

IN HONOR OF THE NEW EMERGENCY SERVICES CENTER OF MONTEREY COUNTY

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 1, 2005

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Monterey County's new Emergency Services Center. This state-of-the-art essential services facility houses the County Emergency Operations Center (EOC) and Office of Emergency Services, as well as the consolidated 9–1–1 Dispatch Center, which serves public safety agencies and virtually all 420,000 residents of Monterey County. The need for this facility and its coordinated, integrated approach to emergency and communications services was starkly highlighted during the floods that devastated the county in 1995. Harry Robins, Emergency Services Manager, identified the necessary improvements in planning, budgeting, fiscal constraints, design, construction and installation of equipment, never wavering in his commitment to the vision of what this facility should be, and what it would mean to the people of Monterey County.

Joining the county mid-stream in this planning effort was Emergency Communications Director Lynn Diebold, who solidified community backing and obtained fiscal support from every city and public safety agency served by the unique thirty-year partnership known as "County Comm". The final piece of the support and funding puzzle was achieved when I was able to secure approval for a HUD technology grant of nearly one million dollars. This funding ensured that the facility would be properly equipped to handle the day-to-day calls for police, fire and emergency medical calls for service, as well as improved the county's ability to respond regionally, with all local and State agencies, during any wildland fire, flood, earthquake or man-made disaster. These Federal grant funds were used to purchase essential telecommunications equipment and planning expertise, critical to meeting the joint missions of Emergency Services and Emergency Communications.

The County Board of Supervisors, City Mayors and Councils, Fire District Boards and public safety organizations throughout the county are justifiably proud of their partnership with each other and the Federal government on this important regional project. Board of Supervisors Chair Lou Calcagno remarked at the official opening in August 2004, that he was "particularly pleased that in these challenging fiscal times, this facility was built on time, on budget and is 100 percent paid for." He added, "With no financing or bonds to pay off, this project is a testament to the good planning and hard work of county staff and the support and financial participation of our partner cities and Federal government". City of Monterey Mayor, Dan Albert, who serves as the Chair of the Emergency Communications Policy Advisory Council, acknowledged the dedication and hard work of the 911 dispatchers and staff who handle over 600,000 911 and non-emergency telephone calls and more than 500,000 dispatch incidents annually.

Mr. Speaker, I was pleased to be able to do my part in helping secure funding for this

project. I join my colleagues in celebrating the opening of this building that has so many significant benefits to the county, and in thanking all those who work here for their commitment to the welfare of their fellow citizens.

RECOGNIZING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CALIFORNIA LEAGUE OF FOOD PROCESSORS

HON. WILLIAM M. THOMAS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 1, 2005

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join the California League of Food Processors, CLFP, as they celebrate their 100th anniversary.

For those who are not familiar with the CLFP, it was founded in 1905 in San Francisco and was originally known as the Canners League of California. Its mission then was to represent the canners of California fruits and vegetables. Since then, its membership, and its mission, has expanded to include not only canners but also freezers, dryers, and dehydrators; its membership contains familiar names such as Bell-Carter, Campbell Soup, Del Monte, H.J. Heinz, Kraft, Rio Bravo, Sun-Maid, and Sunsweet.

These companies, along with the other members of the CLFP, play a crucial role in California's \$27 billion agriculture industry. In a typical year, CLFP members can, freeze, or dry 11 million tons of tomatoes, 500,000 tons of peaches, 120,000 tons of olives, and millions of tons of other fruits and vegetables such as garlic, prunes, and strawberries.

For the past 100 years, the CLFP has worked to ensure that the food grown and processed in California is of the highest quality. In the process, the CLFP and its Members have encouraged the growth of the California fruit and vegetable industry by being a leader in the development of technological innovations that have helped the industry achieve advances in fruit and vegetable varieties, harvesting automation, processing mechanization, food packaging, and distribution systems. Accordingly, I trust that my colleagues will join me in congratulating the CLFP on their 100th anniversary.

CONGRATULATING GARY SCHMIDT AND OTHER WINNERS OF THE 2005 NEWBERY AND PRINTZ BOOK AWARDS

HON. VERNON J. EHLERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 1, 2005

Mr. EHLERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer congratulations and recognition to Prof. Gary Schmidt for having his book for young adults, "Lizzie Bright and the Buckminster Boy," recognized as a 2005 John Newbery Honor Book and as a 2005 Michael L. Printz Honor Book.

Professor Schmidt, a member of the English Department faculty at Calvin College in Grand Rapids, Michigan, in my district, took 3 years to write "Lizzie Bright and the Buckminster Boy," which he based on a tragic 1912 inci-

dent—the eradication of a small African-American community from a Maine island by townspeople from the nearby community of Phippsburg, Maine. The story follows the friendship between two teenagers—Lizzie Bright Turner, an African-American resident of the island of Malaga, and Turner Buckminster, the son of Phippsburg's newly arrived minister.

In making the award, Newbery Award Committee chair Susan Faust said Professor Schmidt's book is "[s]teeped in imagery and laced with surprising humor," and that it "... explores powerlessness, possibility and the profound impact individuals can make." "We spent a year studying the universe of eligible books, and it is a thrill to name this as one of our honor books," Faust said.

Despite his success as an author, Professor Schmidt continues his work as an educator. In fact, he found out about his honors while leading a group of students on a 3-week study trip in Massachusetts and, after dealing with the requisite media interviews, celebrated with his students.

"It's a tremendous honor in a year when the books are strong and wonderful," Schmidt said. "The (book) is very close to my heart."

Mr. Speaker, this is a book that we can recommend to all young people, with a wonderful theme of young people learning to make important decisions. It is a story that illuminates that important transition from childhood to adulthood.

I hope all my colleagues will join me in congratulating Prof. Gary Schmidt and his fellow honorees: 2005 Newbery Medal winner Cynthia Kadohata for her book, "Kira-Kira," and fellow Newbery Honor Book recipients Jennifer Choldenko ("Al Capone Does My Shirts") and Russell Freedman ("The Voice that Challenged a Nation"), as well as 2005 Printz Award winner Meg Rosoff for her book, "how i live now" and fellow Printz Honor Book recipients Kenneth Oppel ("Airborn") and Allan Stratton ("Chanda's Secrets").

HONORING SHIRLEY CHISHOLM AND JAMES FORMAN

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 1, 2005

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, as we begin the country's annual celebration of Black History Month, I find it appropriate to reflect on the lives of Shirley Chisholm and James Forman, who both passed away in the last month. Both of them were critical figures in the ongoing endeavor to ensure equal rights and opportunity for all Americans. On a personal level, their life stories are case studies in the power of courage to overcome seemingly insurmountable obstacles.

In recollecting the life of Shirley Chisholm, the words fighter and pioneer come to mind. The child of Caribbean immigrants, she would challenge the Democratic machine in Brooklyn, and an all-male field of candidates, to become the first African American woman elected to Congress. Along the way, she used the slogan "unbought and unbossed" to affirm her determination to steer clear of party and gender nonns, and fight for what she believed.

During her seven terms in Congress, she would champion the rights and interests of