance of solid study skills, provides all intermediate students with a Student Agenda, organizational tools and a vital home/school connection.

Student success is the result of a collaborative effort of all members of the Jefferson learning community. Their growth and achievement is showcased by their mathematics program, effective reading strategies, instruction of second language learners, judicious use of well-trained instructional assistants, Extended Day programs, use of technology and their P.E. and sports program.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I pay tribute to Dinuba Elementary School District Jefferson Elementary School. The students and faculty in this school exemplify a care for the community and a dedication to hard work. I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing Jefferson elementary many more years of success.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 4059,  
MILITARY CONSTRUCTION AP-  
PROPRIATIONS ACT, 1999

SPEECH OF

**HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 29, 1998*

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Military Construction Appropriations Act of Fiscal Year 1999 (H.R. 4059).

I am particularly pleased the House and Senate authorizing and appropriating committees have listened closely to the case I have been making for many years on behalf of funding the P-208 Lakehurst Aircraft Platform Interface (API) laboratory, and they are now responding.

I also want to extend my thanks to the support extended to the API lab by the Chairman of the Military Appropriations Subcommittee, RON PACKARD, and on the Senate side, by my New Jersey colleague, Senator FRANK LAUTENBERG. It is very encouraging to see that the report language contained in the House and Senate versions of H.R. 4059 have survived and are included in the final product tonight. As a result, H.R. 4059 includes directive report language that earmarks \$1.65 million in planning and design funds to be used to begin designing the P-208 Lakehurst API lab project.

At my urging, the House reaffirmed its support for the P-208 project in the report accompanying H.R. 3616, the Fiscal Year 1999 Defense Authorization Act, and now Congress is specifically appropriating the funds to adequately finance the planning and design of the P-208 API lab.

I also want to commend the Navy for moving forward with this vital project in an expeditious manner.

The Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC), in response to one of my inquiries, has informed me that on May 22, 1998, the Navy issued the necessary authorization to begin the planning and design of those military construction projects listed for fiscal year 2000, which includes the Lakehurst API lab. The only questions remaining now are how many square feet the facility will have and what it will look like.

Mr. Speaker, today is a very good day for America, for naval aviation, and for the people of the 4th Congressional District. It has been a long, grueling fight to successfully get the Lakehurst API consolidation project to this point, and the battle is by no means over. However, in the end, our Navy pilots and carrier crew will be able to operate more safely, more efficiently, and more effectively because of the improvements that will be brought about by the P-208 API lab project.

IN MEMORY OF OFFICER JACOB  
CHESTNUT AND SPECIAL AGENT  
JOHN GIBSON

SPEECH OF

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 28, 1998*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the memories of Officer Jacob Chestnut and Special Agent John Gibson. The untimely and tragic deaths of these two men demand from all of us contemplation as to the awesome costs of freedom as well as the delicate nature of life.

The freedoms that we, as Americans, enjoy today are a direct result of a brave decision made long ago by the first Americans, a decision reaffirmed by every generation of the nation's citizenry. This was the decision made by Officer Jacob Chestnut and Special Agent John Gibson this past Friday. The measure of America's greatness, a greatness in which Officer Chestnut and Special Agent Gibson share, is this brave commitment to a free society.

The burden of this commitment is an unflinching vigilance against those who threaten our freedoms. Officer Chestnut and Special Agent Gibson devoted their lives to providing the very security that allows our free society to flourish. It was in providing this security that these two men lost their lives, a sacrifice which demands the reverence of a grateful nation.

My fellow colleagues, let us learn from the sacrifices of Officer Chestnut and Special Agent Gibson. The legacy of these two patriots offers important lessons to us all.

HONORING THE MEMBERS OF THE  
CHATTANOOGA ALL-STAR TRAMPOLINE AND TUMBLING TEAM

**HON. BOB CLEMENT**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 30, 1998*

Mr. CLEMENT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Courtney Bailey, Allison Bovell, Alice Ann Caldwell, Lindsay Davis, Sarah Harris,

Lori Hughes, Samantha Robinson, Nat Davis, Caleb Hicks and Ashley Nickols for their competitive performances at the USA Trampoline and Tumbling National Championships in St. Paul, Minnesota on July 1-8, 1998. During these competitions, these fine young athletes earned eight first place national championships and made Tennesseans proud.

