

He added that he's ready to finish out the rest of the school year.

"I'm still very motivated by what I do every day and I feel very good about that," he said. "I always wanted to retire before I felt the need to retire."

LOOKING BACK

Wimmer's earliest career move actually saw him leaving his own education under difficult circumstances.

As a junior in high school, Wimmer was expelled during the middle of his junior year, forcing him to move away from home to live with relatives and change schools. Because of the move, he lost his car and his girlfriend.

"That was a rough time," he said. "The good thing that came out of that was I got a new girlfriend and eventually got my car back and I didn't get into anymore trouble again.

"You could say I learned my lesson . . . and I'm still married to the same girl today after 43 years."

Wimmer said he's tried to use the experience for positive purposes in the school district.

One of these purposes was the development of the district's alternative-education program in 1972. Often after finishing his daytime duties, Wimmer would work with students in the night program.

He said he's always used his own experiences to motivate students who find themselves in a similar situation.

"That doesn't necessarily indicate they cannot go on from there and be successful," he said.

Wimmer said the key to any success in his career comes down to one thing—his education.

"My education is what opened the doors for those opportunities," he said.

Wimmer started his career with the district the same year Olathe Unified School District No. 233 was born. The district was formed in 1965 when five school districts—Countryside School District 103, Meadowlane School District 108, Mount Zion School District 105, Olathe School District 16 and Pleasant View School District 96—merged. After graduating from Pittsburg State University in 1965, Wimmer started teaching Spanish at Olathe Junior High School in downtown Olathe, where Millcreek Center now is.

He moved on to Santa Fe Trail Junior High School when it opened a few years later.

He received his master's degree in educational administration and curriculum from the University of Kansas and became assistant principal at the school in 1969 and was appointed director of personnel for the district nine years later.

In 1980, he was appointed assistant superintendent. Three years later he completed his doctoral degree in educational administration and curriculum, also from KU.

Wimmer was selected superintendent in 1991 after a nationwide search. As superintendent, he encouraged the board to join in a lawsuit against Kansas regarding school funding in 1991 and implemented a new school funding formula, which included the local option budget.

The major projects Wimmer stayed on for after his 1996 eligibility for retirement included four bond issues totaling \$314 million. He also saw 16 schools open, two district activity centers and other facilities.

During his time as the district's leader, Wimmer saw enrollment jump from 15,357 students to nearly 23,700 students, making it the third-largest district in Kansas. The district's staff has nearly doubled. It now employs more than 3,600 people. Wimmer's

awards during his years as superintendent include the Olathe Citizen of the Year from the Olathe Area Chamber of Commerce in 1997, Kansas Superintendent of the Year that same year from the Kansas Association of School Administrators and the Distinguished Community Service Award from MidAmerica Nazarene University in 2000.

However, what you won't find on his proverbial mantle is what he's most proud of—his relationship with students, parents and staff and his contribution to maintaining the feel of a small community within the district.

"I think it's critical to the climate of the organization," he said. "Everything we do is accomplished by people. It's important the person in my role have a good rapport with the people to maintain a positive climate in the school district."

While Wimmer has been superintendent, student achievement scores have reached all-time highs on the SAT, ACT and Kansas Assessment tests and the district's staff development methods were chosen as a model by the U.S. Department of Education. He said he's also proud of the district's reputation locally. A survey conducted during parent teacher conferences this fall showed 97 percent of the 1,900 parents who participated giving the district an A or B grade.

Wimmer cites the district's continued focus on excellence, which has led it to being dubbed the only district in Kansas to receive the Kansas Award of Excellence. A year ago, the district launched its 21st Century High School Programs in aerospace and engineering; e-communication; biotechnology/life sciences; and geosciences. The programs are now being studied nationally by districts seeking to find ways to engage students in academics and make classroom learning relevant.

"I think that's the most significant reform movement you would find anywhere at the secondary level anywhere in the country," he said. Staying in the same district for his entire career, despite opportunities elsewhere, is another achievement.

"I never started out to do that," he said. "A growing district provides opportunities for advancement. I have just been very fortunate to have all of my professional career aspirations met while I was in this district."

WHAT'S NEXT

As his education career ends, Wimmer said he plans on staying in Olathe, which he's called home for 40 years.

"I'm looking forward to being a private citizen," he said.

He said he plans to continue to be an advocate for children and public education. "I'm going to consider other options that might come available and continue to be involved in the community," he said.

He said he doesn't plan on pursuing any political aspirations.

"At one time I did, but at this point and time I do not. I don't like the negative tone of politics," he said.

Other possibilities for Wimmer may include doing some consulting work or even writing a book.

"I have some thoughts on what it will take for education in the future to achieve the higher expectations that are imposed on schools today," he said.

