the benefit of the free people of this Nation and so many others.

RECOGNIZING CLINTON HIGH SCHOOL

HON. JAMES P. McGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 10, 2000

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, today I pay special tribute to the members of the Clinton High School/NYPRO Partnership in Clinton, MA.

It gives me great pleasure to salute and congratulate the Clinton High School students, teachers, and the engineers from NYPRO for their impressive accomplishments during the recent ''FIRST Robotics Competition'' at both the regional and national levels.

FIRST, which stands for ''For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology'', is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to generate an interest in science and engineering among today's youth. The primary means of achieving this goal is through an annual robot competition, the FIRST Robotics Competition, which is a national engineering contest that immerses high school students in the exciting world of engineering.

Just as other students teamed up with engineers from businesses and universities, the Clinton High students continued their partnership with NYPRO, Inc., which dates back to 1992.

Through this project, the students are able to get a hands-on, inside look at the engineering profession. During an intense 6-week period which began in January, the Clinton High students, teachers, and NHPRO engineers worked together to brainstorm, design, construct, and test their ''champion robot.''

The teams then moved forward to regional tournaments—complete with referees, cheerleaders and time clocks. At this year's FIRST 2000 New England Regional Competition held in Hartford, Connecticut, the Clinton High/NYPRO ''Gael Force'' Team was declared Semi-Finalists out of 41 participating teams, and they were awarded the ''Best Defensive Award.''

The results at the national level were even more impressive, as the Clinton High/NYPRO team was named 2nd Place Finalists out of 268 teams at the FIRST 2000 National Competition held recently at EPCOT in Florida.

In addition, they were awarded $7,000 in software animation from Autodesk, Inc., for outstanding animation created by the student team members, and won the prestigious Worcester Polytechnic Institute Design Innovation Scholarship, which is a full 4-year scholarship worth approximately $12,000 for one of the team members.

Since the beginning of their partnership in 1992, the Clinton High School/NYPRO team has received national recognition and significant awards over the years. The students, teachers, and engineers can be justly proud of their trophies and awards which honor their dedication and prize-winning effort. However, their is something even more important to celebrate—their special relationship has allowed for an incredible exchange of resources and talent and has exposed students to new educational opportunities and career choices.

Superintendent of School Edward J. Philbin recently observed that Clinton is ''a better school system and a better community because of FIRST. Effective education cannot be accomplished only in the classroom within the time limits of the school day . . . it takes the united effort of every constituency in the community to put common goals into practice by working side by side in a learning and sharing environment.''

As the citizens of Clinton celebrate their community's 150th birthday, the Clinton High School/NYPRO success story represents the town's continuing winning attitude and tradition.

I sincerely commend everyone at NYPRO for the strong support given to this venture, especially the dedicated engineers who contribute so much of their time and themselves on behalf of the young people. I particularly applaud and salute the phenomenal students of Clinton High School's ''Gael Force'' team and their teachers—I share the great pride felt by Clintonians in their tremendous spirit and commitment to this year's FIRST success.

A TRIBUTE TO MYRA LENARD AND HER LIFETIME OF SERVICE

HON. WILLIAM O. LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 10, 2000

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I pay tribute to Casimira (Myra) Lenard, a monumental philanthropist and Polish-American activist, who sadly passed away on May 1st at Walter Reed Army Hospital. For nearly 40 years, Myra fought to find jobs for the meager, provide rations for the suffering, and promote democracy for the oppressed.

Myra Lenard was born in Poland and immigrated to Chicago with her parents in 1927. Seven years later, she became a United States citizen. In 1962, she moved to Washington, DC after her surviving husband Casimir (Colonel, U.S. Army, Ret.) was assigned to the Pentagon. Soon later, she began a very successful 20-year career in the private sector employment placement industry, overseeing 11 placement offices on the east coast. Myra was highly respected in her profession, serving in several leadership positions within the personnel services industry. As president of the Capital Area Personnel Services Association, she successfully lobbied for title 7, the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and for equal employment opportunities. In 1975, Myra was widely acknowledged for her efforts to find ''fee-free'' work for several hundred Vietnamese refugees. In addition, she used her many offices to support the growing Solidarity labor movement in Poland.

In 1981, Myra left the private sector to become executive director of the Polish American Congress [PAC] in Washington, DC. She continued to support Solidarity by organizing record fundraising, including 22 railroad cars of relief goods, valued at $7 million in 1981. To mark the first anniversary of Solidarity, she organized a ''Solidarity convoy'' of 32 large container trucks, valued at over $10 million.

Myra Lenard's outstanding leadership of the Polish American Congress and its accompanying charitable fund [PACCF] allowed the organization to qualify for Federal funds, administered through the U.S. Agency for International Development [USAID] and the Combined Federal Campaign [CFC]. In addition, the PAC's Washington, DC office administered a series of National Endowment for Democracy [NED] grants, helping to sustain a measure of hope for democracy in the Communist-controlled Poland.

Furthermore, Myra expanded the relationships of the PAC with the U.S. Congress, Executive Office of the President, Department of State, and several other governmental agencies. Through her many contacts, the Polish American Congress engaged in strong lobbying campaigns for the Immigration Reform Act of 1986, as well as the Support of Eastern European Democracy Act of 1989 [SEED ACT], containing needed appropriations for Poland. Some of Myra's later efforts included lobbying to secure to the present Oder-Neisse border with Germany and Poland's recent entry into the North Atlantic Treaty Organization [NATO].

For these many efforts, Myra Lenard was appropriately given numerous accolades, including Poland's highest award for foreign civilians. Today, I am pleased to offer my own words of praise to my colleagues about this great leader. While Poland was still suffering from the plague of Communism, Lech Walesa stated: ''The supply of words in the world market is plentiful but the demand is falling—let deeds follow words now.'' Mr. Speaker, Casimira (Myra) Lenard followed these words with unending devotion and activism. Again, I thank her for over 40 years of tremendous service for two great nations.

HONORING THE LATE LEONARD JAMES KELLER

HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 10, 2000

Mr. HALL of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today I pay tribute to an outstanding American who served his country with distinction both as a military officer and as an engineer who was dedicated to protecting and improving the quality of life of all our citizens. Leonard James Keller, a citizen of Bonham, TX, in the Fourth District, died on November 27, 1999, leaving behind a legacy of service to his country.

Born on February 25, 1925 in Duenweg, MO, Leonard Keller fought in both World War II and the Korean war. He was commissioned an officer and cited for heroism while serving with the 43d Infantry Division in Luzon, Philippine Islands. After the wars, Mr. Keller graduated with honors in mining engineering and geology at Missouri School of Mines and Metallurgy in 1955 and received the W.A. Tarr Award as the outstanding graduate in the earth sciences field. He also was honored in Who's Who of North America.

As a registered professional engineer, Mr. Keller was an inventor of record, with a remarkable 17 U.S. patents in his name. An expert in his field, he authored numerous technical papers, some of which have previously been entered into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. Mr. Keller spent 15 years working for five major U.S. corporations in engineering, research, and technical services and management before cofounding the Keller Corp. in