such as wagons, ladders, and lanterns. Each member paid dues to fund the organization. They also elected the first officers of the company; Chief Walter Allen, Treasurer Charles M. Allen, Secretary Raymond A. Henry, Wardens Harry W. Bennett and Frank S. Happe.

Membership requirements were simple and reflected the physical challenges of firefighting and the social mores of the times. Members needed to be men between the ages of 18 and 45, in good health, and to live within one and a half miles of the village green. Members were called to action by the ringing of the church bell in the Presbyterian Church and had to live close enough to hear the bell and respond quickly.

The first piece of apparatus for the new Hose Company was a hand pulled hose cart and 500 feet of hose donated by the Basking Ridge Improvement Society. The Fire Company proudly displays this hose cart at special events and gatherings. Soon after, the Company approved the purchase of fabric fire buckets for 5 cents each and the construction of several ladders and a cart upon which to carry the ladders and buckets. Lumber and materials for the construction of the ladders and cart were donated by M.F. Ellis, Robert C. Bishop, and David Y. Moore.

In 1906, the Basking Ridge Hose Company incorporated under the laws of New Jersey as a volunteer Fire Company, renaming itself the Basking Ridge Fire Company No. 1, Inc. Men and horses pulled the equipment to fire scenes until the first motorized fire apparatus was purchased in 1911. Basking Ridge's first fire truck was a Moline Motor Car, a 40 horsepower contraption that carried six men. The first Fire House was built by resident volunteers at the corner of Henry and South Maple in 1905 at a total cost of $600. It was replaced by a brick structure in 1915.

The Basking Ridge Fire Company No. 1 has grown over the years to meet the changing demands of the town and to incorporate the newest firefighting and lifesaving technologies. In 1985 the company moved into a new headquarters at 30 Washington Avenue. The Company operates three fire engines (purchased in 1986/97, 1992 & 2003 respectively) a heavy rescue truck (acquired in 1997), and increased from one to two ambulances in 1988. The entire roster numbers over fifty people although only approximately 35 are active firefighters/EMTs. The Company remains all-volunteer and responds to over 900 requests for help, fire and first aid, a year as well as serving at numerous civic events.

Mr. Speaker, I urge you and my colleagues to join me in congratulating the volunteers of the Basking Ridge Fire Company No. 1 on the celebration of 100 years of a rich history in the protection of one of New Jersey's finest municipalities.

A TRIBUTE IN HONOR OF 2004 LeGRAND SMITH OUTSTANDING TEACHER AWARD WINNER MELISSA SOUVA OF BRONSON, MICHIGAN

HON. NICK SMITH

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 24, 2004

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, education is the key to our Nation's future prosperity and security. The formidable responsibility of molding and inspiring young minds to the avenues of hope, opportunity and achievement partially rests in the hands of our teachers. Today, I would like to recognize a teacher from Bronson, Michigan that significantly influenced and motivated exceptional students in academics and leadership who were winners of the LeGrand Smith Scholarship.

Melissa Souva teaches Agricultural Science at Bronson High School in Bronson, Michigan. She is credited with instilling in students an enthusiasm for not only these subjects, but also for life. As one of her students, Bobby Jo Ludwick said, "Mrs. Souva has taught me the importance of good leadership and community service. The self-confidence that I've gained from her support will play a role in my life everyday. She has taught me that I can make a difference. I thank her for making a difference for me." The respect and gratitude of her students speaks well of Melissa's ability to challenge young minds and encourage them to always put forth their best effort.

Melissa Souva's extraordinary work as a teacher has challenged and inspired countless students to move beyond the teenage tendency of superficial study and encourage them to foster deeper thought and connections to the real world. Arguably, no profession is more important because of its daily influence upon the future leaders of our community and our country, and Melissa's impact on their students is certainly worthy of recognition.

On behalf of the Congress of the United States of America, I am proud to extend our highest praise to Melissa Souva. We thank her for her continuing dedication to teaching and her willingness and ability to challenge and inspire students to strive for success.

COMMENDING DR. LARRY MILLER ON HIS OUTSTANDING SERVICE TO HIS COMMUNITY AND UPCOMING RETIREMENT AS SUPERINTENDENT OF MILLVILLE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

HON. FRANK A. LoBIONDO

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 24, 2004

Mr. LoBIONDO Mr. Speaker I rise today to commend Dr. Larry Miller on his long and distinguished service to his community, and congratulate him on his upcoming retirement as superintendent for Millville Public Schools on July 1, 2004.

Dr. Miller has been a strong advocate for the educational community of Southern New Jersey for the past forty-one years. He personally has given his time and energy to better the educational system on behalf of his students. I am happy to say that Dr. Miller's leadership and tireless advocacy were recognized recently when he was chosen as the New Jersey Superintendent of the Year for 2004. His hard work has set a high standard for all educators and community leaders to follow.

Dr. Miller rose up through the ranks of the Millville Public Schools, and has left a trail of positive change and enthusiastic accomplishments. I would like to congratulate Dr. Miller, and thank him on behalf of the people and students of New Jersey's Second Congressional District for a job well done. I hope he enjoys every bit of his retirement, he certainly deserves it.

TRIBUTE TO SERGEANT MAJOR RALPH GUERRERO, JR.

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 24, 2004

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Sergeant Major Ralph Guerrero Jr. who on June 24, 1974, enlisted in the United States Marines Corps and will officially retire today after 30 years of honorable and distinguished service. Sergeant Major Guerrero leaves the Marines Corps as one of the most respected and accomplished member of our armed forces.

A native of San Fernando, California, Sergeant Major Guerrero was born on July 14th 1956, and graduated from San Fernando High School in June 1974. Sergeant Major Guerrero and his wife Silvia P. Gomez have a son, Ralph III, and a daughter, Chyenne. Sergeant Major Guerrero is the quintessential local success story.

After he graduated from the Marine Corps Recruit Depot, San Diego, CA and completed Infantry Training School at Camp Pendleton, CA, Sergeant Major Guerrero embarked on a successful Marine Corps career. From his participation in the evacuation of South Vietnam and Cambodia; to his amphibious reconnaissance training; to his. assignment to Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego California, where he served as a Drill Instructor, Senior Drill Instructor, Chief Drill Instructor and was meritoriously promoted to Gunnery Sergeant; Sergeant Major Guerrero has proven himself a critical team player.

Sergeant Major Guerrero's leadership and expertise were vital to the Marine Corps during his deployment to El Salvador as an Advisor to a Battalion of Salvadorian Marines. During his subsequent deployments, including: Operation Desert Shield, Operation Desert Storm, Operation Sea Angel, Operation Restore Hope, Operation Noble Eagle and his visits to Marines in Afghanistan and Uzbekistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom his contributions were invaluable. His exemplary leadership skills proved critical to the Marine Corps during his tour of duty at Headquarters Battalion, Headquarters Marine Corps, where he served as the Command and the Military District of Washington Sergeant Major. During this tour, Sergeant Major Guerrero was a member of the FY99 E–8/E–9 selection board, Chairman Senior Enlisted Advisory Community for USO, a member of the Board of Director's for USO and Navy Marine Corps Relief Society, and a member of the Foreign Joint Services NonCommissioned Officer Associations.

In July 1999, Sergeant Major Guerrero was assigned to a Major Marine Corps command, as the Sergeant Major for Marine Corps Air Station, Iwakuni Japan. In 2001, he was assigned as the Sergeant Major for the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing. These important assignments were evidence of the great respect and trust he had earned.

Sergeant Major Guerrero is deservedly highly decorated. He has earned the Legion of