Dr. Meier's reason for coming to work each day is captured in his positive attitude. He heaps praise on the other doctors, nurses and support staff who combine to make the center a wonderful place to practice medicine.

Madam Speaker, the San Mateo Medical Foundation is right to honor Dr. Meier's contributions in a special ceremony on April 30th. He is without question a hero of healthcare in the county and State.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN J. HALL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 4, 2010

Mr. HALL of New York. Madam Speaker, on March 16th, I missed rollcall vote 118 on passage of H. Res. 605. If I were present, I would have voted "aye" in support of recognizing the continued campaign to persecute, intimidate, imprison, and torture Falun Gong practitioners in China. I strongly supported this legislation.

The Chinese Government has conducted an official program of persecution and suppression of practitioners of Falun Gong for ten years. I join my colleagues in Congress in expressing sympathy to practitioners of Falun Gong in China, the United States and around the world, and in calling on the Chinese Government to end their campaign of discrimination, intimidation and imprisonment of Falun Gong practitioners.

FOND DU LAC HIGH SCHOOL SESQUICENTENNIAL

HON. THOMAS E. PETRI

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 4, 2010

Mr. PETRI. Madam Speaker, few events resonate more within a community than marking a major anniversary of its only public high school. This year, in my home town of Fond du Lac, Wisconsin, we are celebrating 150 years of continuing commitment to academic excellence that has been achieved by Fond du Lac High School.

As described by G.K. Chesterton, one of the most influential English writers of the 20th century, "Education is simply the soul of a society as it passes from one generation to another." I believe the generations of those who have lived in Fond du Lac since the high school first opened its doors in January of 1859 have been very well served.

Fond du Lac is similar to many cities of its size throughout this great nation. Its citizens are hardworking and civic-minded; they are family-oriented and committed to their children; and they understand the value of a high-quality education. It is for these reasons the high school is such a source of community pride and so tightly woven into the fabric of the community.

It was this commitment to education that initially drove concerned parents to petition for the creation of a high school in October of 1858 in order to develop their children's base of knowledge beyond the fundamentals. In what has become recognized as a typical American trait of every generation, they wanted their children to achieve more than they had and they knew education was the key. They also knew there needed to be a facility where the work of education could be completed.

The first permanent high school in Fond du Lac was built in 1865 at a cost of $17,000. That building burned to the ground in 1868 but, undaunted, the community responded by building a four-story, brick and stone facility, which was completed in 1871 at a cost of $45,000. As the city grew, its citizens responded by building larger schools, expanding them, and when necessary replacing them, in a cycle that has been repeated many times over. How far we have come from the first high school classes held in the Sewell Store on Main Street to the expansive, multimillion-dollar, high-tech school we have today.

But a high school is more than just bricks and mortar; more important are the people who have worked there and have been a part of its development. As Fond du Lac celebrates this important milestone, it is appropriate to remember individuals like George B. Eastman, the first Superintendent of the Fond du Lac Union High School District; Edwin Johnson and M.S. Merrill, Fond du Lac High School's first teachers; and Julia Gibbons and John P. McGalloway, who were among those who served on the first elected school board in the 1920s. Those who belong to more recent generations will tell you not to forget Lowell P. Goodrich, who served as Superintendent from 1923 through 1940 and after whom the high school would be named for many years.

Through the generations, Fond du Lac High School has graduated students who have gone on to contribute to their communities and professions in a wide array of occupations and pursuits, demonstrating that education is indeed "the soul of a society."

As we reflect on the profound impact of education, please join me in congratulating the people of Fond du Lac, Wisconsin as they celebrate the sesquicentennial of their high school this year.

HONORING CITYLINK ON 40 YEARS OF SERVICE

HON. AARON SCHOCK

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 4, 2010

Mr. SCHOCK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the 10th anniversary of the Greater Peoria Mass Transit District, also known as Citylink.

The Greater Peoria Mass Transit District was first formed on May 4, 1970 to provide public transportation to the Village of Peoria Heights, West Peoria Township and the City of Peoria.

In its first year of operation over 667,000 passengers rode the Citylink system. Since that time the Greater Peoria Mass Transit District has expanded its area of operations to include East Peoria, Pekin and Bartonville. With this expanded area of service the transit district was able to provide over 3,000,000 bus rides to passengers this past year.

