

4A State Marching Title and the Honor Band for being named the 2008 Class 4A Honor Band for the State of Texas by the Texas Music Educators Association.

Last fall, the Poteet High School Marching Band secured the state championship title for its division for the second time in 3 years. The marching band received perfect scores from four of the five judges, placing them above 23 other elite bands.

Meanwhile, the Poteet High School Honor Band was named the 2008 Class 4A Honor Band for the State of Texas, the most prestigious honor for a high school concert band. For their achievement, the band will perform at the Texas Music Educators Association Convention in San Antonio, Texas.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the Fifth District of Texas, I am honored to recognize the Poteet High School Marching and Honor Bands, both the directors and students, for their talent, dedication to the arts, and their exceptional performance.

CONGRATULATING MICHELE
"MISSY" MANDELL ON HER
SERVICE TO THE PEOPLE OF
TEXAS

HON. K. MICHAEL CONAWAY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 15, 2008

Mr. CONAWAY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to thank and commend Mrs. Michele "Missy" Mandell for her dedication to the people of central Texas. For the past 19 years Missy has worked at the Lower Colorado River Authority, LCRA, most recently as the executive manager of Federal affairs. She departs at the end of this month, but leaves a legacy of tireless work to meet the needs of the communities in the 58 counties where the LCRA operates.

Missy served as a liaison to the myriad of stakeholders in public water service and power generation, including local communities, Federal agencies, industry organizations, and elected officials, such as myself. No matter the issue, she was always able to navigate the complex web of laws, rules, and regulations to help LCRA provide services to its clients. I was fortunate to work with her here in Washington and always found her to be a valuable partner in solving the critical issues facing my constituents. It is likely that the customers of LCRA do not know Missy Mandell, but they all owe her a great debt for her work on their behalf.

In addition to her constant work for the LCRA, Missy also found time to give back to her community. She has donated her time and considerable experience by serving on the board of directors for the Children's Advocacy Council; the advisory board of the LBJ Liberal Arts and Sciences Academy; and the city of Austin's Environmental Board and the Charter Revision Council. Through her selfless giving, the city of Austin is a better place.

I am certain that Missy will prosper in her new career; she has the drive, experience, and intellect to thrive in whatever she chooses. The LCRA is not merely losing a long-serving employee, but a passionate advocate, a tireless consensus-builder, and ever-optimistic citizen, always seeking to improve the

lives of those she worked for. It has been my pleasure to know and work with Mrs. Missy Mandell and I offer her my best wishes and prayers, safe in the knowledge that God will smile on her future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING DR. MARTINEZ OF
UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 15, 2008

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, dreams of higher education have become increasingly elusive for thousands of well-qualified students from low-income and disadvantaged backgrounds. On February 7, 2008, the House passed the College Opportunity and Affordability Act, legislation that will move our Nation one step closer to expanding higher education opportunities for all. I rise today to celebrate this achievement and recognize the role that Dr. Maria Martinez, the University of Connecticut's director of the Center for Academic Programs, has served in delivering higher education outreach services to Connecticut's most vulnerable communities.

For the past four decades, TRIO programs, including Talent Search, Upward Bound, and Student Support Services, have facilitated access to higher education opportunities for disadvantaged students in Connecticut and across the Nation. Dr. Martinez is charged with implementing TRIO and similar programs at the University of Connecticut. On March 22, 2007, in light of pending reauthorization of these programs under the College Opportunity and Affordability Act, Dr. Maria D. Martinez testified before the House Committee on Education and Labor.

Perhaps the most poignant of her testimonials included a reference to one of UConn's TRIO alumni, Dr. Franklin Chang-Diaz. She stated that Franklin struggled with English in high school and was recruited into UConn's Student Support Services program. Upon completing his undergraduate degree, Franklin earned a doctorate in plasma physics at MIT, was recruited by NASA, and became America's first Hispanic astronaut. He currently holds the world record for most space missions flown.

The College Opportunity and Affordability Act strengthens these programs and brings hope to thousands of students just like Franklin. In Dr. Chang-Diaz's words, "TRIO is one of the ways this country really becomes the land of opportunity."

Madam Speaker, education systems form the pillars for potential prosperity and health of any society. Our Nation must remain vigilant of these systems and continue to improve them until they reflect our highest aspirations. Continuing to support programs like TRIO is necessary to ensure these worthy objectives. I ask my colleagues to join with me and my constituents in recognizing the importance of TRIO programs and Dr. Martinez's role in delivering these services to underprivileged students in Connecticut.

EXPRESSING THE CONDOLENCES
OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTA-
TIVES ON THE DEATH OF THE
HONORABLE TOM LANTOS, A
REPRESENTATIVE OF THE
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

SPEECH OF

HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 12, 2008

Mr. WAXMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise to join my colleagues in expressing profound sorrow at the passing of our good friend, TOM LANTOS.

TOM was neither an ordinary American nor an ordinary Member of Congress. His personal experience as a Holocaust survivor—and the only survivor ever to be elected to Congress—defined his work in the House of Representatives. He bestowed on all of us a unique perspective that we both needed and relied on.

As the founding co-chair of the Congressional Human Rights Caucus, TOM was known to all of us here and throughout the country as the conscience of the Congress. From the genocide in Darfur, to the human rights crisis in Burma, to the global AIDS epidemic, to modern-day slavery and human trafficking, TOM persevered on behalf of the world's most forsaken and most forgotten.

It was an honor to serve with TOM on the Oversight and Government Reform Committee and Human Rights Caucus. His contributions to Congress, to our democracy, and to the disenfranchised and dispossessed around the world will remain with us always.

On a personal note, Janet and I will never forget TOM and Annette's love for one another and their complete devotion to their children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren. We are certain the love of the Lantos family and the reflection in the days ahead on TOM's extraordinary life will carry them through this very sad time.

REGARDING THE PRESIDENT'S
BUDGET AND IRAQ

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 15, 2008

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Madam Speaker, this week, the Washington Post listed a number of existing programs that would be eliminated in President Bush's budget. These are programs that make a real difference in people's lives but have gotten less attention than the major cuts in his budget.

For example, the President's budget proposes to eliminate the Commodity Supplemental Food Program, which provides food packages for about 500,000 low-income elderly persons, women, and children each month. The program received \$140 million in 2008. To put that in context, \$140 million is the cost of funding 10 hours of the war in Iraq.

During this economic downturn, the President's budget eliminates the Community Services Block Grant and other community services programs. These programs, which were funded at \$698 million in 2008, reduce poverty