

profits are given prominent attention. As the newspaper's masthead states, the Silver Star News is "Building Bridges For A Brighter Future" in Memphis.

In that tradition, Reverend Williams has undertaken a new venture. On May 15th, Reverend Williams will open the new Silver Park Plaza, a multi-service complex, for public and private events, including conferences, banquets, receptions, weddings, parties, meetings, seminars, recitals and concerts. The center will also serve as the newspaper's new home. What's significant about this new complex, Mr. Speaker, is that it not only represents a new beginning for the paper, it represents a new beginning for the Orange Mound community, the area of Memphis where the Silver Star News has had its offices since its founding. Through Reverend Williams vision and leadership, the Silver Star Park Plaza will serve as a catalyst for economic growth in the Ninth District.

The Silver Park Plaza venture is part of a larger national trend of capitalizing on the untapped social and economic assets in our under-served and rural areas. Michael Porter, a Professor of Business Administration at the Harvard Business School and founder and Chairman of the Initiative for a Competitive Inner City, believes that a new vision of economic development is needed to accelerate business growth in these areas. Sustainable economic progress, according to Professor Porter, must be based on drawing on our untapped competitive economic advantages which already exist in our central cities. Consider that more than 54 percent of the workforce growth over the next ten years will come from workers in central cities. Moreover, our central cities represent more than \$85 billion in retail spending potential each year in the United States. The University of Memphis has documented this untapped economic potential in various sections of our city. Governments can help spur economic growth, but ultimately, it's the private, for-profit business enterprises that will transform our communities, create jobs and produce wealth. The Silver Park venture embodies that philosophy. Mr. Speaker, I urge all my colleagues to recognize Reverend Williams and the Silver Park Plaza. I know that similar, untold success stories exist in congressional districts throughout the nation. I urge my colleagues to take a close look at them in order to learn how we can best shape public policy in recognition of this new direction of economic growth in America.

#### TRIBUTE TO ROBERT M. BALL

### HON. EARL POMEROY

OF NORTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 6, 1999*

Mr. POMEROY. Mr. Speaker, this session Congress once again finds itself debating ways to strengthen our most important domestic program: Social Security. Like many Members, I have long valued the wise counsel of one of Social Security's greatest defenders, Mr. Robert M. Ball. For six decades, Mr. Ball has worked on behalf of our nation's elderly and the Social Security program. I have found that his long-term perspective and familiarity with the program invariably transcend the whims of today's younger critics. Earlier this

week, I read with great pleasure an article on Mr. Ball's achievements in the New York Times. The article which I include for the RECORD, eloquently describes his long-standing commitment to the Social Security program, and gives me hope that we will continue to benefit from his wisdom for years to come.

[From the New York Times, May 3, 1999]

A GREAT DEFENDER OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY

BATTLES ON

(By Robin Toner)

The conventional wisdom these days is that any major change to Social Security is unlikely before next year's elections, but Robert M. Ball remains ever vigilant. In the unending debate over the nation's pension system, Mr. Ball stands as the great defender of traditional Social Security, the genius of its basic principles, the soundness of its basic approach.

"Though I feel good about our position," he said in a lull in the struggle on a lazy spring afternoon, "people who think like I do better be very careful, and we better have good proposals and we better be alert. Or something may happen that we don't like."

Mr. Ball comes by his passion honestly, having been at the Social Security wars for a very long time. He went to work for Social Security in 1939, ran the program as Commissioner from 1962 to 1973, and has since played a principal role on some of the important advisory commissions. He is a regular source of advice for leading Congressional Democrats, has sent a series of memorandums on the issue to the White House over the last few years and, yes, is a Social Security beneficiary himself.

Mr. Ball, who is 85, said he had no complaints about life on the other end of the Social Security check. "They do a good job," he said, happily settled for the moment like any other cardigan-clad retiree in the living room of his ranch house in Alexandria, Va.

For many Democrats engaged in the issue, Mr. Ball is an irreplaceable link with 60 years of history. "There's a reason why the program is what it is," said Representative Earl Pomeroy of North Dakota, a Democratic point man on Social Security in the House. "And Bob Ball can explain it to you."

For the last few years, Mr. Ball's consuming cause has been beating back the forces of privatization: the notion that at least part of Social Security should be replaced with individual accounts that workers could invest as they see fit.

He sees privatization as a "slippery slope," a dangerous step away from the guaranteed benefits of Social Security. He contends that the system can be shored up for the next century by far less radical measures, like raising the maximum amount of earnings subject to Social Security taxes.

Mr. Ball acknowledges that his views are shaped by a very different world than that of the young privatizers. One of three children of a Methodist minister, he grew up in northern New Jersey and graduated from Wesleyan University with a master's degree in economics during the Depression. There were no jobs.

For help, he turned to his thesis adviser, who happened to have a friend involved in the new Social Security program. "He said, 'Well, this program is just starting up. It's going to be a big program. It's an attractive program and an important social program, and it would be a good thing if you got in on it in the beginning.'"

