

CONGRATULATING THE YES PREP PUBLIC SCHOOLS-NORTH CENTRAL CAMPUS ON THEIR 2009 BLUE RIBBON SCHOOL AWARD

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 16, 2009

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the YES Prep Public Schools-North Central Campus in our district for their dedication to academic excellence that has earned them the honored distinction of being a Blue Ribbon School in 2009.

Since 1982, the U.S. Department of Education's Blue Ribbon Schools Program has honored many of America's most successful schools, and I am proud of YES Prep Public Schools-North Central Campus for all of its hard work towards and dedication to achieving the high academic standards that have earned them this award. The Blue Ribbon Award honors public and private elementary, middle and high schools that are academically superior or have made dramatic gains in student achievement and helped close achievement gaps among minority and disadvantaged students. This year 314 schools earned this coveted award.

YES Prep Public Schools-North Central Campus is a school that strives to increase the number of low-income Houstonians who graduate from a four-year college prepared to compete in the global marketplace and committed to improving disadvantaged communities. Under the supervision of Principal Mr. Mark DiBella, YES also works to develop students who are active in the community. YES stands for Youth Engaged in Service and students dedicate one Saturday each month to community service projects. YES also requires that students participate in longer school days, college research trips, summer school and summer opportunities—80 percent of YES' student base is comprised of economically disadvantaged individuals, and their motto is 'to do whatever it takes' to improve themselves and their horizons through educational resources provided through the school. YES Prep Public Schools-North Central Campus serves as an example that through hard work much can be achieved.

They are an inspiration for all schools in the Houston area, and I congratulate the administration, teachers, parents, and students at YES Prep Public Schools-North Central Campus on this great accomplishment.

HONORABLE RECOGNITION OF COACH ROCKY RAWLS, BRONTE, TEXAS 2009 NATIONAL COACHES APPRECIATION WEEK

HON. K. MICHAEL CONAWAY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 16, 2009

Mr. CONAWAY. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of National Coaches Appreciation Week and to acknowledge the accomplishments and dedication of one coach in particular: Coach Rocky Rawls of Bronte, Texas.

Coach Rawls has been coaching in Bronte, Texas for the past 26 years. After growing up in Dimmitt, Texas and playing basketball for the late Kenneth Cleveland, Coach Rawls grew to love the game of basketball and decided to make it his career. He graduated from Dimmitt High School in 1978. He then went to Howard Junior College in Big Spring, Texas to play basketball for the Hawks. After 2 years in Big Spring, Coach Rawls left for Southwestern University in Georgetown, Texas to finish out his college education, and, of course, to play ball. He graduated from Southwestern University in May of 1983. Just months after his graduation from college the superintendent of Bronte High School gave Rocky a call and offered him a position as head basketball coach. The rest, as they say, is history.

This past season Coach Rawls accomplished a feat few basketball coaches accomplish at any level. He earned his 500th career victory against Bronte's rival, Robert Lee. Even more impressive is the fact that Coach Rawls has won all 500 games at one school. Bronte has been his home his entire coaching career.

This past season, Coach Rawls helped the Bronte Longhorns go 25-3 and finish the season ranked sixth in the state, also sweeping eventual state champion Roscoe throughout the season. Subsequently, Coach Rawls was deservingly named Coach of the Year by the San Angelo Standard Times.

Coach Rawls and his wife, Terri, have 3 sons. Logan, a student at Angelo State University, and twins Dakota and Kerwin, now juniors at Bronte High School, have all played ball for their dad. Bronte has been the home of a long and successful career for Coach Rocky Rawls, who after winning 500 ballgames I hear thinks it just might be a great place to stay and win 500 more. Asked when he might retire, Coach Rawls has joked that "not until they ask me to coach girls," which after also stepping in as head football and boys track coach at various times, happens to be the only thing he hasn't coached at Bronte.

Coach Rawls has instilled invaluable leadership skills in the many students who have called him "Coach." He has incorporated the important values of self-discipline and perseverance into every practice, and ensured that the beliefs and conduct they learn on the court becomes a part of their daily lives as well. By example, Coach Rawls has instilled the importance of faith, family and community in the many lives he has touched throughout his years in Bronte. It is my great pleasure to extend my personal congratulations to Coach Rawls on his remarkable achievement of 500 victories, as well as express my sincere respect and appreciation for the positive impact he has had on the lives of many of the boys from Bronte, Texas. As an educator and a coach, he has had a hand in molding so many of them into men we can all be proud of.

Madam Speaker, I myself, as a former athlete in both high school and college recognize that we owe men and women like Rocky Rawls a great debt of gratitude. On behalf of current, former and future student athletes, whose lives will forever be founded in the ideals and work ethics of competitive athletics, I say, "Thank you."

CELEBRATING HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 16, 2009

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month, an observance of the culture, traditions and contributions of the Hispanic community.

Started over 40 years ago, this month-long celebration from September 15 through October 15, observes social, political, and cultural advances of Americans descending from Spain, Mexico, South America, the Caribbean and Spanish-speaking countries of Central America. As the largest ethnic or race minority in the United States, people of Hispanic origin have made great strides to become among our nations finest medical professionals, legal scholars, scientists, business owners, civic leaders, artists, educators, and students. The year 2009 will be remembered as a historic year for many reasons, including the appointment of the first Hispanic to the Supreme Court, Associate Justice Sonia Sotomayor.

As a Representative of an area with a large Hispanic population, I recognize that the influences of this culture are interwoven into the fabric of our nation. The establishment of Hispanic Heritage Month was a catalyst for the founding of many important organizations promoting development and advancement for the Hispanic community, including the United States Hispanic Chamber of Commerce and the Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute. This month presents an opportunity to remind the country of the achievements we are capable of as a diverse nation and an opportunity to show our youth their potential. As the fastest growing demographic group, it is important to not only recall past accomplishments, but to look to the future as well.

Celebrations will be held across the United States this month to recognize the contributions of the Hispanic community, and I urge my colleagues to join me in celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 16, 2009

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the Republican Leadership standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information regarding earmarks I received as part of H.R. 3183—Energy and Water Appropriations Act, 2010.

Requested by Rep. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN
Bill number: H.R. 3183
Account: Army Corps of Engineers, Construction
Amount: \$500,000
Project: Florida Keys Wastewater Improvement Project
Requested by: City of Key West, City of Marathon, Key Largo Wastewater Treatment District

Federal funding of this project is needed to continue moving forward with the initiative outlined in The Florida Keys Water Quality Improvements Act, which authorized \$100 million