

The Distinguished School Award does not come easily. Schools must first submit to a rigorous application process, endless meetings with State and local officials, and have parents, teachers and even students consulted by a nominating committee. This process encourages schools to develop innovative curricula and increases local involvement.

When it comes to success stories in education, I am proud to be able to look no further than my own district.

REPUBLICAN LEADERSHIP'S POSITION ON TOBACCO AND MANAGED CARE: DO NOTHING

(Mr. PALLONE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, working families in America have been told that soon the Republican leadership of the House will unveil proposals to address the crises of teen smoking and managed care. I do not know why America and the press have to wait for some grand unveiling. If my colleagues want to know what the Republican leadership's position is on tobacco and managed care, just read the position papers of the tobacco companies and the insurance industry. If my colleagues want to see the tobacco policies of NEWT GINGRICH, just turn on TV and they will see \$50 million worth of tobacco ads which the Speaker fully endorses.

Any new legislation Republicans will lamely attempt to pass off as responsible domestic policy has the stamp of approval of big tobacco and the wealthy insurance industry, which means that it will do nothing.

The gentleman from Georgia (Speaker GINGRICH) and the Republican leadership are so dependent upon special-interest money, all they manage to do is ratify the status quo. Tobacco companies will still be allowed to peddle their poison to our kids, and American working families will still be trapped in inadequate health care plans.

CONGRATULATIONS TO COACH TOM PILE AND THE EDWARDSVILLE TIGERS BASEBALL TEAM

(Mr. SHIMKUS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, after 18 successful years with the Edwardsville High School Tigers, Coach Tom Pile is retiring from coaching baseball. He has never won fewer than 20 games in a season, and his teams have made five State tournament appearances. In 1994 he was elected to the Illinois High School Coaches Association Hall of Fame. Even better, Coach Tom Pile is going out on top. Just recently his Tigers won the Class AA Baseball Championship, being the first Illinois Class AA team to finish with a perfect undefeated season, 40 and 0.

While Coach Tom Pile is a constituent of mine, his daughter, Elizabeth Pile, is on the staff of our colleague, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. COSTELLO).

Congratulations to the Edwardsville Tigers baseball team for a championship season, and especially Coach Tom Pile for a great coaching career and a great daughter.

THE GREAT SATAN IS TURNING INTO THE GREAT SUCKER

(Mr. TRAFICANT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, Russia wants another \$10 billion, and President Clinton says, "Okay with me," even though the last \$10 billion was stolen.

That is right. Russian leaders said, and I quote, "It's missing."

In the words of Marvin Gaye, my colleagues, "What's going on?" Russian leaders steal our money, and then with our money they build nuclear reactors in India against our wishes. Then with our money they build missiles and then sell the missiles to Iran who refers to Uncle Sam as "The Great Satan."

Let me say this, Congress. If we give these people another \$10 billion, Uncle Sam will not be called Great Satan any more. We will be known as the Great Sucker all around the world. Ronald Reagan must be absolutely sick to his stomach today.

ART COMPETITION WINNER

(Mr. PITTS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about art.

Today over 300 high school students from around the country will be recognized for their artistic abilities. It is my pleasure to recognize Grace Denenno, a student at Henderson High School in West Chester, Pennsylvania, as the winner from the 16th Congressional District of Pennsylvania of the congressional "An Artistic Discovery" program. Grace is here right now in the gallery with her parents.

Grace's entry entitled "Hey Babe, Happy Birthday," is a black and white pastel work that draws one to it through its expert application of shades and shadows. It is an example of God-given ability nurtured by the love of her craft. It is an example of what happens when students are allowed to pursue their talents.

I encourage each Member and visitor to our Capitol this year to view all of the art work on display in the corridor between the Cannon Building and the Capitol. They will not be disappointed.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair would take this time to remind

all Members that it is against House rules to specify or refer to visitors in the gallery.

HOME OWNERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES FOR LOW-INCOME FAMILIES IN EL PASO

(Mr. REYES asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. REYES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about an innovative program which provides remarkable home ownership opportunities for low-income families in El Paso. The Lower Valley Housing Corporation of El Paso has helped more than 300 families in my district. These are families with an average annual income of \$13,000 or less, and it helps them to acquire their first homes through a private and public construction financing program.

Working with the USDA's Rural Development Fund, families pre-qualify for financing without down payments by agreeing to provide sweat equity. Each family is required to work on the construction of their homes and also their neighbors' by providing at least 65 percent of the labor.

Because of these do-it-yourself contributions, these homes cost only one-third of what the normal construction costs would be. The result is a move away from an expensive apartment rental to the pride of home ownership where families have equity and affordable payments as low as \$300 a month for a \$42,000 home.

This program is a model for the Nation. Families build strong communities, celebrate home-building skills and gain the pride of home ownership.

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COMMENDING THE HARBIN CLINIC, ROME, GEORGIA

(Mr. BARR of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BARR of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, in 1897, William Pickens Harbin, M.D., later known as Dr. Will, accepted his brother's offer to join his surgical practice in Rome, Georgia.

Shortly after arriving in Rome in 1898 and borrowing money from his brother to begin his medical practice, Dr. Will left Rome to accept a commission as acting assistant surgeon in the United States Army during the Spanish-American War. He saved his military pay, repaid his brother's loan, and returned to Rome after the war in 1901.

The first practice location for the two Harbin brothers was on the second floor of the building at 206 Broad Street in Rome. Prospective patients would shout up from the sidewalk to learn if one or both doctors were in before walking up the long staircase. The cost of an office visit was usually \$1 and home visits ranged from \$2 to \$3.