So Mr. Ball took the Civil Service exam during his honeymoon (he spent the rest of the time on a camping trip with his wife, Doris) and began work as a field representative in the Newark office of Social Security for \$1,620 a year.

He spent his early years visiting employers, trying to straighten out wage records and, along the way, proselytizing for a program that seemed quite revolutionary at the time. On the wall of his office at home, he has a picture of that Newark field staff, earnest young foot soldiers of the New Deal.

There are other pictures on that wall: President Lyndon B. Johnson signing the law creating Medicare, which Mr. Ball helped put into effect. The Presidential commission, signed by John F. Kennedy, that named Mr. Ball head of Social Security. (Mr. Ball noted that it mentioned more than once that he served at the pleasure of the President.) A picture of the Balls with President Richard M. Nixon in 1973, when Mr. Ball was leaving office. The newspapers at the time said he was "pushed out." Mr. Ball says: "I was perfectly happy to go, but I couldn't have stayed if I wanted to. I lasted for the first term."

Along the way, the Balls brought up two children: their son is a psychotherapist; their daughter, an art therapist.

Mr. Ball acknowledges that his retirement has been less than restful. He does a lot of reading, and not just on social insurance issues, he said a trifle defensively. Mostly novels and Romantic poetry.

But the care and tending of Social Security keeps pulling him back.

"There was a time when I felt a lot of pressure on the basis that there wasn't anybody else really working on it very much," he said. "Now there's a whole group. They'll carry on whether I die tomorrow and do as good or better job."

That was the idea behind the National Academy of Social Insurance, a nonprofit organization that does research on social insurance and tries to "enhance public understanding" of the issues; Mr. Ball was one of its founders 11 years ago.

Still, it is not at all clear that Mr. Ball is ready to pass the torch and enter the land of retirement he helped create.

"My wife and I had dinner with him and Doris two nights ago," said Henry Aaron, an economist at the Brookings Institution. "I don't know of any other 85-year-old who's wrestling with what he's going to do, new. But Bob is wrestling with that. I think he sees the health care issue emerging anew."

#### IN HONOR OF THE VENTURA HIGH SCHOOL WIND ORCHESTRA

### HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 6, 1999*

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the Ventura High School Wind Orchestra, which earned a near-perfect score at the National adjudicators Invitational last month in Virginia Beach, Virginia.

This group of dedicated musicians walked away with Outstanding Concert Band Trophy, the Outstanding Percussion Trophy and the Outstanding Brass Trophy. Piccoloist Karen Magoon won the Outstanding Soloist Trophy, perhaps the most prestigious prize at the competition.

As a group, they earned a Performance Trophy Superior Rating, scoring 99 out of a possible 100 points.

During the contest, their rivals from schools across the United States gave the Ventura youngsters two standing ovations.

Mr. Speaker, as our nation works in concert to better our education system, it's important

that we support our music programs as part of an overall educational experience. Recent studies indicate that a study of music helps children's comprehension of math. It also gives them a feeling of accomplishment and worth. At the very least, it brings beauty into our world.

Michael Takazono, the Ventura High School Wind Orchestra director, deserves much credit for teaching his young charges the fulfillment of playing good music well.

The members of the Ventura High School Wind Orchestra deserve our congratulations. They are:

Brian Anderson, Luke Bechtel, Andrew Bittner, Jeremy Black, Kori Brashears, Amy Chinn, Bryson Conley, James Davis, Josephine DeGuzman, Joshua DeGuzman, Tim Eckberg, Shelby Fannan, Johann Gagnon-Bartsch, Russell Gardner, Joe Gartman, Laura Hardesty, Natasha Hart, Isaac Hilburn, Kelsey Hollenback, Derek Hutchison, Malena Jones, Matt Liter, Chad Long, Karen Magoon, Veronica Matsuda, Brianna McIntosh, Sarah Merin, Jason Morgan, Nathaniel Morgan, Ariel Murillo, Joshua Norton, Aaron Novstrup, Rahsaan Ormsby, Nicole Paillette, Michael Parker, Dana Parry, Megan Price, Aaron Singer-Englar, Rebecca Sams, Roger Suen, Graham Talley, Emily Talwar and Viena Wagner.

Mr. Speaker, I know my colleagues will join me in applauding Mr. Takazono and the fine young musicians who comprise the Ventura High School Wind Orchestra.

IN APPRECIATION OF OUR  
NATION'S TEACHERS

**HON. RONNIE SHOWS**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 6, 1999*

Mr. SHOWS. Mr. Speaker, I am glad to have this opportunity to add my voice as we honor our Nation's teachers on National Teacher Appreciation Day. I do so with great pride, because I was a school teacher and basketball coach back home in Mississippi for many years.

