

as well as an overall championship. They advanced each of these years to compete at the State level, each time competing against more than 45 other teams. One of these State competitions resulted in the team being honored with the distinguished Judge's Award.

The 2006 Robotiacs team consists of: Lena Colon, R.J. Groszewski, and Antonio Rosa, all sixth grade students, and two new members, third grade student Christopher Tucker and fifth grade student Connor Westerfield. With this year's theme being centered on nanotechnology, the team was given the task of creating a way to use existing technologies or to create a new product utilizing nanostructures. The result of their research and innovation was a quite impressive roofing system, which produces hydrogen that is compressed, stored, and used in the future by a fuel cell found in a home, thus eliminating the need for dependence on natural gas, oil, and coal. This, which the team is quick to point out, is very different than a solar panel that uses the sun's energy to produce electricity.

The Robotiacs are coached by Mrs. Alicia Madeka, a third grade teacher at Kenwood Elementary School. Mrs. Madeka, who has coached the team for the past 4 years, is a shining example of what it means to be a teacher. She is dedicated to educating tomorrow's leaders, and she encourages these students to realize that through hard work and self-sacrifice, they can make a significant contribution to the future.

Mrs. Madeka and these amazing students are truly an inspiration to their school and the community. The Robotiacs' commitment to furthering their knowledge in math, science, and technology, and then using this knowledge in ways that can benefit society is truly remarkable. The tireless efforts of all involved in such endeavors are a source of pride for the community and the First Congressional District.

I would be remiss if I did not take a moment to offer a word of praise to all of the faculty, administrators, and supporters who play a special role in enriching these young lives with the desire to learn and succeed. Finally, special recognition is due for the parents and guardians of these gifted students. It is clear that these individuals have been raised in an environment where character and work ethic are instilled at an early age, and for that, they are to be commended.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I congratulate the Kenwood Robotiacs, Mrs. Alicia Madeka, and Principal Mary Beth Nickolaou on their success, and I wish them continued success as they go on to participate in the State competition this weekend. These gifted young students possess the work ethic and dedication that will make them successful leaders and contributing members of society throughout their lives. I hope that the rest of my colleagues will join with me in applauding the Kenwood Robotiacs for their commendable efforts.

IN RECOGNITION OF MAYOR
KATHY HICKS FOR HER SEVEN-
TEEN YEARS OF SERVICE TO
THE CITY OF WALNUT CREEK

HON. ELLEN O. TAUSCHER

OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, December 5, 2006

Mrs. TAUSCHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Mayor Kathy Hicks who is retiring after prominently serving the City of Walnut Creek for 17 years.

A resident of Walnut Creek since 1969, she has served on the City Council since November 1994, the City's Planning Commission and the Park, Recreation and Open Space Commission from 1990 to 1994, for which she served as chair. She also served as vice chair of the Walnut Creek Bicycle Advisory Committee, a member of the Boundary Oak Golf Course Advisory Committee, and the Creek Restoration Plan Task Force. She is past vice president of and current City Council liaison to Friends of the Creek, a non-profit organization supporting the creek restoration plan in downtown Walnut Creek.

Mrs. Hicks represents the City as board member for the Central Contra Costa Solid Waste Authority, for which she served as chair in 1995 and negotiated a historic reduction in garbage collection rates as part of a new, longterm contract. Additionally, she serves on City Council subcommittees focusing on the library, youth and schools, community outreach, and economic development. Mrs. Hicks is also the City liaison to the Transportation Commission and serves as vice chair of the League of California Cities Community Services Policy Committee.

Mrs. Hicks other community activities include membership in the Walnut Creek Open Space Foundation, the Friends of the Library, the Diablo Regional Arts Association, Ruth Bancroft Garden Conservancy, the Gardens at Heather Farm, the Walnut Creek Action for Beauty Council, the Lindsay Wildlife Museum, American Association of University Women, the National Women's Political Caucus and the League of Women Voters of Diablo Valley. Mrs. Hicks is also a 1994 graduate of the Walnut Creek Chamber of Commerce "Leadership Contra Costa."

For the 17 years Mrs. Hicks has served the city of Walnut Creek, her hard work and dedication has proved to be a great asset to the community. Today, I am proud to commend her for her service to the community, her dedication to duty and her commitment to the people of Walnut Creek.

IN HONOR AND RECOGNITION OF
DR. MARK H. COLLIER

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, December 5, 2006

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of Dr. Mark H. Collier, a distinguished leader and man of rich faith and vision whose unparalleled commitment to the Baldwin-Wallace College community, especially the learning, growth, and development of its student body, has touched the lives of all at B-W.

Dr. Collier, the seventh president of Baldwin-Wallace, has served in this capacity since 1999. Prior to assuming this role, he served as Vice President for Academic Affairs and Dean of the College for 18 years. He guided the curriculum and instruction, enrollment, continuing education, and multicultural affairs with strength, passion, and vigor. Dr. Collier came to B-W in 1974 as chaplain and professor of religion, before serving as pastor of the North Olmsted United Methodist Church. His academic expertise and contributions are equally significant.

During his time leading Baldwin-Wallace, he led multiple planning efforts, including a campus-wide master plan, which have enhanced Baldwin-Wallace's ability to continue to achieve its mission in the future. He continued to shape the culture of Baldwin-Wallace to reflect values of diversity, expression, global interconnectedness, and spirituality. His numerous accomplishments are not only reflected in the success of the college and campus atmosphere, but perhaps most important, in the societal contributions of its students and graduates.

In addition to serving Baldwin-Wallace, Dr. Collier's considerable commitment to the Cleveland-area community and beyond is evident in his volunteer work with the United Way, Leadership Cleveland, the Greater Cleveland Roundtable, and groups.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor and recognition of Dr. Mark H. Collier, as he leaves the post of President of Baldwin-Wallace College in Berea, Ohio, an academic institution which I know has benefited in tremendous ways through his time, effort, and leadership throughout the past 31 years.

RECOGNIZING MAYOR PAT KUHN

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, December 5, 2006

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Pat Kuhn for her exceptional service on the Oakdale City Council from 1992 to 1994 and as Mayor of Oakdale from 1994 to 2006.

During her tenure as Mayor, Miss Kuhn set an example for surrounding communities with her emphasis on public safety, education, and anti-graffiti laws. In 1996, Mayor Kuhn was appointed by then Governor Pete Wilson to the California Commission of Teacher Credentialing, a position that required Senate Confirmation, and was responsible for accrediting state colleges and setting education criteria for the teaching professionals for the State of California.

Mayor Kuhn has been honored for her contributions by the State of California and her community through her designation as "Woman of the Year" by the California Assembly and by receiving the Rotary Paul Harris Fellow in 2005.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Mayor Pat Kuhn for her many years of commitment and dedication. I urge my colleagues to join me in wishing her years of continued happiness and success.