

criteria on which the schools are judged include curriculum; teaching strategies; student achievement; student focus and support; school organization and culture; active teaching and learning; staff development; and school partnerships with families, businesses, and the larger community.

I congratulate Board of Education President Ruth Atherton, Vice President G. "Petie" Anderson, Clerk Rick Royle, Board Member Harold Carman, Board Member Jerry Cleveland, and an outstanding Superintendent Dr. Rebecca Turrentine. They have made a real difference not only for the students of their School District, but also for children across the nation whose schools can learn from the innovations of the Intensive Learning Center and the successes of Esther Lindstrom Elementary School.

FREEDOM COMES AT A GREAT
COST—"BLOOD AND SINS"

HON. WILLIAM O. LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 28, 1999

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I offer the following column written by John Kass in the March 29, 1999 edition of the Chicago Tribune to be entered in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

FREEDOM COMES AT A GREAT COST—"BLOOD
AND SINS"

If you were downtown Sunday, and if you passed near Halsted Street, you may have seen the Greek Independence Day parade.

The Near West Side is far from the Balkans and far from Kosovo, but they were on the minds of everybody there. Those present thought about the present and the past.

We Americans come from so many different places. And there are other national day celebrations for the peoples who became free by their own hand and settled here.

But my favorite and the only one that counts is July 4, for all of us. That's when we Americans celebrate our independence from Britain, the founding of our own empire, and the strength of the union that was broken and recovered at a cost.

On Halsted Street, you would have seen children dressed in old country costumes and men in what look to be white kilts. You might have joked about men in skirts, especially if you don't know what they did long ago.

My great grandfathers and my great-great grandfathers dressed like that, in 1821, in their rebellion against the occupying power, the Ottoman Empire.

They wanted their freedom after 400 years of occupation by the Turks. They were tired of having to bow and kiss the hand of their conquerors. So they came down from the mountains with their long knives and guns, looking for blood—and they found it.

The Turks had spent four centuries in that land, and they considered it their own, with their own villages and towns, living side by side with the Greeks, mostly in peace.

But the sultan didn't tolerate freedom. The captured Greek soldiers were impaled on long poles for slow public deaths. Churches were burned, the nuns and priests skinned alive, villages cleansed, leaving only the stones to cry.

Matching the pasha's barbarism with their own, the Greeks committed unspeakable atrocities too. The English romantics who had adopted the Hellenic cause, the dilettantes who talked about fair play, were terrified.

But war and rebellion isn't about fair play. Once it begins it is about survival by people who are prepared to do anything. To the horror of their Western European supporters, the Greeks were prepared to do anything.

They fought the sultan's armies, and they raided Turkish villages, desecrating mosques, killing every man, innocent women and children, the livestock, everything that moved.

When they found Turkish soldiers, they did what the Turkish soldiers did to them, until the Turks finally fled.

The sins of the Greeks and the Turks were enough to send generations to hell. But finally, 400 years of Ottoman rule ended and part of Greece was free.

What we forget when we celebrate these independence days is the blood and the sins.

Like I said earlier, my favorite is July 4, for all of us Americans.

In America, while we celebrate our ethnicity and diversity, we should never forget that we're Americans first, even if we're hyphenated. We're Americans because we believe in this country and its freedoms, which is why we came here.

The only group that didn't have a choice was black Americans. They were liberated from slavery in a bloody Civil War. Appeals to the better angels of our nature didn't free the slaves.

What freed the slaves were the deaths of hundreds of thousands of Americans. The union was preserved, in part because of the atrocities committed by Sherman's army as he marched through the South, burning everything in his way.

Today, we call those tactics terrorism and barbaric and genocidal, but that's what was done to preserve the union. And let's not forget the Indians.

In our hyphenated ethnic celebrations, and when we sing the unifying Star Spangled Banner on the 4th, we concentrate on the positive images.

The newspaper photo of the little boys, like my own sons, eating souvlaki and waving. Or the tape of the little boys, like my own sons, chewing on an ear of corn in July, waiting for the fireworks.

What's forgotten is how unions are preserved and how independence is won—with the massacres of innocents, with children burned in their homes, with women dragged on the ground by the hair and finally dumped into graves.

It's not a video game and it's not clean. Americans are now finally debating NATO's war against Yugoslavia. We're in it, but many of us don't understand how and why.

And we don't want to deal with how it will grow, if we do what must be done to stop further atrocities against the Kosovars now that we're there.

We must understand the unspeakable violence, but we can't let that determine our reasons or rush us. So we can't creep our way in, distracted, rudderless, parsing the sentences of our political leaders to guess at what they mean.

If we're going to fight, we must fight to win. We already fought to lose once, in Vietnam.

But to win there will be a cost. So we better be prepared to pay it. And we better understand it now.

TRIBUTE TO RICHARD F. "REGIS"
GROFF

HON. DIANA DeGETTE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 28, 1999

Ms. DeGETTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Denver leader Richard F.

