

from college, fostering future generations of service-oriented, civically engaged Whittier residents.

The contributions and achievements of the Elks Lodge are far too many to count, but the enrichment and sense of community they have created have greatly benefited the city of Whittier. For that reason, I would like to recognize Whittier's Elks Lodge 1258 for a century's worth of honorable deeds and good work. I am certain the next 100 years will be as successful.

RECOGNIZING UNION COUNTY ACADEMY FOR INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY IN SCOTCH PLAINS, NEW JERSEY FOR BEING NAMED ONE OF THE "BEST HIGH SCHOOLS FOR MATH AND SCIENCE" BY U.S. NEWS AND WORLD REPORT

HON. LEONARD LANCE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 29, 2011

Mr. LANCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Union County Academy for Information Technology in Scotch Plains, New Jersey for being named one of the "Best High Schools for Math and Science" by U.S. News and World Report.

U.S. News and World Report acknowledges schools where students attain and maintain high academic goals. Union County Academy for Information Technology is a proud example of academic excellence where students have high levels of performance, stellar student achievement, and where educators facilitate a strong learning environment.

I commend the faculty, the students, the parents, and the entire community on receiving this prestigious award. Union County Academy for Information Technology is a proud example of academic excellence and is worthy of national distinction.

ACCOUNTABILITY IN SRI LANKA FOR LASTING PEACE

HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 29, 2011

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my concerns about the current reconciliation efforts in Sri Lanka and my hope for a lasting peace for all of its people. This past May marked the second anniversary of the end to the Sri Lankan civil war between the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, LTTE, and the government forces. This tragic war lasted a quarter century and undoubtedly weighed heavily on all Sri Lankans, including an entire generation of young adults that has only known war until two years ago. Peace was achieved, but for how long?

In order to help achieve a lasting peace, the burdens of the civil war must be lifted and the root causes of the conflict must be addressed. For these reasons, I commend the govern-

ment of Sri Lanka for making commitments to address the needs of all ethnic groups. It has also recognized that a political settlement and reconciliation among all ethnic groups is necessary for any chance of a peaceful and just society. The Sri Lankan government's inquiry, Lessons Learnt and Reconciliation Commission, LLRC, was created as a primary mechanism for the reconciliation process as it investigates allegations of war crimes and crimes against humanity committed by both opposing forces during the civil war. The LLRC will not succeed, however, if it fails to gain the trust of the people for which it is trying to provide justice. Both Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International have criticized the LLRC for failing to provide any accountability for atrocities that are alleged to have taken place. Further, the recently released United Nations' "Report of the Secretary-General's Panel of Experts on Accountability in Sri Lanka" determined that the allegations are credible and recommends an independent international mechanism to investigate these allegations and provide accountability.

I have faith in the government of Sri Lanka to provide for the peaceful well-being of all its people. To achieve this noble goal, however, the Sri Lankan people must also have faith in their government and fellow citizens. Too many questions remain unanswered. Too many suspicions can reseed conflict. I appeal to the government of Sri Lanka to follow its commitments to addressing the needs of all ethnic groups and embrace the recommendations of the U.N. report. Only a trusted accountability mechanism will relieve the tensions of distrust hardened by war and lay a clean foundation for sustainable peace for Sri Lanka and all its people.

RECOGNIZING HOLY TRINITY INTERPAROCHIAL SCHOOL OF WESTFIELD, NEW JERSEY AS A BLUE RIBBON SCHOOL AWARDED BY THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

HON. LEONARD LANCE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 29, 2011

Mr. LANCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Holy Trinity Interparochial School of Westfield, New Jersey for being named a Blue Ribbon School by the United States Department of Education.

The Department of Education acknowledges schools where students attain and maintain high academic goals. Holy Trinity Interparochial School is a proud example of academic excellence where students have high levels of performance, stellar student achievement, and where educators facilitate a strong learning environment.

I commend Sister Maureen Fichner, the faculty, the students, the parents, and the entire community on receiving this prestigious award. Holy Trinity Interparochial School is a proud example of academic excellence and worthy of this national distinction.

NATIONAL CHILDHOOD OBESITY AWARENESS MONTH

HON. DAVID G. REICHERT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 29, 2011

Mr. REICHERT. Mr. Speaker, in September we observe National Childhood Obesity Awareness Month. As the Co-Chair of the Congressional Task Force on Childhood Obesity, I rise to call attention to the increasing incidence of obesity among our Nation's youth and the need for comprehensive solutions to this growing epidemic.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, more than one third of children and adolescents are overweight or obese. Childhood obesity has more than tripled since 1980. Overall, nearly 25 million children in the United States are overweight or obese. At the Odessa Brown Children's Clinic in Seattle, which serves mostly low-income and minority patients, nearly 40 percent of children treated are overweight or obese.

Obesity places our children at greater risk of developing heart disease, cardiovascular disease, diabetes, high blood pressure and high levels of cholesterol, sleep apnea, joint problems, as well as social and psychological conditions such as depression and low self-esteem. Unless this trend is reversed, for the first time in history the current generation of children could have a shorter life expectancy than their parents.

In addition to the many public health implications of childhood obesity, the financial consequences are just as alarming. The indirect costs of obesity have been estimated at \$56 billion per year and climbing. Children treated for obesity cost our health care system three times more than the care for children of healthy weight. There is also growing concern among our military leaders about the potential effects of rising childhood obesity rates on our Nation's military readiness and defense. Many young adults who wish to serve their country are unable to join the armed services because they cannot pass the minimum physical fitness standards required for entry.

Mr. Speaker, while the statistics are painful and the outlook appears dim, the good news is obesity is preventable and we can reverse the trends and defeat childhood obesity in America. During this month and throughout the year, I encourage all Americans to speak up about this problem, educate themselves, and explore ways they can make a difference in their own communities. It can be as simple as grabbing a friend or family member and going for a walk, hike, or bike ride; or working with local educators to introduce fresh, healthy meal options in our classrooms. Treatment alone isn't the answer and the task before us is not easy—there is no "quick fix" or magic diet pill—but if parents, schools, communities, health care providers, and government officials work together we can and will succeed in creating healthy environments and healthy lifestyles for our children.