

concurrent resolution and thereby avoid putting in jeopardy the important work of stabilizing the troubled Balkan region.

Sincerely,

MADELEINE K. ALBRIGHT,
Secretary of State
WILLIAM S. COHEN,
Secretary of Defense.
CHAIRMAN OF THE
JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF,

Washington, DC, March 18, 1998.

Hon. LEE H. HAMILTON,
Committee on International Relations, House of
Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. HAMILTON: Thank you for your letter of 18 March and the opportunity to express my thoughts on the importance of our mission in Bosnia.

Pulling US forces out of Bosnia would cripple the mission at a critical time when we are achieving success in that troubled country. A US withdrawal would send the wrong signals to our NATO allies and the wrong signals to those who wish our efforts ill. Beyond that, US leadership within the Alliance would suffer a severe blow.

Europe's stability and America's security are joined. There is no more volatile region in Europe than the Balkans. Failure to see our mission in Bosnia through to full implementation of the Dayton Accords would send a harmful message to states throughout the Balkans—a message that the United States lacks resolve.

Our troops know they have made a difference in Bosnia. Their presence, together with that of our NATO allies and other partners in this effort, stopped the killing and ethnic cleansing. They see the signs of progress in Bosnia every day.

We have a strategy for success in Bosnia. A US military presence coupled with US leadership are essential to the achievement of a self-sustaining peace in that country.

Sincerely,

HENRY H. SHELTON,
Chairman,
of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

IN HONOR OF DANIEL G. SAJNER
ON HIS ATTAINMENT OF EAGLE
SCOUT

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 24, 1998

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Daniel Sajner of Strongsville, Ohio, who will be honored on March 22, 1998 for his attainment of Eagle Scout.

The attainment of Eagle Scout is a high and rare honor requiring years of dedication to self-improvement, hard work and the community. Each Eagle Scout must earn 21 merit badges, twelve of which are required, including badges in: lifesaving, first aid; citizenship in the community; citizenship in the nation; citizenship in the world; personal management of time and money; family life; environmental science; and camping.

In addition to acquiring and proving proficiency in those and other skills, an Eagle Scout must hold leadership positions within the troop where he learns to earn the respect and hear the criticism of those he leads.

The Eagle Scout must live by the Scouting Law, which holds that he must be: trustworthy, loyal, brave, helpful, friendly, courteous, kind, obedient, cheerful, thrifty, clean, and reverent.

And the Eagle Scout must complete and Eagle Project, which he must plan, finance

and evaluate on his own. It is no wonder that only two percent of all boys entering scouting achieve this rank.

My fellow colleagues, let us recognize and praise Daniel for his achievement.

CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM

HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 24, 1998

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, the New York Times continues to clearly spell out the problem facing those of us who support campaign finance reform. In an editorial in yesterday's paper the Times described the campaign finance reform bill which will be considered this week as "... sham legislation dressed up to look like reform, with no chance for members to vote on the real thing."

Mr. Speaker, the hard work of many members of this House is being destroyed by the highly partisan legislation being offered by the majority. The bill being considered contains poison pills designed to insure the failure of campaign reform. There are better alternatives. If the majority would allow an open rule on the floor these alternatives could be considered. Failure to allow a free, open debate on campaign finance reform would be a terrible disservice to the public and to our democratic process.

I open over the next several days the leadership of the House will reconsider their decision and allow an open rule on campaign finance reform. We need real campaign finance reform. The people of my district will not accept "no" for an answer.

IN RECOGNITION OF MONIQUE
WRIGHT, TRACEY A. ROBERTS
AND THE DAYTON METROPOLITAN
HOUSING AUTHORITY
MARCH 19, 1998

HON. TONY P. HALL

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 24, 1998

Mr. HALL of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to recognize and honor the work of the Dayton Metropolitan Housing Authority (DMHA) for its successful efforts and dedication to improving the quality of life for people in the Dayton area. The programs provided by DMHA are helping people move away from dependency to self-sufficiency. The success of these programs is highlighted by the uplifting stories of two remarkable women who reside in my district.

Ms. Monique Wright has always been determined to improve her life and provide a good future for her children. As a single mother, Monique received public assistance while she attended school full-time at Central State University in Ohio. After the birth of her second child, it became very difficult to give her children the nurture and care they needed and attend school at the same time. Moniques' priority was her children.

Because of her devotion as a mother, Monique pro-actively sought ways to provide for her two children. She worked at various

jobs. But as we in Congress know all too well, jobs for the working poor often do not provide enough even for a family to eat. Monique was just making it from day to day. She wanted more for herself and more for her two precious children. That is why she enrolled in DMHA's Job Shadowing Program which provides job training, mentoring, and employment to its participants. Through her initiative, and with the assistance of DMHA, Monique received the training she needed to move her in the right direction.

