

principal, Director of Elementary Education, and Superintendent.

Sharon Jones attended the Fremont Unified School District from elementary school through high school. Her success in giving back to the community is evident in the visionary educational programs she has directed and the high level of student achievement that has resulted from her years at the helm of the school district.

A leader who makes quality education her first priority and achieves excellence through teamwork, Sharon Jones is recognized among her peers as a mentor. She is a strong advocate of providing respectful treatment of all students and staff in a harassment-free environment.

In her long and distinguished career, Sharon Jones has ensured balanced educational program equity and led successful bond campaigns. She served as Chief Labor Negotiator for the Fremont Unified School District, and was a weekly reading mentor to students at an elementary school in the district.

A recognized leader in the educational field, Sharon Jones is the author of outstanding textbooks in English and social studies. She received the PTA's highest award, the Golden Oak Award, in February 2002. She received the Ann Lord memorial award for the 1995–1996 school year, in honor of her leadership, courage, encouragement, support, and care. She is also the recipient of the 1988 California Education Award, the Rotary Foundation's Paul Harris Fellow Award, and the Certificate of Commendation from the California Association of Teachers of English Executive Board.

I am honored to join the colleagues of Sharon Jones in commending her for her many years of dedicated and exemplary service to the Fremont Unified School District. Her commitment to honesty, integrity and trust in education is truly an inspiration to all.

INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

SPEECH OF

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 1, 2002

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, Congress can perform a great service to the American taxpayer, as well as citizens in developing countries, by rejecting HR 2604, which reauthorizes two multilateral development banks, the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and the Asian Development Fund (AsDF).

Congress has no constitutional authority to take money from American taxpayers and send that money overseas for any reason. Furthermore, foreign aid undermines the recipient countries' long-term economic progress by breeding a culture of dependency. Ironically, foreign aid also undermines long-term United States foreign policy goals by breeding resentment among recipients of the aid, which may manifest itself in a foreign policy hostile to the United States.

If Congress lacks authority to fund an international food aid program, then Congress certainly lacks authority to use taxpayer funds to promote economic development in foreign lands. Programs such as the AsDF are not

only unconstitutional, but, by removing resources from the control of consumers and placing them under the control of bureaucrats and politically-powerful special interests, these programs actually retard economic development in the countries receiving this "aid!" This is because funds received from programs like the AsDF are all-too-often wasted on political boondoggles which benefit the political elites in the recipient countries, but are of little benefit to the individual citizens of those countries.

In conclusion, HR 2604 authorizes the continued taking of taxpayer funds for unconstitutional and economically destructive programs. I therefore urge my colleagues to reject this bill, return the money to the American taxpayers, and show the world that the United States Congress is embracing the greatest means of generating prosperity: the free market.

CONGRATULATING THE STUDENTS OF CRAWFORD COUNTY, ARKANSAS ON BEING SELECTED TO REPRESENT THEIR STATE AT THE NATIONAL HISTORY DAY COMPETITION

HON. JOHN BOOZMAN

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 2, 2002

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the students from two cities located in Crawford County, Arkansas. These students will represent the state of Arkansas at the National History Day competition in June at the University of Maryland. There are six students from Van Buren High School and six students from Alma High School. There are also two students from Van Buren Middle School and two students from Alma Middle School.

These students were selected among the best in Arkansas in the categories of historical documentary, historical performance, historical exhibit, or historical paper. They have spent the last several months researching their topics as they related their projects to this year's national theme: Revolution, Reaction and Reform.

It is admirable in today's society to see young people willing to go the extra mile to improve their academic skills. These students will now have an advantage as they prepare themselves for college. Their respective teachers also deserve our respect today. They have proven that excellent teaching must go beyond the 8 to 3 school day. Mary Beth Duncan, Toney McMurray, Erin Mills, Beth Graham, Julia Cottrell, Brad Ball and Teddy McMurray are fine examples of the best in the teaching profession. Their encouragement and dedication has encouraged these students to strive to excellence and be successful in their endeavors.

On behalf of the 3rd Congressional District of Arkansas and the U.S. House of Representatives I would like to recognize Mandy Blair, Alayne Chanthaseny, Erin Gatling, Maegan Gray, Katie Fingerhut, Ashley Helms, Natalie Harris, Russell Moore, Chase Phipps, Zach Thomas, Dustin Seaton, Andrew Simpson, Elizabeth Watkins, Colby Webb and Cameron Word for their outstanding work and wish them luck in the upcoming National History Day contest.

TRIBUTE TO OREGON NATIONAL GUARD

HON. GREG WALDEN

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 2, 2002

Mr. WALDEN of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the citizen soldiers of the 1st Battalion, 186th Infantry of the Oregon National Guard as they prepare to embark on an overseas deployment as part of Operation Noble Eagle.

