

HONORING BARBARA BIGELOW

**HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 5, 2010*

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate Barbara Bigelow upon being named as a 2010 Common Threads honoree. Mrs. Bigelow will be honored by California State University, Fresno at the 2010 Common Threads Award luncheon to be held on Friday, April 16, 2010.

Mrs. Barbara Bigelow was born and raised in southern California and attended the University of Southern California. She had little interest in agriculture until she met and married Frank, who is a life long resident of Madera County and part of a longtime agriculture family. Mrs. Bigelow assisted in the family business by helping raise, exhibit and sell champion Shorthorn Cattle for beef and breeding. Mr. and Mrs. Bigelow also raise and exhibit champion Columbia Sheep.

Off of the farm, Mrs. Bigelow is very active in the community. In 1985 she was elected to the then-Spring Valley School District Board of Trustees, and continues to serve on the now-Chawanakee Unified School District as a trustee. Her service on the board was instrumental in the building of Minarets High School in O'Neals. Mrs. Bigelow also served as the board President.

Outside of the school district, Mrs. Bigelow is active in the local 4-H program and numerous agriculture related groups. Mrs. Bigelow became involved with Spring Valley school while her children attended there. She was a member of the parent club, school site council and was involved with the community-centered centennial event. Mrs. Bigelow helped establish the Spring Valley Ag Boosters in 1994, after becoming involved with the Spring Valley 4-H club as a community leader and a sheep leader. Since 1994, Mrs. Bigelow and a committee of local supporters have sponsored a fundraiser at the "Silkwood-Mattes-Bigelow Big Blue Barn" to raise money for the Spring Valley Ag Boosters.

Mrs. Bigelow is also very active and supportive of the Sierra High School Future Farmers of America program. She has served on the Ag Advisory Committee and served as the Site Selection Committee Chair for Minarets High School. Between 1992 and 1994, Mrs. Bigelow was the director of the Madera County 4-H Summer Camp Program at Jack Ass Rock Campground. She is also a twenty year member, and past Chairwoman, of the Madera County Republican Central Committee.

Mrs. Bigelow is a supporter of Children's Hospital of Central California, California State University, Fresno's Red Wave, Cal Poly's Western Bonanza, the California State Fair, Sierra Winter Classic and California Junior Livestock Association. For her community involvement, Mrs. Bigelow was named the State of California "Woman of the Year" in 2005 by Assemblyman Dave Cogdill and received the "Golden Apple Award" for 1999-2000 by the Association of California School Administrators.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate Barbara Bigelow upon her achievements. I invite my colleagues to join me in wishing Mrs. Bigelow many years of continued success.

TRIBUTE FOR NATIONAL NURSES WEEK

**HON. SAM JOHNSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 5, 2010*

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, in honor of National Nurses Week, I would like to recognize the unsung heroes of our nation's healthcare system. The endless efforts of nurses can never be praised enough. This group of men and women work on the frontlines of healthcare. That is why I am proud to participate in National Nurses week and to lend my voice in recognizing these distinguished individuals for their true professionalism.

Anyone who has spent time in a hospital or doctor's office knows that nurses play an integral role in our healthcare team. They work tirelessly to ensure every patient receives the special love, care and attention they deserve.

A nurse's role goes far beyond the hospital; nurses reach into charity clinics, in-home care, churches, and school volunteer health programs. Nurses conduct research, publish, review and continue to educate their peers and the public about their ever-evolving role and positive impact on the healthcare community.

Nurses across this country deserve the same support and consideration as they have given to us. Let us stand together today to honor their tireless work and selfless acts. God bless them and God bless America. I salute you.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. K. MICHAEL CONAWAY**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 5, 2010*

Mr. CONAWAY. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 245 H. Res. 1132—Honoring the USS New Mexico as the sixth Virginia-class submarine commissioned by the U.S. Navy to protect and defend the United States, had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. STEVE COHEN**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 5, 2010*

Mr. COHEN. Madam Speaker, I was detained from voting on Tuesday, May 4, 2010. If present, I would have voted "yea" on the following rollcall votes: rollcall 243, rollcall 244, and rollcall 245.

## TEXAS TEACHER OF THE YEAR FOR 2010

**HON. SILVESTRE REYES**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 5, 2010*

Mr. REYES. Madam Speaker, El Paso, Texas has a history of producing strong, pas-

sionate, and caring educators who motivate and engage our children to become life-long learners. As a parent and grandparent, I am grateful for the contributions of our teachers in the El Paso area, and, in honor of Teacher Appreciation Week, I want to take this opportunity to congratulate all the outstanding teachers in our community.

In particular, I would like to commend Mrs. Yushica Walker, a teacher at Morehead Middle School in the El Paso Independent School District, for being selected as the 2010 Texas Secondary Teacher of the Year. The Texas Teacher of the Year is the highest honor that the State of Texas can award to a teacher. Facilitated by the Texas Education Agency, the Texas Teacher of the Year Program annually recognizes and rewards teachers who have demonstrated outstanding leadership and excellence in teaching. Mrs. Walker represents the best of the best in the teaching profession, and we salute her energy, efforts, and dedication.

Mrs. Walker is a proud Army spouse. She is the wife of Major Johnnie R. Walker of the TRAC WF (Training and Doctrine Command Analysis Center White Sands Missile Range Forward) office at Fort Bliss, Texas. He is currently stationed in Afghanistan.

Mrs. Walker has been teaching for more than 12 years. She earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Interdisciplinary Studies with Reading Specialization from Prairie View A&M University, and a Master's degree from the University of Phoenix. She serves as a member of the Campus Improvement Team and as a Master Mentor for new teachers.

Her aunt, Willie Mae, who taught for 29 years for the Houston Independent School District, inspired her to become a teacher. Mrs. Walker attributes her teaching success, in part, to a positive attitude and "demonstrating that teaching is enjoyable."

Mrs. Walker is part of a larger history of educational excellence in El Paso. I am proud to note that El Paso area educators have been chosen as Texas Teachers of the Year 10 times, with four El Pasoans honored in the last five years. The National Teacher of the Year Program began in 1952 and continues as the oldest, most prestigious national honors program that focuses public attention on excellence in teaching.

I am proud of the work of our teachers, and I am committed to ensuring that education remains a top priority for Congress.

## SUPPORTING THE IDEALS OF NATIONAL LAB DAY

SPEECH OF

**HON. RUSH D. HOLT**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 4, 2010*

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to support House Resolution 1213, a resolution expressing support for National Lab Day and the need to improve science and math education.

National Lab Day, to be held on May 12th, will give middle and high school students access to hands-on, discovery-based laboratory opportunities. Additionally, National Lab Day will provide schools with an opportunity to assess and upgrade their current lab facilities. I am pleased that nearly 200 organizations representing science and math professionals and educators are supporting National Lab Day.