

In January of 1998, Fred Korematsu was awarded a Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation's highest civilian honor, by President Bill Clinton. During the presentation, President Clinton said that the name Korematsu can be rightfully added to the list of Plessy, Brown, and Ferguson as the greatest civil rights pioneers in our Nation's history.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to pay tribute to Fred Korematsu. Fred Korematsu is the epitome of a true patriot; someone who is not afraid to stand up for what is right and just. Although he is no longer with us, his legacy will continue to live on for generations to come. I ask all of my colleagues to join me in thanking Fred Korematsu for his steadfast commitment to civil rights and justice.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF WANDA KOLLAUS, KOENNECKE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL TEACHER OF THE YEAR

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 20, 2005

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the many accomplishments of Ms. Wanda Kollaus, Elementary School Teacher of the Year.

Ms. Kollaus has seventeen years of teaching experience. Twelve years of her career were spent with the Seguin Independent School District. She is a proud graduate of Seguin High School, and now gives back to the district that has given her so much.

Ms. Kollaus has a Bachelor's degree in Elementary Education from Southwest Texas State University, with a specialization in Science. She wants her students to "get into science," and works on a daily basis to develop their skills and enthusiasm.

She believes strongly that learning ought to continue outside the classroom, as well. She especially enjoys involving her students in the Seguin Outdoor Learning Center, and providing hands-on learning opportunities through the Environmental Science Academies. In addition, she often stays after school to work with students on special projects, to ensure that they each reach their potential and leave school with a highly developed love for and understanding of science.

Ms. Kollaus is one of our state's most enthusiastic educators, and her efforts are a credit to Seguin and to our state. I am proud to have the opportunity to recognize her here today.

TRIBUTE TO LISA ZAGAROLI

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 20, 2005

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Lisa Zagaroli, a correspondent with the Detroit News Washington bureau, for winning the Sigma Delta Chi Award from the Society of Professional Journalists for excellence in journalism. Ms. Zagaroli is being recognized for her work on "Military Menace: Deadly Vehicles," a series of stories on the hazards of military vehicles.

Ms. Zagaroli's work exposing insufficient training and safety for Army drivers is another fine example of her investigative journalism talents. Her stories in this series uncovered shortcomings in the Army that might have otherwise gone unnoticed in the public, and her efforts deserve recognition.

Ms. Zagaroli has been recognized for her excellent work before; this is Lisa's second award from the Society of Professional Journalists. Last year, she was recognized for a series of stories, "Unsafe Saviors," co-written with April Taylor, revealing poor ambulance design and regulation.

Ms. Zagaroli, originally from Michigan and known to be a dedicated Spartan fan, has been with the Detroit News for ten years and has covered the Michigan Congressional Delegation extensively. The daughter of first generation Italian immigrants, Lisa frequently travels to Rome and is currently on assignment covering the election of the new pope. She is a talented journalist and deserves this honor.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that all of my colleagues join me in commending Lisa Zagaroli for her superb series "Military Menace: Deadly Vehicles" and recognizing her for the award she is to receive.

INTEREST FREE FUNDS FOR PUBLIC SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 20, 2005

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation that would provide \$25.2 billion in interest-free funds over the next two years for public school construction and modernization projects.

Currently, our public school system has extraordinary unmet needs for funds to construct and modernize schools. Consider the following facts:

- (1) The average age of a public school in the United States is 42 years.
- (2) One-third of all public schools in the United States are in need of extensive repair or replacement.
- (3) Three and a half million students attend schools that need major repair or replacement.
- (4) According to a recent report from the National Education Association, it will cost \$332 billion to bring the existing public schools into overall good condition. Billions more will be required to construct new schools to meet expanding student enrollments.

President Bush's education program places strong emphasis on raising standards in America's classrooms, but does not provide promised Federal help for the cost of additional testing and services required to reach that goal. His program also ignores the fact that school facilities are an important part of raising student performance. Inferior facilities make teaching more difficult. They also send a clear message to the students that this nation does not value their education. The President's program seems to be designed to fail.

My legislation will provide funds for school modernization projects through a federal tax credit. The tax credit will, in effect, pay the interest on \$25.2 billion of school modernization bonds. All decisions relating to how those funds would be used would continue to be made at the local level.

My legislation is based on a successful model, the Qualified Academy Bond (QZAB) program enacted in 1997. A California local school official described that program as a "local school district's dream" after having successfully participated in a bond offering subsidized under that program. U.S. Education Secretary Rodney Page endorsed a similar proposal in 1999 when he was Superintendent of the Houston schools. In a statement submitted to the Committee on Ways and Means, he said that school modernization bonds "represent the approach to Federal aid that will have a truly consequential impact on meeting the infrastructure needs of Houston and other large urban high poverty districts."