Last month the men and women of the 1–186th conducted Soldier Readiness Processing as part of their home-station mobilization, and soon they will leave their homes in southern Oregon to receive theater-specific training at Fort Carson, Colorado before continuing on to the Sinai region of Egypt. There they will take part in the Multinational Force and Observers (MFO) peacekeeping mission in that troubled region of the world before returning to their families and loved ones in early 2003.

Mr. Speaker, this mission represents the largest deployment of the Oregon National Guard since World War II, when the "Fighting Jungeleers" of the famed 41st Infantry Division patrolled the jungle trails of New Guinea. While this time Oregon's citizen soldiers have been called to keep peace rather than make war, I have every confidence that the dedication they will bring to this mission will be no less than that of their predecessors more than a half century ago.

Mr. Speaker, the deployment of the 1–186th is significant for a number of reasons, not the least of which is that this is only the second time a reserve-component unit has been called upon to perform the Sinai mission. During their deployment, Oregon's guardsmen and women will ensure the freedom of navigation through the Strait of Tiran at the southern entrance to the Gulf of Agaba. The task force will be responsible for the operation of checkpoints, reconnaissance patrols and observation points along the international border separating Israel and Egypt.

Mr. Speaker, as these brave Americans travel to the Holy Land to serve as peacekeepers, it is fitting that we recall the book of Isaiah, which reads, "I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, 'Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?' Then said I, 'Here am I; send me.'" Like Isaiah of old, citizens of this great nation have always stepped forth to answer the call of their leaders, and this tradition continues today.

Mr. Speaker, volunteering for the National Guard takes a special kind of sacrifice. It means working 40 or 50 hours a week in a civilian job and then spending the weekend training, drilling, cleaning equipment, going to the field, and preparing for the day when you are called upon to play a vital role in our nation's defense. As this deployment demonstrates, it means putting your life on hold for months or years at a time—saying goodbye to your spouse and your children and the comforts of civilian life to serve the United States under conditions that are often less than ideal. This is a duty that the men and women of the Oregon Guard undertake without complaint and without question, never shirking from the responsibility they have accepted. Patriots all, the citizens soldiers of the 1–186th is a unit as

professional and as dedicated as any that has ever worn the uniform of the United States.

Mr. Speaker, as an Oregonian and as an American, I am proud to call them my countrymen. I know my colleagues in the House of Representatives join me in extending their gratitude to the men and women of the 1st Battalion, 186th Infantry—the Guardians of the Western Gate.

May God bless them, and may God bless America.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN ELIAS BALDACCI

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 2, 2002

Mr. BALDACCI. Mr. Speaker, on April 25, 2002, I had to return home due to my son's sudden illness and I was not present to cast my vote for HR 3231, the Barbara Jordan Immigration Reform and Accountability Act, and its amendments. Had I been present I would have voted:

YES on roll call 111.

YES on roll call 112.

YES on roll call 113.

NO, on roll call 114, the Issa amendment.

NO, on roll call 115, the Lofgren amendment, and

YES, on roll call vote 116 for final passage.

INTRODUCTION OF "WIRELESS TECHNOLOGY INVESTMENT AND DIGITAL DIVIDENDS ACT"

HON. EDWARD J. MARKEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 2, 2002

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the "Wireless Technology Investment and Digital Dividends Act." I am proposing this measure in order to advance three key goals: (1) to create a permanent public interest telecommunications trust fund; (2) to establish a "Spectrum Commons"; and (3) to recapture wireless policymaking from unrelated budgetary initiatives.

Mr. Speaker, the public deserves to reap the benefits of the sale of licenses to its airwaves, not only in the offering of new commercial services or the temporary infusion of cash into the Federal treasury. The public should also enjoy the "dividends" that can be reaped by reinvesting money raised through use of a public asset in a manner designed to promote educational technology projects, educational software R&D, as well as initiatives addressing the digital divide.

The bill I am introducing today creates a permanent trust fund (the "Digital Dividends Trust Fund") from wireless auction revenue to fund such public interest telecommunications initiatives. Splitting the grants into two general categories—"human capital telecommunications investments" and "broadband infrastructure investments for public access and rural development" the Digital Dividends Trust Fund authorizes grants for the following initiatives: Training of teachers & other personnel at schools and libraries eligible for E-rate funding; R&D for cutting-edge educational software

designed to enhance learning in schools; Digitizing educational materials held in our nation's libraries, archives, and museums; Technology projects supported by volunteers enrolled in AmeriCorps; Projects enhancing the access of individuals with disabilities to advanced telecommunications services; Retraining workers and unemployed individuals with skills applicable to the new economy; After-school programs for youth focused on computer literacy and interaction; Local and regional programs to expand access to advanced telecommunications in areas available to the general public; Broadband deployment to low-income housing and community centers and to unserved rural areas; and, Conversion of public radio and television broadcasting stations to digital broadcasting technology.

