

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND THE WORKFORCE HEARING ON H.R. 1, "NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND"

HON. LAMAR S. SMITH

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 28, 2001

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I submit my testimony regarding H.R. 1 the No Child Left Behind Act. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on H.R. 1, the "No Child Left Behind" bill.

The President has made this legislation a priority because Americans are concerned about the quality of their children's education. They are also troubled about the decline in our nation's values and its effect on our children. Polls consistently reveal that virtue and ethics are issues of top concern. Parents should be the primary developers of character but educators play an increasingly important role.

Unfortunately, too many of our children are bombarded daily by negative influences. Society pays the price when we mock values. To reap the rewards of a virtuous society, we must sow the seeds of character when we educate children.

Communities across the nation recognize that character education is an integral part of a well-rounded curriculum. Our Nation's teachers are aware that character education helps to establish a set of standards for behavior, provide role models, and create caring environments. For instance, many students in Texas participate in character education programs and the lessons they learn now will serve them well in the future.

President Bush has made character education an important component of his education reform bill. By allocating \$25 million to character education, States, local education agencies, parents and students will have an opportunity to promote character and values.

However, there are additional steps to be taken if we are to be successful. For that reason, I urge the Committee to look at H.R. 613, the Character Learning & Student Success Act (CLASS Act of 2001), which I introduced in February.

This legislation provides a grant to develop initiatives and disseminate up-to-date information about character education and also funds a study that will examine whether or not character education programs are successful and sustainable.

H.R. 1 calls for states to base their character education efforts on the findings of scientific research, yet educational experts have not been given the opportunity to develop those sound scientific conclusions. It is not even known where and how character education has found its greatest success. To support character education in its entirety, we must include research and the dissemination of useful information.

In our changing and challenging world, children need affirmation that society respects men and women of character. It is imperative that we teach our children the values that strengthen their character and make our country strong.

CONDEMNING THE RECENT ATTACKS IN ISRAEL

HON. DAVID VITTER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 28, 2001

Mr. VITTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to condemn the violent terrorist attacks that have wracked Israel and to extend my sympathy to the victims and their families. I would like to especially extend my condolences to Yitzhak Pas, who just two days ago lost his 10-month-old daughter and was himself shot in the legs by a Palestinian sniper.

The next day, Islamic Jihad executed two terrorist bombings that rocked Jerusalem, with the clear intention of taking more innocent Israeli lives. During Jerusalem's morning commute, a booby-trapped car was detonated at the side of a busy road, injuring five Israelis. Later in the afternoon, a suicide bomber boarded a bus loaded with students on their way to Hebrew University and detonated his nail-laden bag of explosives, injuring over thirty passengers.

Only PA Chairman Yasir Arafat can stop the violence, and of this he clearly has no intention. He has organized and instigated the violence since his rejection of peace at Camp David. I urge my colleagues to sign the Hyde/Lantos letter to President Bush, which calls for a reassessment of the U.S. relations with the Palestinian Authority, and reaffirms the United States' enduring support of Israel in this time of crisis.

IDAHO GIRL SCOUT HONOREES

HON. C.L. "BUTCH" OTTER

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 28, 2001

Mr. OTTER. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to recognize five outstanding Idaho women who are positive role models for young girls in the Gem State. Maria Berain, Sandra Bruce, Susan Eastlake, Marjorie Findlay, and Sam Sandmire portray a lifestyle to which young girls can look for inspiration. In a time of constant change and difficulties for our youth today, statistical evidence and observations show girls have a lack of everyday role models to look to. These women are leaders that all young people can look to and learn from.

They were recently recognized by the Girl Scouts of Silver Sage Council as Women of Today and Tomorrow. Each of them excels in their individual careers and positively impacts their communities.

Maria Berain is a mentor with the Boise State University College Assistance Migrant Program. She supports Hispanic women to pursue their college education by counseling them on study habits and course selection.

Sandra Bruce is president and CEO of Saint Alphonsus Regional Medical Center. In addition to guiding the hospital in growth and success she engages in civic organizations including Boise Public Schools Education Foundation and Boise Metro Chamber of Commerce.

Susan Eastlake is the founder of the Southeast Neighborhood Association and an Ada

County highway District commissioner. She also has worked on the Simplot Sports Complex and on behalf of the Les Bois Soccer Tournament.

Marjorie Findlay was chosen to be the first woman senior warden of St. Michael's Cathedral. She is a two-term president of the Idaho Botanical Garden. Her many cultural and educational contributions include fund-raising for the Discovery Center and chairing UNICEF drives.

