of Colombia for their tremendous dedication to fighting the drug cartels and working with the people of the United States. After observing the distinguished leadership of Gen. Patiño and his officers, I am more confident than ever that this is a war we can win together.

ORANGE GROVE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CELEBRATES 50 YEARS OF SERVING CHILDREN IN SEMINOLE, FLORIDA

HON. C.W. BILL YOUNG OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 5, 2010

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Madam Speaker, Orange Grove Elementary School, in Seminole, Florida, which I have the privilege to represent, tomorrow will celebrate 50 years of serving Pinellas County students.

The school opened in 1960 in nearby Madeira Beach where classes were held until the school building was erected at its present site in 1961. That six-room school house expanded to 12 rooms 10 years later and became one of Pinellas County’s first air conditioned schools.

The school was named Orange Grove because at the time, Seminole was surrounded by orange groves. Although the groves are gone now, the staff motto remains, “Orange Grove Elementary—Where We Have the Pick of the Crop!”

From the school’s first principal, Margaret Abbott, to its current principal, Nanette Grasso, Orange Grove has remained a student-focused school whose mission statement is “to establish a safe learning environment which supports a love of learning, respect, responsibility, honesty and motivation in our students, so that we can reach their personal and academic potential.”

In this day and age when the focus of a school goes well beyond academics, Orange Grove Elementary also stands as a model for encouraging students to develop early habits for a healthy lifestyle.

Madam Speaker, in recognition of this milestone 50th anniversary celebration, I took the liberty of having a flag flown over the Capitol today for presentation to Ms. Grasso, the students, the teachers and the staff at Orange Grove Elementary in honor of the school’s enduring commitment to providing the best possible education for its students and the most nurturing environment for learning.

For half a century, Orange Grove has turned out generation after generation of our community’s, our state’s, and our Nation’s leaders and I know that its proud and rich tradition will continue to turn out our Nation’s future leaders for generations to come.

SUPPORTING THE IDEALS OF NATIONAL LAB DAY

SPEECH OF

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 4, 2010

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 1213, which recognizes the need to improve the performance of American students in the science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) fields.

In 2006, 4.5 percent of students in the United States graduated from college with a STEM-related diploma, while 33 percent of students in China graduated in the STEM field. The United States has been a global leader in technology and innovation for decades—but we will quickly fall behind unless our country encourages more young people to pursue STEM careers.

We must take an all hands on deck approach to improve our national STEM outlook. National Lab Day helps drive young students’ curiosity for science and technology by encouraging hands-on projects in the classroom that prove the sciences are fun. We must work together to ensure that high school and college students, particularly young women and at-risk students, take college prep courses in science and math that prepare them for future careers as scientists.
And we must stand by young scientists while they are in college to see that they graduate with a STEM diploma in hand.

Improving STEM opportunities both professionally and in the classroom has long been a priority for me, and I continue to be amazed by the type of work that is happening in my own district. For example, Polyera, a nanotech company in Skokie, Illinois, is working to develop polymer inks for organic photovoltaics, or printed solar cells. Imagine a company that’s able to print off solar-powered cells just as easily as printing off a newspaper.

Nanotechnology is an absolutely incredible step forward, but what I get excited about, especially when I’m talking to the next generation of potential scientists, is that they are already thinking about the next big thing. A cure for cancer, putting an astronom on Mars, or finding new sources of renewable energy—these are challenges that will be solved by today’s STEM student.

There is a place for initiatives that motivate students to pursue STEM throughout their educational careers. With targeted action, like that encouraged by National Lab Day, we can inspire a long, healthy and happy life. I can think of no better way for this body to honor His Majesty and the people of Thailand than to voice support for peaceful reconciliation on this important day. I urge all my colleagues to join me in supporting this resolution and moving it toward speedy adoption.

TRIBUTE TO OLATHE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS DR. PAT ALL

HON. PAT ALL

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 5, 2010

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce a resolution recognizing the United States’ longstanding ties with Thailand and our strong wish for a peaceful, democratic resolution to the country’s ongoing political crisis.

In an important development on Monday, Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva announced that he plans to hold new elections on November 14, 2010, based on a plan which calls on all sides to address the country’s political problems peacefully and democratically, based on the national reconciliation plan offered by the Prime Minister. I might add that I introduced this resolution on “Chattra Mongkhon.” It is on this day that the country commemorates the ascension to the throne of His Majesty, King Bhumibol Adulyadej. It is a day when all Thai people pay their respects to His Majesty and wish him a long, healthy and happy life. I can think of no better way for this country to honor His Majesty and the people of Thailand than to voice support for peaceful reconciliation on this important day.

I urge all my colleagues to join me in supporting this resolution and moving it toward speedy adoption.

CRYSTAL BELL AWARDS

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 5, 2010

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Madam Speaker, it is my distinct honor to commend seven exceptional teachers from Northwest Indiana who have been recognized as outstanding educators by their peers for the 2009-2010 school year. These individuals are: Jan Lowery, John Gorball, Brenda Richardson, Kerry Zajcik, Jeff Graves, Glenda Sanders, Shannon Anderson, and Betty O’Neill. For their outstanding efforts, these honorees will be presented with the Crystal Bell Award at a reception sponsored by the Indiana State Teachers Association. This prestigious event will take place at the Andorra Restaurant and Banquets in Goshen, Indiana, on Thursday, May 6, 2010.

Jan Lowery, this year’s recipient of the Crystal Bell Award from the Crown Point School Corporation, is fondly known as the “geometry queen” of Crown Point High School. Jan is an outstanding educator and has a positive impact on her students and colleagues. Jan understands the importance of teaching each student according to their abilities and has developed a variety of teaching methods to cater to different learning styles. Her innovative teaching strategies have helped many students achieve success in geometry and beyond. Jan’s dedication to education and her commitment to her students make her an extraordinary educator. Honoring her contributions with the Crystal Bell Award is a well-deserved recognition of her exceptional teaching skills and impact on the lives of her students.