"Regis" Groff whose leadership in Denver and throughout the world has enhanced so many people's lives. Regis Groff has contributed, not only to Denver through his teaching and civic involvement, but also throughout the world by traveling and working with foreign countries on humanitarian issues.

His international efforts have led him to many countries including Nigeria, Germany, Jamaica, Israel, China and South Africa to work on a variety of important issues. In Israel he worked on improving the Black-Jewish dialogue. He traveled to South Africa on a fact finding mission and, visited China with a small group of fellow legislators as part of a good will tour.

Regis Groff, who is now the Executive Director of Metro Denver Black Church Initiative, first came to Denver to get his Masters from the University of Denver. He taught history classes in the Denver Public Schools (DPS) until 1977, when he began working as an Intergovernmental Relations Specialist for DPS. From there he became the Community Affairs Coordinator for (DPS). From 1974 to 1988 he served in the Colorado State Legislature. In 1993 he worked as Consultant to the Chancellor of the University of Colorado at Denver and in 1994 he became Director of the Youthful Offenders System, where he targeted youthful offenders of crimes involving deadly weapons. His program vigorously worked to break down gang affiliations and instill hope and dignity to youth.

This is not the only work Groff has done to better Denver communities, but he has so many accomplishments, it is hard to list them all. He was Vice President of the Denver Federation of Teachers, the Senate Minority Leader for the Colorado State Senate and Vice President of the National Democratic Leadership Caucus to highlight a few accomplishments in his vast resume of community involvement.

The work he has done on behalf of the community has not gone unnoticed. He has received many awards for his efforts such as, Legislator of the Year Award from the Associated Press, the Appreciation Award in recognition of his work for the youth of Denver and the Distinguished Service Citation award presented by the United Negro College Fund to name a few.

Regis Groff's important work and selfless acts over the past two decades is what has inspired me to recognize and applaud his efforts today.

NEBRASKA LEGISLATURE POSI-
TION ON TOBACCO SETTLEMENT

HON. LEE TERRY

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 28, 1999

Mr. TERRY. Mr. Speaker, on March 22, 1999, the Nebraska Unicameral Legislature passed Legislative Resolution No. 22. The resolution petitions Congress and the executive branch to prohibit federal recoupment of state tobacco settlement recoveries.

I agree with the Legislature that the funds received under the tobacco settlement should remain with the states. Nebraska's portion of the settlement funds will be used for the preservation of the health of its citizens. I oppose

any effort by the federal government, which was not a party to the settlement, to claim a portion of these funds.

I call the text of the resolution to the attention of my colleagues, as follows.

NEBRASKA UNICAMERAL LEGISLATURE,
March 23, 1999.

Hon. LEE TERRY,
House of Representatives, Longworth House Office Bldg., Washington, DC 20515.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN TERRY: I have enclosed a copy of engrossed Legislative Resolution No. 29 adopted by the Nebraska Unicameral Legislature on the twenty-second day of March 1999. The members of the Nebraska Legislature have directed me to forward this resolution to you and to request that it be officially entered into the Congressional Record.

With kind regards.

Sincerely,

PATRICK J. O'DONNELL,
Clerk of the Legislature.

Enclosed.

NINETY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE, FIRST SESSION,
LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 29

Whereas, the State of Nebraska filed a lawsuit against the tobacco industry on August 21, 1998, in the district court of Lancaster County; and

Whereas, the State of Nebraska and forty-five other states settled their lawsuits against the tobacco industry on November 23, 1998, under terms of the Tobacco Master Settlement Agreement (MSA) without any assistance from the federal government; and

Whereas, under terms of the Master Settlement Agreement, Nebraska's lawsuit against the tobacco industry was dismissed by the district court of Lancaster County on December 20, 1998, and State Specific Finality was achieved in the State of Nebraska on January 20, 1999; and

Whereas, the State of Nebraska has passed legislation to allocate its portion of settlement funds awarded under the Master Settlement Agreement for the preservation of the health of its citizens; and

Whereas, the federal government, through the Health Care Financing Administration, has asserted that it is entitled to a significant share of settlement funds awarded to the settling states under the Master Settlement Agreement on the basis that such funds represent a portion of federal Medicaid costs; and

Whereas, the federal government previously chose not to exercise its option to file a federal lawsuit against the tobacco industry, but on January 19, 1999, the President of the United States announced plans to pursue federal claims against the tobacco industry; and

Whereas, the State of Nebraska is entitled to all of its portion of settlement funds negotiated in the Master Settlement Agreement without any federal claim to such funds.

Now, therefore, be it resolved by the Members of the Ninety-Sixth Legislature of Nebraska, First Session:

1. That the Legislature hereby petitions the Congress of the United States and the executive branch of the federal government to prohibit federal recoupment of state tobacco settlement recoveries.