In addition, Mr. Speaker, the legislation I introduce today establishes a "Spectrum Commons." High tech manufacturers, entrepreneurs and the proverbial 'kid in the garage' could make more robust use of wireless communications if sufficient spectrum were available in unlicensed form for the general public. The bill requires the FCC to establish a 20 MHz band of contiguous frequencies below 2 GHz as well as between 3 to 500 MHz between 2 GHz and 6 GHz—a swath of the airwaves that would remain open to the public and unlicensed. Such a public set-aside could foster the formation of an open platform for innovation, entrepreneurial activity, and public communications. It would also militate against unhealthy consolidation of spectrum in the hands of too few providers.

An unlicensed area of the airwaves will permit the public, through the use of 'smart' radio technology and better receiver equipment, to harness the airwaves for countless applications if the government is willing to give back to the public a portion of its own airwaves in such an unlicensed format. From "wi-fi" technology and low power "Bluetooth" wireless connections, to so-called "802.11b" protocols, wireless local area networks and Net connections, utilization of publicly available airwaves can help connect people and businesses in cost-effective and spectrum efficient ways. The "Spectrum Commons" will also help to propel economic growth and innovation by opening up the airwaves to new marketplace entry by individuals and entities unaffiliated with established network providers.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, it is important that telecommunications policymaking reassert itself in wireless policy, where for too long budget priorities have warped sound policy. Since Congress first enacted legislation in 1993 to permit the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to distribute certain airwave licenses to the public through the use of auctions, the FCC has used this licensing mechanism numerous times and the U.S. Government has reaped billions of dollars for general revenue purposes. The initial principle behind auctions was to enhance telecommunications policy goals through the efficient licensing of frequency spectrum, where the revenue an auction raised represented an additional beneficial dividend to the taxpayer.

Over time, however, the use of auctions has become perverted. They are increasingly advocated primarily for purposes of raising general revenue irrespective of whether such auctions advance sound telecommunications policy. Moreover, the money raised from auctions has been sent directly to the U.S. Treasury.

The money from telecommunications auctions was not reinvested in order to enhance our democracy, bridge the digital divide, or promote public interest telecommunications projects. Instead, the auction of licenses for use of the public's airwaves has been subjected to the alchemy of budget scorers intent on transforming thin air into gold.

Legitimate telecommunications policy objectives are often undermined by proposals to auction certain slices of the airwaves on a date dictated by budgetary scoring needs. Instead, auctions should only be scheduled once the appropriate telecommunications policy goals have been agreed upon and the conditions necessary for successful licensing through auctions have been secured.

This legislation requires the FCC, prior to scheduling upcoming auctions, to take action to achieve the timely transition to digital television by establishing rules governing must-carry issues, minimum programming and broadcasting requirements, and digital television receiver benchmarks. It also directs the NTIA and the FCC to take action to secure additional spectrum for advanced wireless services—including mobile services such as so-called "3G" services. Sound telecommunications policy, consistent with the public interest, would be greatly furthered by putting the "policy horse" back in front of the "auction cart." The bill re-establishes this principle in wireless policy.

REMARKS FOR THE NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER IN WASHINGTON

HON. MIKE MCINTYRE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 2, 2002

Mr. MCINTYRE. Mr. Speaker, what a privilege it is to be with you today. I am especially pleased that my wife is here! She got up early and left North Carolina at 5:00 a.m. to surprise me. [applause] Yes, let's give her a hand! And I appreciate my staff being here! In just a little while—back in my hometown of Lumberton, North Carolina—scores of people will be gathering around the Robeson County Courthouse to pray for us here in Washington—and for our nation and our world. Ten years ago I was part of a local family commission that began our observance of the National Day of Prayer back home, and it has been exciting to see the ever-increasing number of people who gather to pray on this day—both locally and nationally.

Why should we pray? Why is prayer important? Think about it! How many times have we prayed really expecting an answer? Prayer is important because it emphasizes God's peace, God's power, God's purpose. Peace, power and purpose.

First, we know God's peace through prayer. Luke 18:1 is a parable to show that all times we ought to pray and not lose heart. So often we consume ourselves with fear rather than with faith. We forget that prayer should be the first resort, not the last resort! Too often we buy the lie that the world has taught us: "Well, I guess there's nothing left to do but pray about it!" We ought to talk to God first, because He already knows the outcome, and He can handle it! So often we rob ourselves of peace because we forget that God is bigger