

the 2001 Yoshiyama Award for Exemplary Service to the Community, presented to him by The Hitachi Foundation at an awards ceremony on Monday, March 18, 2002 in Washington, DC. The Foundation named ten high school seniors nationwide as recipients of this prestigious award—ten young people who exemplify the best in creativity, accomplishment, and service to their communities.

Tadele is a 2001 graduate of Hoover High School in my home town of San Diego, California. He is receiving this award to recognize his contribution to the Ethiopian community in San Diego. Upon his arrival as a refugee from Ethiopia four years ago, he became aware that Ethiopian children in his neighborhood did not know how to read and write their native language. Tadele set to work to develop a tutoring program for these children. While their parents attended church, he worked with their children, teaching the Ethiopian alphabet and language and exposing them to the Ethiopian literature, tradition, and culture.

In addition, Tadele provided tutoring in math and science to the children who needed assistance. He also worked with young adults in the computer center of the local library and volunteered in a San Diego homeless shelter. By becoming so involved in service to others, Tadele has truly become a part of his new community, a bond which has helped him overcome a difficult exile from Africa where his mother and grandfather were killed and his father incarcerated for their political beliefs.

The Yoshiyama Award, which Tadele has received, was established in 1988 with a gift from Hirokichi Yoshiyama, former president and chairman of Hitachi, Ltd., the company that established The Hitachi Foundation in 1985. The goal of this non-profit, philanthropic Foundation is to promote social responsibility through effective participation in global society. The Hitachi Foundation is proud to highlight the achievements of the young people of our country, the leaders of their generation.

I am pleased to take this opportunity to congratulate Tadele Worku on this prestigious award and to thank him for his compassionate commitment to his community.

**A TRIBUTE TO ROBERT BLACKKEY,
OUTSTANDING HISTORY PRO-
FESSOR**

HON. JERRY LEWIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 19, 2002

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the accomplishments of Robert Blackkey, a professor of history at California State University at San Bernardino, located at the western edge of the 40th District of California. Professor Blackkey is the 2001 honoree of the Eugene Asher Distinguished Teaching Award, the highest award given by both the American Historical Association and the Society for History Education in recognition of outstanding teaching and advocacy for history teaching.

Long an advocate of good teaching, Professor Blackkey's instructional techniques and knowledge of his subject matter have, over the course of his thirty plus years of teaching, made history come alive for his students. Blackkey understands the adage "History is to

society what memory is to the individual" and that humanizing the study of the past makes it relevant to the young minds of the present.

In making the award, the historical association quoted a former student's nomination, saying not only is Professor Blackkey "a dynamic speaker and discussion leader, but he enriches his lectures with slides, photographs, art, music, and observations from his travels around the world. He brings the people of history to life through visual and verbal illustrations that humanize them; he also helps students to think historically and to appreciate the larger themes that he weaves throughout his classes." Through his work as editor of the teaching column in *Perspectives*, vice president of the AHA Teaching Division, chief reader for Advanced Placement European History, perennial workshop leader, and frequent guest speaker in secondary school classrooms, Professor Blackkey has made an outstanding contribution to history teaching, the association said.

Blackey's efforts at serving others don't stop at the university's edge. He has served as Chair of the school's history department as well as social science coordinator. Additionally, his work includes having served as vice president of the American Historical Association and is an elected member of The College Board's National Academic Council. Blackey also works with Project Upbeat, an innovative program that inspires middle school students to attend and succeed in college.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud Professor Blackey's dedication to his profession and his continuing efforts to help students appreciate and understand history. I ask you and my colleagues to join his fellow professors, his friends, and his family in congratulating him for his record of success.

**CLASS ACTION FAIRNESS ACT OF
2002**

SPEECH OF

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 13, 2002

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2341) to amend the procedures that apply to consideration of interstate class actions to assure fairer outcomes for class members and defendants, to outlaw certain practices that provide inadequate settlements for class members, to assure that attorneys do not receive a disproportionate amount of settlements at the expense of class members, to provide for clearer and simpler information in class action settlement notices, to assure prompt consideration of interstate class actions, to amend title 28, United States Code, to allow the application of the principles of Federal diversity jurisdiction to interstate class actions, and for other purposes.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in opposition to H.R. 2341, the Class Action Fairness Act of 2001. This legislation would make it more difficult for injured consumers to seek relief from corporate abuses. This is not the type of legislation that we in Congress should be supporting in the wake of the Enron debacle.

I would also like to state my position on some of the amendments being offered on

H.R. 2341. Several of the amendments are directly attributable to many of the alleged disgraceful, if not illegal, acts performed by a few major corporations in the past couple of years. These acts include records being sealed, even though public health and safety were at stake, and document shredding. Despite the outrage that some corporate behavior has created for me and the American public, some proposed amendments were not well-defined to deal with this illegal conduct. My "nay" votes on certain amendments reflect this concern, however I condemn the corporate behavior that prompted these proposals.

**HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION
TO PREVENT ANY INCREASE IN
VETERANS' HEALTH CARE DE-
DUCTIBLE**

HON. TED STRICKLAND

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 19, 2002

Mr. STRICKLAND. Mr. Speaker, in response to the President's fiscal year 2003 budget, I am introducing this Sense of Congress to oppose the Administration's recommendation to impose a \$1,500 deductible on the health care for "Priority Group 7" veterans. Just recently the VA increased the veteran prescription drug co-payment by 250%. The President's budget proposal calls on Congress to legislate a \$1,500 deductible for their health care. This deductible is unacceptable and an unnecessary hardship to place upon veterans. It is my hope that by introducing this Resolution, this Congress will speak as one body and make it clear that we will not break America's promises to our veterans.

**TUNISIA 46TH ANNIVERSARY OF
INDEPENDENCE**

HON. MARK STEVEN KIRK

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 19, 2002

Mr. KIRK. Mr. Speaker, today, I would like to recognize a great ally of the United States, Tunisia, as she celebrates 46 years of independence. In 1797, the United States signed a Treaty of Peace and Friendship with the North African country of Tunisia. Over 150 years later, Tunisia peacefully gained independence from France. Today, we congratulate Tunisia for 46 years as an independent nation.

The Republic of Tunisia has remained a steadfast friend to the United States, joining Allied forces during World War II and continuing support throughout the Cold War. Now, in the wake of September 11, Tunisia has once again emerged as a true ally, supporting our current efforts in the war against terror. Based on her geopolitical location, Tunisia's cooperation in the campaign to root out terrorists is absolutely critical.

Today, Tunisia enjoys a burgeoning economy, as the nation's per capita income continues to grow substantially. One of Tunisia's most valuable assets has been its continued willingness to support a Middle East peace process. Despite being surrounded by nations