2. That official copies of this resolution be prepared for forwarded to the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives and President of the United States Senate and to all members of the Nebraska delegation to the Congress of the United States with the request that it be officially entered into the Congressional Record as a memorial to the Congress of the United States.

3. That a copy of the resolution be prepared and forwarded to President William J. Clinton.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, April 30, 1999.

PATRICK J. O'DONNELL,
Clerk of the Legislature, Lincoln, Nebraska.

DEAR MR. O'DONNELL: Pursuant to the request of the Legislature, I have entered into the Congressional Record Resolution No. 29, adopted on March 22, 1999. A copy of the appropriate section of the record is enclosed.

I am pleased to be of assistance in bringing this important matter to the attention of my colleagues.

Sincerely,

LEE TERRY,
Member of Congress.

HONORING THE HUTCHINSON HOSE COMPANY

HON. THOMAS M. REYNOLDS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 28, 1999

Mr. REYNOLDS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and acknowledge the men and women of the Hutchinson Hose Company in Amherst, NY.

In 1835, residents of "Williams Mills" first donated a portion of their taxes toward the purchase of a fire engine, recognizing the community's need for fire protection. Since the time of that \$228 wooden wagon, Hutchinson Hose, which received its modern-day name in 1908 in honor of Edward H. Hutchinson, has grown with its community, providing superior fire protection for the residents of Williamsville.

For 164 years, the men and women of Hutchinson Hose have lived up to their early-day moniker of the "Rough and Ready Fire Engine Company Number One," and it is with great pleasure that I commend them during our deliberations today.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to pay special recognition to Mr. Irvin J. Lorich and Mr. David Sherman. Irvin will be honored on Saturday, May 1, 1999, for 50 years of dedicated volunteer service; and Mr. Sherman, a distinguished journalist and editor, will again be sworn-in as President of the Fire Company, the longest tenured president in fire company history.

Mr. Speaker, I know that the entire House of Representatives joins me in saluting the hard work and dedication of the Hutchinson Hose Company, and two of its most distinguished members, President Dave Sherman and Mr. Irvin Lorich.

LEGISLATION TO PROVIDE VETERANS HEALTH CARE BENEFITS TO MEMBERS OF THE PHILIPPINE COMMONWEALTH ARMY AND THE MEMBERS OF THE SPECIAL PHILIPPINE SCOUTS, H.R. 1594

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 28, 1999

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce H.R. 1594, the Filipino Veterans Benefits Improvements Act of 1999. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this worthy legislation.

On July 26, 1941, President Roosevelt issued a military order, pursuant to the Phil-

ippines Independence Act of 1934, calling members of the Philippine Commonwealth Army into the service of the United States Forces of the Far East, under the command of General Douglas MacArthur.

For almost 4 years, over 100,000 Filipinos, of the Philippine Commonwealth Army fought alongside the allies to reclaim the Philippine Islands from Japan. Regrettably, in return, Congress enacted the Rescission Act of 1946. This measure limited veterans eligibility for service-connected disabilities and death compensation and also denied the members of the Philippine Commonwealth Army the honor of being recognized as veterans of the United States Armed Forces.

A second group, the special Philippine scouts called "New Scouts" who enlisted in the U.S. armed forces after October 6, 1945, primarily to perform occupation duty in the Pacific, were similarly excluded from benefits.

I believe it is long past time to correct this injustice and to provide the members of the Philippine Commonwealth Army and the special Philippine scouts with the benefits and the services that they valiantly earned during their service in World War II.

Realizing Mr. Speaker, that our current budgetary environment is not conducive to the creation of a new large entitlement program, I have crafted this legislation to be fiscally feasible while providing the veterans with the benefits in which they are most in need.

This legislation contains three major provisions. The first would provide disability compensation to those Filipino veterans residing in the United States on a dollar-for-dollar basis. This would replace the "peso rate" standard which Filipino veterans had to accept, even if they were residing within the United States and not the Philippines.

Second, this bill would make all Filipino veterans residing in the United States eligible for VA health care. These veterans, would be subject to the same eligibility and means test requirements as their American counterparts.

Finally, this legislation restores funding, which had been removed in 1994, to provide health care to American military personnel and veterans in the Philippines as well as for Filipino World War II veterans residing in the islands.

These veterans have waited more than 50 years for the benefits which, by virtue of their military service, they were entitled to in 1946.

I urge my colleagues to carefully review this legislation that corrects this grave injustice and provides veterans benefits to members of the Philippine Commonwealth Army and the members of the special Philippine scouts.

I submit the full text of H.R. 1594 to be included at this point in the RECORD:

H.R. 1594

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Filipino Veterans' Benefits Improvements Act of 1999".

SEC. 2. INCREASE IN RATE OF PAYMENT OF CERTAIN BENEFITS TO VETERANS OF THE PHILIPPINE COMMONWEALTH ARMY.

(a) INCREASE.—Section 107 of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking "Payment" in the second sentence of subsection (a) and inserting "Except as provided in subsection (c), payment"; and