

The great irony of this technology enterprise is that it's running out of a vital fuel source: skilled workers. American corporations are now in the position of asking Congress to help import a workforce from foreign countries.

Congress needs to reinforce a crucial pipeline for this needed fuel so that our technological enterprises can feel secure in their ability to grow. That pipeline has been and continues to be public education. Unfortunately, the pipeline is clogged because our policies are floundering with piecemeal, patch-worked solutions instead of a solidly constructed plan. We cannot meet the demands of a digital economy, with inadequate infrastructure, untrained teachers, resistant universities, indecisive government, and a private sector that thinks donating its old computers is the solution to the problem.

Congress must recognize a fundamental need to rethink how we deliver education in our classrooms. It needs to light up the desktops of our students and the blackboards of their teachers, and provide students with the training and skills they need to be contributing members of our future workforce. Specifically, it needs to bring the information superhighway into our schools and libraries, giving students the opportunity to participate in the global economy.

In order for this opportunity to be seized by Congress, it will take more than a thirty second sound bite. It will require a long term plan.

Congress must forge a new alliance of the nation's talented technological sector and leading academic and government agencies, to develop a strategic plan with appropriate implementation benchmarks. The information infrastructure needed for classrooms and public libraries must be examined to ensure that it provides the most efficient and cost effective results. Yet, we must also realize that while a high-tech education system is critical, it won't work without trained professionals.

As a parent of three and a former teacher, I understand that no act of Congress ever reads to a child at night, tucks him in, or offers him the kind of nurturing growth that comes from caring parents. Similarly, no piece of technology can replace a highly trained teacher. There can be no high tech, without high touch.

According to U.S. Secretary of Education Richard Riley, over the next 10 years, this country will need two million new teachers. These new teachers must be digitally fluent and prepared to integrate technology into their daily lesson plans and curriculum. Our colleges and universities must be prepared to provide this outcome, and Congress must be prepared to provide incentives. These incentives would include tax credits for equipment purchases, tuition credits to acquire new skills, and incentives for business to buddy with teachers and adopt schools.

The third component of how Congress can integrate high-tech learning into our society, relates to creating a civic culture that will encourage young people with computer talent to share their knowledge with their community. The best way to make that happen will be through a youth technology corps.

A national tech corps starting in the fifth grade and continuing through high school, this youth technology corps will be of technological service to its peers and adults, and expose young people to the importance of community service. Learning the important lesson that serving is as important as being served.

Congress has a responsibility to leave no one behind in the digital economy. It must provide the opportunities needed to help Americans attain personal and financial security in a global economy. It can make this happen, or it can be remembered as the Congress that squandered an unprecedented educational moment.

HONORING REVEREND AMOS G. JOHNSON

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 1999

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to rise before you today on behalf of the congregation of New Bethel Missionary Baptist Church in Pontiac, Michigan. On Friday, September 17, the New Bethel family will gather to honor Reverend Amos G. Johnson for 42 years of dedicated service to the community in the name of the Lord.

Born in Mississippi, Reverend Amos Johnson was heavily influenced by his mother, whom he helped around the house as a young man, and his father, the Reverend Robert Johnson. In 1944, Mr. Johnson was called up to serve his country in the United States Army. It was there that he received his calling. The following year, Reverend Johnson enrolled in American Baptist Theological Seminary, receiving his theology degree as well as a Bachelor of Arts degree from Jackson State College.

In 1957, Reverend Johnson left Mississippi for Michigan, and weeks later became the head of New Bethel Missionary Baptist Church. In those 42 years, the New Bethel congregation has grown from 50 to nearly 2,000 under Pastor Johnson's leadership. The church has moved from their original building to a beautiful new facility directly across the street. The original church still remains, in its new role as the New Bethel Outreach Ministry-Shelter for the homeless, servicing 161 families and 288 children.

Reverend Johnson's time with the ministry has allowed him to develop a strong support network that extends outside the church. The pastor has been affiliated with and has held leadership positions in groups such as the Greater Pontiac District Association, Wolverine State Congress, Oakland County Ministerial Fellowship, and the National Baptist Congress of Christian Education, to name a few. He has also been honored with an honorary degree from the Urban Bible Institute in Detroit.

