

of nothing, lobbying the state to purchase the land, which was then turned into a park.

Joe Manzanares has been recognized by others for his inspirational dedication to revitalizing neighborhoods. This week, he will travel to Oakland, California to receive additional recognition for his achievements. There, Mr. Manzanares will receive the Dorothy Richardson Award for Resident Leadership Development from the Neighborhood Reinvestment Corporation. He will be one of nine people receiving the award, selected from thousands of volunteers for nonprofit organizations across this country.

I cannot think of a more fitting and deserving recipient of this honor than Joe Manzanares. I wish to extend my congratulations to Joe Manzanares upon the occasion of this award honoring the commitment that he has made to his neighborhood in Pueblo, his home since 1962. Mr. Speaker, let me close by extending my own appreciation—thank you, Joe Manzanares, for your work to improve our community.

GAO REPORT URGES IMPROVEMENTS OF FEDERAL PROGRAMS FOR CHILDREN OF MIGRANT FARM WORKERS

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 16, 1999

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call to the attention of my colleagues of a General Accounting Office (GAO) report which I requested. The report—entitled “Migrant Children: Education and HHS Need to Improve the Exchange of Participant Information”—has just been released. The GAO study reports problems with federal education programs which have been established to help children of migrant farm worker families. The two largest federal education programs, Migrant Education and Migrant Head Start, help over 660,000 migrant children overcome educational hardships. The report concludes that federal education programs created to help children of migrant farm worker families, could better serve migrant children.

Mr. Speaker, migrant children routinely suffer poverty, inadequate housing, social isolation, pesticide exposure, and disrupted schooling as their families move from place to place and from state to state in search of work. The fresh produce and rich variety of canned and frozen foods on our American tables would not be available without the labor of migrant farm worker families, but migrant children, many of whom labor in the fields along side their parents, frequently do not share in this bounty. We need effective programs which can help these children.

According to the GAO report, migrant workers are diverse, young, and mobile. Although most are Mexican and Mexican-American, there has been an influx of workers from Central America. At the same time, a substantial portion of the migrant labor force includes English-speaking, white U.S. families; Bengali-speaking workers harvesting grapes and fruit in California; Russian-speaking workers fishing

and logging in the Northwest; and Gullah-speaking, African-American families shrimping in Georgia. Over the years, the workforce has become younger, and today most migrant farm workers are under 35. In particular, the number of teenage boys who migrate without their families—many as young as 13 years of age—continues to increase.

Mr. Speaker, about half of all migrant workers travel with their families. Most migrant farm worker families live in two or more locations per year, disrupting the education and preschool experience of children. This not only disrupts regular education, it can also disrupt special services available to migrant children. In part this is because children who may be eligible for special education services in one location are not eligible when they move to another location and in part because critical information, such as immunization records and special education needs assessments, are not transmitted or are not accepted at the new school. Because children of migrant farm families are in an area for a relatively short time, they may not receive the services they need and they may receive unnecessary immunizations or diagnostic assessments. An additional problem for older children is satisfying the course requirements for high school graduation. Requirements differ from school district to school district and records of courses completed must be transmitted to the new school district, and frequently this does not happen or it happens only with considerable delay.

Mr. Speaker, the GAO recommends that to help all migrant infant and preschoolers get the services they need, the Secretary of Health and Human Services expand its definition of eligible agricultural occupations available for Migrant Head Start (MHS) programs to harmonize with those listed under Migrant Educational Program (MEP). Currently, only children of crop workers are eligible for MHS, whereas those eligible for MEP include children of dairy workers and fishers, as well as crop workers. As a result of MHS' narrower eligibility requirements, fewer infants and preschool migrant children are eligible for MHS than for MEP.

The GAO's second recommendation, to make sure that critical information is transmitted to the receiving school or center when it is needed. In order to assure that this is done, GAO recommends that the Secretaries of Education and of Health and Human Services to develop an electronic nationwide system that would allow schools and MHS centers to readily access or request educational and health information migrant children. Currently, the absence of a national system often results in inappropriate classroom placements, delays in receiving services, repeated immunizations, or failures to complete high school graduation requirements.

GAO's third recommendation is that the two cabinet Secretaries include in their respective research and evaluation plans studies that measure the outcomes of MEP and MHS and the extent to which programs are meeting their goals. It is important that we know if migrant education and head start programs are working. Although both Education and HHS collect substantial amounts of program data, none of the current data enables either department to evaluate how much their programs are helping migrant children.