Today, Monique is a full-time employee of DMHA. She is giving back to the community by helping others who are in need. By taking advantage of DMHA programs, Monique has also moved her family into a better housing situation. In addition, Monique has gone back to school to earn an Associate Degree in Liberal Arts with a concentration in Social Work.

Ms. Tracey A. Roberts is another wonderful woman who took advantage of these opportunities. As a single mother with two children, Tracey moved to Dayton in search of better job opportunities to improve the lives of her children. Tracey participated in DMHA's Family Self-Sufficiency Program. This program provides people with the tools necessary to move themselves away from dependency on the government and enables them to be self-sufficient. Case managers work with participants to develop a comprehensive plan for change.

Tracey enrolled in the program with the belief that a combination of hard-work, training, and motivation would help her take control of her own life. That is exactly what she did. Two years after enrolling in the Family Self-Sufficiency Program, Tracey now holds a rewarding job and has moved her family into a new home which she owns.

The programs of the Dayton Metropolitan Housing Authority work. They provide people with opportunities for self improvement.

Like Monique and Tracey, Americans who struggle with poverty want to lead more rewarding lives. They want to provide a brighter future for their families and they are willing to work to achieve it. With the help of organizations like the Dayton Metropolitan Housing Authority, many more people like Monique and Tracey will have the opportunity to improve their own lives.

It is with much pride that I recognize and commend Monique Wright and Tracey A. Roberts along with the Dayton Metropolitan Housing Authority for their outstanding achievements.

SCHOOLS NEED A HELPING HAND

HON. MARTIN FROST

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 24, 1998

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, parents throughout Arlington, Texas, which is in my congressional district, received a scare earlier this month when school inspectors revealed that the floor was near collapse in the north wing of Arlington High School. The school, which was constructed in 1955, had to have classes and students rerouted because of the potential danger.

The floor damage was noticed by school inspectors who were preparing for a summer renovation of the building. Recognizing the accelerated rate however, at which the floor was

deteriorating, the inspectors recommended closing the north wing and beginning emergency repairs immediately.

This incident highlighted what has become a national problem, Mr. Speaker, the deterioration of our nation's schools. Many of our nation's public elementary and secondary schools are in substandard condition and need many repairs due to leaking roofs, plumbing problems, inadequate heating systems or other structural failures.

The General Accounting Office (GAO), on behalf of several Members, recently performed a comprehensive survey of the nation's elementary and secondary school facilities, and found severe levels of disrepair in all areas of the country. The GAO contacted 10,000 of the nation's 80,000 public schools, and conducted site visits to schools around the country. According to the GAO's report, of the over 6,000 elementary and secondary schools in Texas, 76 percent of them reported a need for necessary upgrades or repairs.

Currently, more than 14 million children attend schools in need of extensive repair or replacement, and nearly one-third of our public schools were built prior to the beginning of World War II in 1939. If we want to prepare our children to succeed in an economy where technical skills are increasingly important, we need modern schools, meaning everything from updated science laboratories to computers in classrooms.

That same GAO report found that nearly 60 percent of all schools have at least one major building feature in disrepair, such as leaky roofs or crumbling walls. These schools are distributed throughout our communities, with 38 percent of urban schools, 30 percent of rural schools and 29 percent of suburban schools needing repairs.

More than half of the schools reported deteriorating environmental conditions, such as poor ventilation, hearing or lighting problems, as well as poor physical security. And 46 percent of our schools lack even the basic electrical wiring necessary to support computers, modems and other modern communications technology.

As well, the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE), in their 1998 Report Card for America's Infrastructure, gave America's schools an F, based on the urgent need for repairs. Schools were the only infrastructure category to receive a failing grade. ASCE has determined that it will cost about \$12 billion to repair, renovate and modernize our schools.

Of this amount, approximately \$5 billion is needed to fix or remove hazardous substances such as asbestos, lead and radon. Another \$60 billion in new construction is needed to accommodate the 3 million new students expected in the next decade. Total annual construction and renovation spending since 1991 has remained between \$10 and \$12 billion for K-12 schools.

In order to address this serious problem, the President has proposed, and I support, a bill to establish and expand tax incentives to help states and local school districts address the need for school modernization. This bill would help states and local schools districts pay for the cost of modernizing and building more than 5,000 schools by creating new School Modernization Bonds.

Under the bill, these zero-interest bonds would be available for the construction and renovation of public school facilities. The Department of the Treasury would allocate the

rights to offer these special 15-year bonds to States that have submitted school construction plans to the Secretary of Education. The federal government would subsidize a total of \$9.7 billion per year of these bonds in the years 1999 and 2000. Texas would receive \$1.6 billion of this new bond authority.

