

Although both got as many autographs as they could at yesterday's news conference, they said they weren't fazed by the presence of so many stars or the national media interest in their campaign. It's the work that's most important, they said.

"This is really going to boost us up in our project and make people realize everything's not hunky-dory," Amanda said. "There are problems that need to be fixed right away."

Donations can be sent to A School for Iqbal Massih Fund, c/o The Hibernia Savings Bank, Quincy Hi-School Branch, 731 Hancock St., Quincy 02170.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PAT WILLIAMS

OF MONTANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 21, 1995

Mr. WILLIAMS. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to be present last night due to a family emergency.

On vote #871, the previous question I would have voted "No."

On vote #872, the motion to table, I would have voted "No."

On vote #873 the motion to recommit I would have voted, "Yes."

On vote #874, House Joint Resolution 134, the targeted C.R., I would have voted "Yes."

A TRIBUTE TO MAJ. GEN. NOLAN SKLUTE, RETIRING JUDGE ADVOCATE GENERAL, U.S. AIR FORCE

HON. GERALD B.H. SOLOMON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 21, 1995

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, I would like to bring to your attention today the exemplary work and splendid public service of one of our country's outstanding military leaders, Maj. Gen. Nolan Sklute, the Judge Advocate General of the U.S. Air Force. General Sklute will be retiring after an especially distinguished military career on February 1.

General Sklute completed the Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps Program in 1962 and entered active duty after completing law school in 1966. His assignments include Luke AFB, AZ; Athenai Airport, Greece; chief, general litigation branch, litigation division, headquarters, U.S. Air Force; staff judge advocate March AFB, CA; staff judge advocate, Bitburg AB, West Germany; deputy chief, claims and tort litigation division, headquarters, U.S. Air Force; executive to the Judge Advocate General; director of civil law, headquarters, U.S. Air Force; staff judge advocate, Air Force Logistics Command, and commander, Air Force Contract Law Center, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, OH; Deputy Judge Advocate General, Headquarters, U.S. Air Force; and finally, the Judge Advocate General of the U.S. Air Force.

He received a bachelor of arts degree from Union College, Schenectady, NY, in 1962, and a juris doctor in 1965 from Cornell University School of Law, New York. He is a graduate of the National War College, the Armed Forces Staff College, Squadron Officer School, and earned his master of laws degree in government contracts from the National Law Center,

George Washington University, Washington, DC. General Sklute is admitted to practice before the Supreme Court of the United States; the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces; U.S. District Court, Northern District of New York; and the New York State courts. General Sklute's military decorations include the Distinguished Service Medal with one oak leaf cluster, the Legion of Merit with one oak leaf cluster, the Meritorious Service Medal with three oak leaf clusters, and the Air Force Commendation Medal.

Since 1993, General Sklute has served as the Judge Advocate General of the Air Force. In that capacity, he has provided dynamic leadership and professional supervision for over 2,900 military and civilian lawyers, paralegals, and support personnel. During this time of unprecedented legal challenges, General Sklute's dynamic leadership, sound judgment, personal and professional integrity and unwavering dedication to duty were instrumental in the successful resolution of numerous difficult issues facing the U.S. Air Force. As a key and trusted advisor to two Chiefs of Staff, his sound, timely and cogent advice was a critical component in a host of complex issues with a multitude of dimensions.

General Sklute's early recognition of the legal implications of information warfare has placed the Air Force in the forefront of this new arena. As a prime mover in the coordination of international education and training efforts, he established a joint service committee to foster democratic principles in fledgling democracies. Under his leadership, the Air Force continues to access extremely talented lawyers and paralegals. He has been instrumental in expanding the role of Air Force paralegals, empowering them by shifting responsibility and authority to the lowest possible level. General Sklute has also spearheaded the enhanced integration of active duty and Air Reserve component judge advocates.

Perhaps General Sklute's greatest legacy will be his unrelenting focus on the need for greater emphasis on leadership and accountability. These efforts are already paying significant dividends to the Air Force worldwide. This continuing effort underscored and reinforced the vital importance of Air Force's core values at all levels of command.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you joint me, our colleagues and General Sklute's many friends in saluting this distinguished officer's many years of selfless service to the United States of America. I know our Nation, his wife Linda, daughter Stephanie and son Larry, are extremely proud of his accomplishments. It is fitting that the House of Representatives honors him today.

50TH ANNIVERSARY TRIBUTE TO JOHN AND MARY GAIL

HON. JON D. FOX

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 21, 1995

Mr. FOX of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to John and Mary Gail on the occasion of their 50th wedding anniversary. John and Mary were married on December 29, 1945, at St. Rose of Lima in West Philadelphia. They have been residents of Montgomery County, PA for 40 years, first in

Merion Park and then in Bala Cynwyd, where they still live today.

