

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING JOSEPH DiMENNA ON
THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIRE-
MENT

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 6, 2006

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to join the community of Stratford, Connecticut as they pay tribute to an outstanding member of their community, Joseph DiMenna. After 51 years of dedicated service, Joe DiMenna will retire from his distinguished career in education.

I have often spoken of our Nation's need for talented, creative educators ready to help our children learn and grow. Joe DiMenna has been just that kind of teacher and administrator. After receiving a Bachelor's Degree in education from Western Connecticut State University, Mr. DiMenna began his teaching career at the Eli Whitney School where he taught fourth grade. During his time as a teacher, he taught at a variety of levels as well as teaching Americanization and summer school in Bridgeport. Upon being awarded a National Science Fellowship in Geology and Astronomy, he spent a summer in class and field study at the Delaware Water Gap. Through his unique dedication to education, both for his students and himself, Joe DiMenna exemplified all that we look for in a teacher.

After further pursuing his studies at the University of Connecticut and Southern Connecticut State University, Mr. DiMenna received his masters and sixth year degrees from Fairfield University. He would first serve as principal of the old Honeyspot School in Stratford where he oversaw the construction of the new Honeyspot School. On moving day, he joined with his students as they carried their desks from the old building to the new. Upon leaving Honeyspot, he would go on to serve as principal at Eli Whitney School, Chapel Street School, and Second Hill Lane School. Over the course of his 51-year career, Joe DiMenna has served with both integrity and distinction, earning him the respect of faculty, administrators, and Board of Education members. His dedication, commitment, and energy has touched the lives of thousands of our young people, helping to shape not only the foundation of their education but their character as well. We, as a community, owe Joe DiMenna a great debt of gratitude for all of his good work.

I am proud to stand today to join his wife of 47 years, Frances, their two sons, three grandchildren, family, friends, colleagues and community members in extending my very best wishes to Joseph DiMenna as he celebrates his retirement. I understand that Joe and Frances plan to travel more extensively, opening new opportunities for learning and teaching. My very best wishes to them for many more years of health and happiness.

RECOGNIZING AWARD-WINNING
SUSTAINABLE HOUSING AT
STANFORD UNIVERSITY

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 6, 2006

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Jennifer Tobias and Stanford University's Green Dorm team for winning the Environmental Protection Agency's 2006 P3 award.

Tobias and her colleagues designed a sustainable facility for research, housing, and community space. The building forges together practical functionality while eliminating carbon emissions, closing the water cycle, and optimizing material resources.

This national competition, sponsored by EPA's Office of Research and Development, enables college students to research, develop and design scientific, technical, and policy solutions to sustainability challenges. Sustainable solutions are environmentally friendly, efficiently use natural resources and are economically competitive. The P3 award includes funding up to \$75,000 that gives the students an opportunity to further develop their designs and move them to the marketplace.

I commend Jennifer and her colleagues for their innovative project design, and I hope they continue their important research and development on sustainable solutions to human endeavors. Jennifer and her colleagues are role-models who demonstrate that environmental and economical interests can be brought together in tomorrow's designs.

CELEBRATING THE 140TH ANNI-
VERSARY OF THE SANTA BAR-
BARA SCHOOL DISTRICTS

HON. LOIS CAPPS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 6, 2006

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the Santa Barbara School Districts as we celebrate the 140th anniversary of their founding on June 6, 1866.

Santa Barbara's educational tradition is one of the oldest in the state. This tradition is rooted in the 18th century Spanish era where historical records indicate that in 1795 Santa Barbara had the second school in Alta, California (San Jose had the first, which was opened one year earlier). Santa Barbara's first school was located at the Presidio where the teacher was paid \$125 per year, with each soldier of the Presidio paying a tribute of one dollar toward the teacher's salary.

When the Santa Barbara School District was formed in 1866, County Superintendent Alpheus B. Thompson reported that there were three school districts in Santa Barbara County: San Buenaventura, Montecito and

Santa Barbara. By 1866, the schools had moved from county control to control by the electorate of the city.

The three school districts had two schools each and together there were a total of six teachers. By 1867, the three districts served 340 students, with 243 of them in the Santa Barbara district. The average salary in the county was \$70 per month for male teachers and \$62 per month for female teachers and the length of the school year varied from 3 to 5 months.

In 1870 a new school house was built on Cota Street and the first playground was established in the city. The playground was turned over to the school by the city council after the school trustees agreed to plant at least 20 shade trees and care for their growth. Voters decided, in April of 1870, to impose a tax to construct Lincoln School. In 1884, Eugene Fawcett sold a tract of land to the school district for the construction of Franklin School. The school district paid \$1,000 for the property where Parma School is located.

As a former school nurse in the Santa Barbara school district, I am absolutely delighted to celebrate the 140 years of strong public education that the district has provided. I am proud of the district for its vision and dedication to quality over the years and I look forward to the continued success of the district and its many programs. Congratulations on 140 years well done!

TALL AFAR MAYOR AND TROOP
BRAVERY

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 6, 2006

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise this evening to commend one of the bravest acts of personal courage that I have seen in many years.

In the face of deadly car bombings, suicide attacks and assassination attempts, there are some Iraqi leaders who are willing to tell the truth about the successes of our American troops in Iraq and to share the stories of their generosity and courage.

Earlier this month, one of my constituents named Roger Hattersley sent me a letter written by the mayor of Tall Afar, Iraq. Roger's son is an enlisted soldier serving in Iraq as part of the 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment, and had sent his father a copy of this letter.

Having personally visited Tall Afar just this winter on a CODEL with the Government Reform Committee, I was very interested to read what the mayor had to say.

Mr. Speaker, I am going to read the letter here on the House floor so that all Americans can hear the bravery and courage of Mayor Najim Abdullah Abid Al-Jibouri and also the good works of our young men and women in uniform.

To the courageous men and women of the 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment, who have

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