Mr. Speaker, America's future can only prosper with the proper education of our children, and our children cannot receive such education with our public schools in a dilapidated state. Modernizing our schools is an investment in our future, and should be a main, bipartisan priority in the 109th Congress.

Attached is a brief description of the bill and a table showing how the funds will be allocated among the States.

SUMMARY

The bill would subsidize \$25.2 billion in zero-interest school modernization bonds. The federal government would provide tax credits for the interest normally paid on a bond. Funds that would have gone to pay bond interest would be freed for other education needs. For each \$1000 of school bonds, the net benefit of the program to State or local school districts would be approximately \$500.

Funding: The bill divides the interest-free funds for public school construction and modernization as follows:

- (1) \$22 billion over two years for zero-interest school modernization bonds (\$11 billion in both 2006 and 2007). The bill would allocate 60 percent of the \$22 billion in bonds to states based on school-age population. The State education agency has the authority to allocate the State's share among the school districts in the State with no restrictions as to what schools can qualify. The remaining 40 percent of these bonds would be directly allocated to the 125 school districts with the largest number of low-income students based on ESEA Title I funding (poverty-based distribution).
- (2) \$400 million in school modernization bonds for Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) schools.
- (3) \$2.8 billion for expansion of the existing Qualified Zone Academy Bond program (QZAB). This amount is allocated among the States based upon the number of poor students. The State education agency has the authority to allocate the State's share among the school districts in the State; except that amount may be allocated only to schools with at least 35% poor students—those schools located in Empowerment Zones, Enterprise Communities or which have at least 35 percent of their students eligible for free or reduced price school lunch.

Federal Role: The federal government would provide a tax credit to the bond purchaser equal to the interest that would otherwise be paid on a school construction bond. No new federal bureaucracy would be created.

Cost: The five-year cost to the Federal government is approximately \$1.7 billion and the ten-year cost is approximately \$6.8 billion.

The following table shows the estimated allocations under the bill.

ESTIMATED STATE BOND ALLOCATIONS

Alabama	\$354,922
Alaska	53,398
Arizona	337,448
Arkansas	183,516
California	3,109,598
Colorado	296,358
Connecticut	292,085
Delaware	49,070
District of Columbia	88,904
Florida	1,188,467
Georgia	654,051
Hawaii	77,438
Idaho	93,409
Illinois	1,221,868
Indiana	459,436
Iowa	196,453
Kansas	196,866
Kentucky	295,249
Louisiana	473,051
Maine	84,355
Maryland	395,270
Massachusetts	467,254
Michigan	1,006,867
Minnesota	378,952
Mississippi	237,537
Missouri	452,673
Montana	65,077
Nebraska	131,275
Nevada	92,951
New Hampshire	80,802
New Jersey	660,175
New Mexico	157,627
New York	2,476,435
North Carolina	488,119
North Dakota	46,596
Ohio	1,019,626
Oklahoma	277,839
Oregon	235,626
Pennsylvania	1,044,126
Puerto Rico	378,751
Rhode Island	90,648
South Carolina	284,932
South Dakota	56,180
Tennessee	421,577
Texas	1,998,390
Utah	175,947
Vermont	42,022
Virginia	422,902
Washington	402,308
West Virginia	123,951
Wisconsin	491,648
Wyoming	38,712
Outlying Areas	51,263
BIA Schools	400,000
Total	25,200,000

RECOGNIZING GINGER
LANGEMEIER

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 20, 2005

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Ginger Langemeier, a longtime member of my staff who will be leaving my office to work for my distinguished colleague from Nebraska, the Honorable JEFF FORTENBERRY who represents Ginger's home district. I must confess that my distinguished colleague Mr. Fortenberry was not the first Nebraskan that I had to compete with over Ginger, as she's always been a big fan of the distinguished gentleman from Nebraska's Third District, the Honorable TOM OSBORNE.

Ginger began her political career as an intern on my 1998 Missouri State Senate campaign, and leaves my office after rising through the ranks to become my Deputy Chief of Staff. In between she has served in a variety of different positions, and as always, I am grateful for her commitment and service.

My 1998 state Senate campaign was quite an introduction to politics for Ginger. I did not

have a large staff, but I did have a large Senate district, and Ginger was instrumental in helping me reach out to all of the voters across a vast geographic area. She also served as my Finance Director, and ever since she has been charged with maintaining our office finances.

