

PAYING TRIBUTE TO JANET
IRVINE

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 5, 2003

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to recognize Janet Irvine of Fruita, Colorado. Through a program called Adopt-a-Platoon, Janet has adopted three platoons of our nation's soldiers in Afghanistan that she corresponds with on a regular basis. Today, I would like to pay tribute to Janet's efforts and goodwill before this body of Congress and this nation.

The Adopt-a-Platoon program was first established in 1998 as a way for citizens to boost moral and show encouragement for American soldiers serving in Bosnia. Today, Adopt-a-Platoon is playing an integral role in boosting the morale of over 12,000 soldiers that are currently fighting the war on terrorism in Afghanistan. Over the past year, Janet has become one of the organizations most loyal volunteers, mailing countless letters and baking innumerable batches of cookies to show her grateful appreciation for our soldiers serving abroad.

Although Janet dedicates much of her own personal time and energy toward supporting our nation's military, she has also encouraged others to assist in her efforts. The Fruita Monument High School's Interact Club and the students of Sue Chamberlain's and Marty Hardrick's classes at Shelby Elementary have also assisted in the effort, writing scores of letters showing their support and appreciation. The significance of her efforts have not gone unnoticed by the soldiers she writes to, and many have written back to express their personal gratitude.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great appreciation that I recognize Janet Irvine before this body of Congress and this nation. Janet's selfless support and encouragement of the men and women serving overseas in our nation's military is making a very personal contribution to our effort to rid the world of terrorism. Her commitment and dedication has served as an inspiration to us all, and it is and honor to represent such an outstanding American in this Congress. Keep up the good work, Janet.

INTRODUCING A RESOLUTION CONCERNING NATIONAL RUNAWAY PREVENTION MONTH

HON. STEVE ISRAEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 5, 2003

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to reintroduce a resolution that recognizes the goals and ideals of National Runaway Prevention Month, which is sponsored by two organizations that work with runaway youth: the National Network for Youth and the National Runaway Switchboard.

This resolution will bring national attention to the important issue of runaway kids and remind parents of the importance of effectively communicating with their children. All of the conditions that lead young people to leave their homes are preventable when families are

strong and when young people can find the support they need.

Runaway situations among our nation's young people are a widespread problem. One out of every seven children and youth in the United States runs away from home at some time before the age of 18. Although some return home after a short time, others remain on the streets and never go home. Studies have shown that 1.3 million runaway youth are on the streets each day.

Because today's young people are tomorrow's adults, preventing youth from running away is a family, community and national priority. Our country needs an educated workforce, charismatic leaders and a stable society.

Each November, nationwide activities take place to increase public awareness of the life circumstances of at risk youth. This resolution will show that Congress supports those educational activities aimed at ensuring safe, healthy and productive youth. I am hopeful that recognition of this issue will prevent other young people from running away and stress the importance of families and communities.

EDUCATION IMPROVEMENT TAX
CUT ACT

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 5, 2003

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce the Education Improvement Tax Cut Act. This act, a companion to my Family Education Freedom Act, takes a further step toward returning control over education resources to private citizens by providing a \$3,000 tax credit for donations to scholarship funds to enable low-income children to attend private schools. It also encourages private citizens to devote more of their resources to helping public schools, by providing a \$3,000 tax credit for cash or in-kind donations to public schools to support academic or extra curricular programs.

I need not remind my colleagues that education is one of the top priorities of the American people. After all, many members of Congress have proposed education reforms and a great deal of time is spent debating these proposals. However, most of these proposals either expand federal control over education or engage in the pseudo-federalism of block grants. Many proposals that claim to increase local control over education actually extend federal power by holding schools "accountable" to federal bureaucrats and politicians. Of course, schools should be held accountable for their results, but they should be held accountable to parents and school boards not to federal officials. Therefore, I propose we move in a different direction and embrace true federalism by returning control over the education dollar to the American people.

One of the major problems with centralized control over education funding is that spending priorities set by Washington-based Representatives, staffers, and bureaucrats do not necessarily match the needs of individual communities. In fact, it would be a miracle if spending priorities determined by the wishes of certain politically powerful representatives or the theories of Education Department functionaries match the priorities of every community in a

country as large and diverse as America. Block grants do not solve this problem as they simply allow states and localities to choose the means to reach federally-determined ends.