Reverend Johnson's deeds in the name of the Lord are as remarkable as his deeds on behalf of God's children in the Pontiac community. In addition to the Outreach Center, he has served as chaplain at North Oakland Medical Center in Pontiac, and has worked tirelessly to aid those struggling with substance abuse. Counting strong relationships with young people as a major accomplishment, Reverend Johnson can often be found working with students and teachers in the Pontiac School District. Many public officials can be found seeking Reverend Johnson's guidance on pressing matters and issues.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I ask you and my fellow Members of the 106th Congress to join me in saluting Reverend Amos

Johnson. I also ask that you acknowledge the contributions made by Marjorie, his wonderful wife of 49 years, who has been with him every step of the way, as well as their two children. Self evident is their lifelong commitment to enhancing the dignity and nurturing the spirits of all people. Our community is a much better place because of the Johnsons.

SAN YSIDRO HEALTH CENTER—
HONORING THE PAST, LOOKING
TOWARD THE FUTURE

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 1999

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the San Ysidro Health Center and the 30 years it has been contributing to the health of my community. From humble beginnings as a volunteer grassroots program run out of a house on the property where the present 50,000-square foot medical center now operates, the center has grown with satellite clinics in Chula Vista and National City. It serves 37,000 people now and has a budget of \$17 million.

Mr. Speaker, today is a day for looking back and honoring the pioneers who started this amazing caring center and the visionaries who use this firm foundation to provide even greater services to the people of the South Bay area of San Diego County.

Thirty years ago, Elena Savala and 10 other members of the Club de las Madres decided they needed more than one doctor to serve the 700 residents of San Ysidro at that time. Although they spoke little English and had little formal education, they approached the University of California at San Diego for assistance. In a little house that the City of San Diego donated, volunteer health care professionals began to offer services for the nominal fee of \$1.

The eleven women formed the center's first Board of Directors. In 1972 they hired another forward-thinking and committed health care warrior, Gabriel Arce, to direct the center. Under his leadership, the health center moved from a small trailer to the original clinic, a modern building with six examining rooms. The center continued to grow and in 1980 made an historic leap—it created the Community Health Group, the only health maintenance organization (HMO) in the State of California with an all MediCal (Medicaid) caseload.

Today, the San Ysidro Health Center provides primary care, dental care, social services, nutrition counseling, laboratory services and a pharmacy. Beyond its three primary health care clinics in San Ysidro, Chula Vista and National City, its mental health component, the Behavioral Health Group, operates an extensive countywide mental health network that treats children, adolescents and adults in the communities of San Ysidro, Chula Vista, San Diego, Santee and San Marcos.

Of the center's 37,000 patients, 70 percent live at or below the poverty level, 77 percent are women, 30 percent are children under the age of 12 and 60 percent are on MediCal, Medicare or receive County Medical Services.

The grassroots flavor of the center remains alive—many patients later come to work for

the center, inspired to pursue health-related careers by the care they see offered there.

That inspiration promises to continue. The current forward-looking Board of Directors, lead by President Macario Gutierrez, has involved the center in a partnership with Scripps Family Practice Residency Program. The residency program will be offered at the Chula Vista Family Clinic, one of the two satellite clinics. It is all of our hope that some of the San Ysidro Health Center's patients of today will become the doctors of tomorrow, inspired by the access to and commitment of this unique residency program.

This partnership is born out of the California Area Health Education Center Program. This program was established in 1972 to form partnerships between California's schools of medicine and local organizations throughout the state. The program established a special border outreach unit. The partnership with the San Ysidro Health Center allows the program to continue and expand its opportunities to emphasize care for our Latino population and the special demands of health care along the border. The program trains doctors to work in areas which do not have adequate health care coverage.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you join with me in honoring the vision, and quality health care that San Ysidro Health Center has offered over the past 30 years and that I am sure they will offer for the next 30 years with their special partners. The center's unique blend of commitment to our community and involvement of residents in providing the highest quality health care deserves to be emulated nationwide.

LATINA ACTION DAY

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 1999

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, on September 15, 1999, Hispanas Organized for Political Equality (HOPE) will host Latina Action Day in Washington, D.C. It is with great pleasure and pride that I commend them for their commitment to Latinas.

Since its founding in 1989, HOPE has remained dedicated to improving the educational, political and economic status of Latinas. HOPE has anchored itself by the principle that knowledge of the political process coupled with active participation will guarantee a more representative, democratic government.