As for the district's future, he said the board now must determine what type of process it wants to utilize in selecting his replacement. He said he expects a special board meeting in the coming weeks to discuss the process and the road ahead. He said he expects the process to be completed by February.

He stressed that while he may assist in the process, he won't take part in making any decisions.

"That's entirely up to the board of education," he said.

Wimmer said he expects the board to accept his notice of retirement at its December meeting.

Wimmer said he knows he made the right decision and doesn't feel like he overstayed his welcome.

"I know I didn't wait too long," he said. "I hope I just didn't go too early and only time will tell."

Wimmer said he's going to miss the people he works with, the students and others he's come in contact with as superintendent, among other things.

"I went to the football game and said, 'This is something I'm going to miss,'" he said. "My wife reminded me that I can still go back to the football games. I plan on continuing to go."

TRIBUTE TO CHARLES W. CHERRY, SR.

HON. JOHN L. MICA

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 19, 2004

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, it was my privilege to know Charles W. Cherry, Sr., a community leader and distinguished citizen of Florida's 7th Congressional District. I join many others from across the country in mourning the loss of this outstanding American. His passing is a significant loss to the City of Daytona Beach and to the State of Florida.

Charles arrived in Daytona Beach in 1952 during the height of segregation. As a civil rights activist in the 1960's and 1970's, he helped organize bus boycotts, fought for better wages at area hospitals, and advocated for better representation for the minority community in Daytona Beach. He became president of the Volusia County-Daytona Beach Branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, later becoming president of the state branch and a member of the national board of directors.

In 1978, Charles founded the Daytona Times, a newspaper that has grown into a media company covering Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, with two newspapers and 11 radio stations. He was elected to the Daytona Beach City Commission in 1995, where he served five consecutive terms. As a commissioner, Charles was a strong supporter for new infrastructure and improved city services in black neighborhoods.

Charles W. Cherry, Sr. worked during his life fighting for the principles of equality, justice and opportunity. The City of Daytona Beach has lost a great champion for our community. I will always treasure his public service, his friendship and the example his life has set for so many.

My deepest sympathy is extended to his wife Julia T. Cherry, his son Charles W. Cherry, Jr., his family and his friends.

IN RECOGNITION OF NEW JERSEY ASSEMBLYMAN UPENDRA J. CHIVUKULA

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, November 20, 2004

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Assemblyman Upendra J. Chivukula of

the 17th legislative district in New Jersey, for his commitment to public service and leadership within the Indian-American Community.

As a professional engineer, Assemblyman Chivukula has applied his expertise effectively to develop public policy. In addition to serving as Vice-Chair on the Commerce and Economic Development Committee and as a committee member on both the Telecommunications and Utilities Committee and Environment and Solid Waste Committee, Assemblyman Chivukula serves as an active member on the NJ Commission on Science and Technology. His efforts on the Commission were instrumental in planning the nation's first state-supported stem cell research institute.

Before becoming the first American of Asian Indian descent elected to the NJ State Assembly in 2001, Upendra had previously demonstrated his commitment to the public by serving as Mayor of Franklin Township for four years. In addition to serving as an Assemblyman, Chivukula continues his involvement by serving as a councilman and as a member of numerous Middlesex and Somerset County committees, including the Somerset County Affordable Housing Board of Trustees, the Cultural and Historic Commission, and the Middlesex County Cultural and Historic Commission.

Assemblyman Chivukula has built an impressive public service record as an elected official. However, no where is his leadership more notable than within the Indian-American Community. As one of the highest ranking Indian Americans in this country, Assemblyman Chivukula has worked to build public awareness and understanding of Indian-American culture, and has worked to ensure that issues facing the Indian American community are heard and addressed. His dedication to the Indian-American Community has been proven through his service on the national committee of the Association of Indians in America, as past secretary of the NJ Chapter of Indian American Forum for Political Education, and as past president of the Asian American Political Coalition. The outstanding leadership of Assemblyman Chivukula is evident even here, in Congress, as it was his work with Congressman Frank Pallone that led to the creation of the Congressional Caucus on India and Indian Americans.

On a personal note, it is with much gratitude that I want to recognize the efforts of Assemblyman Chivukula and his wife Dayci and Mr. Harish Mehta to organize forty members of the Indian-American community in central New Jersey to visit Washington, D.C., as part of my Indian-American "DC Day," on Thursday, September 30th, to meet with members of the Congress and leaders of academic and non-profit organizations to discuss important issues affecting Indian-Americans nationwide. This is a good example of the Assemblyman's efforts to educate and involve the Indian-American community in public affairs.

Mr. Speaker, people like Assemblyman Chivukula help make our community in Central New Jersey strong and well-informed. I ask you, Mr. Speaker, to join me in commending him.

