

1994–1997. He then became Interim Director of Schools and nine months later was named Director of Schools.

As Director of Schools, Wise has been responsible for an operating budget upwards of \$300 million and a capital budget of nearly \$100 million, while implementing and overseeing The Strategic Plan for the Metropolitan Nashville Public School District. The school district includes more than one hundred twenty-five public schools with thousands of students from all walks of life.

Wise has been honored numerous times by his peers. Recent awards include: the Council of the Great City Schools First Annual Bill Wise Award in 2000; the National Football Foundation and College Hall of Fame, Middle Tennessee Chapter, Distinguished American Award in 2001; and the Tennessee School Plant Management Association's Superintendent of the Year for 2001.

Additionally, he has been active in numerous professional organizations including: the American Association of School Administrators; the Tennessee Association for Supervision and Administration; the Council of the Great City Schools, Business Officials Group; the Southeastern Association of School Business Officials; Phi Delta Kappa; Iota Lambda Sigma; and Council of Educational Facility Planners.

His civic contributions include involvement on the Board of Directors for the following organizations: Green Hills YMCA; Nashville Chapter of the American Red Cross; National Kidney Foundation of Middle Tennessee (Past President); Nashville Institute for the Arts; Cumberland Science Museum; Boy Scouts of America's Middle Tennessee Council; Junior Achievement of Middle Tennessee, Inc.; and Metropolitan Nashville Public Education Foundation.

With the obvious challenges and changes that Wise has faced during his career in public education, I am pleased to honor him for facing adversity with courage and using the tools available in an imperfect system to craft a successful educational program for students in our community. I respect his philosophy of focusing on learning, support systems and appropriate settings for equity and excellence for all students and promoting change as positive and necessary for continual personal improvement.

In closing, Dr. Wise is to be commended for building a solid foundation for those who will follow in his footsteps and strive to meet the goal of improving educational opportunities for all Tennesseans. I have no doubt that his dedication and service to our community, our state, and our nation, will be remembered for many years to come.

SECTION 245(i) EXTENSION ACT OF  
2001

**HON. ELTON GALLEGLY**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 22, 2001*

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, I voted in favor of H.R. 1885, a bill sponsored by Immigration and Claims Subcommittee Chairman GEORGE GEKAS, which will extend by four months the time illegal immigrants may apply for legal residence while remaining in

the United States. The measure requires illegal immigrants who utilize Section 245(i) of the immigration law to have been in the United States as of December 21, 2000. In addition, H.R. 1885 requires that the family relationship or employment existed by April 30, 2001. These two important provisions contained in H.R. 1885 will ensure that the extension of Section 245(i) does not provide future incentives for illegal immigration or punish legal immigrants waiting in line for their applications to be processed.

I supported this short-term extension of Section 245(i) because it will assist those immigrants who were eligible to apply for a green card as of April 30, but were unable to meet the deadline due to administrative problems, such as the INS not issuing regulations on Section 245(i) until March of this year. At the same time, H.R. 1885 will not reward those who enter illegally with the hope of becoming legal without first returning to their native country. Most importantly, it will send the message that legal immigrants, who waited in line and obeyed our immigration laws, should get first priority in the processing of immigration applications.

Although I supported this four-month extension of Section 245(i) for the reasons discussed above, I will not support any extension beyond this time period. This is not the first time that this ill-conceived provision has been extended. Section 245(i) was first added to the immigration law in 1994. Since that time, it has been extended on numerous occasions, including most recently in December of last year. This has provided persons who wanted to apply for permanent residency status more than enough time to submit their application to INS.

A longer extension than the period of time contained in H.R. 1885 will further encourage illegal immigration and punish legal immigrants waiting for their application to be processed. Also, because U.S. State Department consular officers are better suited than INS employees to determine if the illegal immigrant has a criminal background, a longer extension of Section 245(i) will undermine the important law enforcement goal of preventing criminal aliens from remaining in our country.

CONGRATULATING JOSE DE  
ESCANDON ELEMENTARY  
SCHOOL ON BEING NAMED A  
"BLUE RIBBON SCHOOL"

**HON. RUBÉN HINOJOSA**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 22, 2001*

Mr. HINOJOSA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Jose De Escandon Elementary School in the La Joya Independent School District in my South Texas district on being named a "Blue Ribbon School."

Quality education is the passport to a successful future and Escandon Elementary has been relentless in its pursuit of educational excellence. This award truly symbolizes the many successful futures this school has forged for its students.

La Joya is not a wealthy school district. The majority of the students are Hispanic and many live below the poverty level. It is in an isolated, rural community along the Texas-

Mexico border. Despite these seeming disadvantages, under the leadership of Superintendent Dr. Robert Zamora and principal Benita Salazar, Escandon has demonstrated what can be achieved when parents, teachers, school officials and the community join together to utilize every resource to its fullest potential. In addition to the Blue Ribbon Award, Escandon has been recognized by the State of Texas as an Exemplary Elementary School, having over 90 percent of its students pass the 3rd grade Texas Assessment of Academic Skills test.

Blue Ribbon Awards are exclusive in nature and are presented to only 264 elementary schools across the country including both public and private institutions. Schools receiving the award must demonstrate strong leadership; a clear vision and sense of mission; high-quality teaching; challenging up-to-date curriculum; policies and practices that ensure a safe environment conducive to learning; solid evidence of family involvement; evidence that the school is helping ALL students achieve high standards; and a commitment to share best practices with other schools.

On Monday, I will be visiting Escandon Elementary to celebrate its great achievement. The citizens of La Joya are fiercely proud of their town and their school. This award is not only a reflection of the exemplary work that the children have done, but also a reflection of the values and dedication of the whole community. I would encourage every locality to follow La Joya's example. When the entire community works together and commits to helping every child succeed, it will happen and all of our children will receive the quality education they deserve.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. THOMAS M. BARRETT**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 22, 2001*

Mr. BARRETT of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, because my flight to Washington was delayed, I was unable to vote yesterday evening on rollcall No. 126, concerning a resolution expressing the sense of the Congress regarding National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

CONCERNING PARTICIPATION OF  
TAIWAN IN WORLD HEALTH OR-  
GANIZATION

SPEECH OF

**HON. SILVESTRE REYES**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 15, 2001*

Mr. REYES. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 428, a bill which calls for Taiwan's participation in the World Health Organization (WHO). I would also like to commend the author of the legislation, my friend and colleague from Ohio, Mr. SHERROD BROWN, for his leadership on this issue. I am proud to join as a co-sponsor of this important bipartisan legislation.

Mr. Speaker, as you know, the World Health Organization is the most important international health organization in the world. In its