

IN SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF  
CULLEN T. GALLAGHER ON HIS  
APPOINTMENT TO ATTEND THE  
UNITED STATES AIR FORCE  
ACADEMY

**HON. PAUL E. GILLMOR**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 8, 1999*

Mr. GILLMOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to a truly outstanding young man from Ohio's Fifth Congressional District. Recently, I had the opportunity to nominate Cullen T. Gallagher for an appointment to attend the United States Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

I am pleased to announce that Cullen has been offered an appointment and will be attending the Air Force Academy with the incoming cadet class of 2003. Attending one of our Nation's military academies is one of the most rewarding and demanding time periods these young men and women will ever undertake. Our military academies turn these young adults into the finest officers in the world.

Mr. Speaker, Cullen has demonstrated the kind of leadership and dedication needed to enter the Air Force Academy with the class of 2003. While attending Perkins High School in Sandusky, Ohio, Cullen excelled academically attaining a grade point average of 3.795, which ranks him forty-first in his class of one-hundred sixty students. Cullen is a member of the National Honor Society, the Academic Challenge Team, and the Who's Who Among American High School Students. In October, 1998, Cullen was named the Rotary Club's Student of the Month.

In addition, he attended the National Youth Leadership Forum on Law and the Constitution in Washington, D.C., and attended the United States Air Force Academy Summer Scientific Seminar. Outside the classroom, Cullen is the president of the Ski Club, and is a member of the Spanish Club, Drama Club, Marching Band, and Show Choir. On the fields of competition, Cullen is a member of the Perkins High School Varsity Cross Country and Tennis teams.

Mr. Speaker, at this point, I would ask my colleagues to stand and join me in paying special tribute to Cullen T. Gallagher. Our service academies offer the finest education and military training available anywhere in the world. I am sure that Cullen will do very well at the Air Force Academy, and I wish him much success in all of his future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO WESTLAKE HILLS  
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

**HON. BRAD SHERMAN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 8, 1999*

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the designation of Westlake Hills Elementary School as a United States Department of Education National Blue Ribbon School.

The Blue Ribbon Award for Educational Excellence recognizes a school's achievement in all facets of academic development including teacher training, student achievement, edu-

cational innovation, and community involvement.

Westlake Hills Elementary School has far transcended the norm in all these areas and has demonstrated its deep commitment to molding well rounded, socially conscious leaders for the 21st century through its outstanding range of programs.

Westlake Hills teachers frequently participate in workshops and conferences on a wide range of educational issues, showing the tremendous value Westlake Hills places on maintaining the high caliber of its faculty and keeping its teachers abreast of new idea in education. These teachers then employ these ideas in the classroom, resulting in projects including a 6th grade "wax museum" and a 1st grade "dinosaur dig." In addition, Westlake Hills recognizes the importance of involving a child's first and most influential teachers in the learning experience, with 75% of Westlake Hills parents logging in an astounding 12,000 hours of volunteer time.

These efforts are reflected in the test scores of the student body, which place Westlake Hills above all the other elementary schools in its district. Westlake Hills has also answered President Clinton's "America Reads Challenge" by forging a partnership with nearby Pepperdine University, in order to ensure that each and every child can read both independently and effectively.

Along with its demonstrated excellence in the classroom, Westlake Hills realizes the importance of extracurricular activities in creating the "total" student. Over 200 children participate in clubs for subjects including drama, physical fitness, and Spanish. A club also exists for computers, making use of the school's technology center.

Westlake Hills believes that their goal in forming the "total" student would also be incomplete without instilling in the students a sense of their responsibilities as members of their local community. They have joined General Colin Powell's "Make a Difference" volunteer program, where the children share their time assisting senior citizens.

Mr. Speaker, distinguished colleagues, please join me in celebrating the recognition of Westlake Hills Elementary School as a National Blue Ribbon School. It is a prime example of the extremely positive effects which a partnership between all members of a school community can produce. Westlake Hills' approach to public education is a paradigm which all American schools should strive to emulate.

A TRIBUTE TO THE DE JONG  
FAMILY

**HON. RANDY "DUKE" CUNNINGHAM**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 8, 1999*

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the de Jong family of San Diego County, California. Over the last few years, I have had the privilege of working with Arie de Jong and other members of a family that epitomizes the American success story. The de Jong's are close friends to America, which has given them the opportunity to lead and succeed.

On May 26, the de Jong family celebrated 50 years of American heritage with a reunion

in Poway, California. Since 1948, when Tom de Jong moved to America, the de Jong family has been an important piece of San Diego's community.

I have attached an article from the online edition of the San Diego Union Tribune that explains more family history and this recent celebration.

In addition, I want to extend my personal congratulations on their first 50 years in American history, and wish them health and happiness for the next 50 years.

FAR-FLUNG FAMILY MEETS, MARKS 50 YEARS  
IN U.S.

(By John Berhman)

POWAY—The de Jong family is a coming-to-America success story.

Fifty years ago, from their native Holland, the family—a mother, father and 10 children—traveled across the United States to a relative's sparse cattle ranch here. From that beginning, they grew into one of the most successful and well-known families in North County.

The family's Hollandia Dairy in San Marcos in an institution. Family members have spread out all over California and the country, many of them working in the dairy business.

Yesterday, many of them returned to their American roots, celebrating 50 years of being in this country with a family reunion where it all started.

They met at Old Wyoming Picnic Grounds, the family homestead at the end of Old Pomerado Road in south Poway. They gathered around shady oak trees and three stone buildings that served as the family's first homes in this country to reminisce and give thanks.

It is quite an extended family now. From 10 brothers and sisters have come 54 children and nearly 100 grandchildren, most of whom are expected during the reunion. About five family members, mostly cousins, are attending from Holland. Other family members have come from Oregon, Michigan, New Mexico and various parts of California.

"This is wonderful. This is what family and friends are all about. And, this great country. We feel so privileged to be a part of this country," Tom de Jong, at 73 the oldest of the 10 brothers and sisters, said yesterday at the kickoff of the event.

Tom was the first of the family to come to America. That was in 1948, when he took a job working on his uncle Sam Bruinsma's ranch in what is now Poway. Bruinsma was married to Tom's father's twin sister, Tante Jet.

Impressed with America and the opportunities it offered, Tom wrote to his parents, insisting they join him.

The rest of the family did indeed follow the oldest son, arriving in New York on May 26, 1949. This week's reunion—expected to draw more than 200 de Jongs and close friends—marks the 50th anniversary of that event.

"I will never forget that day," Arie de Jong, 60, perhaps the best known of the clan, said yesterday. "The Statue of Liberty and that New York skyline—and coming to America.

"America has been good to us."

Arie, after helping his family start the Hollandia Dairy, became a millionaire in the trash-hauling business. Among the possessions he has acquired are the three stone structures in Poway that his family first lived in.

The reunion, the first of its kind for the family, was Arie's idea.

"It's really for the kids and the grandkids through," he said. "It's to show them where their family started in this country."