

walking into her room lets you know that this is not a regular classroom, but a learning environment specifically arranged to get young minds thinking. By using many hands-on activities, she brings life to books and dusty old facts.

Floyd Holt, a physics teachers at Franklin D. Roosevelt High School in Hyde Park, New York, loves knowledge and conveys this to his students through his dedication to teaching. Floyd strives to make education interesting and create unique learning activities such as Spaceship Classroom of the Future. He has won the 1994 Presidential Award for Excellence in Science and Math in the USA and today also the 2000 USA Today Award.

According to a former student, what sets Harlan Kredit apart is that as well as he teaches biology, he teaches life even better. At Lynden Christian High in Lynden, Washington, Mr. Kredit believes kids need to connect to the world outside of their school for education to be meaningful and productive. He embodies this philosophy through his work as a ranger naturalist at Yellowstone National Park and through teaching environmental education to teachers at the American Wilderness Leadership School.

He is a recipient of the 1994 Washington State Conservation Teacher of the Year Award and the 2004 Presidential Award for Excellence in Teaching Science.

Pat Graff, a journalism, humanities and social studies teacher at La Cueva High in Albuquerque, New Mexico, is a bridge builder between different organizations, the media and business. She has had numerous students return to her school to give credit for her help and expertise and putting them on their current career path. Her additional accomplishments include being named the New Mexico English Teacher of the Year and also winning the 2004 Governors Award for Outstanding New Mexico Woman.

Lynn Kaye White of Haycock Elementary in Falls Church, Virginia, has shared her love of music and education around the world. She has traveled to Japan in 2003 with the Fulbright Memorial Fund and also to New Zealand to participate in the 2002 Fulbright Hays Seminar. She is able to seamlessly take the resources she has gathered from around the world and turn them into meaningful, substantive learning opportunities for her students.

Peggy, Floyd, Harlan, Pat and Linda exemplify what it means to be a teacher, what it means to make a difference. I commend the National Teachers Hall of Fame for their efforts to recognize great teachers. These five inductees collectively have 134 years of teaching experience. I salute these men and women for their dedication to the students of this country. It is my hope that they will find satisfaction in knowing the positive difference they have made in the lives of their students. It is my honor to recognize these

teachers here in the United States House of Representatives.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. PALLONE addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL REPORT

Mrs. MCCARTHY. Permission to speak out of turn.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentlewoman from New York is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mrs. MCCARTHY. Mr. Speaker, last week the Centers for Disease Control released a report on the economic burden of injuries in the United States. The results were astonishing.

Every year injuries cost our economy \$406 billion in health care, lost wages and lost productivity. The report goes as far as to list specifics on many different injuries; however, there is no listing on the costs of gun violence.

The public might ask how could the CDC avoid gun violence when listing the causes of serious injury in this country? The answer is simple: Congress won't let them.

That is right. Congress, in 1996, following the lead of their benefactors in the gun industry, refused to allow the CDC to report on the economic impact of gun violence. Independent studies show the cost to be nearly \$100 million a year, but we can never be for sure because our government is prohibited from researching this public health issue.

In fact, the report on the CDC's Web page has a section dedicated to fire-works injuries, but no space dedicated specifically to firearms injuries or deaths. So the CDC can release information on a cause of injury that kills an average of four people per year, but not on the cause of thousands that are killed by gun violence every year.

However, the CDC cannot completely avoid the topic in its report. The report lists the top 10 causes of death among certain age groups, and, of course, homicide is prevalent, and of homicides of Americans more than 44 years of age, more than 10,000 were attributed to gun violence in 2003. In 1 year there were at least 10,000 people murdered with guns, and Congress won't allow the CDC to study how much these murders cost our economy.

Again, this defies common sense. The CDC isn't allowed to reveal how many Americans survive shootings, like my son did, each year, which adds an additional billions in cost to our economy as well. Gun violence is an epidemic in this country, and Congress is trying to stop us from learning the true impact of this public health crisis. This is a case of our government controlling the

flow of information to protect the special interest group. What are they afraid of?

Is the congressional leadership afraid that if people know how much gun violence costs our economy, they would call for commonsense gun legislation? If people knew this information, would congressional leadership be forced to pass laws to keep military assault weapons out of the hands of criminals and terrorists? Would they be forced to stop passing legislation that protects the 1 percent of gun dealers who are responsible for selling 50 percent of the guns used in crimes?

Mr. Speaker, the American people have the right to know this information, and let the record show that the release of this information will have no affect on the right of law-abiding citizens to be able to own a gun. But the release of this information might help pass commonsense legislation that will make sure criminals and terrorists cannot legally buy guns, or allow for law enforcement agencies to share information of ballistic evidence.

Mr. Speaker, let's give the CDC the go-ahead to study this issue. The release of this information will make our Nation a safer, better place, and won't place a burden on the right of law-abiding American citizens to exercise their second amendment rights.

This past week it has been 5 years since Columbine. In the last 48 hours, we have seen many schools come under attack. They were prevented because our police got the information. We should allow also the CDC to be able to study why our young people are going to violence to commit and murder, 14, 17, 20 of their friends in school.

Mr. Speaker, gun violence is a health care crisis in this Nation, and until this Congress wakes up, until this country wakes up to be able to do something to reduce gun violence in this country, there are better ways that we could spend the money, certainly helping Medicare, certainly helping the poor get the health care that they need, looking at wellness centers instead of waiting too late until people are sick.

We can do something about this, but the American people need to know the facts and figures. It is only right that we do that.

□ 1930

TRIBUTE TO ONE OF IOWA'S OLDEST CITIZENS

(Mr. KING of Iowa asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor one of Iowa's oldest citizens. At 110 years old, Letitia Lawson is the fourth-oldest Iowan and the oldest resident of Iowa's Fifth Congressional District. On April 10, 1896, Letitia was born on a small farm west of Milford, Iowa, to godly parents who,