Returning control over the education dollar for tax credits for parents and for other concerned citizens returns control over both the means and ends of education policy to local communities. People in one community may use this credit to purchase computers, while children in another community may, at last, have access to a quality music program because of community leaders who took advantage of the tax credit contained in this bill.

Children in some communities may benefit most from the opportunity to attend private, parochial, or other religious schools. One of the most encouraging trends in education has been the establishment of private scholarship programs. These scholarship funds use voluntary contributions to open the doors of quality private schools to low-income children. By providing a tax credit for donations to these programs, Congress can widen the educational opportunities and increase the quality of education for all children. Furthermore, privately-funded scholarships raise none of the concerns of state entanglement raised by publicly-funded vouchers.

There is no doubt that Americans will always spend generously on education, the question is, "who should control the education dollar—politicians and bureaucrats or the American people?" Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in placing control of education back in the hands of citizens and local communities by sponsoring the Education Improvement Tax Cut Act.

INTRODUCTION OF FEDERAL LABORATORY EDUCATIONAL PARTNERS ACT OF 2003

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 5, 2003

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the Federal Laboratory Educational Partners Act of 2003, a bill that would permit the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) and other Department of Energy laboratories to use revenue from their inventions to support science education activities. The bill is cosponsored by my colleague from Colorado, Representative BOB BEAUPREZ. I greatly appreciate his support.

The Federal Laboratory Educational Partners Act would amend the Stevenson-Wydler Technology Innovation Act of 1980. Under the Stevenson-Wydler Act, federal labs can use licensing royalties, sometimes called Bayh-Dole revenues, for five purposes. These include rewarding laboratories' scientific employees; furthering scientific exchange among laboratories; educating and training laboratories' employees consistent with the labs' research and development missions; covering expenses incidental to the laboratories' administration and licensing of intellectual property; and conducting scientific research and development, again consistent with the labs' research and development missions.

My bill would amend the fifth purpose to add educational assistance as another permitted use of licensing royalties.

Federal laboratories, especially the Department of Energy's national laboratories, with their high concentrations of scientists and engineers, are uniquely positioned to aid surrounding communities in improving the learning experience of their students. Currently, NREL conducts some science education activities using funds provided by private sources, including funds from companies that operate the lab—the midwest Research Institute, Battelle, and Bechtel. But enabling NREL to use licensing revenues would give the lab greater flexibility.

Even without the expansion of permitted uses of licensing revenues that this bill would enable, NREL has conducted a number of science education programs with private funds and some funds from the Department of Energy and other federal agencies.

For instance, NREL initiated the Coalition for Learning Opportunities and United Tutors (CLOUT) program in 1998. CLOUT began as a pilot program matching 200 volunteers with fourth graders in 17 Denver public schools who needed help with reading. The program has grown to be a great success.

Another example is NREL's Junior Solar Sprint, which celebrated its twelfth year in 2002. This annual event gives students the chance to design, build, and race vehicles whose only energy source is sunlight. Each team starts with a motor and a silicon solar cell, and teams are awarded design trophies based on technology, craftsmanship, and innovation.

A third example is NREL's Columbine Spirit Scholarship at the Colorado School of Mines. It was established in 1999 by the contractors that operate NREL, MRI, Battelle and Bechtel. The three companies gave an initial \$25,000 to endow the fund, which is used to award scholarships to graduates of Columbine and other Jefferson County high schools through the Colorado School of Mines Foundation. The scholarship is offered first to Columbine graduates who are pursuing degrees in disciplines related to the laboratory's research and development mission.

These three examples help us understand the importance of science education activities associated with federal laboratories and what they can mean for their surrounding communities. But because of the narrowness of current provisions in law, NREL and other labs are not able to utilize licensing revenues to support any of the activities outlined above or any other science education programs. As a result, NREL and other labs must depend on private funds for the bulk of its science education activities, which unnecessarily restricts what these labs can do in this area. My bill would expand the law to allow greater flexibility.

Licensing revenues have grown markedly over the years as the technologies NREL has created have gained wide acceptance. It makes sense to me that we should give the labs a bit more freedom to spend these funds, especially on pursuits as worthwhile as science education which can expose young people to the excitement and relevance of careers in science and technology.

Research is an investment in the future. I believe the integration of research and science education to take advantage of the unique resources and facilities of the Department of Energy's national laboratories and research facilities should be a high priority.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO WILLIAM PRESCOTT ALLEN, JR.

