

the government of Iran to comply with its NPT obligations, sign the AIEA Model Additional Protocol, and halt support for terrorism. Also, it asks President Bush and the international community to renew their commitment to the war against terrorism, and impede the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

The proliferation of nuclear weapons anywhere in the world poses a serious threat to international peace and security. The knowledge, non-nuclear materials, and components needed for the production of nuclear weapons are already accessible worldwide. The main technical barrier is obtaining the nuclear material. Therefore, to prevent any further proliferation of nuclear weapons, we must work to prevent the propagation of nuclear materials.

The director of the International Atomic Energy Agency (AIEA) has recently announced that Iran has built a plant to enrich uranium—a key component of advanced nuclear weapons. This deeply worries me, because U.S. intelligence sources indicate that Iran could develop as many as 50 nuclear weapons from this facility.

Mr. Speaker, members of this chamber have not yet given adequate attention to the dangers of a nuclear Iran.

Iran's nuclear intentions are a cause of fear. It is unclear whether Iran, by pursuing a sophisticated and advanced nuclear program, has chosen to break from the NPT treaty now; but it is obvious that it has positioned itself to do so within a very short time if it ever decides to.

Iran is the most active state sponsor of terrorism, and continues to provide material support to Hizballah, Hamas, and Islamic Jihad—all recognized terrorist groups. The country's construction of nuclear facilities coupled with its known ties to terrorist groups constitutes a threat to global peace and security.

Nuclear materials that could be used to develop nuclear weapons must not fall into the hands of terrorists or state sponsors of terrorism—like Iran. Preventing Iran from developing nuclear weapons capabilities must remain a foreign policy and homeland security priority.

There are many difficulties, but also opportunities, on the road towards nuclear non-proliferation. For the last few decades a number of diplomatic and political strategies have been pursued. Let me empathetically opine that we need to redouble these efforts. If we are to achieve a non-nuclear Iran, we must commit to a thoughtful strategy of dialogue.

COMMENDING PASCHAL HIGH SCHOOL IN FORT WORTH, TEXAS

**HON. MARTIN FROST**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 12, 2003*

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the faculty and students of my alma mater, Paschal High School in Fort Worth, Texas for being ranked among the nation's finest schools by Newsweek magazine. Officially, Paschal placed No. 12 in Texas and No. 200 nationally based on advanced placement test scores. This year alone, the senior class included 11 National Merit Scholarship semifinalists.

Founded in 1885, Fort Worth's oldest high school has always been regarded as an aca-

demical leader. Today, Paschal exists primarily as a large, urban school with a diverse population and student body. The curriculum emphasizes balance, preparing students for college or university life through a variety of academic disciplines, clubs, advanced placement classes, and a host of athletic teams. This preparation enables students to understand and appreciate other cultures, become active participants of their community, and take ownership of their education.

Paschal High School is a terrific example of a successful collaboration between students, community representatives, faculty members, parents, alumni, and the Fort Worth Independent School district. This collaboration is truly remarkable, when considering the awards and accolades that this school has amassed since its inception.

Again, congratulations to the students and faculty of Paschal High School in Fort Worth, Texas for this latest achievement.

TRIBUTE TO MRS. SHEILA O'LEARY FOR HER 14 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION REGIONAL SCHOOL

**HON. SCOTT GARRETT**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 12, 2003*

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the efforts of Mrs. Sheila O'Leary. After nearly 40 years as an educator, 14 years of which as the principal of the Immaculate Conception Regional School (ICRS) in Franklin, New Jersey, Mrs. O'Leary is now moving on to work at the Catholic Diocese of Paterson.

Political theorist Henry Adams once wrote, "A teacher affects eternity." He believed that the influence of educators over children is never ending. He understood that educators like Mrs. O'Leary play a vital role in the moral and intellectual education of our children.

During her years of dedicated service Mrs. O'Leary has inspired students, fueled their imaginations, advanced their natural abilities and encouraged them to explore the possibilities that life has to offer.

As an educator, Mrs. O'Leary could have chosen any school to work at—yet she chose Immaculate Conception. She took road less traveled and chose to take on the challenge of building ICRS into the great school it is today. With her guidance and a strong commitment to helping her students, Immaculate is now a better place. By increasing attendance and expanding the number of classrooms, constructing new science labs and starting a pre-K program, to name just a few, Mrs. O'Leary has fulfilled her deep conviction in giving every child a chance to learn and succeed in life. Truly she has brought new life to the school and its community.

Over the last 40 years, not only has she taught children the important concepts of reading and writing, but she has also educated them about the difference between right and wrong. She taught them to welcome knowledge and to reject ignorance. For this, Mrs. O'Leary is a model for America's educators and young people to follow.

On behalf of the people of New Jersey's Fifth Congressional District, it is with great

honor, that I recognize and thank Mrs. Sheila O'Leary for her years of service to the Immaculate Conception community. Our nation is very fortunate to have her in our schools working with the future of our great Nation.

FLAG DAY

**HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 12, 2003*

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate and acknowledge the observance of Flag Day, June 14, 2003.

The American Flag is an integral component of many national holidays commemorating the creation of our nation, the lives of our Founding Fathers, the legacies of great leaders, and the sacrifices of our military service men and women, veterans, and retirees. But Flag Day is the one day we acknowledge the American Flag itself and all it symbolizes. On this day, we celebrate the 53rd National Flag Day.

As our national symbol, the American Flag is our ambassador to all corners of the globe and beyond, reminding people of who we are and what we stand for. The Flag symbolizes what is great about American democracy: the liberties and freedoms provided by the Constitution. It serves as a hopeful symbol of freedom to many people in the world, embodying the great American Dream of equal opportunity for all citizens.

The American Flag serves as a source of pride for special and outstanding achievements, from athletes winning Olympic gold medals to astronauts reaching the moon. It has inspired poets, musicians, and artists. It was the very inspiration for Francis Scott Key in 1814 to write the Star Spangled Banner. With the British attacking Fort McHenry in Baltimore, Maryland, Key was overwhelmed by emotion when the sun rose revealing the war-torn flag was still there.

The Flag continues to inspire people across the world and encourages them to recognize their potential and ability to achieve their own version of the American Dream. It is a focal point of respect for our active duty service men and women, military retirees, veterans, and those who work tirelessly to protect us: our police, firefighters, and first-responders.

In times of difficulty the tattered Flag reminds us of the sadness of war and terror, and the tragic loss of life that all too often occurs. Yet in such difficult times, the Flag inspires and reminds us that we are still here, and that we remain steadfast in our commitment to American democracy.

From school children to Members of Congress, many begin their day by reciting the Pledge of Allegiance. We do not do this as mere habit nor do we do it lightly. I, along with my colleagues and fellow Americans, have great respect for the American Flag and for all it represents. It is a great privilege to represent the Maryland 2nd Congressional District and to honor the American Flag for all it embodies at this critical time in our nation's history.