EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

TROUP HIGH SCHOOL CHARACTER EDUCATION PROGRAM

HON. BOB BARR
OF GEORGIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, July 27, 1999

Mr. BARR of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, all across America, there is a growing level of concern about a perceived culture of violence and apathy among many of our young people. In response, parents, teachers, students, and political leaders have been searching for ways to counteract these trends. I am pleased to report to the House of Representatives that one high school principal in my Congressional District is truly helping to provide a solution to this problem. That principal is Bill Parsons, and the school where he serves is Troup High School in LaGrange, Georgia.

Several years ago, Bill Parsons was working at West Point Elementary School in Troup County. At the time, he came to the realization that disrespect and rudeness were rampant among students. In an attempt to counter these trends, he instituted a character education program that resulted in a significant and immediate drop in disciplinary referrals. Word about Principal Bill Parsons’s work quickly spread, and his efforts became the model for similar character education programs across the Southeast. In addition to speaking about his program across the country, Bill Parsons is now working to implement a similar program that brings parents, teachers, students, businesses, and community leaders together to hammer home the message: character really does count.

I salute Bill Parsons for his crusade to make building good character a part of every child’s education. I urge my colleagues in Congress to look to his example, and do everything we can to support efforts such as his.

RECOGNIZING THE HMONG YOUTH FOUNDATION

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, July 27, 1999

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Hmong Youth Foundation’s Fourth Annual Summer Festival. This Festival is a successful effort in an effort to provide Hmong Youth, many of whom are challenged with language barriers, with opportunities to engage in a fun, and educational activities.

The Foundation was organized to give Hmong Youth a place where students can congregate as colleagues holding common fears, hopes and goals. The primary objective is to give students opportunities to excel in academic pursuits and to award scholarships. Before awarding scholarships, a strong after school infrastructure must be developed to provide a learning center and good environment. Many of the students come from economically disadvantaged families due to the