

It simply means that the United States must enforce its visa laws to reduce the chance of terrorism and to get a better grip on controlling its borders.

To accomplish this goal in a humane manner, the INS is going to have to increase its work force so that those wishing to spend extended periods of time in the United States are carefully screened, are easily able to renew visas for legitimate purposes and are deported when they violate the terms of their visas.

TRIBUTE TO MS. MELINDA DAY

HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 18, 2001

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Ms. Melinda Day of Lenoir City, Tennessee, in my District. She was recently chosen as Tennessee Teacher of the Year 2002. Ms. Day teaches fifth grade at Lenoir City Elementary School.

This honor is well deserved for Ms. Day, who has been teaching for six years. Even when she was a child, Ms. Day would practice being a teacher in the basement of her parents' home.

Her students enjoy learning in her classroom. She teaches with enthusiasm and a real love for educating children.

Ms. Day has traveled to Japan on two occasions to teach as a part of the Fulbright Memorial Fund Teacher Program and the Fulbright Master Fund Teacher Program.

This Nation would be a much better place and our students would be better educated if there were more people and teachers like Melinda Day.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate Ms. Day on a job well done. She serves as an inspiration for educators all over the Country. I have included an article from the Knoxville News-Sentinel that highlights the accomplishments of Ms. Day that I would like to call to the attention of my fellow Members and other readers of the RECORD.

[From the Knoxville (TN) News-Sentinel,
Nov. 19, 2001]

TENNESSEE'S TOP TEACHER

MELINDA K. DAY IS NOW VYING FOR NATIONAL HONOR

(By Jennifer Lawson)

Lenoir City Elementary School fifth-grader Alexis Lawson thinks she knows why her teacher, Miss Day, was chosen the Tennessee Teacher of the Year 2002.

"She's a good teacher because she listens to people," Alexis said as she led a visitor to Melinda K. Day's classroom.

Day was recently chosen to represent Tennessee in the competition for National Teacher of the Year, which will culminate next April in a ceremony at the White House.

At 28, Day's been teaching for six years officially, but she actually started teaching at age 6 when she set up a classroom complete with a row of antique desks in her parents' basement or in the back of the family horse trailer.

"Every day after school I would rush home to 'teach' what I learned that day and model my teacher's actions in my play classroom," Day wrote in her state competition essay. "This love of learning and teaching has always been an integral part of me. My mom

and dad instilled the value of education in me at a very early age."

It only takes a few minutes spent in Day's classroom to feel the enthusiasm and energy she spreads to her students. Her classroom is decorated with fish and palm trees, and a tank of goldfish sits on one counter. She loves things tropical and through her fiancé, Chris Webster, she's become a fan of Jimmy Buffett and his ocean-inspired music.

"Your life is so precious you can't be replaced by anyone," is written across the top of the blackboard.

Her age belies her experience, which includes summers teaching in Japan and Wales as well as bachelor's, master's and education specialist's degrees from the University of Tennessee. She also traveled to Japan to teach as part of the Fulbright Memorial Fund Teacher Program in 1998 and again last year as a recipient of the Fulbright Master Teacher Program.

She said spending time in Japan and not speaking the language made her understand the frustration Spanish speaking children feel when they come to Lenoir City Elementary. Over the past few years, the school has taught a growing population of Mexican immigrants.

"She has served as an inspiration to more experienced teachers and helped to change the attitudes of some teachers with less enthusiasm," wrote Lenoir City Schools Superintendent Wayne Miller in a letter supporting Day's nomination. "Another point which makes Ms. Day an exemplary teacher."

The Alabama native, who grew up in Lenoir City, Iowa and South Carolina, said she's like her father who "has to have change constantly." She channels that need for change into her teaching.

"Teaching to her is 24-7," said Lenoir Elementary Principal Patricia Jones. "She's got a unique quality about her that creates an environment for the children where they feel safe to learn."

Day credits three elementary teachers for cultivating her natural love of teaching: Melanie Amburn and Donna Langley (now Zukowski) of Eaton Elementary School in Loudon County and Julia Pratt, who teaches in Marion, Iowa. More than the subject matter she learned, she remembers how the teachers made her feel about learning and her potential.

"Not only did these teachers set high expectations for students (to) learn the basic skills, but (they) also wanted each child to gain confidence and develop a sense of humor to enjoy life," she wrote in her essay. "The small acts of kindness exhibited by these teachers still make me realize the importance of personally knowing all of my students and learning what encouragements they need to make them feel better about themselves each day."

Her toughest decision after winning the \$3,500 prize accompanied by a crystal award and a certificate signed by Gov. Don Sundquist, was deciding whom to take to Washington with her—her mother, her father or her fiancé.