Even more outstanding that recognition, medals or fame is how these students have overcome the obstacles of our society and let their determination and perseverance win the ultimate goal. With all the negative publicity brought on our youth today, it is good to know that children like these are our true future of tomorrow. Their persistence has brought honor, pride and dignity not only to the state of Tennessee, but to the nation as a whole. With these achievements, these remarkable young athletes serve as role models for members of the younger community. I would also like to congratulate the coaches, teachers, parents and/or guardians who have provided these "champions" with spiritual and mental guidance. Without this influence, these extraordinary young men and women might not have learned how to excel in all realms of life.

I want to conclude with a special "thank-you" to Courtney, Allison, Alice Ann, Lindsay, Sarah, Lori, Samantha, Nat, Caleb and Ashley for their achievements. And I encourage them to continue to strive for their goals and to be a positive influence on those around them.

FAREWELL TRIBUTE TO ITZHAK  
OREN

**HON. TOM LANTOS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 30, 1998*

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I invite my colleagues to join me today in bidding farewell to Itzhak Oren, who for the past four years has been the Minister for Congressional Affairs at the Embassy of Israel here in Washington, D.C. During this time, he has been a major influence in maintaining and fostering the strong and friendly relationship between the United States and the State of Israel. For Members of Congress and for congressional staff, Itzhak has been a ready source of information and assistance.

Mr. Oren will shortly take up his new position as the Ambassador of Israel to Nigeria and Benin.

Mr. Oren has served in the Israeli Foreign Ministry for 17 years. Prior to assuming his position in Washington, he was head of the Foreign Ministry's Coordination Department and served as political advisor to Prime Ministers Yitzhak Rabin and Yitzhak Shamir. In 1991 and 1992, he was a participant in the multilateral peace talks in Moscow, Tokyo and the Hague. He has served a number of years in the United States as Consul of Israel in Boston, and prior to that he was posted in New York City.

Prior to joining the Foreign Ministry, Itzhak served as an officer in the Israeli Defense Forces and as an intelligence analyst. He holds a B.A. degree from Bar Ilan University and an M.A. from the City University of New York.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE  
FRESNO BEE**HON. GEORGE P. RADANOVICH**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 30, 1998*

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Fresno Bee on receiving the first-place award for general excellence from the California Newspaper Publishers Association. This is the second straight year the newspaper has won the organization's highest honor and the Fresno Bee is very deserving of this award.

The Fresno Bee has a daily circulation of 158,851 and a Sunday circulation of 191,963. It was judged against other daily newspapers with circulations of 75,001 to 200,000 copies. Clearly, this award displays the outstanding efforts of not only the Fresno Bee journalists, but of an entire newspaper staff who are committed to giving Fresno and the Central Valley a comprehensive, first-class newspaper. Naturally, the Fresno Bee exhibits strong local coverage, outstanding local photography and good local enterprise stories.

In addition to the general excellence award, the Fresno Bee received first-place awards for editorial comment, illustration/information graphics and design.

Associate Editor Russell Minick was honored for an editorial on a white supremacist groups' spreading of propaganda on the California State University Fresno campus. Mr. Minick took second place in the same category one year ago.

Bee artists John Alvin, Bob Campbell, Andrea Cooper and Severiano Galvan were given the graphics award for a two-page layout on the once-dominating Central Valley wetlands. Mr. Galvan earned the first-place award in the same category one year ago.

Bee photographer John Walker took second place for his photos featured in his portrait of Little Rascals star Tommy "Butch" Bond.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I congratulate the Fresno Bee on receiving the first-place award for general excellence from the California Newspaper Publishers Association. The Fresno Bee has provided 75 years of outstanding service to the Central Valley, using its excellent staff to create what truly is a first-class production. I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing the Fresno Bee and its staff many more years of success.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 30, 1998*

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, due to a family emergency, I was unable to be present for roll call votes 279 through 308. Had I been present, I would have voted yea on roll call votes 279, 281, 286, 287, 288, 290, 294, 295, 297, 298, 299, 300, 301, 303, 305 and nay on roll call votes 280, 282, 283, 284, 285, 298, 291, 292, 293, 296, 302, 304, 306, 307, and 308.

