

Worker of the Year for 1997. It is truly an honor for me to recognize Ray, who has consistently demonstrated generosity and selfless dedication to the children of northern Indiana.

As the school social worker at Harrison Elementary School in South Bend, IN, Ray has dedicated himself to promoting the academic and social advancement of students in a host of important areas including home visits, crisis prevention, and an innovative approach known as early intervention, which Ray designed and is now in the second year of implementing. The objective of this unique method is to apply prevention and early intervention strategies for elementary school children to reduce suspensions and promote parental involvement. For the current school year, Ray also assumed primary responsibility for the design and implementation for the Harrison School's "Enrichment After School Program."

Ray received an undergraduate degree in philosophy from the University of Notre Dame in 1973. He also received a masters degree in elementary education from Indiana University in 1975 and a masters degree in social work from Western Michigan University in 1978. Ray has also completed all coursework and examinations for Western University's Education Leadership Doctoral Program.

Ray's awards and achievements are numerous and illustrate an extensive and distinguished career in assisting children. In addition to being named Indiana's School Social Worker of the Year, Ray has also been named the local Social Worker of the Year for South Bend Schools and Teacher of the Year at Harrison Elementary School in 1996 and 1997. Additionally, Ray was awarded the Martin Luther King Community Service Award in January 1997, the Co-Social Worker of the Year for South Bend Schools in 1995 and 1996, and the UCAADA Community Service Award in August 1994.

Mr. Speaker, I am especially proud to recognize Ray's achievement in establishing a regional site for the Indiana Chapter's Books for Kids Foundation in 1996. This innovative program focuses on early literacy as a critical part of the foundation from which a child learns and improves in mind and spirit, and becomes a contributing member of the family and the community. As a member of the House Committee on Education and the Workforce, my efforts to provide greater opportunity for young people are significantly bolstered by the contributions of selfless individuals like Ray Turner, whose ongoing contributions continue to provide an unrivaled source of inspiration and motivation for America's youth.

Mr. Speaker, Ray Turner is a shining example of the importance of our Nation's outstanding teachers and social workers, whose tireless contributions provide an invaluable service to our community. I am confident that Ray will continue to play a constructive and important role in influencing the lives of children and all of those who come into contact with him.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE
CARMELITOS PUBLIC HOUSING
DEVELOPMENT

HON. STEPHEN HORN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 1997

Mr. HORN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to praise the Carmelitos public housing develop-

ment, located in North Long Beach. It wasn't long ago that a public housing site in my district of Long Beach epitomized what is wrong with public housing today. Crime-ridden neighborhoods and rundown units plagued families living in this community. Today, the Carmelitos public housing development is a bonafide success story, due in part to one program making a difference in its public housing residents' lives—the Growing Experience. The Growing Experience is a year-long training program open to county public housing residents to prepare them for landscape business development and employment. The project is improving the quality of life for public housing residents by providing strong job training and educational opportunities that lead to self-sufficiency. Since the program's inception in April 1996, one-third of the resident trainees have moved out of public housing and into private residences. Clearly, the Growing Experience is proof that a chronically unemployed community can transform itself into a community that embraces work.

I am proud to announce that the Growing Experience, a program of the Los Angeles County Community Development Commission, was named a semifinalist in the Ford Foundation's 1997 Innovations in American Government Awards competition. One of the Nation's most prestigious public-service prizes, the Innovations Awards recognize governmental initiatives that provide creative solutions to social and economic problems. Being named a semifinalist in this competition underlines what those of us in Los Angeles County have known for the last year—that Carmelitos is a pioneer in helping people to help themselves.

I congratulate the Carmelitos housing development and the Los Angeles Community Development Commission for its recognition in this national competition. Carmelitos is a prime example of defining a program's success by how many people graduate to self-sufficiency and no longer need its assistance.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SONNY BONO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 1997

Mr. BONO. Mr. Speaker, I am writing to clarify my position regarding the Employment, Training, and Literacy Enhancement Act of 1997, H.R. 1385. Regrettably, on May 16, 1997, my vote on final passage of this legislation was improperly recorded, rollcall vote No. 138. Let the record show that it was my intent to vote "nay" on final passage in accord with my position opposing this bill. While I appreciate the efforts of my colleagues in this endeavor, I deeply feel this is a wrong direction for us to turn. Thank you for recognizing my position regarding these important matters.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. FRANK A. LoBIONDO

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 1997

Mr. LoBIONDO. Mr. Speaker, I seek recognition to speak out of order. Mr. Speaker,

last Friday, May 16, my wife fulfilled a lifelong dream. Having stayed at home to raise our two children, my wife had recently returned to school to get her degree in education. Last Friday, she achieved that goal in a commencement ceremony at Rowan University in my district. I could not be more proud of her.

Needless to say, because I attended my wife's commencement I was unable to attend Friday's session and was therefore forced to miss votes that day. However, I wish to submit for the record that had I been present, I would have voted "no" on the Owens amendment, and "yes" on final passage of the bill H.R. 1385.

CONGRATULATIONS TO RON
MOLENDYK

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 1997

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I am here today to acknowledge the outstanding career of Ron Molendyk. Mr. Molendyk, who has announced his retirement, serves as the city manager for the city of Lake Elsinore, CA. Having worked with Mr. Molendyk for many years, I am truly sorry to hear this pillar of the community say goodbye. However, I am extremely pleased to see a long life of hard work be rewarded with the celebration of retirement.

Mr. Molendyk has served in municipal government for 35 years and he has been dedicated to the city of Lake Elsinore for 13 years. He began his career as the recreation leader for the city of Buena Park. He then moved on to become area supervisor for the recreations and parks department for the city of Long Beach, director of recreation and parks for the city of Bell, director of community services for the city of Brea and the traffic commissioner for the city of Placentia. Drive, determination, and many years of experience paid off for Mr. Molendyk when he was hired as the city manager/city clerk for the city of Rolling Hills and then, later, as the city manager for the city of Lake Elsinore.

The position of city manager incorporates all of the requirements of a corporate administrator, as well as the responsibility of providing leadership and representation to the community on behalf of the city council and staff. As city manager, Mr. Molendyk has served as the negotiator to bring commercial and residential development to the city of Lake Elsinore. To emphasize the priceless asset of the city, the lake, Mr. Molendyk has been a leader in the development of recreation and tourism.

He has also been the key contact for relations between the city and other levels of government. On many occasions, Mr. Molendyk has been the liaison for my office when addressing city issues affected by the Federal Government, such as flood control, transportation, and the environment. His knowledge of and passion for the city of Lake Elsinore has been a vital asset to me during my first two terms as the congressional representative for the Elsinore Valley.

Mr. Molendyk received his bachelor of arts in recreation and master of science in administration from California State University, Long Beach. He is a member of the International City Managers' Association, Inland Empire