During its 40 years of service to the Greater Peoria area, innovation has been key to the success of the transit district. Citylink was the first transit system in the country to take advantage of local commodities by implementing ethanol-fueled buses into its fleet. A relationship with the Peoria Historical Society was also established in order to bring trolley-buses into the district's fleet. These trolleys were obtained in order to provide for historical tours of the area with the guide of local Peoria Historical Society Members.

Catering to the needs of its passengers has been another key to the success of the transit district. Citylink has extended early morning and late night routes in order to help those passengers with work shifts starting early or ending late in the night. Along with these hours of extended service, special fares were established to help seniors, students and passengers who may be physically or mentally challenged. In fact, over 118,000 trips were given to paratransit riders during this past year alone.

I wish to congratulate and thank the Greater Peoria Mass Transit District and all the staff members who have provided stellar service to the entire Peoria area over the past 40 years. It is my honor this day to congratulate them, 40 years after their inception.

IN RECOGNITION OF DR. MARK HIGHMAN OF THE SAN MATEO MEDICAL CENTER

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 4, 2010

Ms. SPEIER. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor Dr. Mark Highman, a cardiologist who willingly chose the career path of public service medicine over the more lucrative road of private practice. I feel very fortunate to have known Dr. Highman for 30 years. Clearly, decades of patients at the center who lacked insurance or the money to pay for it appreciate his decision to practice at the San Mateo Medical Center.

He was appointed Medical Director of the Special Care Unit, Vice Chief of Medicine and Chief of Cardiology to the center in 1977. Dr. Highman also is an Associate Clinical Professor of Medicine at Stanford University.

The diversity of patients and their medical challenges prompted Dr. Highman to become certified in critical care. He considers treating the less fortunate to be, in his own words, "richly rewarding" and that speaks volumes to what this healer is all about. As a career-long medical musketeer he is the embodiment of the esprit de corps at the center.

Madam Speaker, Dr. Mark Highman is a hero of healthcare to a generation of the less fortunate in our county and State. The San Mateo Medical Foundation is right to honor his contributions at a special ceremony on April 30th.

COMMENDING MR. IWAO MATSUDA

HON. DANA ROHRABACHER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 4, 2010

Mr. ROHRABACHER. Madam Speaker, I rise to commend Mr. Iwao Matsuda for his diligence and many years of hard work in bringing about closer United States-Japanese-Korean relations. We can all thank him for the development of very close ties between the legislatures of Japan and the United States.

The legislative exchange program he created evolved into semiannual meetings between Members of the Diet and the U.S. Congress. The personal and professional relationships that have developed are key to the long and solid alliance between our two democratic nations.

He also played a key role in expanding these exchanges to include South Korea once it became a strong and vibrant democracy.

I note Mr. Matsuda was selected by Prime Minister Koizumi to serve in the very prestigious position as Minister of State for Science and Technology Policy, Food Safety and Information Technology.

Madam Speaker, it is therefore appropriate for us to commend and thank Mr. Matsuda for helping to foster peace and democracy in Asia and I wish him well in his future endeavors.

HONORING MR. IWAO MATSUDA

HON. F. JAMES SENSENBRENNER, JR.

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 4, 2010

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of my good friend from Japan, Mr. Iwao Matsuda. He is a patriot who has dedicated his life to his country and to the people of Japan. I have worked with Mr. Matsuda for many years and am saddened by his retirement from the United States-Japan Legislative Exchange Program (LEP).

Mr. Iwao Matsuda served Japan for many years in a variety of roles. One such role was as a civil servant in the Ministry of International Trade and Industry. Having served in the Ministry for more than twenty years, he learned the importance of the United States-Japan friendship. Later in his career, as Member of the Japanese Diet, Mr. Matsuda constantly forged new pathways to improve United States-Japan relations and he recognized that at the core of improved relations was a deeper cultural understanding of our two countries. As a Member of the Diet, he was in a unique position to forge a pathway to closer ties. Thus, Mr. Matsuda helped launch the LEP which is now one of the most successful exchange programs in Congress.

As a founding father of the LEP, Mr. Matsuda has been a leader in building a long-lasting friendship between the United States and Japan. His in-depth knowledge of the United States has been a key to building the LEP into the successful program that it is today. Members of Congress, including myself, welcomed the knowledge and wisdom that Matsuda shared at LEP meetings. Under his leadership, Members of Congress and the Diet have been able to break down barriers and build lasting friendships that we all cherish.

