

I urge my colleagues to join me in extending my condolences to the Yaralian family.

TRIBUTE TO THE FAIRFAX COUNTY URBAN SEARCH AND RESCUE TEAM

**HON. THOMAS M. DAVIS**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 21, 1999*

Mr. DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to rise today to welcome home the members of the Fairfax County Urban Search and Rescue Team, and to salute their heroic efforts to rescue survivors in Izmit, Turkey in the aftermath of the country's worst earthquake in history. Called Virginia Task Force One, this highly trained team of rescue specialists are a credit to our nation both as ambassadors and humanitarians.

On August 17, 1999 at 3 a.m., Turkey was shook by a catastrophic earthquake recorded at a magnitude of 7.4. The ground's rumbling came in the still of the night while most people were sleeping, and sent others running out into the streets in a panic. In just 45 seconds 60,000 buildings crumbled to the ground, entombing at least 20,000 and perhaps as many as 40,000, with another 30,000 people injured, and 600,000 people left homeless.

Just a few hours after this tragedy hit, the 72 operational members of the Virginia Task Force team, comprised of urban search and rescue technicians, cave-in experts, canine teams, physicians, paramedics, logistician, and command and control personnel, prepared for one of their toughest missions. They brought with them 56,000 pounds of specialized equipment and supplies, including thermal imaging cameras, listening devices, advance life support medical equipment and supplies, communications equipment, food and water. They soon joined rescue teams from France, Germany, Switzerland, Italy, Japan and Israel to work round the clock to uncover victims buried under the once protective walls of their home.

Amid the tragedy and destruction of Turkey's massive earthquake, the Virginia Task Force courageously searched in perilous conditions for signs of life. More than 1,000 aftershocks continued to shake the earth and rain pelted against them creating muddy quagmires which complicated their efforts to clear debris and rescue survivors. Yet they demonstrated exemplary perseverance in their mission and successfully pulled four survivors from the twisted ruins. The first rescue was a frightened seven-year-old boy who had been trapped in bed for more than two days when his apartment building collapsed around him. Miraculously, he was not injured. After 4½ hours of chipping, shoveling and sawing through 15 feet of rubble, they saved the life of a vivacious 24-year-old woman in surprisingly high spirits. Another 8 hours of digging uncovered a second woman who had been entombed in the rubble. And 64 hours after the quake struck, miraculously they saved the life of Ayse Cesen, 46, whose brother had given up hope and brought a coffin to collect his body.

I join the country of Turkey in offering our heartfelt thanks to each and every member of the Virginia Task Force Team who selflessly demonstrated their invaluable skills and knowledge to locate survivors and recover victims. I salute the valiant efforts of Anthony MacIntyre, James M. Strickland, Barry Anderson, William Baker, William M. Bertone, Bernard D. Bickham, Donald C. Booth, Edward M. Brinkley, Jon P. Bruley, Gary B. Bunch, Gregory A. Bunch, Carlton G. Burkhammer, John Chabal, James M. Chinn, Brian Cloyd, David P. Conrad, Dean W. Cox, Kevin R. Dabeny, Michael B. Davis, Jeffrey L. Donaldson, Robert C. Dube, Benjamin A. Dye, Garrett L. Dyer, Thomas P. Feehan, Thomas H. Galvez, Thomas J. Griffin, Dan Hafling, Sonja Heritage, Kit R. Hessel, Andrew J. Hubery, Michael A. Istvan, Gerald Jakulski, Joseph M. Kaleda, Joseph E. Knerr, Elizabeth Kreiter, Randal A. Leatherman, Evan J. Lewis, Jeffery S. Lewis, Mark F. Lucas, Ramond Lucas, Craig S. Luecke, Michael J. Marks, Christopher M. Matsos, John C. Mayers, Shawn K. McPherson, Charles Mills, Susan Mingle, Gerard Morrison, Dewey H. Perks, Mark J. Plunkett, Thomas W. Reedy, Michael P. Regan, Michael T. Reilly, Jerome A. Roussillon, Charles S. Ruble, Dean A. Scott, William E. Shugart, Dallas L. Slemph, Frank Stoda, Rex Strickland, Michael Tamillow, David L. Taylor, William E. Teal, Scott Tezak, Dean Tills, James H. Tolson, Jack Walmer, James J. Walsh, Peter West, Charles A. Williams, Kea A. Zimmerman, and Robert J. Zoldos.

The Virginia Task Force Team and their families deserve the highest praise possible for the sacrifices they have made to come to the aid of the grief-stricken people of Turkey. As they have proven in the past, Fairfax County rescue workers are among the best trained in the world. The expertise they bring to such devastating scenes helps shine a ray of hope on an otherwise desperate situation.