Sam Sandmire is the head gymnastics coach at Boise State University and part-owner of the Bronco Elite Arts and Athletics Club. She was voted conference Coach of the Year of 2000 and is recognized as an advocate for women in competitive sports.

Mr. Speaker, as you can see, these women have accomplished great things and are examples of hard work, character, and leadership. I congratulate them and am delighted to have them reaching out to share their values with today's youth. They are true assets to Idaho and the nation.

WEEMS GALLERY AND FRAMING

HON. HEATHER WILSON

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 28, 2001

Mrs. WILSON. Mr. Speaker, I wish to bring to your attention a woman in my home town of Albuquerque, New Mexico who has contributed much to our community. On March 20, 2001 Mary Ann Weems along with friends and family celebrated the 20th anniversary of Weems Galleries and Framing.

Inspired by her vision of a gallery that would warmly welcome anyone who found joy in art as an expression of life, Mary Ann began this journey toward excellence in the visual arts twenty years ago. Her first gallery was in a little-noticed shopping center, opened with borrowed money and lack of business experience. She won the confidence and trust of New Mexico artists and aficionados who joined in supporting her vision of making more art accessible to more people.

That vision led 10 years ago to the first Weems Artfest, now the nationally ranked annual event which attracts thousands of families and children to see and experience New Mexico art. The Artfest also provides an affordable venue for all kinds of artists to gain exposure for their talents. The Artfest benefits the whole community of artists by increasing awareness of their work, and by expanding the community of admirers who will pay a fair price for art that touches their spirit. Additionally, the Artfest hosts a charity event to raise funds for healthcare needs in our community, particularly for children.

By making art more accessible for children, Mary Ann gives every child who participates the chance to discover something wonderful in themselves. For children who face challenges, it's a discovery gives them powerful hope for their future. Mary Ann serves as my Chairperson for the Congressional Art Competition.

Mary Ann Weems earned her success in the visual arts the hard way, by trial and error and sheer grit. She achieved excellence in the visual arts by setting new standards for what a gallery can be, and what an art show can become, and making her vision real for the whole of New Mexico's art community.

Please join me in recognizing the achievements of this business woman, Mary Ann Weems.

IN HONOR OF THE RETIREMENT
OF LYNN SELMSER

HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 28, 2001

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, I wish to recognize today Ms. Lynn Selmsler for over 27 years of service to Members of the House of Representatives. As Chairman of the Subcommittee on Education Reform of the Education and the Workforce Committee, I have worked with Lynn only a few years, but I can say that her reputation as a talented and knowledgeable member of the Committee staff is well deserved.

Lynn began her Capitol Hill career in the personal office of Illinois Rep. Robert McClory in 1974. She stayed with Rep. McClory for over seven years.

Next, Lynn worked in the personal office of Pennsylvania Rep. Bill Goodling, her hometown representative. She stayed in Rep. Goodling's personal office until January 1989, when she moved to the Committee on Education and Labor staff, which is now the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

During her time with the Committee, Lynn has educated me and many other Members of Congress on the intricacies of quite complex issues. She has covered issues and programs such as Child Nutrition, Impact Aid, Juvenile Justice, and child and adult literacy. I know all of the Members of the Committee will be at a disadvantage without her institutional knowledge and advice on these issues.

I believe that Lynn is most proud of her work on family literacy issues. Lynn worked on this issue on behalf of Rep. Goodling from 1988, when he originally sponsored what became the Even Start Act. She cares deeply about improving the literacy of adults as a way to improve literacy in children, and I understand that she plans to continue to promote adult literacy following her retirement from the Committee staff.

I know many Members of Congress and staffers, along with her friend and former boss, Rep. Goodling, join me in thanking Lynn for her many years of service and wishing her a relaxing and well-deserved retirement.

HONORING FAYETTEVILLE FIRE
CHIEF DUKE "PETE" PINER

HON. ROBIN HAYES

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 28, 2001

Mr. HAYES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Fayetteville Fire Chief Duke J. "Pete" Piner, who will retire on April 1, 2001, after more than 37 years of service.

Chief Piner, 63, joined the Fayetteville Fire Department in 1964, following his father into the firefighting profession after a stint in the United States Navy and working briefly as an electrician.

Almost 25 years to the day, on March 22, 1989, Piner became chief of the department.