Mr. Speaker, copies of this important report are available. I urge my colleagues to read the GAO's important new report on migrant children and join me in working to implement these important recommendations.

HONORING ELIZABETH MCINTOSH

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 16, 1999

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I want to recognize the achievements of community activist, Elizabeth McIntosh.

Mrs. McIntosh is a native of Aiken, South Carolina. She received her formal education in Jacksonville, Florida and came to New York in 1935, where she was employed in the garment district. Later, she was employed by the New York City Transit Authority and retired from NYCTA after thirty years of service.

She is a dedicated and faithful member of Universal Baptist Church, where she serves as a deaconess. Mrs. McIntosh enjoys working with and helping others whenever and wherever she can. She contributes her time to the Stuyvesant Heights Landmark Senior Citizen Center where she is also a member and the Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) of the Community Service Society.

For many years, Mrs. McIntosh has made significant contributions to the growth and development of the Unity Democratic Club. Her exemplary leadership and commitment as Chaplain, a member of the Executive Board, The Women's Auxiliary and numerous other committees related to campaign and election activities is an inspiration to the Club.

In addition, she is a member of the National Council of Negro Women, The 81st Precinct Community Council, The Good Neighbor Block Association, The Church Women United of Brooklyn and the NAACP. Elizabeth McIntosh has shown courage and determination in whatever task she undertakes. She leaves an indelible impression on everyone she meets. The strong desire to help and a love for humanity keeps Mrs. McIntosh on the move.

I commend the accomplishments of Elizabeth McIntosh to the attention of my colleagues.

RECOGNIZING VIRGINIA'S MINORITY-OWNED INFORMATION AND TECHNOLOGY FIRMS NAMED AMONG THE 100 LARGEST BY BLACK ENTERPRISE MAGAZINE

HON. THOMAS M. DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 16, 1999

Mr. DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join my colleagues from Virginia in commending the work of a group of Virginia's most innovative companies. Included in Black Enterprise Magazine's list of the 100 largest minority-owned companies are 13 information and technology firms. Nine of the 13 call Virginia home. These businesses represent the

very best of the Information Age true superstars in the information technology arena that is helping to fuel the economy in my home state of Virginia and across the entire nation.

These nine enterprises are fostering the emergence of an exciting new market for African American entrepreneurs. At the top of the IT industry, Universal System Technology Inc. (UNITECH); Digital Systems International Corp; SENTEL; Innovative Logistics Techniques, Inc.; Advanced Resource Technologies, Inc.; Houston Associates, Inc., and Armstrong Data Service, Inc. (ADS) are transforming Northern Virginia into one of the world's leading technology hubs.

It is not by chance that African-American owned businesses are finding their success stories in Northern Virginia. Our region's concentration of fine colleges and universities provides a vast pool of potential employees. Emerging businesses may also choose from a large number of former government employees seeking high-tech jobs in the private sector. Furthermore, close proximity to our nation's political center renders opportunities for government contracting and access to key decision-makers.

The area also boasts a plethora of organizations that provide resources to emerging businesses. The Northern Virginia Technology Council hosts networking sessions, helping young companies build relationships with large, established IT firms. The Fairfax County Economic Development Authority and the Center for Innovative Technology provide technical, financial and business assistance.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I want to send my sincere congratulations to the African-American entrepreneurs who are using Northern Virginia's existing resources well, while creating jobs and contributing to the area's supportive community and excellent quality of life. We celebrate their entrepreneurial spirit, we honor their commitment to the state of Virginia and applaud their vital role in the information and technology industry.

HONORING DR. MARILYN WHIRRY,
CALIFORNIA'S TEACHER OF THE
YEAR

HON. STEVEN T. KUYKENDALL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 16, 1999

Mr. KUYKENDALL, Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an exceptional individual from my district, Dr. Marilyn Whirry. Dr. Whirry, an English teacher in Manhattan Beach, was recently named California's Teacher of the Year. She is the first South Bay teacher to win this award and advance to the National Teacher of the Year competition.

For over 30 years, Dr. Whirry has taught English to students in grades 9-12 at Mira Costa High School. She has touched the lives of thousands, instilling in her students the importance of education.

She currently teaches Advanced Placement English to Mira Costa seniors. When Dr. Whirry took over the program 9 years ago, only 26 students were in the class. The program has since developed under her direction

and now enrollment is roughly 150 students. She expects a lot from her students, and implements a challenging curriculum focused upon rigorous learning and discovery.

