

these educators are true professionals committed to their task while facing the difficult challenges of today's world.

I commend the teachers of my district for their dedication and perseverance in inspiring our nation's youth to achieve their goals and dreams. I ask everyone to join me.

RECOGNITION OF COL. RUSSELL B. HALL'S 26 YEARS OF SERVICE IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY

HON. CIRO D. RODRIGUEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 9, 2001

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Colonel Russell B. Hall's twenty-six years of service in the United States Army. Col. Hall will be retiring this year and his extensive experience will be hard to replace. He currently serves as the Chief of the Resources Integration Office in the Office of the Assistant Chief of Staff for Installations Management. Col. Hall also serves as the Executive of the Installation Program and Evaluation Group for the Assistant Chief of Staff for Installation Management.

Colonel Russell B. Hall was born in Roswell, New Mexico on January 19, 1953. He holds a Bachelor's Degree in Biology from Trinity University in San Antonio, Texas and a Master's Degree in Operations Research from George Mason University. Colonel Hall was a Distinguished Military Graduate and received a Regular Army commission from the Reserve Officer Training Corps. His military education includes the Artillery Basic and Advance Courses, and the Command and General Staff College.

He has held a wide variety of key command and staff positions before his current assignment as the Chief of the Resource Integration Office and Executive of the Installation Program Evaluation Group for the Assistant Chief of Staff for Installation Management. Other key assignments include duty as the Secretary of the General Staff of the 1st Cavalry Division; Executive Officer of the 3rd Battalion 82nd Field Artillery; Brigade Fire Support Officer, 2nd Brigade (Blackjack), Fort Hood, Texas, and Charlie Battery Commander 1st Battalion 77th Field Artillery, Executive Officer of the Training and Doctrine (TRADOC) Operations and Analysis Center, Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. He has served as the Commander of the 409th Base Support Battalion, Grafenwoehr and Vilseck, Germany. After command, Col. Hall completed his tour as the Deputy Director of Training in the Directorate of Training, USAREUR DCSOPS and Seventh Army Training Command.

Col. Hall's awards and decorations include: The Bronze Star Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal with four Oak Leaf Clusters, the Army Commendation Medal with three Oak Leaf Clusters, the Saudi-Kuwait Liberation Medal, the Southwest Asia Medal with three Bronze Stars, the Army Service Ribbon and the Overseas Ribbon. He also wears Master Parachutist wings and the Ranger Tab.

Colonel Hall is married to the former Alexia Rowe of Tulsa, Oklahoma. They have one child, a daughter, Rachel.

Our nation owes a large debt to Col. Hall for his service and wishes him good luck with his future endeavors.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO FIVE OUTSTANDING WORCESTER COMMUNITY LEADERS

HON. JAMES P. McGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 9, 2001

Mr. McGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to five outstanding individuals in Worcester, Massachusetts. These community leaders have been selected to receive awards from the Worcester Democratic City Committee at their annual JFK Dinner on Saturday, May 12.

Julie Komenos is receiving the John F. Kennedy Female Democrat of the Year Award. Julie was born and has lived in Worcester her entire life. She makes her home with her husband of 28 years, Michael and her two sons Michael 3rd and Kristopher. Julie is best known for her work at Abby's House, where she started the Day-Center Program, served on the Board of Directors as a member for 2 years, and served as President of the Board for 5 years. She is presently on staff at Abby's House. Women's issues are her passion. Working at Abby's House gives Julie the opportunity to work on the front lines with women and their struggles.

Gary Vecchio will receive the John F. Kennedy Male Democrat of the Year Award. Gary has earned this honor as a result of his extensive and varied service to the Worcester Democratic Party and the city as a whole. Gary's political activism began in 1977 with his first election as a delegate to the Massachusetts Democratic State Convention. Gary has also served on the Worcester Area Leadership Association, the Eastside Community Development Corporation, the Worcester Citizens Advisory Council, and as chairman of the Shrewsbury Street Advisory Committee. In 1996, Gary received citations from the Massachusetts House of Representatives, the State Senate, and the Governor's Council for his work as President of Worcester State Hospital's Board of Trustees.

Paul Pezzella is being honored with the Robert F. Kennedy Lifetime Achievement Award. Paul is a partner of A.D.S. Ventures, Inc. Paul has over 20 years experience in government affairs and national, state and local electoral politics. He has worked with former State Senator Gerard D'Amico, Governor Michael Dukakis and many many others. In 1985, Paul was elected to the first-ever Worcester Charter Commission. He was the architect of the Elections Commission and led the fight to eliminate the at-large nine member Council and replace it with more district representation. Paul has recently been nominated as an Incorporator for the Greater Worcester Community Foundation.

Leonard Ciuffredo will receive the Edward M. Kennedy Labor Award. Lenny is a lifelong resident of Worcester's East Side and learned very early on about the values and ideals of working men and women. Lenny has been active in a large number of community affairs, and has especially enjoyed working with young people and encouraging them to get involved in the political process. In addition to his labor activities, Lenny has served on the Board of Directors for the United Way of Central Massachusetts, the Brown Square Crime Watch Group and as a member of Our Lady

of Mt. Carmel Parish. Lenny and his wife Juliann have two children, Bianca and Geena-Maria.

Stacey DeBoise Luster will receive the Barbara Jordan Award, named for the late Congresswoman from Texas. Stacey was recently appointed Director of Human Resources for the Worcester Public Schools Manager. Previously, she was the first woman of color to be elected to the Worcester City Council. Stacey also served as the Assistant to the President for Affirmative Action and Minority Affairs at Quinsigamond Community College. Stacey is a member of the Board of Directors of the Greater Worcester Community Foundation and a member of the Board of Trustees of the Worcester Art Museum. Recently, she was named one of "40 under 40" by the Worcester Business Journal.

Mr. Speaker, I commend all of these outstanding citizens for their dedication to making the Worcester area a better place for all its families, and I congratulate them for these well-deserved accolades. I know all of my colleagues join me in paying tribute to 5 fine examples of community involvement.

A TRIBUTE TO BILL GEORGE UPON HIS RETIREMENT AS CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER OF MEDTRONIC

HON. JIM RAMSTAD

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 9, 2001

Mr. RAMSTAD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Bill George, who recently retired as the Chief Executive Officer of Medtronic, Inc.

Medtronic is one of the leading medical technology companies in the world. This is due in large part to the leadership of Bill George, its COO since 1989 and CEO since 1991. During his tenure, Bill George built Medtronic into a company that employs 25,000 people in 120 countries, with revenues of more than \$5 billion.

But Bill is more than a successful businessman. He is a policy visionary who believes in patient centered care, which is enabled by medical technology. I want to single out the Patient Summit he hosted in Washington, D.C. last year, which encouraged a dialogue between patients, policymakers and advocacy groups about the role patients can play in directing their own health care.

Under his leadership, the Medtronic Foundation has reached out to patient groups in unprecedented ways, giving \$12 million last year alone to non-profit organizations in communities worldwide.

As a fellow Minnesotan, I've watched Bill's personal efforts in the community with much admiration. His efforts as chair of the board of the United Way of Minneapolis and vice chair of the board of the Minneapolis Institute of Arts, as well as his work on the boards of the American Red Cross and the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, are just a few of the highlights.

Mr. Speaker, I highly commend Bill George for his visionary and innovative leadership. He has taken a great company and made it better with his strong commitment to bettering the lives of patients. Bill's integrity and leadership