

keep the promise of a true representational democracy as envisioned by our forefathers. This legislation furthers that goal. That is why I look forward to working with my colleagues and moving this legislation forward.

TRIBUTE TO MAJOR GENERAL
KATHRYN G. FROST

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 28, 2005

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, it has come to my attention that Major General Kathryn G. Frost is retiring after a long and exceptionally distinguished career.

General Frost's outstanding service to the nation has been marked by meritorious service in increasingly demanding command positions, culminating as the Commanding General of the United States Army and Air Force Exchange.

General Frost is a 1970 Phi Beta Kappa graduate of the University of South Carolina where she received a degree in Administrative Education. She also received a Master's degree in Counseling from Wayne State University.

Her distinguished career has spanned three decades, and her duties have included tours as Chief, Military Personnel Office/Deputy Adjutant General, Berlin Brigade/United States Army, Berlin, Germany; Commander, Eastern Sector, United States Military Entrance Processing Command, Great Lakes, Illinois; Adjutant General/Commanding General, Physical Disability Agency/Executive Director of Military Postal Service Agency, Alexandria, Virginia; and Deputy Legislative Assistant to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Washington, DC.

General Frost's awards and decorations include the Distinguished Service Medal with Oak Leaf Clusters, Defense Superior Service Medal, Legion of Merit, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal with 6 Oak Leaf Clusters, Army Commendation Medal, and Joint Chiefs of Staff Identification Badge. She also was named one of USC's Distinguished Alumni in 2002.

Mr. Speaker, I know the Members of the House will join me in paying tribute to Major General Kathryn G. Frost, for her outstanding commitment to the United States Army and the United States of America.

CHILD INTERSTATE ABORTION
NOTIFICATION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. LYNN A. WESTMORELAND

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 27, 2005

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Mr. Chairman, I rise today to offer my support for an important piece of legislation on which I was unable to vote due to the birth of my granddaughter.

During my absence, the House considered the Child Interstate Abortion Notification Act (H.R. 748) which I co-sponsored, and strongly support. There is no question that we must protect young women from being coerced into

obtaining abortions. As the testimony and advertisements made available through the committee process have clearly demonstrated, many clinics deliberately target minors in order to avoid parental notification and consent laws in their home states.

In order to protect the enforcement power of each state's laws and these young women, I am thrilled the House is moving forward with this legislation and look forward to its passage. Isolating minors from their parents at a time when they need them most is the wrong thing to do, and this legislation prevents these out of state clinics from doing just that. I am grateful my colleagues supported this important bill and opposed all amendments. If I had been present, I would have voted against all amendments and in favor of final passage (Roll Call Vote #144).

I know this is an important vote, and I was unable to be present for the vote because I have welcomed a new life into the world.

My son and daughter-in-law have been through a very challenging pregnancy, with serious concern that they would lose Kate during the early months. We couldn't imagine how terrible that would be, and are so grateful that God has provided for the safe delivery of little Kate Summerlin Westmoreland. She was born Tuesday, April 26 at Northside Hospital in Atlanta, Georgia and weighs in at six pounds, four ounces, with a full head of hair!

I am so blessed to have the family I do, and to enjoy the time together with them was worth everything in the world, especially after how many challenges accompanied the initial stages of Kate's life.

I don't know what God has in store for this little one, but am excited about what lies ahead of her. I am returning to Washington as soon as practicable after her birth, and look forward to getting back home to spend time with Kate, her big brother Acton, and her proud parents, Trae and Kristy.

In today's world, so many people rush by without realizing the treasure they have in their families. Events like the birth of grandchildren help bring those special ones into focus, and remind you of the rich blessings God has given.

Mr. Chairman, it has been an exhausting, but thrilling past few days, and I am honored to announce to the House the birth of Kate Summerlin Westmoreland.

INTRODUCTION OF FOCUS ON COMMITTED AND UNDERPAID STAFF FOR CHILDREN'S SAKE ACT

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 28, 2005

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join my colleagues Mr. PLATTS, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. HINOJOSA, Mr. ANDREWS, Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island, Mr. STARK, Ms. TUBBS JONES, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. OWENS, Mrs. CAROLYN MCCARTHY, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. PALLONE, Ms. WOOLSEY, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Mr. BROWN, Mr. WEINER, Mr. KUCINICH, Mr. KILDEE, and Mr. DANNY DAVIS in introducing the FOCUS Act. This bill would increase the overall quality of child care by elevating the skills and pay of early childhood education providers. This is a

proven successful model, first developed in North Carolina, and critical to helping all children reach kindergarten ready to succeed.

Between 1970 and 2001, the percentage of mothers in the workforce rose from 38 to 67 percent. The change for mothers of young children has been even more dramatic. According to the New America Foundation, the labor force participation of women with children under age 6 has more than doubled—from 24 percent in 1960 to 65 percent in 2000. Over 9 million children between the ages of birth and 5 are in child care in this country. With so many of our children in early care and education settings, it is more important than ever that child care can support the developmental needs of children.

High quality child care plays an important role in healthy child development and school readiness. Research on brain development demonstrates that the experiences children have early in life have a decisive, long-lasting impact on their development and learning. Unfortunately, child care program evaluations indicate that the quality of most care ranges from mediocre to poor. This country must make changes in its child care system.

Just as it is the parents who matter at home, it is the teachers who matter in child care—a stable, educated and qualified teaching staff is one of the most critical components of quality child care. Staff training and experience are the most important components of child care quality. Research shows that children learning from more highly educated teachers perform better on tests of verbal and math achievement.

Studies repeatedly show that one of the leading causes of poor quality child care is low pay and high turnover among child care staff, who on average make just over \$17,000 annually. FOCUS improves the quality of child care by boosting training, reducing turnover, and attracting qualified staff by providing stipends of \$1,000 to \$3,000 to qualified child care providers based on their level of education. FOCUS also would grant funds for scholarships in early childhood development and education so providers can continue to improve their knowledge and skills. FOCUS also provides grants to States to provide better access to health coverage for child care workers since lack of health benefits also impedes retention of qualified early education teachers.

We cannot expect children to transition to kindergarten and succeed in school if we do not take the necessary steps to provide quality care in the years prior to school entry. The average quality of child care is far poorer than what it should be in a country as wealthy and committed to our children's future as is ours. It is time we work to make quality child care for all children a national priority. Mr. Speaker, I urge Members of the House to join me and co-sponsor the Focus Act.

IN RECOGNITION OF CLIFFORD J. MERRILL FOR HIS 21 YEARS OF SERVICE TO SOLANO COUNTY

HON. ELLEN O. TAUSCHER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 28, 2005

Mrs. TAUSCHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Clifford Merrill for his 21 years