I also must thank her for her service to my brother Todd. In 2000, Todd ran for state treasurer, and Ginger volunteered for him in her spare time. During the rest of her time, she was busy working at my office in the Missouri State Senate.

Later on in 2000, Ginger became the very first employee of Graves for Congress after I filed for election to this seat. In addition to her recurring role as Finance Director, she handled all of my scheduling, and brought to this race the same goal oriented attitude that led me to hire her in the first place.

Thanks to her hard work, I was elected to this House in November of 2000, and in January of 2001 when I became a Member of the 107th Congress, Ginger joined my official staff as a legislative assistant. Over the years Ginger has handled just about every issue in my office, and is known particularly for her expertise on agriculture, appropriations, the Missouri River, and crime. At the start of the 108th Congress, I promoted her to the position of Senior Policy Advisor, and in 2004 she returned to Missouri to become my Deputy Chief of Staff.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Ginger Langemeier for her dedication to myself and my constituents. While I am sorry to see her go, I know she will be a tremendous asset to my distinguished colleague Mr. FORTENBERRY and the citizens of Nebraska's First District.

IN HONOR OF PETER PUCHER,
"LATIN MAN OF THE YEAR"

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 20, 2005

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of Mr. Peter Pucher, who has been recently honored as the "Latin Man of the Year, by the Cathedral Latin High School Alumni Association.

A life-long Clevelander, Mr. Pucher graduated from Cathedral Latin High School in 1955. His diligence reflected in his studies and athletic performance. Mr. Pucher's time as quarterback of the '53 and '54 Cathedral Latin football team is still considered as the finest in the history of the school. After receiving his Bachelor's degree in education from John Carroll University, Mr. Pucher embarked on a life-long journey that continues to focus on family, community and helping others in need.

Mr. Pucher taught at his alma mater for three years, then taught for two years at St. John Cantius High School. During his six-year tenure as teacher at Holy Name High School, he also served as the school's athletic director and head football coach. Throughout his profession, he guided his students and his players with heart, concern and unwavering dedication. The players and the team flourished under his leadership, and his commitment did not go unnoticed. In 1970, Mr. Pucher was named the West Senate Coach of the Year. Mr. Pucher's dedication to guiding our youth

parallels his strong sense of giving back to the community. Though awards and accolades do not impress him, Mr. Pucher's outstanding volunteer work has not gone unnoticed. In 1991, he was honored with the Greater Cleveland Football Coaches Association Golden Deeds Award. In 1994, Mr. Pucher was honored as the Greater Cleveland United Way Volunteer of the Year Award. To this day, Mr. Pucher and his mother-in-law, who is 93 years young, distribute donated food to a local food pantry.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honor and recognition of my dear friend and mentor, Mr. Peter Pucher. His dedicated service as teacher, coach and activist, focused on our youth and those in great need, has brought hope and possibility to many within our community. His kindness and concern has made a monumental difference in the hearts and lives of countless students, colleagues and family members, and his work continues to strengthen our community and alight our humanity.

RECOGNIZING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FLORIDA INSTITUTE OF CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 20, 2005

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, it is an honor for me to rise today to recognize the 100th Anniversary of the Florida Institute of Certified Public Accountants.

There is little doubt that, without certified public accountants, the area of financial reporting would be a quagmire. Financial statements would be meaningless as everyone would strive to show favorable results without worrying much about honesty or accuracy. For these reasons, I am grateful that the Florida Institute of Certified Public Accountants has worked diligently over the past 100 years to work with CPAs throughout my state and ensure that the profession of public accounting remains safe and stable for 100 years more.

The FICPA has been instrumental in bringing the first accountancy law to my home state of Florida 100 years ago, and since then has worked diligently to bring the highest sense of professionalism to all areas of accounting. The Institute has also been a key supporter of legislation to require an ethics course for all Certified Public Accountants in addition to working closely with universities to provide aspiring CPAs the skills and education they will need to succeed, even going so far as to establish a foundation. Thanks to the FICPA, CPAs in the state of Florida also are required by law to take continuing education courses, further ensuring that citizens receive high-quality accounting services from well educated professionals.

The FICPA has not only focused on helping qualified accountants, but has also worked hard to prevent unqualified accountants from providing low-quality, unethical services to the citizens of Florida through an unlicensed accounting awareness campaign. Steps such as this have helped guarantee that CPAs in Florida will provide the quality service that the public deserves, and that Floridians can rest