My wife Cheryl and I wish our good friend Mr. Iwao Matsuda all the best. As he makes a change to the private sector, we both know that Matsuda will continue make Japan proud. I look forward to finding new ways to work with my friend and I wish him well with future endeavors.

HONORING MR. IWAO MATSUDA

HON. JEAN SCHMIDT

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 4, 2010

Mrs. SCHMIDT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Iwao Matsuda and his many contributions toward strengthening the relationship between the U.S., Japan, and South Korea. His efforts in establishing the bilateral Legislative Exchange Program between the United States and Japan and his efforts to expand the program to include South Korea have cultivated the strong bond between our countries and served to reinforce and uphold our common democratic values.

Mr. Matsuda has worked tirelessly toward improving relations between Japan and the United States. In 1989, after becoming a member of the Japanese Diet he helped launch the first Legislative Exchange Program. Troubled by bitter trade disputes between the United States and Japan, his idea was to bring together Members of Congress and members of the Japanese Diet in an informal setting to have a candid exchange of ideas to address these key issues in United States-Japanese relations.

This bi-lateral exchange has continued successfully for the last twenty years and was expanded in 2003 to include South Korea. The semi-annual meeting between Members of Congress, the Japanese Diet, and the South Korean National Assembly continues to foster candid discussions and is an important component in the close alliance between our three countries.

Madam Speaker, after twenty years of working to cultivate the relationship between the United States, Japan, and South Korea, Mr. Iwao Matsuda is retiring from public office. It is only appropriate that we take a moment to honor his service and applaud his commitment to the promotion of open dialogue and democratic ideals.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF PATTI MACLEISH GORDON

HON. ALAN GRAYSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 4, 2010

Mr. GRAYSON. Madam Speaker, I rise in honor of National Teacher Day. Today, I would like to recognize an extraordinary teacher from Central Florida who is making a significant impact in the field of education in my district and in the State of Florida, Patti MacLeish Gordon. Mrs. Gordon was one of five finalists for the Orange County Public Schools 2011 Teacher of the Year and was selected earlier this year by Lifestyle Magazine as one of Central Florida's ''Top Teachers.''

Mrs. Gordon was born in Orlando, Florida where she attended Lake Silver Elementary, Lee Middle School, and graduated from Lake Highland Preparatory School. Being born into a family of teachers (her aunt, mother, and older sister are also teachers), it is no surprise that Patti graduated from Clemson University with honors where she majored in Elementary Education and Graphic Design. Mrs. Gordon received her Master's degree in elementary school counseling from the University of Central Florida. She is a National Board-Certified teacher, who has taught pre-school, 1st grade, 3rd grade, 5th grade, and was the elementary school guidance counselor at Lake Highland Preparatory School for 3 years. For the past seven years, Mrs. Gordon has worked at Princeton Elementary school as a gifted education teacher.

Patti has gone above and beyond a traditional role of a teacher. She believes in teaching through hands-on activities, service learning projects, and uses modern technology whenever she can in her instruction. She not only founded a Science Club in her school, she also coordinates and teaches in the program. Through her leadership and enthusiasm, over 125 students volunteer to participate in the Science Club after school. The environment is a passion for Patti and can be seen through her ''Green Team'' initiative, which has led to a complete ecological change for her school.

Madam Speaker, Mrs. Gordon is a remarkable example to educators all over our country. It is an honor to pay tribute to her accomplishments. I know the crucial impact teachers can and do have on their students. Mrs. Gordon's passion and dedication for teaching is not only seen through her many awards, but through the success of her students. Central Florida is lucky, and grateful, to have an educator like Patti MacLeish Gordon.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE TOWN OF HILLSBOROUGH, CALIFORNIA

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 4, 2010

Ms. SPEIER. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the 100th Anniversary of the Town of Hillsborough in my district. In fact, I am a proud resident of this town. My children were raised here and they have benefited from an excellent public education system, particularly in the middle grades where, aside from mastering the basics, they confronted the challenges of malnutrition in Africa, homelessness in our own country and the importance of protecting the environment. The spirit of altruism that was instilled in them is one that permeates the entire community.

We often talk about good citizenship, a sense of neighborhood and civic responsibility as if they were things in our past. I can attest that those values are alive and well in Hillsborough under the able leadership of Mayor Christine Krolik who states that 7,000 of the 11,000 total residents are registered to vote. And that 11,000 number includes children as well as adults, so a truly extraordinary number of voting-age adults are actively participating in our democracy.