

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Samuel A. Brandt for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

RECOGNIZING IMPERIAL HIGH SCHOOL RECIPIENT OF 2006 DISPPELLING THE MYTH AWARD

**HON. BOB FILNER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 6, 2006*

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, today I recognize Imperial High School, in my congressional district, the only high school in the Nation to receive a 2006 Dispelling the Myth Award, an award of the Education Trust. Five schools were presented this award by Department of Education Secretary Margaret Spellings on November 3, 2006, as part of the Education Trust's 17th National Conference on "Closing the Achievement Gap."

Imperial High is described in the award program as a school "just a few miles from the Mexican border. Seventy percent of Imperial's students are Latino, many of whom are English language learners. Seven years ago, the school was considered chaotic and low-performing. After . . . identifying students who need help and support, matching instruction to standards, and encouraging students to think beyond high school graduation, Imperial is now considered a California Distinguished School."

There are 773 students in grades 9–12 at Imperial High. Principal Lisa Tabares and her teachers deserve great praise for the caring environment and high standards they have developed in which remarkable accomplishments are achieved by their students.

The Education Trust, funded by the Annie E. Casey Foundation, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, the Carnegie Corporation of New York and eight other Foundations, has worked since 1990 for the high achievement of all students, focusing especially on schools serving concentrations of low-income or Latino, African-American or Native American students who, because of their environment, may need assistance to achieve at high levels. Their Dispelling the Myth Program honors high-performing and gap-closing schools that serve large populations of low-income or minority students.

The four other schools so honored in 2006 are Capitol View Elementary in Atlanta, GA; East Millsboro Elementary in Millsboro, DE; M. Hall Stanton Elementary in Philadelphia, PA; and Port Chester Middle School in Port Chester, NY.

"These schools provide compelling evidence . . . that when we teach students to high levels and focus on closing the achievement gaps, students succeed," said Kati Haycock, director of the Education Trust. "These schools are a testament to the power of committed educators to transform the lives of children who too often get less than their fair share of what public education has to offer. We owe these educators a great deal of gratitude."

As an educator, one of my top priorities is to provide a quality education for each and every child. I am proud of the principal and

teachers and especially the students of Imperial High School for their achievements. I sincerely thank them for their contribution to the community of Imperial.

TRIBUTE TO COUNTY SUPERVISOR CYNTHIA MURRAY

**HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 6, 2006*

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor County Supervisor Cynthia Murray on the occasion of her retirement from two terms on the Marin County Board of Supervisors,

Since she was first elected in 1998, Cynthia has been a forceful voice on key issues in Marin County. She has been in the forefront of promoting transportation infrastructure improvements, from fighting for public transit as a member of the Golden Gate Bridge Board to chairing the Policy Advisory Group for widening a key bottleneck on Highway 101.

Cynthia has also stepped up on other important issues, especially emergency services and disaster preparation, seniors' independence, education and workforce, sustainable economic development, the battle against Sudden Oak Death, and wetlands preservation. She has chaired the Disaster Council and the Long Term Care Task Force and served on the Schools to Careers partnership, North Bay Watershed Association, which she founded, and Novato Business Education Roundtable. Regionally she sits on the Bay Area Economic Forum and chairs the Bay Area Water Forum.

Cynthia has been a strong partner to my offices in working for shared priorities such as education—life-long learning, mentorship and internship programs for youth, and increased access to technology in schools; affordable housing—Community Development Block Grants, the Section 8 voucher program, Community Opportunity funds; breast cancer research; the Older Americans Act and expansion of programs for seniors; transportation—car pool lanes, bike paths, the Golden Gate Bridge seismic retrofit, and the acquisition of the railroad right of way; conversion of Hamilton Air Base, and environment—acquisition of Bel Marin Keys V and restoration of over 1,800 acres of wetlands in Bel Marin Keys, Hamilton and Bahia.

Born and raised in New Jersey, Cynthia was the oldest of seven children. This may explain why she so easily handles many responsibilities. She graduated from Rutgers University and moved to Marin in 1978. In 1988 she moved to Novato where she served 7 years on the Novato City Council, including one term as mayor. She has two children, Katie and Mack, who are both in college.

Mr. Speaker, Cynthia Murray will remain active and involved in local issues. I have enjoyed working with her as a supervisor and look forward to her continuing participation in issues affecting the people of Marin and Sonoma Counties.

TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE JOHN J. "JACK" RODGERS

**HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 6, 2006*

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an outstanding citizen of Columbus, GA, who has distinguished himself as a dedicated and exemplary public servant. The Hon. John J. "Jack" Rodgers at age 64 is retiring from the Columbus Consolidated Government after 24 years as a member of the Columbus Council. He served 8 of those years as mayor pro tem, having been unanimously elected to that position by his fellow councilors for four consecutive 2-year terms.

Mr. Rodgers, who was born in Pittsburgh, PA, has lived in Columbus since 1961. He was inducted into the United States Army in 1961 and served honorably for 2 years. Shortly after his honorable discharge in 1963, he married the former Barbara Riddle who has given him constant love and support in parenting two children, through whom Jack and Barbara have four grandchildren. Mr. Rodgers not only adopted Columbus, GA, as home for himself and his family, but also accepted leadership roles in business and government. He earned a B.S. at Columbus State University in 1973.

Jack Rodgers had a distinguished 21-year career with Ford. He then launched his own mortgage company and has been chair and CEO for 15 years. His successful participation in the business community provided an excellent background for his work at Chattahoochee Valley Community College in Phenix City, AL, where he taught business and economics for 7 years.

During his service on the Columbus Council, Mr. Rodgers was selected for four 1-year terms as Budget Review Committee chairman. He also served as the council's Ethics Committee chairman, and had a major role in developing revisions to the city's tax law by chairing the council's Occupational Tax Committee. Among the many notable and worthy projects to which he has contributed vital energy and leadership was the placement of the "Eternal Flame" memorial in front of the Columbus Government Center, a project for which he and then-Councilor Bobby Peters led fundraising efforts in the private sector. His wisdom and counsel, especially in financial matters, are frequently sought by other councilors and by citizens in his council district, as well as throughout the city.

Jack Rodgers is known as a devout Christian, a longtime member and leader in Edgewood Baptist Church of Columbus. He has often been called upon for invocations and other prayers in council meetings and on other public occasions.

His civic and social affiliations, which bespeak his dedication to service, include: the Rotary Club of Columbus; the Columbus Georgia Convention & Trade Center Board, of which he formerly served as vice-chairman; the Valley Rescue Mission, of which he is a former board member; president of the Heritage Educational Foundation; board member of the Columbus Technical College Foundation; and board member of the There is HOPE Foundation. His leadership qualities also have made him valuable to governmental associations: the Georgia Municipal Association; the