HONORING GRAND MASTER SEOUNG EUI SHIN FOR HIS CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE NASHVILLE COMMUNITY AND THE SUCCESS OF THE SOUTHERN U.S.A. TAE KWON DO CHAMPIONSHIPS

**HON. BOB CLEMENT**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 30, 1998*

Mr. CLEMENT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Grand Master Seoung Eui Shin and the 23rd Southern U.S.A. Open Tae Kwon Do Championships, of which he is director. Master Shin has served the Nashville community faithfully for more than twenty years, donating his time and talents to make a difference in the lives of countless children and young adults.

Master Shin was born in North Korea and grew up in South Korea during the turbulent times following World War II. By the age of 13, he had earned his black belt in Tae Kwon Do. He began to teach the art in high school and, later, in the Korean Army. He came to the United States and Nashville in 1974, and has been an invaluable member of the community ever since.

Now a ninth degree black belt, Master Shin is recognized around the world for his Tae Kwon Do abilities and his contributions to the martial art. He has become a leader in Nashville's Korean community and operates Shin's Martial Arts Institute in Bellevue. He gives freely of his time to programs at local elementary schools and community centers. Through his instruction, Master Shin has influenced the lives of many of his students. His students learn the value of control and self-discipline while gaining new respect for themselves and others. Several of Master Shin's students have gone on to teach Tae Kwon Do themselves, passing on what they have learned.

Seoung Eui Shin, by giving selflessly of his time to the youth of Nashville, has quietly made our world a better place and his become a role-model for us all. I thank you Master Shin for your contributions to our community and congratulate you and all the participants in the 23rd Southern U.S.A. Tae Kwon Do Championships.

DEPARTMENTS OF VETERANS AFFAIRS AND HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, AND INDEPENDENT AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1999

## SPEECH OF

**HON. GLENN POSHARD**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 29, 1998*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4194) making appropriations for the Departments of Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban Development, and for sundry independent agencies, boards, commissions, corporations, and offices for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1999, and for other purposes.

Mr. POSHARD. Mr. Chairman, it is with deep regret that I rise today in opposition to

the VA-HUD Appropriations measure for fiscal year 1999. I believe it provides inadequate funding for veterans' health care, and I cannot support a bill that shortchanges America's veterans in such an unjust manner.

As a veteran, I am acutely aware of and deeply grateful for the sacrifices that America's veterans have made in service to their country. As a legislator, I am committed to ensuring that the needs of these citizens are accorded the highest priority. I have great respect for Chairman LEWIS and Representative STOKES and am convinced of their concern for the welfare of our veterans. I also recognize the budget constraints which have forced them to make many difficult decisions. However, I believe that we can do better, and I am voting against this measure with the hope that veterans' health care and other programs will be granted the funding they deserve once it is made clear that this House will not tolerate such treatment of veterans' programs.

The funding levels provided in this measure are simply not sufficient to ensure the high quality health care our veterans deserve. The tragic result of such a shortfall will surely be the elimination or reduction of many VA specialized care programs and the inability of the VA to guarantee adequate care to the veterans who depend on its services. I trust that my fellow Members will agree that this is not the way we should demonstrate our appreciation for their service and sacrifice.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in opposing this measure in an effort to make it clear to the American people and to the leadership of this body that we assign the utmost importance to funding programs that will meet the needs of America's veterans, and that this bill is a woefully inadequate expression of that priority.

COMMEND SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE EFFORTS TO REVIVE FAST TRACK

**HON. DOUG BEREUTER**

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 30, 1998*

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, this Member would take a moment to commend the members of the Senate Finance Committee for their efforts last Tuesday to give "fast-track" authority to the President by attaching fast-track legislation to S. 778, the Africa Growth and Opportunity Act. This action by the Senate was also applauded on the editorial page in the July 24, 1998, edition of The Omaha World-Herald, as necessary to protecting the economic health of our nation by giving the President the flexibility and authority to negotiate international trade agreements expeditiously.

Unfortunately, the Clinton administration, which initially stated fast track was one of their top legislative priorities, labeled this initiative by the Senate Finance Committee as "political mischief." Why is it that the Nebraska press can readily identify legislation designed to safeguard the interests of U.S. workers and consumers when all the administration can do is play politics?