EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

On this occasion, Mr. Speaker, I am honored to join his family, friends, and colleagues as we recognize LTG Lester Lyles on his promotion to four star General in the United States Air Force.

THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DEATH OF FREDERIC CHOPIN

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL
OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, May 27, 1999

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, this year marks the occasion of the 150th anniversary of the death of one of the world's most evocative musicians, Frederic Chopin. Chopin was born in Zelazowa Wola, a village six miles from Warsaw, Poland on March 1, 1810. He suffered from tuberculosis and died in Paris at the age of 39 on October 17, 1849. This year his life and work will be celebrated around the world, and it brings me and my Polish heritage great pride to recognize this event.

Chopin's abilities were recognized at an early age. At 9, he played a concerto at a public concert. He published his first composition at 15. And at the age of 21, Chopin moved to Paris where he was well-received. He taught piano lessons and often played in private homes, preferring this to public concerts.

One of the best-known and best-loved composers of the romantic period, Chopin was devoted to the piano, and his more than 200 compositions demonstrate his grace and skill. And his admirers included fellow composers Frédéric Leschetizky and Robert Schumann. Chopin reportedly fell deeply in love with the novelist George Sand (Aurore Dudevant), and he described her as his inspiration.

His works include two sets of etudes, two sonatas, four ballads, many pieces he titled preludes, impromptus, or scherzos, and a great number of dances. Included among the latter are a number of waltzes, but also mazurkas and six polonaises, dances from his native Poland. Some of these dance pieces are among Chopin's best-known works, including the Polonaise in A-flat major and the Waltz in C-sharp minor.

Among Chopin's most engaging works are the Préludes. Intended to serve as improvised beginnings to an intimate recital, these pieces range from gentle melancholy to the dramatic. Many of Chopin's most beautiful compositions come from the series of short, reflective pieces he called nocturnes. His nocturnes were usually gentle with a flowing bass and demonstrate Chopin's flair for elegant, song-like melodies.

Indeed, Chopin composed some of the most beautiful piano music ever written, and I applaud those who will pay tribute to this remarkable composer and his Polish heritage in this important anniversary year.

TRIBUTE TO TEACHING FELLOWS FROM STANLY COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA

HON. ROBIN HAYES
OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, May 27, 1999

Mr. HAYES. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to congratulate four Stanly County students who are among the 1999 recipients of the North Carolina Teaching Fellows scholarships. Each Fellow receives a $26,000 scholarship loan from the state of North Carolina.

The full loan is forgiven after the recipient has completed 4 years of teaching in North Carolina public schools.

In addition, all Fellows take part in academic summer enrichment programs during their college careers.

The Teaching Fellows Scholarship program was created by the North Carolina General Assembly in 1986 and has become one of the top teacher recruiting programs in the country.

This innovative program attracts talented high school seniors to become public school teachers. This is a common sense, state based program that will help encourage our best and brightest to come back to their communities to teach.

The 1999 recipients from Stanly County, North Carolina are Catherine Ellen Hinson and Mai Lee Xiong, both of Albemarle High School, Adam Allen Cycotte of South Stanly High School, and Anna Beth Spence of West Stanly High School.

Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate these individuals for the courage and desire to enter the teaching profession.

REMEMBRANCE OF OLD MARBLEHEAD

HON. JOHN F. TIERNEY
OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, May 27, 1999

Mr. TIERNEY. Mr. Speaker, recently I had the pleasure of joining with my constituents to celebrate Marblehead, Massachusetts’ 350th Anniversary! At the festivities a remarkable young eighth grader from Marblehead Middle School shared her poem, “Remembrance of Old Marblehead” with those assembled. I can attest to the fact that her words and delivery truly “stole the show” and I take great pride in sharing Ms. Katherine Fowley’s fine work with my Colleagues:

REMEMBRANCE OF OLD MARBLEHEAD

I stand on the rocks and I listen to the ancient whispers of the sea.

They sing the songs of fishermen, of cannon fire, of boats rich with merchandise.

I lie on the banks of Fort Sewall.

Suddenly, the benches transform into cannons.

Trees become young soldiers.

Townpeople cheer as the proud bow of the constitution steers into harbor.

At night men gather around a blazing fire.

Their triumphant songs rise to meet the surge of ocean waves.

When I walk on the old roads, I hear the drumming of Glover’s Regiment marching over faded cobblestones.