

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HOLY FAMILY HOSPITAL DELIVERS HIGH QUALITY HEALTH CARE

HON. CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 14, 2007

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Holy Family Hospital for being rated as a top performer in the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services Premier Hospital Quality Incentive project.

Holy Family Hospital has been providing quality health care to the people of Eastern Washington for more than 40 years, but their story really began in 1945 when the Dominican Sisters purchased the land that Holy Family Hospital was later built on. Their philosophy to “restore and maintain health, promote wellness, prevent illness whenever possible, and help create a person-centered environment which fosters the healing process” continues to guide the efforts of Holy Family Hospital today.

As a top performer, Holy Family Hospital was evaluated on their performance and outcome measures in five clinical areas—acute myocardial infarction (heart attack), heart failure, coronary artery bypass graft, CABG, pneumonia, and hip and knee replacement.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend Holy Family Hospital for setting the standard for clinical excellence, and for providing excellent health care to the Eastern Washington community. I invite my colleagues to join me in congratulating the doctors and employees of Holy Family Hospital on this great achievement.

RECOGNIZING ELIZABETH ANNE ROYCROFT AS ESCAMBIA COUNTY, FLORIDA’S TEACHER OF THE YEAR

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 14, 2007

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, it is an honor for me to rise today to recognize Elizabeth Anne Roycroft as Escambia County’s Teacher of the Year.

Anne Roycroft joined the Escambia County School District administration in 2004, with an education background in American Studies, a Master’s of Education in Counseling from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and a Graduate Studies degree in Psychology from the University of West Florida. Mrs. Roycroft has proudly served the Escambia County School District for over two years, where she currently teaches Social Studies to sixth and seventh graders at Warrington Middle School in Pensacola, Florida.

Mrs. Roycroft’s involvement both in and out of the classroom proves her dedication and passion for teaching. She is a member of the National Council for the Social Studies, the Florida Council for the Social Studies, National Council for Geographic Education, and the International Reading Association. Since Mrs. Roycroft has begun teaching at Warrington Middle School, she has served as the Social Studies Department Chairman, a Member of the Technology Learning Group, a member of the school leadership team for Curriculum Mapping, a mentor, and the list continues.

The Teacher of the Year recognition highlights one year of teaching, but the proof of greatness lies well beyond the title—it lies in the hearts and minds of the students who have been deeply affected. To have the ability to significantly impact the lives of her students and to positively shape their minds, by instilling the knowledge, wisdom, and confidence needed to succeed is immeasurable and places Anne Roycroft among the great teachers in Northwest Florida. Escambia County is honored to have her as one of their own.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am proud to recognize Elizabeth Anne Roycroft on this outstanding achievement and her exemplary service in the Escambia County School District.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO RICHARD CASE

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 14, 2007

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Richard Case, a veteran of World War II, for his exemplary service in defense of freedom and award him with the Jubilee of Liberty Medal.

On June 6, 1944 the United States and its allies embarked on the largest air, land, and sea invasion ever undertaken. This massive effort included 5,000 ships, 10,000 airplanes, and over 150,000 American, British, Canadian, Free French, and Polish Troops. During the 50th anniversary of this historic event, the French Government awarded the Jubilee of Liberty Medal to American servicemen for their participation in the Battle of Normandy.

Richard served in the United States Army, 101st Airborne Division. On June 6, 1944, he landed on Utah Beach as part of the Normandy invasion and saw 21 consecutive days of combat. For his heroism and valor, Richard was awarded the Purple Heart, two Bronze Service Stars, and the Oak Leaf Cluster with Distinguished Unit Badge. In addition, on the 50th anniversary of D-Day, Richard, along with 21 of the original paratroopers, jumped at Utah Beach.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor Richard Case for his heroic service in the United States Military. His dedication to this country in the theater of war is truly exemplary. I com-

mend the sacrifices he has made to protect our freedoms and I am pleased to have the opportunity to recognize his service. I applaud Richard Case for his successes and I wish him the best in his future endeavors.

INTRODUCTION OF THE FAMILY EDUCATION FREEDOM ACT

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 14, 2007

Mr. PAUL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Family Education Freedom Act, a bill to empower millions of working and middle-class Americans to choose a non-public education for their children, as well as making it easier for parents to actively participate in improving public schools. The Family Education Freedom Act accomplishes its goals by allowing American parents a tax credit of up to \$5,000 for the expenses incurred in sending their child to private, public, parochial, other religious school, or for home schooling their children.

The Family Education Freedom Act returns the fundamental principal of a truly free economy to America’s education system: what the great economist Ludwig von Mises called “consumer sovereignty”. Consumer sovereignty simply means consumers decide who succeeds or fails in the market. Businesses that best satisfy consumer demand will be the most successful. Consumer sovereignty is the means by which the free market maximizes human happiness.

Currently, consumers are less than sovereign in the education “market.” Funding decisions are increasingly controlled by the federal government. Because “he who pays the piper calls the tune,” public, and even private schools, are paying greater attention to the dictates of federal “educrats” while ignoring the wishes of the parents to an evergreater degree. As such, the lack of consumer sovereignty in education is destroying parental control of education and replacing it with state control. Loss of control is a key reason why so many of America’s parents express dissatisfaction with the educational system.