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 5, 2003

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to the memory of an accomplished Colorado publisher, William Prescott Allen, Jr., of Montrose. Mr. Allen recently passed away, leaving behind a legacy of business and community leadership. As his family mourns his loss, I would like to take this time to highlight his life before this body of Congress and this nation.

Raised in Texas, William and his wife, Grace, relocated to Montrose, Colorado after he returned home from the Army during World War II. In 1944, the Allen family bought the local paper, the Montrose Daily Press. After gaining experience as a reporter and working at other family-owned newspapers, William became publisher of the Daily Press in 1948, a position he would hold for 38 years. Then, in 1997, William sold the paper after 53 years of Allen family ownership.

William remained active in the community during his lifetime. He served as a charter member in several local organizations, including the Montrose Industrial Development Corporation, the Montrose Kiwanis Club, the Ute Indian Museum, and the Uncompahgre Knife and Fork Club. William will be remembered for his contributions in the community and his leadership of the Daily Press.

Mr. Speaker, I stand today to honor William Allen Jr.'s memory before this body of Congress and this nation. I extend my sincere condolences to his wife and family. William Allen was a great contributor to the state of Colorado and the community of Montrose and he will be greatly missed.

HONORING BOB DURAND, FORMER MASSACHUSETTS SECRETARY OF THE EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

HON. JAMES P. MCGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 5, 2003

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join the citizens of Massachusetts in honoring Mr. Bob Durand, former Secretary of the Executive Office of Environmental Affairs for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Mr. Durand has been an environment lover his entire life. He has proven his love of the environment as a member of the Massachusetts Legislature and as the Secretary of Environmental Affairs. Before, during, and after his appointment to the Executive Office of Environmental Affairs by long time friend and former Governor Paul Cellucci, Mr. Durand worked on a myriad of environmental improvements solutions.

Mr. Durand has worked closely with groups like MassPIRG, the Audubon Society, and the Environmental League of Massachusetts. He was a powerful environmental advocate during his tenure as a member of the Massachusetts State Senate. His accomplishments are vast in number. The two that I find most important are

the "open space bond bill" and the "brownfields bill." Mr. Durand was also the author of the Community Preservation Act. After only two years as Secretary of Environmental Affairs, Mr. Durand used the limited financial resources at hand with unprecedented innovation to protect more than 100,000 acres of open space. He introduced a biodiversity program to help protect both open space and the Commonwealth's animal and plant species. Mr. Durand also initiated an environmental education program in elementary and secondary schools throughout Massachusetts, while taking the time to visit many of the schools himself.

One of Mr. Durand's more famous accomplishments was the River Protection Act, which protects over 9,000 miles of rivers and streams. After working on this extensive protective measure for seven years, Mr. Durand saw his bill signed into law in 1996. As a celebration, Mr. Durand and then Governor William F. Weld jumped into the Charles River, a delightful moment not soon forgotten.

Mr. Speaker, I commend Mr. Durand for the many years he has spent preserving the environment of Massachusetts. I have enjoyed working with Mr. Durand on environmental issues throughout the years, and look forward to working with him in the future, as we seek ways to further protect Massachusetts' environment. I am sure that the entire House of Representatives joins me in thanking Mr. Durand for many years of hard work in protecting our environment.

HONORING THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE EAST BAY CONVERSION AND REINVESTMENT COMMISSION

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 5, 2003

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the East Bay Conversion and Reinvestment Commission for its great contributions to Alameda County for the past 10 years.

In 1993, Congress authorized four pilot projects charged with seeking ways to improve the defense conversion process. Then-Congressman Ronald V. Dellums of California's Ninth District convened the EBCRC to manage one project in Alameda County, California. Members included elected officials, as well as representatives of public agencies, community groups, labor unions, educational institutions, business organizations, environmental advocacy groups and the military.

Since its inception, the EBCRC has had an impressive track record in assisting base closure communities locally and nationally. It has developed sound economic strategies to replace lost jobs and reuse dormant facilities. Under contract with the Department of Defense, the EBCRC has conducted two national studies examining the challenges and difficulties that accompany the base closure process and have published two internationally acclaimed reports, *Defense Conversion: A Road Map for Communities*, and *The Upside of Base Closure: Tools for Reinvesting in Communities*.

The East Bay Conversion and Reinvestment Commission has helped bring over \$50 million