The federal government would pay the interest on the School Modernization Bonds through an annual tax credit to the holder. These credits are allocated to the states, which will determine how to divide the credits. The bonds can be issued by any state or local government, but they are still required to pay the principal.

Mr. Speaker, forty-two national groups, including the National Parent Teacher Association and the National School Boards Association support this bill, and support repairing our nation's schools. The students at Arlington High School will have their school repaired this summer thanks to the community. Congress, by passing a school modernization bill, can ensure that all of our neighborhood schools are given that same helping hand.

TRIBUTE TO JUDGE TOM PETERSEN ON HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE BENCH

HON. CARRIE P. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 24, 1998

Mrs. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is indeed a distinct honor to pay tribute to one of Miami-Dade's unsung heroes, Judge Tom Petersen. His retirement on Friday, March 27, 1998 from the Dade Circuit Court will leave a deep void in that bench.

Judge Petersen represented the best of our community. Having dedicated a major portion of his life to making the juvenile justice system work on behalf of our wayward youth, he was relentless in his development of many innovative programs that helped turn them around. His was a crusade that maximized understanding and compassion for many adolescents under the tutelage of the juvenile court system. His motto, "Hug a kid: that's where it starts" was one that bordered on a thorough understanding of many a youth's need to be understood and guided through their growing years.

He was virtually the lone voice in the wilderness in exposing his righteous indignation over many irrelevant programs that siphoned off funds from the public till instead of succinctly eradicating the symptoms of juvenile delinquency. At the same time, he has been forthright and forceful in advocating the tenets of equal treatment under the law for those juveniles who have been remanded to the juvenile court system. His sensitivity toward them knew no bounds, and he was untiring in seeking the appropriate guidance and counseling strategies for them so that they could pull themselves out of the gutter of juvenile delinquency. In a 1993 Miami Herald editorial, Judge Petersen was cited for his firm belief that "... the state's approach toward juvenile delinquency is antiquated." A little TLC, he said, and they'd stop stealing hub caps and start doing their algebra homework.

In his stint on the Dade Circuit bench, Judge Petersen truly represented an exem-

plary public servant who abided by the dictum that those who have less in life through no fault of their own should somehow be lifted by those who have been blessed with life's great amenities. As a gadfly on the Circuit Court, he was wont to prod both elected and appointed officials in redirecting many government-funded programs to focus their resources on reducing juvenile delinquency, and thereby provide youthful offenders with the tools to create a more meaningful life.

As one of those hardy spirits who chose to reach out to the at-risk youth living in public housing projects, Judge Petersen thoroughly understood the accouterments of power and leadership. He sagely exercised them alongside the mandate of his conviction and the wisdom of his knowledge, focusing his energies to enhance the well-being of our community he learned to love and care for so deeply.

His undaunted efforts in the juvenile court system shaped and formed the agenda of many community organizations. His word is his bond of honor to those who dealt with him, not only in moments of triumphal exuberance in helping many a wayward youth turn the corners around, but also in his resilient quest to transform Miami-Dade county into a veritable mosaic of vibrant cultures and diverse peoples converging together into the great experiment that is America.

For this he was awarded the much-coveted Miami Herald's Spirit of Excellence in 1988. Numerous accolades with which various organizations have honored him symbolize the unequivocal testimony of the utmost respect and admiration he enjoys from our community.

Judge Tom Petersen truly exemplified a one-of-a-kind leadership whose courage and wisdom appealed to our noblest character. It is his compassionate and resilient spirit that genuinely dignifies the role of a public servant. For this he will sorely be missed! I truly salute him on behalf of a grateful community.

TRIBUTE TO CARL STEPHENS—ALABAMA BROADCAST LEGEND

HON. TERRY EVERETT

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 24, 1998

Mr. EVERETT. Mr. Speaker, I have been informed that one of Alabama broadcasting's best loved personalities will soon retire after 40 years behind the microphone and television camera.

A native Alabamian, Carl Stephens was practically born into his profession. A radio sportscaster at the age of ten in his native Gadsden and student manager of the college radio station while at the University of Alabama, Carl Stephens began his television career at the Alabama Educational Television Network before settling in as one of the states' best-known on-camera personalities at WSFA TV in Montgomery.

At WSFA, Carl Stephens forged a 38-year career witnessing and reporting some of Alabama's and the nation's most historic events during the 1960s. Despite his contribution to news reporting in Alabama, it is noteworthy that Carl is best known by many Alabamians for his other roles. As host of a popular children's cartoon show in the late 1950's and co-anchor of the Auburn Football Review for