TRIBUTE TO MR. SAM FLOWERS,
FOUNDER AND PRESIDENT OF
THE HICA ORGANIZATION

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, November 20, 2004

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to a man who can be described in many ways. A good son, a husband, father, grandfather, neighbor, friend, churchman, community leader and much more. I simply call him a giant who has devoted more than 50 years of his life to helping human-kind.

Sam was one of the early African Americans who moved into the North Lawndale community. He did not just move in, he jumped in with both feet and immediately began to help organize block clubs, became an active member of the Presentation Church and helped to anchor many of its activities. In Sam's community many of the people could not get bank loans or mortgages and were buying their homes on contract. They discovered that they were being ripped off and thus formed the Contract Buyers League. Sam played an active role.

In the 1960's the Lawndale Peoples Planning and Action Conference was formed, Sam was an active member, later on Pyramidwest Development Corporation was formed. Sam became a member of its board. Out of these groups and organizations came the California Gardens nursing home, Community bank of Lawndale, the Martin Luther King, Jr. shopping center and plaza.

Sam eventually helped develop the Garfield Counseling Center, formed HICA and is currently involved with a housing development project for low and moderate income people. When you drive down Independence Boulevard you can see these buildings going up between Arthington and the Eisenhower Expressway. Sam was a tireless worker who never gave up. He gave every ounce of his strength and devotion that he could muster to his beloved family of which the North Lawndale Community is an integral part. Well done our good and faithful servant, you have moved to another community where peace will forever be present.

NOBEL PEACE LAUREATES

HON. EDWARD J. MARKEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, November 20, 2004

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. Speaker, from November 10th–12th, in Rome, Italy, over 20 Nobel Peace Laureates and Nobel Peace organizations met and addressed core challenges to our world under the theme—"A United World or a Divided World? Multiethnicity, Human Rights, Terrorism."

The Nobel Peace Summit was sponsored under the high patronage of the President of the Italian Republic, the city of Rome, and the Gorbachev Foundation.

My friend Jonathan Granoff, President of the Global Security Institute, lead the delegation of the Laureate organization the International Peace Bureau (IPB), and was instrumental in the drafting of the final statement of the Summit.

I believe it represents a valuable contribution made by a group with profound moral authority. I believe we should consider their concerns in our deliberations here in the U.S. Congress.

FINAL STATEMENT OF THE 5TH SUMMIT OF
NOBEL PEACE LAUREATES

November 12, 2004, Rome, Italy

Two decades ago, the world was swept with a wave of hope. Inspired by the popular movements for peace, freedom, democracy and solidarity, the nations of the world worked together to end the cold war. Yet the opportunities opened up by that historic change are slipping away. We are gravely concerned with the resurgent nuclear and conventional arms race, disrespect for international law and the failure of the world's governments to address adequately the challenges of poverty and environmental degradation. A cult of violence is spreading globally; the opportunity to build a culture of peace, advocated by the United Nations, Pope John Paul II, the Dalai Lama and other spiritual leaders, is receding.

Alongside the challenges inherited from the past there are new ones, which, if not properly addressed, could cause a clash of civilizations, religions and cultures. We reject the idea of the inevitability of such a conflict. We are convinced that combating terrorism in all its forms is a task that should be pursued with determination. Only by reaffirming our shared ethical values—respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms—and by observing democratic principles, within and amongst countries, can terrorism be defeated. We must address the root causes of terrorism—poverty, ignorance and injustice—rather than responding to violence with violence.

Unacceptable violence is occurring daily against women and children. Children remain our most important neglected treasure. Their protection, security and health should be the highest priority. Children everywhere deserve to be educated in and for peace. There is no excuse for neglecting their safety and welfare and, particularly, for their suffering in war.

The war in Iraq has created a hotbed of dangerous instability and a breeding ground for terrorism. Credible reports of the disappearance of nuclear materials cannot be ignored. While we mourn the deaths of tens of thousands of people, none of the goals proclaimed by the coalition have been achieved.

The challenges of security, poverty and environmental crisis can only be met successfully through multilateral efforts based on the rule of law. All nations must strictly fulfill their treaty obligations and reaffirm the indispensable role of the United Nations and the primary responsibility of the UN Security Council for maintaining peace.

We support a speedy, peaceful resolution of the North Korean nuclear issue, including a verifiable end to North Korea's nuclear weapons program, security guarantees and lifting of sanctions on North Korea. Both the six-party talks and bilateral efforts by the United States and North Korea should contribute to such an outcome.

We welcome recent progress in the talks between Iran and Great Britain, France and Germany on the Iranian nuclear program issue and hope that the United States will join in the process to find a solution within the framework of the International Atomic Energy Agency.

We call for the reduction of military expenditures and for conclusion of a treaty that would control arms trade and prohibit sales of arms where they could be used to violate international human rights standards and humanitarian law.