Mr. BOB SCHAFFER of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate a constituent of mine, Mr. Steve McNeal of Fort Collins, Colorado upon his retirement after 36 years teaching music in the Poudre School District. Hired in 1962, his last year marks the longest time served by any of the 90 teachers presently employed. During his long career, he has gained the respect and admiration of generations of students, parents, teachers, and administrators.

For his commitment to excellence, Steve was recently awarded the National School Orchestra Association Director of the Year. Even though the Fort Collins High School auditorium bears his name, Steve’s legacy cannot be contained in a place or told in a word. As noted—although with a certain modesty—I have said, “he never asked for public recognition; he was content to do a good job and let the job speak for itself.”

As I mentioned in my previous remarks, Mr. McNeal was a master of the ‘old school’ approach to his craft. He believed in the power of music to bring joy and comfort to those who might not be able to experience it in other ways. His dedication to his students—his ability to make something beautiful and the confidence to carry through life even when the instrument is put away—has inspired generations of young people to pursue their dreams, even when faced with challenges.

Although I can convey gratitude to match that which sounded forth last Sunday during a musical commemoration for Steve McNeal, I would like to impart to Congress a note of my appreciation for this special Colorado teacher. His devotion to music and his students has brought nearly four decades of song.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Phil Saal, Secretary-Treasurer of the University of California at Los Angeles. He attended the best schools, both public and private, that our fine state can offer, earning a master’s degree from Stanford University and doctorate from University of California at Berkeley. A noted scholar in his field of political science, he authored many books, was a Carnegie Fellow in New Zealand and Australia, and a Fullbright lecturer at the University of Western Australia.

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