Every day we entrust the lives of our children into the hands of our Nation's teachers. The best thing we can do to honor teachers on this special day is to take all the heartfelt words of praise and turn them into meaningful acts.

We owe it to our teachers and our children to build new schools and modernize existing ones. We must move them out of old and overcrowded schools that are in need of repair, into new schools with new technology in the classrooms, so America can provide an education that competes favorably with schools systems around the globe.

We live in a global environment. The "arms race" has become the "economic race". We must keep up with new technologies, because our economic security depends on it. We must prepare our children for the kinds of jobs that arise from new technology.

As a Representative from a largely rural area in Mississippi, I have taken it upon myself to try to provide Internet access to every school in my Congressional district. Few students in my 15 counties are linked to the Internet, so I am bringing together school super-

intendents and local telecommunications executives and workers to make this dream a reality.

I am proud to have been a schoolteacher. I love working with the kids of today, for they are the promise of great things to come. Celebrating National Teacher Appreciation Day affords us the chance to honor teachers who are the bedrock of our community.

But we should not end the celebration when the gavel does down after the speeches are finished. We should honor our teachers every time we see construction cranes rise over a new school building, or every time a schoolchild logs on to the Internet to explore the world beyond the school walls.

But most of all, we should honor our teachers in whom we entrust the health and well being of our children by being good parents, good neighbors and good role models.

TEACHER APPRECIATION

**HON. JENNIFER DUNN**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 6, 1999*

Ms. DUNN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an outstanding teacher in my district of Washington State during Teacher Appreciation Week. This special teacher is Mark Oglesby, a government instructor at Tahoma High School in Maple Valley, Washington. Mark is a dynamic teacher who is consistently praised by both his peers and students for his dedication to helping government come alive for Tahoma High School students.

Each year, I have the pleasure of talking with Mark and his students when they visit Washington, D.C. for the We the People civic education program. The "We the People" program is a three-day national competition modeled on the hearings here in the United States Congress.

For the past several years, Mark has taught a class of students who, under his guidance, have won their state competition and then have come to Washington, D.C. to compete against other states at the national level. The extra time Mark takes with students shows in their consistent achievement.

Each spring I host a mock congress for high school students in my district to help them to gain hand-on experience of our government at work. These students elect a Speaker, run committees and hearings, write legislation, and lobby their fellow students to vote for their bills. Each year the students in Mark Oglesby's class stand out with their knowledge of how our democratic system of government works.

Mark also serves as the tennis and volleyball coach at Tahoma High, and as a Maple Valley City Councilman. He is clearly dedicated to teaching and willing to dedicate personal time to support the ideas in which he believes. Mr. Speaker, Mark Oglesby is one of our state's exemplary teachers. We are fortunate he is helping to train the leaders of our next generation.

TEACHER APPRECIATION

**HON. GARY G. MILLER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 6, 1999*

Mr. GARY MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, as Teacher Appreciation Week draws to a close, I want to especially commend those teachers, in my district and throughout the country, who make the extra effort to bring history, math, English, science, and other subjects, alive.

One example of that extra effort made by teachers throughout the country is Linda Stephenson, Bill Mulligan and Carols Lopez who have brought 42 students from Upland Junior High History Club in my district to learn about history and civics here in the Nation's Capital. They could have stayed back in California and taught from textbooks, but instead they made the effort to fly 3,000 miles with 42 junior high students to make the subject matter come alive.

Those are the kinds of teachers you remember into adulthood. I commend those dedicated American teachers who make what they teach come alive for their students.

HONORING KENNETH L. MADDY

**HON. GARY A. CONDIT**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 6, 1999*

Mr. CONDIT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a good friend and honor a lifetime of dedicated public service.

Ken Maddy is a political legend in California's great Central Valley. A Republican in a largely Democratic district, Ken understood early what many of us have yet to learn about bipartisanship. Like the freeway which funds down the middle of the Valley bearing his name, Ken cuts through the political heart and soul of the Valley.

As we pause to honor him on the occasion of his retirement after 28 years, I am reminded of his very unique leadership style. Ken skillfully forged a niche of consensus in finding solutions that proves leadership transcends political parties.

To call Ken's style unique, is not to fully do it justice. Every once in a while someone comes along bringing a little something 'extra' to the table. Though it isn't tangible, it is nevertheless very real and it helps define leadership ability. Ken Maddy personifies that.

The Central Valley is a truly unique political arena. We pride ourselves on independent thought. We are proud of our ability to see beyond party labels and ideologies. Mr. Speaker, in large part, it is because of Ken's leadership that this thinking is prevalent today.

His dedication as a public servant is exemplary. Equally impressive is his list of accomplishments. Throughout his career, Ken authored more than 400 bills which were signed into law.

His vision and foresight put him on the front lines of legislative battles ranging from ethics for state legislators to crime; private property rights to reducing the scope of governmental regulations on agriculture; and balancing land use against legitimate environmental concerns.