must take a stand against the horrendous policies which China continue to live by.

HONORING PASTOR EDDIE McDONALD, SR.

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 11, 1999

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I come before you today with a heavy heart, as I stand here to recognize the achievements of a great man who gave much to his family, his community, and to the Lord. On March 8, Pastor Eddie McDonald, Sr. of Friendship Missionary Baptist Church in Pontiac, Michigan, joined the Lord after a lifetime of service.

For many years, Pastor Eddie McDonald was known as one of the most respected and influential leaders in the City of Pontiac. It is nearly impossible to imagine what the Pontiac area would be like had Pastor McDonald chosen not to move here from his home in Fayetteville, North Carolina in 1953. In 1958 he joined the congregation of Messiah Missionary Baptist Church. He was ordained as a deacon in January 1959 and became a minister on March 18, 1962.

In 1966, Pastor McDonald began a street ministry, and the following year organized Bibleway Missionary Baptist Church, serving as Pastor through its first year. On March 28, 1968, Pastor McDonald became the pastor of Friendship Missionary Baptist Church, and held the position up until his untimely death.

Pastor McDonald's influence extended not only in the Church, but the community as well. He was affiliated with a number of professional and charitable organizations including the Pontiac Ecumenical Ministry, Pontiac Citizen's Coalition, Lighthouse and the Pontiac Youth Assistance Program. Pastor McDonald also served as president of the Oakland County Ministerial Fellowship. Not limiting his good deeds to the State of Michigan, he and his family have been instrumental in food and clothing drives benefitting needy individuals throughout the country.

Mr. Speaker, when Pontiac became a part of my district, I was told by many that the first person I should meet was Pastor Eddie McDonald. This advice proved to be beneficial because from it, I gained a resource, an ally, a confidant, and most importantly, a friend. My sincerest condolences go out to his wonderful wife, Mary, their extended family, and the congregation of Friendship Missionary Baptist Church. He will be sorely missed.

TRIBUTE TO MAYOR THOMAS A. EGAN

HON. BILL LUTHER

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 11, 1999

Mr. LUTHER. Mr. Speaker, I come before the House today to honor a devoted public servant, Thomas A. Egan of Eagan, MN. After 20 distinguished years as council member and mayor of Eagan, Tom recently decided to retire from public service. Although his leadership will be greatly missed, Tom's legacy is the shared sense of community and responsibility that Eagan residents will carry into the new millennium.

Tom also served a successful tenure as president of the National Organization to Insure a Sound-Controlled Environment (NOISE) where he was a tireless advocate of airport noise mitigation. Tom's dedication to airport noise reduction helped communities and citizens nationwide address the adverse effects of increased noise pollution.

On behalf of these communities and citizens, especially his constituents in Eagan, MN, we greatly appreciate all of Tom's contributions and efforts and we wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

CONGRATULATING THE MEMBERS OF THE UNIVERSITY HIGH SCHOOL MARIACHI CULTURAL

HON. CHET EDWARDS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 11, 1999

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer my best wishes to the members of the University High School's Mariachi Cultural. This group represents Texas' multicultural heritage and helps instill pride in our Hispanic culture.

The group was started in March 1997, under the capable leadership of Jose Nino. Since then, the volunteer student group has performed at numerous events and was featured on Univision, the international cable station.

Earlier this year, the group was able to purchase new uniforms after a successful fundraising effort. The Waco community came out full force for this talented musical group and made the new uniforms a reality.

I ask members to join me in congratulating this special group on their musical successes.

THE PUBLIC SAFETY EMPLOYER-EMPLOYEE COOPERATION ACT OF 1999

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 11, 1999

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Public Safety Employer-Employee Cooperation Act of 1999, a bill I proudly re-introduce with the gentleman from Michigan, Mr. KILDEE.

This legislation, which was originally introduced in the 105th Congress and had 203 cosponsors, establishes modest, minimum federal standards relating to collective bargaining for those groups who provide safety and security to the public, namely our fire fighters and police officers.

Unfortunately, many of those whose job it is to protect the public from danger are left to fend for themselves. They do not have the right to negotiate such basic issues as hours, wages and conditions of employment because some states still do not provide collective bargaining rights for their public employees. This is especially troublesome since fire fighters and police officers take their oaths to serve and protect the public very seriously, putting themselves at risk for the public's well-being.

Our bill recognizes the public safety officers' unique situation by creating a special collective bargaining right outside the scope of other federal labor law. More importantly, it does so without dictating to the states what their specific laws should be since the legislation is general enough to preserve a state's right to implement a collective bargaining statute on their own terms. Furthermore, states that already have collective bargaining laws in place would be exempt from the federal statute.

I would like to make it clear that this legislation does not permit strikes by public safety officers nor does it provide for mandatory binding arbitration. This is in keeping with the bill's intent to provide a basic and fundamental right of negotiating for those who protect us without endangering the lives of the people they are hired to protect.

It is well-known that labor-management relationships are based on trust, mutual respect, open communications, compromise and shared accountability. I believe this to be especially true as it relates to our public safety officers. We depend on them to maintain our safety and they depend on our respect and understanding if they are going to continue to provide us with the level of comfort in our communities to which we are accustomed. They deserve no less.

This bill has the support of the International Association of Fire Fighters; the International Brotherhood of Police Officers; the International Union of Police Associations; the National Association of Police Organizations and the Fraternal Order of Police. It also has the bi-partisan support of over 125 of our colleagues upon its introduction.

I urge our colleagues to join us in supporting the Public Safety Employer-Employee Cooperation Act of 1999.

THE PUBLIC SAFETY EMPLOYER-EMPLOYEE COOPERATION ACT OF 1999

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 11, 1999

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge my colleagues to join my friend from Ohio, Mr. NEY, myself, and over 100 of their colleagues, to support the Public Safety Employer-Employee Cooperation Act of 1999.

Congress has long recognized the importance of assuring and protecting the right of workers to collectively bargain. Over the years, federal laws have been extended to guarantee collective bargaining to different sectors and now the only sizable group of workers without the rights to collectively bargain are employees of state and local government.

This is particularly troubling as it applies to the public safety arena. Fire fighters and police officers take seriously their oath to protect the public and as a result they do not engage in worker slowdowns or stoppages. The absence of the right to collectively bargain denies them the opportunity to influence decisions that affect their lives.

The Public Safety Employer-Employee Act provides public safety officers with a collective bargaining right that is outside the scope of other federal labor laws. This legislation establishes basic minimum standards that state