Both John and Mary were born and raised in West Philadelphia, but they have made a mark in their Montgomery County community. They participate in local charities like the local Meals on Wheels Program. John and Mary are lifelong members of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia and remain active in St. Margaret's Parish in Narbeth.

John and Mary are two people with diverse talents—she the studious valedictorian at West Catholic Girls High, he the accomplished community theater performer—who together make a perfect pair. And now after a half-century together, they can take pride and comfort in their greatest achievement; together they raised a wonderful family. The Gails have four children; Brian, Barry, Kevin, and Eileen. John and Mary are proud grandparents to nine granddaughters and eight grandsons.

On December 30, the entire Gail family will gather at Philadelphia County Club to celebrate John and Mary's "Golden Jubilee." Let me add my best wishes for a wonderful golden anniversary. As John and Mary look back on their wonderful years together, on the life they built and the family they raised, all of us should raise our glasses to them and say simply "well done." Congratulations to this terrific couple!

TRIBUTE TO SYLVIA AND JULIE WETTER

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 21, 1995

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to my aunt and uncle, Sylvia and Julie Wetter, who celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on November 11, 1995.

Mr. Speaker, Sylvia and Julie Wetter were married on November 11, 1945 and were long-time residents of Bronx, NY. For the past seven years, they have lived in Atlanta, GA.

Their marriage has been blessed by the birth of two children, Alice Wetter Paul of Marietta, GA and David Wetter of Bronx, NY. Alice is married to Danny Paul, and they have two lovely daughters, Michelle and Jillian.

Throughout their lives, Sylvia and Julie Wetter have committed themselves to serving the Nation and community.

Julie worked for years with the U.S. Postal Service before moving on to Empire Blue Cross/Blue Shield.

Sylvia, my father's sister, has been an animal rights activist and has been very involved as a volunteer assisting those who have been afflicted with multiple sclerosis. During World War II, Sylvia worked for the coordinator for international affairs at the Department of Commerce.

Julie Wetter served with great distinction with the 83d Division of the 9th Army during World War II. In fact, Julie was drafted when former Secretary of War Simpson selected the ball with his birthdate as the first group of young men to serve our Nation during the war. Julie served 5 years in the infantry, rising to the rank of staff sergeant.

Julie was the first in his division to reach the Rhine River, served in the Battle of The Bulge, and was awarded the Bronze Star, Silver Star,

and Purple Heart for his service to his Nation and the cause of world freedom.

Mr. Speaker, Sylvia and Julie Wetter are two individuals who exemplify what is good and right about our Nation. They have served their Nation and community with pride, they have raised a wonderful family and they have shared a love that has lasted more than 50 years. I also want them to know that I love them very much.

I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring and congratulating Sylvia and Julie Wetter on the occasion of their 50th wedding anniversary, and I know that their Congressman and my colleague, JOHN LEWIS, shares my heartfelt sentiments in wishing them the best.

THE AMERICAN PEOPLE SAY NO
TO THE REPUBLICANS' BUDGET

HON. LOUIS STOKES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 21, 1995

Mr. STOKES. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to the Republicans' budget. According to the polls, the American people believe that the Republicans' budget cuts go too far.

Despite the fact that the American people continue to say no, to making seniors pay more for less health care; despite the fact that the American people continue to say no to taking health care services away from children and pregnant women; despite the fact the American people continue to say no to gutting Medicare, Medicaid, and education; despite the fact that the American people continue to say no to destroying the environment; despite the fact that the American people continue to say no to tax cuts for the wealthy; and most important, despite the fact that the people have spoken; the Republicans still want to force their life threatening budget down the throat of the American people.

Because the GOP budget cannot stand on its own merit, the Republicans are still trying to tie their budget mess to a continuing resolution. Because the President will not agree to the Republicans' devastating cuts and wants to protect Medicare, Medicaid, education, and the environment, once again, the Republicans have shutdown the Federal Government. This is the Republicans' second shutdown in 2 months. The GOP's blackmail approach to budgeting is not just shameful, it is irresponsible. The GOP must not be allowed to continue to hold the American people, and the country hostage to their life threatening budget.

TITLE I, AN EDUCATION TOOL
MEETING THE NEEDS OF CHILDREN

HON. BRUCE F. VENTO

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 21, 1995

Mr. VENTO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of an education program that is relied upon as an integral component of the Federal Government's commitment to ensure quality education for every American, title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act. Funds

from title I enable schools to provide additional academic assistance to at-risk students. These children are our most vulnerable students. They are children who are more likely to fail or slip behind academically, and they are moderate- and low-income families that often lack the network of support and enrichment that contributes to successful education and schooling.

