

Spiller for being there almost everyday for not only being a Guidance Counselor who organized our schedules, but a friend to talk to, teachers who made our high school transition the easiest and wonderful four years to look back on (I'd love to mention every single one but it would make this speech longer than it is), East Hartford High School staff but most importantly, the parents, who brought us onto this Earth, gave us life, and raised us to the best of their ability. And when I say best, I mean BEST. Whether they show it or not, every second we're alive on this Earth, they love us in a way we may not understand. We wouldn't be here today if it weren't for them. To this first CIBA graduating Class of 2003: The programs and tickets call this a Commencement of the Class of 2003. This means we're just starting where our lives will begin to pick up. Make this graduation one of dignity and remembrance; and treat today as your fast big step into the real world.

Thank you.

HONORING CHAIRMAN BOB STUMP

HON. DARRELL E. ISSA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 25, 2003

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight to remember the life and work of former Congressman Bob Stump. Mr. Stump was a true gentleman with whom I had the privilege of serving in this body for two years.

Before being elected to Congress, Mr. Stump served in the United States Navy and also served in the Arizona House of Representatives and in the Arizona State Senate.

He was first elected to Congress November 3, 1976, where he faithfully served the people of Arizona for 26 years in the U.S. House of Representatives. Mr. Stump was a man whose congressional career was spent working for our Nation's men and women in uniform. His commitment to the military and to our Nation's defense should be an example to us all.

I send my condolences to his wife Nancy, three children, and five grandchildren.

THE AMERICAN DREAM

HON. RANDY "DUKE" CUNNINGHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 25, 2003

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to read the essay of Elizabeth Hernandez, a member of the Valley Center Teenage Republican Club:

For many years people from Mexico have been coming to this country for a better opportunity, better life and a future for their children and family, the most common reason why they choose to come here, is because America gives them a chance to start a new life. They have special programs from which they can benefit, so they can progress in life and have something they can call their own. The economy has a great influence in this too. Mexico has many states that are very poor.

Economic issues are a strong reason why America is a good target for them. Mexico has many states that are poor and do not have the sufficient resources that a person should have during this century. Most towns

are still without electricity, water pumps, and telephones. This makes daily life more difficult. They always hear that in America all of this is not an issue; that you can practically go everywhere and all of these resources are given to you. In Mexico, jobs are everywhere but they don't get enough money to have an average life. The cost of food constantly increases but the wages stay the same. That makes it harder to buy or afford anything. Here in America, we don't see that problem because if food or the daily necessity goes up, so does the minimum wage for every job. In Mexico, there is not a law that tells companies how much they have to pay their employees. Most of the time they pay a small amount of money for the amount of time they work. Some occasions they work up to sixteen hours straight a day for five or six days a week. Here in America you can't do that, the hours you can work is a maximum of forty hours a week; after that they have to pay you over time. When this happens in Mexico, parents can't afford to feed their children because they are not paid overtime. That is why they choose to come to America so they can have food on their table every night and a few other luxuries.

For that same reason, their education is affected. Most parents make their children work so they can get more money to be able to buy food and clothing. Usually the children drop out of school at an early age, some of them just complete the fifth grade. Children that keep on going to school usually have money or they live in the city. People that don't live in a major city don't have the same opportunity. In America there is always a public school minutes away from where you live even if you don't live in a major city. You are guaranteed a free education all the way until high school and after that you can also get a college education in a community college that is less expensive than a University. That is why the people of Mexico come to America so they can put food on their table and their children are guaranteed an education regardless from what country they originate. That is why the "American Dream" is the way they refer to America.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE ALABAMA STATE DOCKS FOR 75 YEARS OF SERVICE TO SOCIETY

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 25, 2003

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to recognize the Alabama State Docks on the occasion of the 75th anniversary of its official dedication. The dedication took place on June 25, 1928, with several dignitaries attending, including Governor Bibb Graves, U.S. Congressman John McDuffie, U.S. Senator Hugo Black and the Assistant Chief of the United States Department of Transportation. Since that time, the port city of Mobile has enjoyed a lengthy history as an integral part of the State and National economy.

In 1519, just a short 27 years following Christopher Columbus's discovery of the New World, Spanish explorer Admiral Alvarez de Pineda sailed into what is now called Mobile Bay. The present-day city of Mobile was founded in 1702 by French explorers Jean Baptiste Le Moyne and Sieur de Bienville. The port of Mobile, which lies at the mouth of the Mobile River and the head of Mobile Bay, began contributing to the economy of the re-

gion by becoming one of the leading exporters of cotton. Since the early part of the 17th century, the port city has flourished to become Alabama's third largest city and among the national leaders in international trade.

The current 45 foot deep navigational channel, which is maintained by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, serves the port well in connecting Mobile to the Gulf of Mexico. The Mobile River, which is formed by the confluence of the Black Warrior and Tombigbee Rivers, functions as the gateway for the Tennessee/Tombigbee Waterway. The obvious economic possibilities and the lack of central organizational operation spurred the Alabama Legislature to submit a constitutional amendment to develop Alabama's Seaport with state financial assistance. The amendment was passed in 1922 and the State Docks Commission was formed to build, operate and maintain the facilities of the State Docks. With just \$10 million to spend, the Commission chose retired Major General William L. Sibert to engineer and construct one of the finest seaports on the Gulf Coast. Construction was not yet completed when the new Docks received their first cargo ship in May of 1927.

The port, which ranked 14th in total tonnage in 1999, is ahead of other ports such as Tampa, Seattle, Charleston, and Savannah. Mobile also ranks first nationally in wood pulp and Gulf coast forest products exports. The State Docks has made an overwhelming impact on the State economy by generating approximately \$3 billion in revenues statewide each year. With the ability to service many different products, the port continues to position itself among the leaders in international trade. And as a self-supporting enterprise agency of the executive branch of State government, the facilities prove that they can compete and operate to the benefit of not only the people of Alabama but also the Nation.

I ask my colleagues to join me today in recognizing the Alabama State Docks for 75 years of excellence and leadership in the shipping industry. The residents of Alabama and the American people have all benefited greatly from the Docks, existence and its important role in today's economy.

CONGRATULATIONS TO MS. KATHLEEN McGRATH ON ELECTION INTO NATIONAL TEACHERS HALL OF FAME

HON. CLIFF STEARNS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 25, 2003

Mr. STEARNS. The National Teachers Hall of Fame is an organization, which recognizes and honors exceptional teachers and the teaching profession. The Hall of Fame annually honors five teachers whom have demonstrated commitment and dedication to teaching our Nation's children. This year, I am fortunate to have one of my constituents, Kathleen McGrath, elected as a member of the Class of 2003.

Kathleen is a fifth grade teacher at Saddlewood Elementary School in Ocala, FL and has been teaching for 22 years at various schools throughout Marion County. Kathleen creates a learning environment in her class where students feel safe to take risks and