

I believe that being an American citizen means helping others in need. This is one of the strongest values of Americans. For a young man to throw himself on a land mine to save his platoon exemplifies the ideals of self-sacrifice and service that is the corner stone of America. While I'm standing here looking at this display of congressional honor, I wonder how his mother felt. The last time she ironed his uniform and picked off the little stray threads for this display, was she aware of how much I appreciate what her son gave up and what she gave up through him? I only hope that my little sacrifices and services will be able to honor his death and all deaths that make the quality of life that I enjoy possible. I can only hope that one day I'll be able to give a service of this magnitude to my country.

"Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends." (John 15:13) As I walk away I hope to take a little inspiration from this boy who selflessly embodied these values.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 20, 1999

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, on May 13, 1999, I was unavoidably detained during a rollcall vote: number 129, on the Sanders of Vermont amendment, as amended, to H.R. 1555, Intelligence Authorization. Had I been present for the vote, I would have voted "no."

TRIBUTE TO TERMINAL PARK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 20, 1999

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to congratulate Terminal Park Elementary School in Auburn, Washington, for their selection as a Blue Ribbon School. It is an honor to have this school, located in the Ninth Congressional District, as one of only 266 schools nationwide awarded this prestigious honor.

The Blue Ribbon School award is given to schools that do an outstanding job of meeting local, state, and national goals, and display the qualities of excellence that are necessary to prepare our young people for the challenges of the next century. More specifically, to receive the award, schools must have strong leaders; a clear vision, and sense of mission that is shared by all connected with the school; high-quality teaching; challenging, up-to-date curriculum; policies and practices that ensure a safe environment conducive to learning; a solid commitment to parental involvement; and evidence that the school helps all students to achieve high standards.

I commend the staff, students, and parents of Terminal Park Elementary School for their hard work in building an effective community for learning. The focus on literacy and assuring students obtain the essential skills needed for life is absolutely necessary and I am glad

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

we have Terminal Park Elementary School as an example for how we need to work toward educating our children.

CONGRATULATIONS TO PRESIDENT LEE TENG-HUI

HON. JOE SCARBOROUGH

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 20, 1999

Mr. SCARBOROUGH. Mr. Speaker, Taiwan, known as the Republic of China, will be marking its President's third anniversary in office on May 20, 1999. President Lee Teng-hui, a Taiwan-born statesman, should be commended for his leadership and vision for his country.

President Lee's leadership lies in his ability to rally his 21 million compatriots into understanding that the course Taiwan has chosen, both economically and politically, is right for them. President Lee has convinced them that their future lies in free trade and private enterprise as well as in full democracy. With the help of his compatriots, President Lee will lead the Republic of China to ever greater economic prosperity at home, while achieving international recognition abroad.

On the occasion of the President's third anniversary in office, I wish President Lee Godspeed and good fortune.

TRIBUTE TO BROOKE GROVE ELEMENTARY

HON. CONSTANCE A. MORELLA

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 20, 1999

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to pay tribute to the faculty, parents, and students of Brooke Grove Elementary School in Montgomery County, MD, for winning the Blue Ribbon Excellence in Education Award from the Department of Education.

Students, parents, and teachers at Brooke Grove have forged a partnership dedicated to excellence and committed to the belief that success is attainable for all students. Participation and involvement is of paramount importance and evident throughout all aspects of learning and teaching.

Brooke Grove has implemented The William and Mary Language Arts Program for Highly Able Learners; Reading Recovery Program, which is an internationally recognized intervention program. The school uses Math and Science Clubs, Science Hands-on kits, Math Content Connections, funded by the National Science Foundation, computer labs, and a research/learning hub to enable children to acquire skills and learn how to problem solve for the future.

At Brooke Grove staff training is essential to the instructional process. New teachers participate in 1 week of training prior to joining the staff and have a coach-mentor throughout their first year of service. A large number of teachers were trained in numerous staff development initiatives, which include The William and Mary Curriculum; AEMP, Science and Ex-

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pository Reading; and Gifted and Talented Instruction.

The faculty at Brooke Grove has demonstrated innovative and creative avenues for acknowledging and motivating students. The environment is one in which children want to achieve, are supported in their efforts to achieve, and are recognized for their accomplishments.

As a former teacher, I am pleased that Brooke Grove Elementary School is being recognized for its fine educational and extra-curricular programs. I congratulate its fine faculty, its supportive parents, and its excellent administrators and wish them continued success in achieving excellence in education.

LACKENMIER RETIREMENT

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 20, 1999

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an extremely well-respected community leader, educator, and close personal friend, Reverend James R. Lackenmier. On May 20th, Father Lackenmier will step down as President of King's College in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania after twenty-five years of distinguished service to this fine institution. Father Lackenmier combines the rare traits of having the executive acumen of a Fortune 500 CEO, the devotion to young people of a life-long educator, and the warmth of community spirit of a man who has truly embraced "The Valley with a heart." I am pleased and proud to join in a community-wide salute as Father Lackenmier leaves Northeastern Pennsylvania for new pursuits.

The eldest son of Harold and Margaret Murphy Lackenmier, Father Lackenmier was born in Lackawanna, New York. He graduated from Canisius High School in Buffalo, New York in 1956, entered the congregation of Holy Cross in 1957, and was ordained in Rome in 1964. Father Lackenmier earned his Bachelor of Arts degree from Stonehill College in Massachusetts and his S.T.L. from the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome. Father Lackenmier went on to receive a master's degree in English from the University of North Carolina in 1968 and a master's degree in Religion and Literature from the University of Chicago in 1970. He has subsequently been awarded six honorary degrees from Our Lady of Holy Cross College in New Orleans, University of Portland, Wilkes University, College Misericordia, Luzerne County Community College, and the University of Scranton.

Education has been Father Lackenmier's focus; he served first as an English teacher in Notre Dame High School in Connecticut and later as the chair of the English department at St. Peter's High School in Gloucester, Massachusetts. Father Lackenmier served as the chaplain at St. Xavier College in Chicago and later as the director of the Collegiate Formation program at Notre Dame's Moreau Seminary in Indiana. In 1974, Father Lackenmier arrived at King's College in Wilkes-Barre to serve first as the Director of Campus Ministry, then later as Director of Development, and finally as President.