DEPARTMENTS OF VETERANS AFFAIRS AND HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, AND INDEPENDENT AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2000

SPEECH OF

**HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 8, 1999*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2684) making appropriations for the Department of Veteran Affairs and Housing and Urban Development, and for sundry independent agencies, boards, commissions, corporations, and offices for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2000, and for other purposes:

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong support of this amendment. At a time when our economy is at its strongest in a generation, we should be working to ensure that working Americans can afford a roof over their heads. Unfortunately, the bill the Republicans chose to bring to the floor would leave 128,000 families out in the cold.

By failing to fund the President's request for 100,000 new Section 8 housing vouchers, Republicans will leave 128,000 families out in the cold.

This bill undermines low and moderate income Americans struggling to make ends meet. It fails to fund the President's request for 100,000 new Section 8 vouchers, cutting the legs out from under people making the transition from welfare to work. And it comes at a time when the number of people in need of rental assistance is at an all-time high of 12.5 million—nearly half of whom are children and the elderly.

Mr. NADLER's amendment would help move us back toward investing in affordable housing opportunities for working Americans by funding 50,000 new Section 8 vouchers. We should not leave working Americans out in the cold to help pay for a tax cut that the American people don't want and that our children's future can't afford. I urge members to support this amendment.

RECOGNIZING THE WESTERN MASS. PIONEERS, NATIONAL CHAMPIONS D3 PROFESSIONAL SOCCER

**HON. RICHARD E. NEAL**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 21, 1999*

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the exciting achievement of the Western Mass. Pioneers soccer team. On Saturday, September 11, 1999, the Pioneers defeated the South Jersey Barons 2-1 in the National Championship match of the D3 Professional Soccer League. The Pioneers organization became the national champion in just its second year of existence and was also awarded Franchise-of-the-Year status.

Western Massachusetts has long been a hotbed of soccer in America. Immigrants from countries such as Portugal, Poland, Italy, and Ireland brought their passion for the world's game with them as they settled in places like Ludlow, Chicopee, the South End, and Hungry Hill. The fan support at Lusitano Stadium in Ludlow, MA, the home field of the Pioneers, can only be described as phenomenal. The raucous, yet knowledgeable crowd numbered 5,223 for the final game. In their final three matches, the Pioneers had an average attendance of 4,478, setting a new record each night. Clearly evident of the faces of both the young and the old were the passions of the old countries, as well as the growing American soccer pride.

The strength of Western Massachusetts soccer can be seen on the roster as well, as seven members of the champions are local products. These players include starting goalkeeper John Voight, starting defenders Paul Kelly and Brad Miller, starting midfielder Chris Legowski, defenders Greg Kolodziej and Nate Allen, and backup keeper Danny Pires. Voight was named Championship match MVP, and Kelly was named to the 1999 All D3 Pro League All-Star First Team, as was forward Rob Jachym.

As Champions of the D3 League, the Pioneers may be considered for promotion to the A-League, the division two of American professional soccer. Whether they choose to pursue promotion or to remain in the D3, the Pioneers, led by general manager Rick Andre, have plenty to be proud of this year. Mr. Speaker, once again I am proud and honored to recognize and congratulate the Western Mass. Pioneers, the 1999 National Champions of the D3 Professional Soccer League.

SMALLER SCHOOLS ARE SAFER SCHOOLS

HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 21, 1999*

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, we have done a very good job in this Nation bringing class sizes down. But we have made a bad mistake going to large, centralized schools and closing down thousands of small neighborhood and community schools particularly at the high school level.

This point was made in a very articulate way in a letter entitled "Smaller Schools are Safer Schools" in the August 30th issue of the Christian Science Monitor. I commend this letter by Michael Klonsky to my colleagues and other readers of the RECORD.

SMALLER SCHOOLS ARE SAFER SCHOOLS

Regarding "Safer Places of Learning" (Aug. 20): The new "militarization" of schools may do more harm than good. Tens of millions of dollars are now being spent, without much thought or planning, on security cameras, metal detectors, and police may make school violence the expected norm.

This trend also shifts the responsibility for teaching children away from teachers to counselors and police. When the shootings first took place, there was some serious discussion about the size and culture of schools. All the shootings occurred in large schools where kids outside the mainstream could easily fall through the cracks. Teachers and administrators claimed ignorance of the threat from neo-Nazi gangs and antisocial cliques.

But now the discussion has shifted almost entirely toward militarization and regimentation of schools and side issues of student dress codes.

Calling on students to eat lunch with kids they don't normally eat with is a nice idea but it avoids many of the responsibilities that adults should bare, like school restructuring.

