

our State of Rhode Island and nationally would have a chance to maintain dignity and live a full and healthy life with HIV/AIDS.

Today, I praise Dr. Fisher and thank him for all of his contributions to our country and I assure his family that we are inspired and sustained by his example.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE DISCOVERY MUSEUM'S CHALLENGER LEARNING CENTER

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 12, 2007

Ms. MATSUI. Madam Speaker, I rise in recognition of the 10-year anniversary of the Challenger Learning Center at the Discovery Museum of Sacramento's Science and Space Center. For a decade, the Challenger Learning Center has been a vital educational resource for the Sacramento community. I ask all of my colleagues to join with me in acknowledging the 10 successful years of the Discovery Museum's Challenger Learning Center.

On January 28, 1986, the United States lost seven astronauts aboard the Challenger Space Shuttle. It was a tragedy that we will never forget. To memorialize the lives and the commitment to education of the astronauts aboard the Challenger, their families founded a nonprofit known as the Challenger Center for Space Science Education. Utilizing realistic and interactive mission scenarios, Challenger Learning Centers aim to give students an educational experience that incorporates the importance of math and science. The simulated space missions offered at the Discovery Museum's Challenger Learning Center combine the joy of learning with the unbridled enthusiasm of space travel. Whether students want to "Voyage to Mars" or "Rendezvous with Comet Halley," the missions allow them to experience the excitement of discovery that the astronauts aboard the Challenger surely would have felt.

Since 1997, the Discovery Museum's Challenger Learning Center has been the premier

field trip destination in Sacramento and has proved to be a vital resource tool for teachers. Increasingly, the Challenger Learning Center's space missions have become a favorite of local businesses; as the center offers a unique team-building opportunity and allows employees to enhance their communication skills.

In July, the Smithsonian Institution, our Nation's premier museum and research organization, named the Discovery Museum as a Smithsonian Affiliate. Under the leadership of the Discovery Museum's Executive Director Evangeline Higginbotham, this designation will allow their Science and Space Center, as well as the Gold Rush History Center, to share in the Smithsonian's unmatched wealth of resources and artifacts. It was a distinct honor, as the Discovery Museum was the first museum in California's Central Valley to be named as an Affiliate.

Madam Speaker, as the Sacramento community and the Discovery Museum's supporters gather tomorrow, I am honored to recognize the 10 years of educational insight provided by the Challenger Learning Center. Their work has inspired countless Sacramento residents over the last decade to embrace the wonders of science. As the Challenger Learning Center embarks on 10 more successful years, I ask all my colleagues to join me in wishing them continued successes.

RECOGNIZING THE MODERNIZATION OF T.C. WILLIAMS HIGH SCHOOL

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 12, 2007

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the grand reopening of T.C. Williams High School in Alexandria, VA. T.C. Williams, which serves Alexandria City Public Schools students in grades ten through twelve, recently completed a massive renovation and modernization project in time to open for the start of the 2007–2008 school year.

The modernization of T.C. Williams High School has brought a state-of-the art, 21st-

century learning experience to 1,997 Alexandria City high school students. The entirely new building includes computers in more classrooms, a fully-integrated fiber optic network, a new media center, and a completely automated library, making T.C. Williams among the best technologically equipped schools in the country.

In addition to vastly improving the educational experience of Alexandria's high school students, the T.C. Williams school modernization project has won awards for architectural excellence and environmentally-friendly building features. The school was honored by an independent jury of architects, engineers and general contractors in the local building community as Educational Project of the Year in Mid-Atlantic Construction magazine's Best of 2007 awards program. This year, Mid-Atlantic Construction had a record number of entries for its Best of 2007 awards, and honored T.C. Williams along with 45 other projects in 16 categories.

The T.C. Williams reconstruction was also honored with a Green Innovation Award from the Virginia Sustainable Building Network, which named it the Best Institutional Project of the year. The building, which adheres to the standards and principles of the U.S. Green Building Council's LEED 2.1 Green Building Rating System, includes a number of environmentally innovative features, such as an advanced storm water management and reuse system, water conservation measures and energy-saving air conditioning operations, and a permanent measurement and verification system to track water and energy usage at the facility.

Madam Speaker, I commend the leadership of the Alexandria City Public Schools and T.C. Williams High School, along with the architects and builders involved, for all their work to make the modernization of T.C. Williams a reality, and for their dedication to renovating the school in a way that was both architecturally and environmentally innovative. I am proud to have such a state-of-the-art facility available to educate the students of Virginia's 8th Congressional District.