

TRIBUTE TO DR. GAIL
ROMBERGER NONNECKE

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, December 12, 2007

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Gail Romberger Nonnecke for her receipt of the 2007 Council for Advancement and Support of Education, CASE, Iowa Professor of the Year Award.

Recipients of the U.S. Professors of the Year Awards are acknowledged for their commitment to the betterment of education for future generations.

Dr. Nonnecke is a professor of horticulture at Iowa State University, in Ames, Iowa, where she instructs introductory and advanced level courses, including principles of horticulture, sustainable and environmental horticulture, temperate fruit crop production and management, and integrated management of tropical crops. She conducts extensive research to develop new approaches in sustainable fruit systems that benefit producers, consumers, and the environment. In addition, Dr. Nonnecke has developed service-learning projects for her study abroad courses in order to enhance global cultural awareness. She also mentors other school faculty by facilitating seminars, workshops, and forums that allow participants to share knowledge and experiences.

Dr. Nonnecke has also received the USDA Excellence in Teaching Award and was selected as a senior faculty member in the Center for Excellence in Learning and Teaching, Teaching Partners Program. Dr. Nonnecke's goal while teaching is "to allow students to develop as life-long learners with the enthusiasm and skills to learn new things." She demonstrates a special passion in empowering her students to go above and beyond where her own research has taken her.

I know that my colleagues in the United States Congress will join me in commending and congratulating Dr. Gail Romberger Nonnecke. It is an honor to represent Dr. Nonnecke in Congress, and I wish her the best as she continues to conduct important research and make a positive impact in the lives of her students and faculty peers.

CONGRATULATING SOUTH TEXAS
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT
ON HAVING THREE SCHOOLS
LISTED IN THE TOP 100 AMERICAN
HIGH SCHOOLS IN U.S.
NEWS AND WORLD REPORT

HON. RUBÉN HINOJOSA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, December 12, 2007

Mr. HINOJOSA. Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in congratulating the South Texas Independent School District for having 3 of its high schools listed among the 100 in the nation according to U.S. News and World Report.

The South Texas Independent School District shatters the myth that low income and minority students cannot achieve academic excellence. Eighty percent of the school district's students are of Hispanic heritage. Over 50

percent are eligible for free or reduced priced lunches. These outstanding high schools are open enrollment—they do not pick and choose among the best and brightest, rather they foster excellence in any student willing to make the commitment to a rigorous program of study.

Of the more than 18,000 public schools in the United States, the South Texas Independent School District placed 3 high schools: The Science Academy, the Business Education and Technology Academy, and the High School for Health Professions in the gold medal category for excellence in school performance on state tests and for success in providing college level coursework to all of their students. They demonstrate that high achievement is possible system-wide when you bring together the right leadership and community support.

I would like to commend the superintendent of South Texas Independent School, Dr. Marla Guerra and the president of the school board, Mr. Ernesto Alvarado for their leadership and stewardship of the school system. They have maintained and deepened the tradition of high achievement that has been the hallmark of the school district since the first magnet high school opened its doors in 1984.

I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the achievement of the Science Academy, led by Principal Michael Aranda and ranked number 23 in the nation.

Please join me in celebrating the national recognition of the Business Education and Technology Academy led by Principal Magdalena Gutierrez and ranked number 54 in the nation.

Let us cheer the accomplishment of the High School for Health Professions, led by Principal Barbara Heater and ranked number 64 in the nation.

The national recognition of the talent and potential of our young people in South Texas is long overdue. I commend South Texas Independent School District for nurturing tomorrow's leaders. I applaud our community of students, parents, and educators for demanding the best and exceeding expectations.

In closing I would like to share with you the secret of South Texas Independent School district's astounding success. They set high standards for academic and personal development and shared values. Their goal is that each graduate of South Texas Independent School district: is a compassionate, caring individual; has a passion for life-long learning; is an effective communicator; is a producer of quality work; is creative and curious; appreciates the differences in people; is a competent problem-solver; is a responsible and ethical citizen; strives for a balanced professional and home life; contributes to the community well-being through service; and is academically and occupationally skilled.

The Science Academy, the Business Education and Technology Academy, and the Health Professions High School in the South Texas Independent School District are among the best of the best high schools in the nation. They produce graduates who are ready, willing, and able to contribute to their communities. I congratulate them on winning national recognition and encourage them to keep up the good work.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO JUDGE
CHERYL B. MOSS

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, December 12, 2007

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor my good friend, Judge Cheryl B. Moss, who is being honored as a Bench Trailblazer by the Bicolanos of Nevada and Filipino American California Expatriates Society of Las Vegas.

Judge Moss was admitted to the Nevada State Bar in 1997 and by 1999, while still in private practice, was awarded the Shining Star Award from the Clark County Pro Bono Project for her representation of low-income clients. This was just the beginning of the accomplishments she has had in her years in Las Vegas, Nevada. In 2000, Judge Moss was elected to the District Court, Family Division. As a Judge, she has had the opportunity to work on issues of importance to her. One such issue is gambling addiction, and she has been intimately involved with the Nevada Council on Problem Gambling. Her passion to assist those with gambling addiction drove her to begin the pilot program on gambling assessments for parents involved with child custody cases. Judge Moss is also a member of many professional associations, including: The Nevada District Judges Association, the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges, and the Civil Order Enforcement Task Committee.

In addition to her professional successes, Judge Moss has greatly enriched the community. She is actively involved in promoting education programs and volunteers her expertise as a judge in moot court and mock trial competitions at the high school and collegiate levels. Judge Moss also serves on the Board of Trustees for the Clark County Library.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor Judge Cheryl B. Moss. She has served on the bench with honor and distinction and enriched the lives of countless people in the community through her activism and volunteer efforts. I congratulate her on this much deserved honor and wish her the best in her future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO RESEARCHER AND
UNM VICE PRESIDENT TERRY
YATES

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, December 12, 2007

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Madam Speaker, when Terry Yates began hunting the "Sin Nombre" virus, it was a vague and threatening disease that public health professionals could neither understand nor control. Yates and his collaborators traced the virus to its sources, revealed how it works, and saved lives. Because of his resolve to demystify the deadly illness, today we know how to prevent and treat what is now commonly known as hantavirus.

Yates's accomplishment won him awards, but for him it was just the job he wanted to do. From his perch at the University of New Mexico, he devoted his remarkable intellect and