EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

A TRIBUTE TO THE BLACK CUBAN FOUNDATION

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN
OF FLORIDA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 7, 1999

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I wish to take this opportunity to commend the Black Cuban Foundation for its decade of service to the Afro-Cuban community in exile. Over the past ten years, it has pursued a goal of improving relations between Afro-Cubans and our varied communities. The Black Cuban Foundation was founded on July 30th, 1989 and promptly began to promote its important and unique role in Cuban and American culture through educational workshops, cultural events, and works of charity. Their success has been recognized by various groups, including the United Negro College Fund, Florida Department of State, the Cuban Municipalities in Exile, the Human Rights Commission, and the City of Miami.

Currently the Black Cuban Foundation is working harder than ever to highlight Afro-Cuban contributions within our community, including fostering a sense of belonging as new American citizens. This group has also allied itself with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights of the United Nations.

In recognition of its lofty goals, I would like to applaud the fervent work of Lucia Rojas, president; Oscar Martinez, vice president; and Laddies Moraleza, treasurer and secretary. The work of Felipe Gonzalez, Juan A. Woods, and Regla Fernandez should receive equal praise in the Black Cuban Foundation.

HONORING RETIRING FENTON HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPAL DR. KEN WENSEL

HON. DEBBIE STABENOW
OF MICHIGAN
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 7, 1999

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. Speaker, this week Principal Ken Wensel will retire after a 30-year career at Fenton High School. During those years, Dr. Wensel touched the lives of countless young people—encouraging, advising, inspiring and serving as a role model.

I would like to thank Dr. Wensel personally for his commitment to young people and education. Today I join Fenton Area Public Schools in declaring June 12, 1999 Ken Wensel Day. In addition, I would like to read the following resolution into the Congressional Record on behalf of the Fenton Area Public Schools:

Whereas Dr. Wensel served the Fenton Area Public Schools with distinction and honor for 30 years and;

Whereas Ken Wensel has served in the positions of community education director, athletic director, assistant principal and, for 12 years as principal of Fenton High School and;

Whereas Ken Wensel has been an unwavering advocate for young men and women throughout this tenure as an administrator and;

large companies, small business exporters cannot pack up their bags and relocate operations overseas to take advantage of foreign equivalents to OPIC. There are 36 nations that have export credit insurance programs like OPIC. Just like OPIC, most of these nations have local content requirements. If forced to, larger U.S. multinational corporations can pick and choose from one of these other foreign export credit insurance programs. But the work and the jobs, then, are transferred overseas. Small business exporters do not have this luxury. OPIC is needed to make sure that the ITA keeps its focus on helping more small businesses export, particularly to underrepresented regions of the world, like Africa, in the most efficient way possible.

Finally, the Export Enhancement Act proposes to make a few changes to the Trade Promotion Coordinating Committee (TPCC) to ensure that the 19 federal agencies that are involved in trade promotion operate more in tandem together.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to support the Export Enhancement Act of 1999.

NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE

HON. J.C. WATTS, JR.
OF OKLAHOMA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 7, 1999

Mr. WATTS of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, I stand before you today to honor the work of the National Weather Service of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). The National Weather Service is essential to the safety of the American people by providing weather, water and climate forecasts and warnings for protection of life and property. We saw that service firsthand in Oklahoma just a short two weeks ago.

Without the warnings by the National Weather Service, the number of personal injury and deaths would undoubtedly have been higher. Warnings by the National Weather Service prompted the closure of roads and highways that lead into the path of the slow-moving tornado, saving an untold number of lives. I have heard countless stories of people who, at the prompting of the National Weather Service warnings, took shelter in the center of their homes or fled their homes for the safety of a storm shelter and survived, while their homes were destroyed. I and numerous other Oklahomans are indebted to the service of the National Weather Service.

Yet the ability the Service demonstrated was not an accident; they have been preparing for times such as this for many years, through planning, training, and research and development. New technologies pioneered by NOAA research allowed warnings to be issued up to 30 minutes before the tornadoes struck in Oklahoma. Contrast this with the 6 minute average lead time before the technology was available. Partnerships forged between the National Weather Service, media, law enforcement officials, and emergency managers, and their seamless response to this disaster was critical to the successful warning process that saved countless lives in Oklahoma.

I applaud the work of the National Weather Service, Mr. Speaker, and support the continued generous funding of the Service through this appropriations process.