Mr. Speaker, today the Harbin Clinic staff includes 112 physicians, representing 27 medical specialties. This Sunday, the 28th of June, 1998, they will hold a ceremony in honor of the clinic's 50th anniversary.

I am proud to salute the Harbin Clinic for all it does to serve our community and heal our citizens.

MANAGED CARE REFORM NOW

(Mr. GREEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GREEN. Mr. Speaker, it is time to bring managed care reform legislation to the floor. The quality of medical care for our citizens has declined considerably, and it is time to act now. Some patients are not getting the best medical care possible.

Medical decisions are being made by insurance company bureaucrats, not by medical providers. If you are badly injured or severely ill, you should not have to worry about your insurance coverage. Patients should be able to obtain quality health care, whether or not they have acquired preauthorization for emergency room treatment.

We need to focus on an anti-gag rule, which allows physicians to talk to their patients, an external-internal appeals process, employee choice of insurance, access to specialty care and decision-maker responsibility, which will make the managed care plan that authorizes or fails to authorize health care procedures, be as accountable as medical providers.

Managed care is not inherently bad, but I do believe protections are needed immediately to protect the American people.

AN OUTRAGE AND AFFRONT TO DEMOCRACY

(Mr. HUTCHINSON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HUTCHINSON. Mr. Speaker, on the eve of the President's visit to China, we learn that the Chinese Government has pulled the visas of three U.S. reporters who work for Radio Free Asia and had planned to cover the President's trip. Mr. Speaker, this is an outrage and an affront to democracy.

Today, an expert in Asian studies at George Washington University said in the Washington Post, "In the end, the Clinton visit is much more about symbolism than substance." Well, if that is the case, then we are sending the wrong signals if we stand idly by and tacitly cooperate in this denial of freedom for these three reporters for Radio Free Asia.

The President frequently uses Radio Free Asia as an example of how the United States should push China to improve human rights without using trade sanctions. It is now time, Mr.

Speaker, to put actions with our words. We should stand with our reporters, and if the voice of democracy in Asia cannot travel with the President, then the President should not travel.

ENSURING FREEDOM OF SPEECH AND FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY

(Mr. VENTO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. VENTO. Mr. Speaker, a strong labor movement helps all Americans. It is our job as elected leaders to ensure that national and state laws allow our constituents to enjoy the fundamental values of democracy, freedom of speech and freedom of assembly.

That includes under the law and custom the long-honored right of workers to have a voice in wages and working conditions under which they labor. When workers are denied that voice, they no longer share in the wealth that they create. Health workers cannot afford to be treated at the clinics and hospitals at which they labor and auto-workers cannot afford to buy and drive the cars they make.

Congress needs to show support beyond voting positively upon labor issues. We can use our leverage and our role to help ensure that the rights and interests of American workers, the labor force, are advanced, that working families are accorded dignity and respect that indeed they deserve.

Moreover, we have the obligation to make sure that employers' policies and laws that shape this relationship are just and workable. Workers have a right to fully participate in the political arena. However, today, the political voice of labor and working families face the prospect of being silenced.

Mr. Speaker, I hope today we will listen to the voice of workers, as today they are speaking up for the rights they need and merit to participate in the free enterprise economy and gain a just reward for their labors.

IMPROVING THE TAX CODE

(Mr. KINGSTON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, there are three things we need to do to our Tax Code these days: We need to reduce it, we need to simplify it, and we need to change the attitude of the IRS.

Last year Congress reduced taxes for the first time in 16 years. This time we are trying again by eliminating the marriage tax penalty. We also hope to reduce capital gains tax and end the death tax, or at least alleviate it.

We have, last week, passed a bill to end the Tax Code by the year 2002, with the hopes that that will open up the debate and set a deadline for moving towards a flat tax or a sales tax.

Finally, this week we will vote to change the attitude of the IRS in a

very important major bill saying that you are innocent until proven guilty in matters before the IRS, and that is something that has never been the case in this country.

Three things that this party is going to do and this Congress is going to do: Reduce the Tax Code, simplify the Tax Code, and change the IRS's attitude.

SCANDAL OVER TECHNOLOGY TRANSFERS TO CHINA

(Mr. TIAHRT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, recent reports that Loral Corporation may have given highly sensitive information to the Communist Chinese Government during April and May of 1996 and harmed national security are alarming, especially given India's decision last month to conduct nuclear tests, partly in response to China's role in helping Pakistan with its nuclear weapons program.

Then we find out that Bernard Schwartz, the CEO of Loral, was the largest single donor to the Democrat party during the 1996 election cycle. Loral, we know, was given a waiver by the Clinton administration in February of this year to export satellite technology to China, even though the Justice Department was in the middle of a criminal investigation of Loral for its last technology transfer.

Many people want to know if Loral was given a waiver because its CEO gave the Democrat party \$632,000 in 1996, and, of course, that would be nearly impossible to prove. But the real scandal, the real scandal, is our policy of giving China dual-use technology that is used in their space program and their military programs, from computers, to machines, to tools, to rocket technology. That is the biggest scandal of all.

REALITY CHECK ON TOBACCO LEGISLATION

(Mr. PETERSON of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PETERSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, it is time for a reality check. Our friends on the opposite side of the aisle claim they are not the party of tobacco.

The reality is that through the eighties and mid-nineties, the Democrats accepted 10 percent more money from the tobacco industry than did Republicans, according to Common Cause. The reality is that three out of five top tobacco PAC recipients in the House are Democrats, with the second biggest recipient being the Democrat minority leader.

The reality is that during the recent tobacco debates, our liberal friends took a Republican proposal and turned it into a \$868 billion tax increase. Yes,