Over the next decade we will spend billions in the construction of new gigantic high schools and junior highs. This is a recipe for more Littletons.

If we are serious about safe schools, one of the first things we need to consider is the creation of smaller communities of teachers and learners where kids are known by the people charged with educating them.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

CALIFORNIA'S AGRICULTURAL EXPORT STRENGTH AND IT'S SIGNIFICANCE

HON. WILLIAM M. THOMAS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 21, 1999*

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, in spite of all the jobs produced by foreign trade in California and the opening of a new round of agricultural trade negotiations expected during the World Trade Organization Ministerial meeting this fall, there continue to be those who claim the U.S. should not undertake new negotiations. I believe what we need are more ways to sell overseas so California farmers can take advantage of their ability to produce quality products.

Exports are vital to California's agricultural industry as well as the California economy. California's agriculture accounts for almost \$7 billion in exports every year. Cotton and almonds, which account for one quarter of California's agricultural exports, are the two largest exports with 83 percent and 55 percent of the crops respectively being sold to foreign markets. We have also seen a booming increase in wine exports, which have grown 80% since 1995. Wine is now the third largest California agricultural export. One third of all California's agriculture output goes to foreign markets.

The three leading export markets for California are Japan, Mexico, and Hong Kong. Japan still offers the largest growth potential in value added products. Mexico is recovering from the effects of the peso devaluation and has resumed its position as the largest market for California's farm agricultural exports. Hong Kong plays a key role as the gateway to Asia for exports. Thanks to the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), tariffs between two of California's major markets, Mexico and Canada, are being phased out or have already been eliminated. These markets are not the only ones in which growth is expected.

California has the real possibility of making inroads into new emerging markets with long term potential. Many Asian markets were largely closed to foreign trade until this decade. Latin American nations also have potential to become important long-term importers of California's agricultural products.

Another contributing factor to California's agricultural export strength is the motivation to adopt useful latest technology. Approximately 90,000 farms in California currently have Internet access and the number of farms "on line" has doubled from 23% to 46% in the last two years. Using this tool, farmers have access to commodity prices, weather, news on the latest technology, advice from the USDA and market conditions. This improved access to information will give farmers more control over production and marketing.

In fact, California agriculture has demonstrated remarkable flexibility in marketing its products during the last ten years. Anyone who shops for produce is familiar with the bagged, ready-to-eat salad and vegetable products packed for consumers. Storage techniques have improved to the point where many types of produce are available for

*September 21, 1999*

months after harvest with the same quality we have come to expect from fresh-picked products. Having perfected these techniques at home, Californians are positioned to offer foreign buyers high quality goods as well.

While California has grown to be the biggest agricultural producer and exporter in the U.S., we should remember that our farmers also have the ability to offset unfair trade restrictions or obtain time to adjust to new market conditions. For example, American lamb producers recently obtained a 3-year recovery program to battle the recent drastic increase in lamb imports. This tariff-rate quota system will impose high tariffs on any lamb imports exceeding a specified amount. This will give our domestic lamb market the ability to recover competitiveness.

Agricultural exports from California continue to grow and support our economy by creating jobs, revenue, and increasing our own economic stability. By continuing trade with our current customers, as well as researching new and emerging markets, California's agricultural production and value will continue to grow. We know we can prosper through trade. What we need to do most is pursue new places and means of trading with other countries.

HONORING SAN DIEGO COUNTY'S 1999 TEACHERS OF THE YEAR

HON. RANDY "DUKE" CUNNINGHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 21, 1999*

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Mr. Speaker, as a strong advocate of excellence in education, I am honored today to give recognition to four men and women who have been named San Diego County Teachers of the Year.

These are: Alma Hills, O'Farrell Community School; Karen O'Connor, Sunset Hills Elementary School; Jan Patrick Mongoven, San Marcos High School; and Gualter do Rego Moura, Mission Bay High School.

Excellent education begins at home with strong families. It continues in the classroom, with teachers who do their jobs well, whose lives are dedicated to the children and the young people that they enrich and inspire. As a former teacher and coach, I understand that teaching is a difficult job whose rewards are not always immediately evident. But nothing that is truly rewarding in life comes easily. And the dedication and commitment shown by San Diego County's finest teachers exemplifies the best of our schools, the best of our communities, and the best of America.

Because education is the passport to the American dream, I want for all of our Nation's young people to have the finest teachers. And while San Diego County has recognized these four for Teacher of the Year honors, eligible for further recognition at the State and national levels, the truth is that there are hundreds and thousands more outstanding teachers where these came from—in public and private schools, in public charter schools, and in home schools across our country. As we work to do better, we can learn from the best.

Let the permanent RECORD of the Congress of the United States note the contributions that