"I'm taking my mom with me," Day said. "She's a big Republican. When I told her, she jumped up and down like a little girl."

COMMENDING THE WORK OF THE UNITED STATES COAST GUARD'S MARINE SAFETY OFFICE OF HUNTINGTON, WEST VIRGINIA

HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 18, 2001

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, the events of September 11th demanded a great deal from all those involved in ensuring the safety and security of our Nation. Countless individuals and organizations were called upon to aid our country in this time of need, and many answered this call with a great amount of effort and dedication to the American cause.

I would like to take this opportunity to commend the United States Coast Guard's Marine Safety Office of Huntington, West Virginia, the recent recipients of the Commandant's Quality Award for 2001. This honor rewards the leadership, strategic planning, customer focus, information and analysis, human resource focus, process management and business results produced by individual U.S. Coast Guard offices. In addition, the Huntington office was specifically recognized for their development of efficient business practices after the tragedy our Nation suffered on September 11th. Despite the fact that this office is one of the smallest of the 45 marine safety offices nationwide, their newly developed risk assessment plan was praised in Washington for their invaluable contributions to the Coast Guard as a whole in this area.

I would also like to recognize the achievements of United States Coast Guard Auxiliary member James Perry of Huntington, WV. As the communications director for his local office, he was singled out for improving that particular office's pager, cell phone and voice mail systems, all of which have proven to be crucial for operations in the post-September 11th era.

The article in the Herald Dispatch is included on this hero.

COAST GUARD OFFICE HONORED FOR BUSINESS PRACTICES (By Bob Withers)

HUNTINGTON.—The local U.S. Coast Guard's Marine Safety Office was honored Tuesday for developing efficient business practices that influenced the entire Coast Guard after the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11.

Master Chief Petty Officer Vincent W. Patton III of Washington, D.C., the Coast Guard's highest-ranking enlisted member, presented the unit with the Commandant's Quality Award for 2001 during a ceremony at the local headquarters.

The annual honor—patterned after the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award, the nation's premier award for performance in business and industry—recognizes commands and major staff elements that, through commitment to customer and employee satisfaction and continuous improvement, serve as examples for other Coast Guard organizations.

The award encompasses several categories of management—leadership, strategic planning, customer focus, information and analysis, human resources, process management and business results.

Patton said officers in Washington were particularly impressed with the local office's newly developed risk assessment plan.

"We needed that information after 9-11," he told the members "When emergency situations arise, we need a frame of reference to

measure our use of personnel, money and assets. You have no idea what your plan is doing for us back in Washington.”

Patton compared the accomplishments of the local unit—one of the smallest of 45 marine safety offices nationwide—to the heroics of the outmanned and outgunned crew of the “tiny, dinky” revenue cutter *Eagle*, which was driven ashore in Long Island Sound in October 1814 in an encounter with the British brig *Dispatch*. The crew dragged their few weapons up a bluff and continued the battle, using log books for cartridges and returning the enemy’s small shells that had lodged in the *Eagle*’s hull.

Cmdr. Lincoln Stroh, commanding officer of the local office, also honored U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary member James Perry of Huntington, the local office’s communications officer, for improving its pager, cell phone and voice mail systems.

Stroh also praised Perry for working extra hours to help the office meet increased port safety and security responsibilities following the terrorist attacks.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO GAYLE POTTER’S EIGHTH GRADE CLASS AT DURAND MIDDLE SCHOOL

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 18, 2001

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a group of eighth grade students from Durand Middle School in Durand, Michigan. These students along with their teacher, Gayle Potter, have taken the initiative to send to my office their own ideas for helping rebuild vital areas of our economy after the tragic events of September 11th.

The events of September 11th were meant to create fear in every American, especially our children. Yet, the terrorists who carried out those evil acts have succeeded in only strengthening our resolve as Americans. It is also clear, through these students’ great example, that our nation’s greatest resource, our youth, is as strong, brave, and as bright as they have ever been.

Mr. Speaker, this group of students truly exemplifies the spirit of all Americans at this time in our history. They have set a wonderful example that every American can follow. I ask that my colleagues join with me in saluting their devotion to our country and its continued prosperity.

WISHING WELL TO MR. NORMAN BRINKER

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 18, 2001

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise to salute a great Dallas-Fort Worth resident. Mr. Norman Brinker is a trailblazer and trendsetter. He has been a pioneer in business and a great friend to our community.

There is perhaps no more amazing restaurateur than Mr. Brinker. He revolutionized the combination of good food, reasonable cost and great customer service through his Steak and Ale restaurant chain. He built the chain to

100 units before The Pillsbury Company, of which Mr. Brinker later became Chairman, bought it.

