

Duncan Speaks on H.Con.Res. 100
From The Floor of the House of Representatives - 6/5/01

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Mr. OSBORNE. Madam Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. DUNCAN), the sponsor of this resolution.

(Mr. DUNCAN asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DUNCAN. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. OSBORNE) for yielding me this time.

Madam Speaker, every Saturday in the fall, football coaches across America are cheered on by thousands of fans for their work on the field.

Today we have a resolution on the House floor which honors them for their work off the field. The resolution that I have introduced, H.Con.Res. 100, recognizes the American Football Coaches Association and its efforts to protect our country's children.

The American Football Coaches Association has teamed up with Clear Channel Communications, one of our Nation's leading companies, to distribute child identification kits to thousands of parents every year.

These kits, which are handed out at no cost to families, allow parents to fingerprint their children and keep the prints at home. Should their child ever become missing, parents can turn over these fingerprint records to local law enforcement authorities who use the information to help locate the missing children.

The National Child Identification Program distributes these free kits to parents and guardians at college football games across the Nation.

This program began in 1997. In that year alone, 2.1 million of the child ID kits were given to parents. Since then, over 8 million kits have been distributed at football games. The stadium effort was so successful that the coaches have worked with Clear Channel Communications to reach even more families and more people in their communities.

Football coaches across America have promoted this program on the more than 1200 radio stations owned or operated by Clear Channel Communications. Clear Channel has been instrumental in providing the program publicity as well as recruiting other sponsors to help finance the purchase of these kits.

Unfortunately, 800,000 children are reported missing each year in the United States. This is a tragedy that should never happen. The American Football Coaches Association and Clear Channel Communications have taken the initiative to try to help parents and authorities return missing children to their homes.

In my district, the coach of the University of Tennessee football team, my good friend Phillip Fulmer, has taken an active role in promoting this program. Hundreds of thousands of these kits have been handed out at Neyland Stadium in Knoxville, Tennessee. Other individuals who have helped with this effort include coaches and athletes like Grant Teaff, R.C. Slocum, Nolan Ryan, Joe Montana, Cal Ripken, David Robinson, and many, many others.

I should mention that my colleague, the gentleman from Nebraska, who is a former college football coach, has very actively participated as well, as he has just mentioned. He has helped raise funds as well as handed out personally some of the first kits in Nebraska. In addition to his work on this resolution, I want to thank him for his efforts on this very worthwhile program.

I also want to take this opportunity to thank Lowry Mays and Mark Mays for their leadership in bringing Clear Channel Communications on board with this effort.

In Tennessee, Governor Don Sundquist proclaimed March as Child Identification Awareness Month to raise awareness of the need for fingerprinting children. And as the governor of Texas, President Bush helped raise funds for the National Child Identification Program.

Madam Speaker, I am from Tennessee which is known as the Volunteer State. I am happy to see that volunteers from all across the country have come together to support this important program that helps bring children home to their parents.

Finally, I want to thank the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BOEHNER) and the gentleman from California (Mr. GEORGE MILLER) for allowing this, what I believe to be a very noncontroversial resolution, to come to the House floor today. I want to thank the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. KILDEE) for his support.

I hope that all of my colleagues will join me by supporting H. Con. Res. 100 and recognize those who have helped make our country a safer place for children.

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