A major element of the title I program is the involvement of families in the education of their children. Parents and educators share ideas and opinions through the title I Advisory Councils where innovative solutions are developed to help these at-risk students learn. Furthermore, the parent involvement continues into the classroom setting and the home through parent classroom visits and the heightened awareness the parent takes home with them regarding the child's educational needs. Seventy-five percent of the funds Minnesota spent to educate poor children in 1995 came from the \$81 million title I fund, which Republican reconciliation and appropriation measures propose to cut. If these budget cuts are enacted, Minnesota is set to lose \$14 million in title I assistance in 1996.

Title I is to education what preventative medicine is to health care. It assists students just slipping behind in their level of learning and achievement in school. By providing this extra assistance, especially early in their school years, students are less likely to be held back, and, therefore, benefit more fully from the schooling being provided to them. This type of key investment, made possible by title I resources, is a very important part of ensuring that students do not fall through the cracks and that all children receive the help they require and deserve to succeed. Unfortunately, prior year funding levels and demographic changes in our school settings across the Nation, including an increased number of children in need, have translated into a gap of needs that are going unmet.

Today, the shortfall will be compounded by the misguided attempt to shift our Nation's priorities away from making investments in our Nation's children. The new Republican majority's budget package targets title I for a 17-percent funding cut. Urban areas like the Twin Cities will be more severely impacted by these proposed cuts due to the higher number of low-income families housed by our Nation's cities. Schools that currently rely on these funds to give added attention to at-risk students will be forced to decrease the number of students receiving this aid, or reduce funding in other areas of their curriculum to maintain the same level of service.

Furthermore, when reductions in title I are considered together with the cuts being proposed to other programs that assist disadvantaged children, the impact becomes enormous on this vulnerable population. Funding cuts in programs such as welfare assistance, Supplemental Security Income for disabled children, health care coverage and even nutrition programs are included in the new Republican majority's budget plans that would hit low-income children on all sides at once, placing significant new hurdles in the already difficult path to educational success for these vulnerable students.

Investing in our Nation's children is an essential component for the future prosperity and competitiveness of our Nation, and education is an integral part of that investment. Scientific

research has repeatedly demonstrated that sound educational investments early in the schooling years positively impacts not only a child's academic future, but it strengthens their post-school years as well. Every child has the potential to succeed, and title I gives at-risk students the opportunity to achieve that success. As a society, we should make these type of investments today. So-called savings by cutting education programs means less success for our Nation's children and, therefore, our Nation's future.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to enter two outstanding articles by Thomas J. Collins and Bill Salisbury into the RECORD. They appeared in the St. Paul Pioneer Press on December 10, 1995, and I think they are very accurate accounts of how much schools in the Twin Cities value the activities they are able to pursue through title I and how essential this program is to the students who receive extra help from it. We must provide these extraordinary teachers, Ray Simms, Mary Bakken, Paula Mitchell, Deirdre Vaughan, Audrey Bridgeford, Jean Jones, Myrtis Skarich, and Jeff Maday, adequate tools so that they are able to serve the needs of our children, our Nation's most important resource.

[From the St. Paul Pioneer Press, Dec. 10, 1995]

TITLE I'S TIGHTROPE: WILL POOR KIDS LOSE?

(By Thomas J. Collins)

For a fleeting moment Tuesday evening, the glass-enclosed vestibule of the Naomi Family Center in downtown St. Paul offers a silent, fishbowl view of lives in turmoil.

Teacher Ray Simms is about to step inside, as he does four evenings each week. Silly, isn't it, he says to himself. The better I do my job, the less need there may be for it in the future, he thinks.

In the lobby, he walks past the cacophony where young women and their children flood toward a counter to get evening meal tickets amid the heavy cafeteria odor of dishwasher and cooking meat. Up a clanky elevator to the second floor, Simms on this night will test his sixth-grade student's ability to tally time.

Simms and Eugene Booker sit in overstuffed chairs for two hours, counting hours, minutes and seconds like those that have measured the sixth-grader's life since he and his family lost their home in April. Later, the two move on to complicated math problems.

This isn't a classroom. It's a homeless shelter. And to Simms a teacher at Benjamin E. Mays Magnet School, it's not the familiar clanging of lockers or chatter of students he hears outside this door.

The special instruction Simms provides, as well as one-on-one sessions he and other teachers offer to poor kids in schools throughout the city, is part of a program that makes up one of key education targets for those trying to keep the federal budget in line.

The bulk of education money in the United States comes from state and local sources. But when the budget cutting is finished in Congress, education, like many other services, will feel the pinch. And Simms' program, known as Title I, is likely to feel it more than most.

It won't be eliminated, but enough will be trimmed around the edges to allow some kids who cannot read or write to slip away.

Under a proposal in Congress, Minnesota's share of Title I money would decrease by \$14 million next year from \$81 million. The money pays for programs in every one of the state's 400 school districts, aimed at supplemental support to low-income or transient students at risk of failing in school.