As Chairman of The Pillsbury Company, he oversaw the world’s second largest restaurant organization, presiding over sales of \$4 billion. Never one to rest on his laurels, Mr. Brinker soon ventured out on his own again, buying Dallas based chain Chili’s. Under his leadership, the 23 operating units of Chili’s became Brinker International, a world restaurant power with hundreds of operating units and over \$2 billion in sales. Brinker International now owns Chili’s, On the Border, Macaroni Grill, Cozymel’s, Corner Bakery, Big Bowl and Eatzi’s restaurant chains.

Brinker International is an extraordinarily important corporate citizen of the Dallas-Fort Worth area, but just as important is Mr. Brinker’s leadership in the industry and society. The leaders of Outback Steakhouse, Houston’s, Red Lobster and Boston Market all spent time under Mr. Brinker’s tutelage. In addition, he has been a trendsetter in philanthropy, encouraging entrepreneurs to pair their financial donations with donations of time, and helping to start the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation with his wife Nancy.

Mr. Speaker, Norman Brinker has relinquished his position as Chairman of Brinker International and is engaged in a new challenge—defeating his own cancer ailment. As he approaches this new challenge with the same zeal as the other challenges in his life, Dallas-Fort Worth looks forward to his leadership for years to come. I ask that the Congress and the country join the citizens of Dallas-Fort Worth in wishing him well.

ECONOMIC STIMULUS BILL

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 18, 2001

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, weeks ago the House acted on President Bush’s request for an economic stimulus package. We knew then what has now been confirmed—America is in a recession. And, here in New Jersey, the economic slowdown has been especially acute as many New Jersey residents lost their jobs, many as a result of the tragic events of September 11, and others because our economic slowdown began well before September. First and foremost, we need to help the victims and families of the terrorist attacks and the many workers who have lost their jobs. And, with the \$40 billion in emergency assistance already approved by Congress, President Bush and his Administration are doing just that. Under the emergency federal assistance provided to our state, workers who have lost their jobs as a result of the attacks are eligible for unemployment and health insurance for up to 26 weeks—that’s through at least March of next year. And these benefits have been extended to the self-employed and others who are not otherwise eligible for this assistance.

After addressing these immediate, emergency needs, the House acted quickly to take steps to get our economy moving again. Those steps focused on helping to restore consumer confidence and encouraging private sector investment and expansion to help re-

place lost jobs and to add more, new jobs. The House has acted on just such a plan. My colleagues in the other body must act now on an economic security bill to help our economy, and those who have lost their jobs.

While most Americans heard recent news reports that said our nation is now “officially” in a recession, it didn’t take a headline in the newspaper or “Breaking News” on CNN for far too many New Jerseyans to realize that these are hard times in America. Even before September 11 changed our lives forever, layoffs at some of New Jersey’s largest, most established companies, like Lucent, AT&T and Honeywell, for example, were taking their toll. Alarming, 27,000 jobs were lost in the first nine months of this year in New Jersey. Our state’s unemployment rate rose to 4.8 percent in October, up from 4.5 percent in September.

It’s time for the other body to act and I call on the other body to reject their plans to expand federal programs and increase federal spending beyond our budget agreement with the Administration. More government spending, to my mind, will not serve to stimulate our economy.

Let’s face it—the only answer for job loss is to create new jobs. And with the exception of the newly federalized baggage screeners, the Federal Government does not create jobs or economic activity. In fact, the more we “grow” government, the more dollars we take out of the private sector, away from the taxpayer and out of our economy. That is why the House version of the economic stimulus provides rapid tax relief to businesses, large and small, to continue to invest, to purchase equipment, expand production and promote job hiring. While some have criticized the House bill as corporate welfare, we need companies to stop layoffs and hire again! Our proposal is critical to the success of New Jersey business. According to the New Jersey Business and Industry Association, even before the September 11 terror attacks, New Jersey employers as a group had lost their confidence in our economy. Two-thirds of 1,600 employers participating in the Association’s 2002 Business Outlook Survey said their industries were already in a recession or heading into one at the time of the attacks. We’ve got to turn that thinking around and provide the incentives to New Jersey’s companies to start growing their businesses again.

The House bill also returns more tax dollars back to working Americans by accelerating the tax rate cuts we passed earlier this year and by including tax rebate checks for those individuals who didn’t receive them in the first round. Returning these dollars will give people more dollars to spend and invest. These actions—as opposed to more government spending and more government programs—will better address the underlying weaknesses in our economy, namely consumer confidence, consumer spending, and the need for renewed and sustained business investment and expansion.

And, early next year, when existing unemployment and health benefits may be depleted, I am confident that we will continue to help those who need it most. In fact the House economic security package includes a provision that provides another \$9 billion in surplus Federal unemployment funds to the states. This translates into approximately \$368 million that will be immediately available for