In the words of Fayetteville City Manager Roger Stancil, Chief Piner quickly established himself as a team player among city management. "His leadership extended throughout the city," said Stancil. "He was someone you could call on to accomplish a mission anywhere within the city government."

Chief Piner's vision led to many innovations for the fire department. During his tenure, the Fayetteville Fire Department built new stations to expand its service area, successfully merged with volunteer fire departments in neighborhoods annexed by the city, developed a state-of-the-art hazardous materials response team, and began to utilize more modern technology. In fact, Chief Piner played a key role in modernizing the city's communications capabilities so that various city departments, state, and county agencies could communicate with one another during a crisis or disaster situation.

I ask that all my colleagues join me in honoring Chief Duke J. "Pete" Piner for 37 years of remarkable public service to the people of Fayetteville, North Carolina.

A TRIBUTE TO JORGE MAS
SANTOS

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 28, 2001

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure and admiration that I congratulate Jorge Mas Santos on being honored for receiving the National Community Service Award by the Simon Wiesenthal Center.

As the son of a Cuban immigrant, Jorge Mas Santos learned to appreciate the freedoms and opportunities in our country, and realized that the dreams of liberty and democracy that his father had for his native land of Cuba would never be possible under the tyrannical regime of Fidel Castro. His ambition to fulfill his father's aspirations to help the thousands of Cubans migrating from the island seeking freedom has resulted in countless programs and activities that have benefited not only Cuban-Americans but also every citizen in South Florida.

Among his illustrious accomplishments, Jorge is the founder and chairman of Neff Rental; Chairman of the Board of the Cuban American National Foundation; Chairman of MasTec Inc.; and Executive Director of the Mas Family Foundation. Through this Foundation, the Mas Family Scholarships has awarded over \$500,000 to students who had little hope of obtaining higher education. He is deeply involved in community and civic activities as a member of the University of Miami President's Council and of Nova Southeastern University's Board of Trustees. Jorge's current multi-million dollar restoration project is to fulfill his late father's dream of turning The Freedom Tower, which is included in the National Registry of Historic Places, into an educational center and museum, scheduled for completion in late 2001.

Jorge has achieved a multitude of honors. His love and dedication to the cause of freedom has touched the lives of so many and has won him respect and admiration. I want to join with his family, friends and colleagues in celebration of this wonderful award and I wish him every future success.

RE-OPENING OF SPAG'S OF
SHREWSBURY, MASSACHUSETTS

HON. JAMES P. MCGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 28, 2001

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join the community of Shrewsbury, Massachusetts in celebrating the Grand Re-Opening of Spag's—a store that has become one of the biggest tourist attractions in New England.

Founded in September 1934, Anthony "Spag" Borgatti set-up shop, on a 35 dollar loan from his mother, in a garage at 193 Boston Turnpike, using empty wooden crates as tables and display cases. Since that time, Spag's has become a retailing phenomenon that turned into a multi-million dollar enterprise. Spag believed in the words he spoke so often, "Business is not just about dollars and cents, it's about people. Customers are people, employees are people, suppliers are people; and we all need each other."

Spag's has stayed true to its founding basic principal of serving the working man by providing "quality goods at rock bottom prices". Today we celebrate the achievement that this retailing enterprise has accomplished and wish them well as they continue to serve their community.

Mr. Speaker, it is with tremendous pride that I recognize the employees of Spag's and the Borgatti Family for their past success and to thank them for the role they play, not only as a retail shopping enterprise, but also as a good neighbor always willing to help those in need. I congratulate them on their accomplishments and wish them well.

INTRODUCTION OF THE GLOBAL
HEALTH ACT

HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 28, 2001

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, I am introducing legislation to address an issue that is receiving much needed attention by the international community and the U.S. government. That issue is global health. Men, women and children all over the world are struggling with the impact of an HIV/AIDS pandemic in Africa that threatens to engulf parts of Asia over the next few years and destabilize regional security on each of these continents. The former Soviet Union has one of the most rapidly growing number of HIV/AIDS cases in the world and has already overwhelmed its already faltering health care infrastructure.

The people of these and those in other developing countries are struggling with the fact that more than ten million children die before their 5th birthday each year from preventable diseases in developing countries. They are struggling with the continued impact of global infectious diseases such as tuberculosis, malaria, other infections that threaten their lives, the lives of their children, the viability of their villages, their economies, their national security.

Epic threats to the health of people all over the world continue to challenge governments, domestic infrastructures and societies on a