According to a poll by McLaughlin and Associates, two-thirds of Americans believe education tax credits would have a positive effect on American education. This poll also found strong support for education tax credits among liberals, moderates, conservatives, low-income individuals, and African-Americans. This is just one of numerous studies and public opinion polls showing that Americans want Congress to get the federal bureaucracy out of the classroom and give parents more control over their children’s education.

• This “bullet” symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

Today, Congress can fulfill the wishes of the American people for greater control over their children's education by simply allowing parents to keep more of their hard-earned money to spend on education rather than force them to send it to Washington to support education programs reflective only of the values and priorities of Congress and the federal bureaucracy.

The \$5,000 tax credit will make a better education affordable for millions of parents. Madame Speaker, many parents who would choose to send their children to private, religious, or parochial schools are unable to afford the tuition, in large part because of the enormous tax burden imposed on the American family by Washington.

The Family Education Freedom Act also benefits parents who choose to send their children to public schools. Parents of children in public schools may use this credit to help improve their local schools by helping finance the purchase of educational tools such as computers or to ensure their local schools can offer enriching extracurricular activities such as music programs. Parents of public school students may also wish to use the credit to pay for special services, such as tutoring, for their children.

Increasing parental control of education is superior to funneling more federal tax dollars, followed by greater federal control, into the schools. According to a Manhattan Institute study of the effects of state policies promoting parental control over education, a minimal increase in parental control boosts students' average SAT verbal score by 21 points and students' SAT math score by 22 points! The Manhattan Institute study also found that increasing parental control of education is the best way to improve student performance on the National Assessment of Education Progress (NAEP) tests.

Clearly, enactment of the Family Education Freedom Act is the best thing this Congress could do to improve public education. Furthermore, a greater reliance on parental expenditures rather than government tax dollars will help make the public schools into true community schools that reflect the wishes of parents and the interests of the students.

The Family Education Freedom Act will also aid those parents who choose to educate their children at home. Home schooling has become an increasingly popular, and successful, method of educating children. Home schooled children out-perform their public school peers by 30 to 37 percentile points across all subjects on nationally standardized achievement exams. Home schooling parents spend thousands of dollars annually, in addition to the wages forgone by the spouse who forgoes outside employment, in order to educate their children in the loving environment of the home.

Ultimately, Madame Speaker, this bill is about freedom. Parental control of child rearing, especially education, is one of the bulwarks of liberty. No nation can remain free when the state has greater influence over the knowledge and values transmitted to children than the family.

By moving to restore the primacy of parents to education, the Family Education Freedom Act will not only improve America's education, it will restore a parent's right to choose how best to educate one's own child, a fundamental freedom that has been eroded by the

increase in federal education expenditures and the corresponding decrease in the ability of parents to provide for their children's education out of their own pockets. I call on all my colleagues to join me in allowing parents to devote more of their resources to their children's education and less to feed the wasteful Washington bureaucracy by supporting the Family Education Freedom Act.

ST. JOSEPH'S HOSPITAL OF
CHEWELAH DELIVERS HIGH
QUALITY HEALTH CARE

HON. CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 14, 2007

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate St. Joseph's Hospital of Chewelah for being rated as a top performer in the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services Premier Hospital Quality Incentive program.

St. Joseph's Hospital of Chewelah was founded in 1929 by the Dominican Sisters. As a member of Providence Health Care, their mission is to provide a community of healing, collaborate with caregivers, and uphold a commitment to excellence. This is the kind of service and care they provide every day.

As a top performer, St. Joseph's Hospital of Chewelah was evaluated on their performance and outcome measures in five clinical areas—acute myocardial infarction (heart attack), heart failure, coronary artery bypass graft (CABG), pneumonia, and hip and knee replacement.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend St. Joseph's Hospital of Chewelah for setting the standard for clinical excellence, and for providing excellent health care to the Eastern Washington community. I invite my colleagues to join me in congratulating the doctors and employees of St. Joseph's Hospital of Chewelah on this great achievement.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO WILLIAM
FINE

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 14, 2007

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor William Fine, a veteran of World War II, for his exemplary service in defense of freedom and award him with the Jubilee of Liberty Medal.

On June 6, 1944 the United States and its allies embarked on the largest air, land, and sea invasion ever undertaken. This massive effort included 5,000 ships, 10,000 airplanes, and over 150,000 American, British, Canadian, Free French, and Polish Troops. During the 50th anniversary of this historic event, the French Government awarded the Jubilee of Liberty Medal to American servicemen for their participation in the Battle of Normandy.

William served in the United States Army, Company G, 318th Infantry Division and served in Central Europe, Ardennes and the Rhineland. For his heroism and valor, William was awarded the American Service Medal, the

European African Middle Eastern Campaign Service Medal, the WWII Victory Medal, and the Good Conduct Medal.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor William Fine for his heroic service in the United States Military. His dedication to this country in the theater of war is truly exemplary. I commend the sacrifices he has made to protect our freedoms and I am pleased to have the opportunity to recognize his service. I applaud William Fine for his successes and I wish him the best in his future endeavors.

INTRODUCING THE EDUCATION
IMPROVEMENT TAX CUT ACT

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 14, 2007

Mr. PAUL. Madam 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 \$5,000 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 \$5,000 tax credit for cash or in-kind donations to public schools to support academic or extra curricular programs.

Education remains one of the top priorities of the American people. Unfortunately, most proposals to address the American people's demand for education reform 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,