

You will be greatly missed.

COMMEMORATING THE CORNERSTONE CEREMONY FOR JOHN A. O'CONNELL TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL

**HON. NANCY PELOSI**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 4, 1999*

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the Cornerstone Ceremony for John A. O'Connell Technical High School in San Francisco.

In 1989 the Loma Prieta earthquake virtually destroyed the facilities at John A. O'Connell Technical High School, and forced them to relocate the school temporarily for a period of ten years. In the year 2000 the John A. O'Connell Technical High School will return to its former site and a new building structure in the Mission District of San Francisco. John A. O'Connell Technical High School will be the first San Francisco public school of the Millennium. Its curriculum will be revised to reflect the role of technology for today's classrooms and workplaces as its focus moves from a traditional trade school to a school emphasizing a curriculum that will embody a "school to career" principle.

On May 10, 1999, the Cornerstone Ceremony for John A. O'Connell Technical High School will be hosted by officers of the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of California. It is a true reflection of our diversity of interests to bring together so many organizations in support of public education. The Masons have a rich tradition of serving our communities, particularly education, and we are grateful for their support over these many years. The man whose name we honor today—John O'Connell—served the San Francisco community as its labor leader for almost half a century as a founder of the Teamsters Union and the San Francisco Labor Council. Their extraordinary vision and commitment bring us once again to the doorsteps of a new center for education and learning in the Mission District.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of Congress, let us join in celebrating our continued support for public education by commending the leaders and representatives of the San Francisco Mission District community, labor community, and Masonic Lodges and organizations and other individuals who have contributed to this historic occasion.

DALLAS COWBOYS OWNER JERRY JONES

**HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 4, 1999*

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, many of us are aware of the contributions that Dallas Cowboys owner Jerry Jones has made to the sport of football. His focus on excellence in sportmanship and suc-

cessful stewardship of the Dallas Cowboys will be forever cemented in the history of the game.

However, Mr. Jones has also made a significant contribution to the history of our country and the ideas of Thomas Jefferson, the third President of the United States, who drafted the Declaration of Independence.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Jones along with his wife Gene, donated \$1 million to a Library of Congress program that is currently rebuilding Thomas Jefferson's personal book collection that was lost in a fire.

This gracious gift allows the Library of Congress to obtain lost copies of books destroyed in 1851. It will be a labor and financially intensive undertaking that will be helped by Mr. Jones's assistance.

Cicero once said that "to be ignorant of the past is to remain a child." Mr. Speaker, the donation by Mr. Jones will assure that we will be able to hold onto history and be less ignorant of it, while being wiser.

Thomas Jefferson was not only the drafter of the Declaration of Independence and U.S. President, he was also an enlightened thinker whose ideas helped us build this country and guide her through dark times. His ideas and thoughts were shaped and influenced by books.

It is appropriate that the gift from Mr. and Mrs. Jones will help restore Jefferson's rare books as he helped found the Library of Congress.

As this country still wrestles with issues of equality and freedom well into the 21st century, it is incumbent upon us to refer to the high-minded ideals of our Founding Fathers. The \$1 million donation to the Library of Congress will help this country locate those books and remind us of our collective vision and history.

On behalf of the residents of the 30th Congressional District and all Americans, I would like to thank Jerry and Gene Jones for their donation to the Library of Congress. For me, this also represents their service to our country, support of democratic ideas and persevering history.

THE DAIRY COMPACT—WHY WE NEED IT

**HON. AMO HOUGHTON**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 4, 1999*

Mr. HOUGHTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of H.R. 1604, a bill which would allow New York State farmers to join the New England Dairy Compact. The compact is not a panacea for dairy problems, but it is a start.

There are those who argue against it—too restrictive, anti-competitive, will increase milk prices. Despite the nay-sayers, there are many reasons to support this compact, and I support it. There are cultural reasons, economic reasons, and an overriding consideration: our own farmers want it.

The current compact in New England was established about two years ago. It provides dairy farmers with a steady, predictable floor price for their milk. And that is important. Dairy

farmers for the most part live so close to the line that mild gyrations in the price they receive can be lethal.

How would anyone like to run a business where the price of your product in one day can drop 40% and you have no control over it. Your product, your quality, your service is better than ever. Through non-economic sources beyond your control your whole business stands on the brink of destitution. 5,600 New York dairy farms went that route in the last ten years.

There are three groups opposed to this life-saving compact.

First, the large Midwestern producers who in effect control through government orders the floor price of liquid milk and cheese.

Second, the big city political powers who claim that a compact to stabilize prices will at the same time increase prices to the poor. This has been disproved over and over again.

Third, the middle men—those who handle, package and distribute the raw milk before it reaches retail consumers. While the farmer receives the same price for his milk on average as he did 20 years ago—this guy has jacked up the price to the consumer in this same period by 35%.

Everyone has a right to fight for his or her economic interests, but not using the government as an accomplice, and not at the expense of those who milk the cows and produce the basic product. Something is terribly wrong when downstream interests enrich only themselves and prey on the vulnerability of smaller family farms. These plus others hold in their hands the ability to drive an important part of our heritage as well as our food supply to the wall.

If government is for anything it is to protect those who can't protect themselves. This is why I, along with others, am fighting for a multi-state Dairy Compact.

The dairy business could soon be dominated by mega-farms whose only claimed advantage is an economy of scale. That's not sufficient reason to muscle out others of lesser size whose costs are similar, but whose deep pockets are not. If the federal government is going to be in the dairy business at all, it better try to serve the many, not the few.

Is a compact the answer to all the problems in our dairy industry? Of course not. But it will help preserve our family producers until a more permanent solution can evolve.

So, the way I see it, a compact benefits farmers and consumers. That's why I will fight for its passage.

HONORING CECILE HERSHON

**HON. DALE E. KILDEE**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 4, 1999*

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I stand before you today to recognize and honor the accomplishments of a truly remarkable woman. On May 5, members of the Flint, Michigan, Northern High School Alumni Association will gather to honor five Distinguished Fellows, members of their alumni community who have contributed to legacy and rich history of Northern