HOPE, through its Latina Action Day in Washington, D.C., rallies several national community, business, and women's organizations to our nation's capitol for indepth dialogues and analysis of current issues impacting the community at large. September 15, 1999, marks the second year that Latina Action Day will be held in Washington, D.C. and continues to be an annual event that brings together hundreds of women for the purpose of educating and empowering Latinas in all phases of economic, cultural, and social structures.

As Latinas assume more leadership positions nationally, it becomes increasingly important to have firsthand knowledge of legislative issues and to participate in the political process.

I salute HOPE for recognizing the value in an educated citizenry and wish the continued success in forwarding their mission.

GROUNDBREAKING CELEBRATION FOR THE JOHN W. KIND SENIOR COMMUNITY

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 1999

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, on September 16th, a wonderful event is taking place as we celebrate the groundbreaking on the John W. King Senior Community. Another wonderful event is taking place at the same time with the celebration of the 80th birthday of this important project's founder, inspiration, and guiding light—John W. King. It is appropriate for us to celebrate both of these events at the same time, because this groundbreaking is the culmination of Mr. King's vision and determination. Without him, this project would simply not exist.

John King's contributions to the quality of life in San Francisco are too numerous to list. Mr. King has worked tirelessly as an advocate for San Francisco's seniors, to ensure that they have access to affordable housing and services. The John W. King Senior Community is the latest addition to John's lifelong work. This innovative project will provide 91 one-bedroom apartments to serve low-income seniors in the City's Visitacion Valley. It will provide easy access to on-site support services, a transportation center and a nutrition center. The project also includes a child-care center, which helps to meet community needs and will provide opportunities for the senior residents to develop relationships with the youngest generation.

We can all be proud of the role of the federal government, particularly the Department of Housing and Urban Development, as well as the role of the City of San Francisco, and Catholic Healthcare West, in helping to finance the John W. King Senior Community, which is a joint project of the John W. King Senior Center, Mercy Charities Housing California, and Housing Conservation & Development Corporation.

We can be particularly proud of John King, whose vision, strength, determination and hard work are examples for us all. Happy Birthday, Mr. King. May you continue your good works for the next eighty years.

TRIBUTE TO EARLINE MCCLAIN

HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 1999

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, Earline McClain, one of my constituents who has had a very distinguished career in education, has written a poem that I hope will be read by a great many people. It expresses some very important ideas about our Nation and how each of us has a responsibility to treat each other with respect and humility.

I have enclosed a copy of the poem, entitled "Think," and would like to call it to the atten-

tion of my colleagues and other readers of the RECORD.

THINK

Take a look at yourself. What's made you so bereft Of human concern? Why have you not learned That all people have worth and no one on this earth Has the right to heap scorn on any person ever born!

Label them as you may; call them black, trash, foreign, migrant or gay You have no right to say they are inferior, to feel superior; You are human, and so are they!

What's a migrant worker? Surely not a shirker But strangers in this land, doing all that they can To eke out a living. Others should be giving All that they can afford. Things are not ours to hoard!

Never should one deny others the chance to try To better their condition. When you are in a position to offer a helping hand, When you're called American, you must fully understand What makes up this "free" land. America's a melting pot And if you heat it up too hot, so anyone is scorched or burned, A painful lesson you'll learn, all people are God's concern!

When you don't give, but hoard, think of one born in a manger When your neighbor's ox is gored, your ass is in danger! You are your brothers' keeper and involved with him much deeper Than you may want to be. When another's plight you see,

Think: But for God's grace, that's me or His Grace may yet let me be, For He controls our destiny and how I treat others, He may treat me.

KENTUCKY SOCIETY OF THE DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

HON. ED WHITFIELD

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 1999

Mr. WHITFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I rise in recognition of the efforts of the 4,279 women of the Kentucky Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution.

The Kentucky organization was founded 104 years ago to serve as an instrument of the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution and to further the DAR's dedication to the promotion of education among our nation's citizens, preservation of our historical treasures, and encouragement and recognition of patriotic endeavors among citizens of the United States.

Mr. Speaker, the State Board of Management of the Kentucky Society will meet in my hometown of Hopkinsville, Kentucky on Saturday September 18, 1999. This meeting will honor in remembrance the life and the Bicentennial of the death of our nation's Founding Father and First President, George Washington.

The Kentucky Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution provides innumerable patriotic services, including but not limited to caring for our veterans; providing citizenship manuals to prospective U.S. citizens; the creation of a DAR-supported school in Hindman, Kentucky to teach Dyslexic students to read and write; and the recognition of students in