

Education, the Santa Barbara Industry Education Council, the Santa Barbara Foundation, the Thomas Jefferson Center for Character Education and the Santa Barbara Grand Opera Association.

Santa Barbara's County Schools are truly a product of Bill's creativity and passion for excellence. He has influenced the lives of thousands of children, their parents, and community members as a whole. It is always refreshing to see Bill at community events, as he serves as an example of someone who cares so deeply about our children's futures. There are so many extraordinary people on California's central coast, but there is no doubt that there is a special place in my heart for Bill Cirone.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for allowing me to pay tribute to our wonderful Superintendent on this glorious occasion.

THE PRAIRIE ROSE CHAPTER OF  
THE DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN  
REVOLUTION SALUTES  
CONSTITUTION WEEK

**HON. DENNIS MOORE**

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 17, 2002*

Mr. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, the week of September 17–23 has been officially designated as Constitution Week under Public Law 105–225. This marks the 215th anniversary of the signing of our Constitution.

The guardian of our liberties, our Constitution established our republic as a self-governing nation dedicated to rule by law. This document is the cornerstone of our freedom. It was written to protect every American from the abuse of power by government. Without that restraint, our founders believed the republic would perish.

The ideals upon which our Constitution is based are reinforced each day by the success of our political system to which it gave birth. The success of our way of government requires an enlightened citizenry.

Constitution Week provides an opportunity for all Americans to recall the achievements of our founders, the nature of limited government, and the rights, privileges and responsibilities of citizenship. It provides the opportunity to be better informed about our rights, freedoms and duties as citizens.

Mr. Speaker, at this time I particularly want to take note of the outstanding work of the Prairie Rose Chapter of the Kansas Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution, which is actively involved in the Third Congressional District in events this week commemorating Constitution Week. The Prairie Rose Chapter has been involved with this effort in our communities for a number of years and I commend them for doing so.

Our Constitution has served us well for over 200 years, but it will continue as a strong, vibrant, and vital foundation for freedom only so long as the American people remain dedicated to the basic principles on which it rests. Thus, as the United States continues into its third century of constitutional democracy, let us renew our commitment to, in the words of our Constitution's preamble: "form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defence, pro-

mote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity . . ." I know that the Prairie Rose Chapter of the Kansas Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution joins with me in urging all Americans to renew their commitment to, and understanding of, our Constitution, particularly during our current time of crisis, when Americans have been attacked on our own soil by terrorists who do not recognize the rule of human law.

HONORING DAN WILFORD

**HON. KEN BENTSEN**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 17, 2002*

Mr. BENTSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. Dan S. Wilford on the occasion of his retirement as president of Memorial Hermann Healthcare System, based in Houston, Texas. For the past 18 years, Mr. Wilford has served as Chief Executive Officer of Memorial Hermann, with 11 hospitals in the greater Houston area, an outpatient center, two nursing homes, a wellness center, a retirement community and a network of affiliates throughout southeast Texas. Under his leadership, Memorial Hermann has become the largest non-profit health care system in Texas and among the largest in the country.

As a member of University of Mississippi's class of 1962, Mr. Wilford was inducted into the University's Alumni Hall of Fame in 1995. He earned his Master's Degree in Hospital Administration at Washington University in St. Louis in 1966 and completed his residency in hospital administration at Hillcrest Medical Center in Tulsa, Oklahoma. Prior to his arrival at Memorial Hermann, Mr. Wilford served in various administrative capacities for 20 years. He was associated with Hillcrest Medical Center in Tulsa for 10 years in addition to serving as president of North Mississippi Health Services in Tupelo, Mississippi from 1974 to 1984.

Mr. Wilford has proudly served on the board of directors of many professional organizations. He is active in Voluntary Hospitals of America, Texas Hospital Association, American Hospital Association, Hospital Research and Development Institute, American College of Healthcare Executives, Greater Houston Partnership, Houston Area and Fort Bend County Chambers of Commerce, United Way of the Texas Gulf Coast and First United Methodist Church of Sugar Land, Texas. Through his commitment to these organizations, Mr. Wilford has set himself apart as a leader and activist in the health care community.

His dedication to the health care profession has led many acclaimed institutions to recognize Mr. Wilford's achievements. In 1995, he was the recipient of the Washington University Health Administration Program Distinguished Alumnus Award, received an honorary Doctorate of Laws degree from Houston Baptist University and was named Business Leader of the Year in Fort Bend County, Texas. Two years later, he received the American College of Healthcare Executives Gold Medal Award and was presented with the Earl C. Collier Award by the Texas Hospital Association.

In addition to his many professional achievements and honors, Mr. Wilford is a re-

tired National Football League official who has actively participated in sports throughout his life.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Wilford has established a legacy by building a health care system with a strong commitment to spiritual values and community-focused care. With his retirement from Memorial Hermann, Mr. Wilford celebrates the conclusion of a stellar 40-year career in hospital management and I congratulate him on his unwavering commitment to health care and inspirational leadership.

HONORING DR. NOEL SMITH OF  
WACO, TEXAS, A TRUE UNSUNG  
HERO

**HON. CHET EDWARDS**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 17, 2002*

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a great Texan, Dr. Noel Smith of Waco, who had the vision for an independent public television station in Central Texas. Earning a Ph.D. in Distance Learning from Texas A&M University, Dr. Smith rose to become the Chair of the Telecommunications Department at Central Texas College in Waco, where he effectively used his talents as teacher, mentor, and counselor to improve the lives of many Texans.

It was at Central Texas College that Dr. Smith became actively involved in his lifelong commitment to KCTF Television. In its early days as a stand-alone station, KCTF experienced more problems than shining moments. But in 1994, when its owners withdrew support for the station, Dr. Smith rallied a committed group of Waco citizens who convinced the Chancellor and Trustees of Central Texas College to sell them the license.

Once Dr. Smith's group bought the license, the hard work began. It was as though everyone at the station was performing on a high wire without a net. Yet somehow, Dr. Smith stayed faithful to the vision of creating a community public television station and, thankfully, his vision became a reality. Brazos Valley Public Broadcasting, as it was now called, was born. KCTF would eventually become KWBU, and KWBU would expand to include public radio. Dr. Smith articulated his vision in the KWBU Mission Statement:

"KWBU shall serve as an essential lifelong resource providing quality public television and radio programs and services for the enrichment of the lives of the residents of McLennan County."

Mr. Speaker, Not many ideas make it from vision to reality. But this one has because Noel Smith has worked tirelessly to ensure that public television in Central Texas achieves that mission.

In his professional life, Dr. Noel Smith has held many national positions of leadership that have contributed to the growth of public broadcasting. He served with distinction on the board of directors of the Southern Educational Communications Association, now the National Educational Telecommunications Association, and he was a member of the PBS Board of Directors. He has used his leadership to effectively represent the interests of small market licensees.

During the course of his career, Dr. Smith has accomplished a tremendous amount of