Dr. Whirry's commitment to educational excellence extends beyond the Manhattan Beach Unified School District. She is also a professor at Loyola Marymount University and regularly conducts reading workshops throughout southern California. She has been a consultant for several states including California, and she has also advised President Clinton. Last year she was selected as the chairperson of the National Assessments Governing Board's committee to develop a voluntary national reading test to assess fourth graders. Over her career, she has become a national leader in education.

I congratulate Dr. Marilyn Whirry on being selected as California's Teacher of the Year. It is a testament of her commitment to her students as well as a reflection of the quality of education in the South Bay. She is a valuable member of the community, and I wish her much success in the national competition. The students and parents of Manhattan Beach are grateful to have her as an educator.

H.R. 3375: CONVICTED OFFENDER
DNA INDEX SYSTEM SUPPORT
ACT OF 1999

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 16, 1999

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, today, I'm introducing H.R. 3375, the Convicted Offender DNA Index System Support Act of 1999. This legislation will provide assistance to the States to eliminate their backlog of convicted offender DNA samples, provide grants to the States to eliminate their backlog of DNA evidence for cases for which there are no suspects, provide funding to the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) to eliminate their unsolved casework backlog, expand collection efforts to include Federal, District of Columbia (DC) and military violent convicted offenders into the Combined DNA Index System (CODIS), and authorize the construction of a missing persons database. Joining me as cosponsors are, my friends and colleagues, co-chairman of the Congressional Law Enforcement Caucus, Congressman JIM RAMSTAD of (Minnesota) and BART STUPAK of Michigan.

Mr. Speaker, in 1994, the Congress passed the DNA Identification Act, which authorized the construction of the Combined DNA Index System, or CODIS, to assist our Federal, State, and local law enforcement agencies in fighting violent crime throughout the Nation. CODIS is a master database for all law enforcement agencies to submit and retrieve DNA samples of convicted violent offenders. Since beginning its operation in 1998, the system has worked extremely well in assisting law enforcement by matching DNA evidence with possible suspects and has accounted for the capture of over 200 suspects in unsolved violent crimes.

However, because of the high volume of convicted offender samples needed to be ana-

lyzed, a nationwide backlog of approximately 600,000 unanalyzed convicted offender DNA samples has formed. Furthermore, because the program has been so vital in assisting crime fighting and prevention efforts, our States are expanding their collection efforts. Recently, although New York State already has a backlog of approximately 2,000 samples, Governor George Pataki recently announced that the State will be expanding their collection of DNA samples to require all violent felons and a number of nonviolent felony offenders.

State forensic laboratories have also accumulated a backlog of evidence for cases for which there are no suspects. These are evidence "kits" for unsolved violent crimes which are stored away because our State forensic laboratories do not have the support necessary to analyze them and compare the evidence to our nationwide data bank. Presently, there are approximately 12,000 rape cases in New York City alone, and, it is estimated, approximately 180,000 rape cases nationwide, which are unsolved and unanalyzed. This number represents a dismal future for the success of CODIS and reflects the growing problem facing our law enforcement community. The successful elimination of both the convicted violent offender backlog and the unsolved casework backlog will play a major role in the future of our State's crime prevention and law enforcement efforts.

The Convicted Offender DNA Index System Support Act will also provide funding to the Federal Bureau of Investigation to eliminate their unsolved casework backlog and close a loophole created by the original legislation. Although all 50 States require DNA collection from designated convicted offenders, for some inexplicable reason, convicted Federal, District of Columbia, and military offenders are exempt. H.R. 3375 closes that loophole by requiring the collection of samples from any Federal, military, or DC offender convicted of a violent crime.

Moreover, this measure includes a provision, which will permit the FBI to construct a missing person database. This program will permit family members who have lost a loved one to voluntarily enter their DNA profile into a national registry. Should a missing child be found, this database will provide our law enforcement agencies with a system to locate the displaced families and bring the child home. Furthermore, it will allow individuals who, in later years, suspect they have been abducted to refer to the FBI in search of a match to their DNA.

I recently assisted in coordinating a pilot program between the National Center for Missing and Abducted Children, the Department of State, the Department of Justice, and the Rockland County, New York Clerk's and Sheriff's Offices, which will assist in stopping individuals from smuggling children out of the country. This program is an important step in protecting our Nation's children. However, constructing a missing person's database will provide a strong, national foundation to assist our Nation's families and law enforcement in the fight against child abduction.

Mr. Speaker, as you are aware, our Nation's fight against crime is never over. Every day, the use of DNA evidence is becoming a more