

God has richly blessed America, and America has given much to each of us. So what will I give back? What is my commitment to America's future? I will wake up each morning with a renewed determination to serve my God and my country. I will appreciate those who were and are committed to America, and I will endeavor to be counted among them.

HONORING LEINKAUF ELEMENTARY SCHOOL OF MOBILE, ALABAMA, ON THE OCCASION OF ITS 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 20, 2004

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the staff, students, and friends of Leinkauf Elementary School of Mobile, Alabama, as they celebrate 100 years of providing quality education to the students of that area.

The school was named for William H. Leinkauf, a member of the Mobile County Board of School Commissioners from 1871 to 1894. When it opened its doors in November 1903, the school had an enrollment of just 51 students. In the century that has passed since that time, the school has witnessed a tremendous growth in its student body that has increased to a present level of more than 600 boys and girls. At present, it is believed Leinkauf Elementary is the oldest continually operated public elementary school in Mobile County, and, perhaps, in the entire state of Alabama.

Leinkauf Elementary has a long and proud tradition of providing one of the finest educational settings anywhere in the country. The teachers and administrators have, from the school's opening, demonstrated a clear understanding of the needs of the students and have met these needs with compassion, care, and a personal interest in every boy and girl. The admirable traits displayed on a daily basis by the school staff resulted in producing countless successful students, a list which includes such distinguished individuals as Winston Groom, the award-winning author of *Forrest Gump*, and former Alabama Governor Don Siegelman.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Leinkauf Elementary School on its 100th anniversary. In a time when Americans are placing more emphasis and more effort into providing quality educational opportunities for their children, Leinkauf continues to set the standard for success in this area. I congratulate the faculty, staff, and students currently at the school, and I also congratulate the generations of students who have used their education and their experiences there as a springboard to success later in life.

It is my hope Leinkauf Elementary School continues its story of success for another one hundred years.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO LOLA SPRADLEY

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 20, 2004

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege to rise today to pay tribute to Lola Spradley and thank her for her leadership and contributions to Colorado as the Speaker of the Colorado House of Representatives. She has brought an outstanding level of energy and commitment to the Colorado General Assembly throughout her years of public service. As Lola celebrates her retirement, let it be known that the citizens of Colorado and I are eternally grateful for the guidance she has provided in making Colorado a leader of American democracy.

Lola was appointed to the House of Representatives to fill a term in 1997, and was subsequently elected in 1998, 2000, and 2002. Serving Chaffee, Custer, Fremont, Park, Pueblo and Saguache counties, Lola has fought for the issues that are important to her constituency, including renewable energy, affordable health care, and water conservation. Before serving as Speaker of the House, Lola was the House Majority Leader, and currently chairs the Executive Committee of Legislative Council and the Legislative Council Committee. Her outstanding record of public service has garnered Lola numerous legislator of the year awards, the Fremont Economic Development Corporation Citizen of the Year award in 2000, and the NFIB's Small Business Guardian of the Year award in 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, and 2002.

Lola's commitment to community participation exemplifies her belief that it is the duty of every citizen to do what they can to make their community stronger. She is an active member of the Canon City Lions Club, the Pueblo Community College Foundation Board of Directors, the Sangre De Cristo Arts Center Board of Directors, and the Colorado State Fair Ladies.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to pay tribute to State Representative Lola Spradley before this body of Congress and this nation for her selfless dedication to public service. It is clear that she has been an invaluable resource for the State of Colorado, and her efforts have helped ensure a promising future for our great country. I would like to extend my congratulations to Lola on her retirement and wish her and her husband Dale all the best in their future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING JOAN KELSCH

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 20, 2004

Mr. GERLACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Joan Kelsch for being honored by the Boyertown Area Times and the Boyertown Jaycees as the Educator of the Year for 29 years of dedicated service as a teacher at the Saint Francis Academy in Bally, Pennsylvania.

Joan Kelsch, a graduate of West Chester University in Pennsylvania, has been teaching at Saint Francis Academy for 29 years. She

began her career teaching fourth graders and has consistently demonstrated her dedication to education. While on maternity leave after the birth of each of her two children, she continued her teaching efforts as a substitute.

In 1982, recognizing her dedication and passion, Joan was asked by Father Joseph Fricker to create a kindergarten program for St. Francis Academy. Joan eagerly took on this task and created the first kindergarten class for the school consisting of thirty students.

Joan has been credited with creating an exciting and enriching learning environment for her students, while also enhancing the curriculum of several programs throughout the school. Her students have art work decorating the rooms and, not only does this artwork display the abilities of the children, but it also highlights the talent that Joan possesses as a teacher. Joan has created several learning devices for children, such as literature tea parties, where the students learn etiquette while also challenging their reading skills and vocabulary with students from the fifth grade. In this challenge, the students are also encouraged to use their imagination by creating new words and new definitions.

As a teacher in a Roman Catholic school, Joan also has the responsibility for aiding the spiritual guidance of her students. She prepares the students for the sacraments of Reconciliation and the Holy Communion. In addition, Joan is also a religion coordinator for St. Francis Academy. She attends yearly meetings to help update textbooks and curriculum for Catholic school students.

Outside of the classroom, Joan acts a Staff Liaison to the Home and School Association where she attends monthly meetings. Joan also spends her time volunteering in her community. Each summer, Joan and her husband, William, volunteer at the annual church carnival and, every fall, Joan works at the Santa Secret Shop at the annual bazaar for the school.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me today in recognizing Joan Kelsch for her many years of exemplary service to St. Francis Academy's community.

IN HONOR OF TED FEHRING

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 20, 2004

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Ted Fehring, who turned 90 on April 8th. Born to buggy manufacturers in Columbus, Indiana, Ted has lived a full and truly exceptional life. A man of the highest moral integrity, Ted has proven to be a devoted family man, dedicated member of the community, faithful Christian and successful businessman.

Ted married Marie Theresa Grote on June 29, 1938, and the rest is history—with five daughters, Janet, Jean, Joy, Julie and JoAnn, thirteen grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren, Ted has led a rich family life.

As for his professional career, Ted has embarked successfully upon several different career paths: he was a teacher, a coach, an escrow officer, Vice-President of a Savings and Loan, and President of a Mortgage and Investment company. Ted has been a Carmel resident since June of 1945 and his active participation in our community has been invaluable.