

secondary school math. What he and his fellow panelists want is a watered-down program that all American students—as currently trained—can master.

Mathematics professor David Klein of California State University at Northridge is a proponent of solid content. He is quoted in the Chronicle of Higher Education as saying that algebra is the key course for students, the gateway to success in mathematics and to success in college in general. Leinward says that Klein's algebra-for-all position is elitist.

Here we have the central difference between the two sides. The rigorous curriculum side says that, like Japan, Taiwan, and Singapore, we can have algebra for all, preparing students for technical careers and college-level work. The water-it-down side says U.S. teachers and students aren't capable of teaching and learning algebra.

These federal recommendations are for kindergarten through high school, which has serious consequences. In essence, the U.S. Department of Education, by making these endorsements, is closing the gate on going to college or even on technical blue-collar jobs for many students. And it is closing that gate as early as kindergarten.

IN HONOR OF ALFRED RASCON

HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 10, 2000

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor a hero, former Army medic Alfred Rascon.

After a delay of nearly 3 1/2 decades, Alfred this week finally received the nation's highest military honor, the Medal of Honor.

Mr. Speaker, Alfred was born in Mexico, and moved to Oxnard, California, in my district, with his family when he was a small child. His family raised him there and instilled in him the values of honor, integrity, a love of his adopted land and a reverence for life and his fellow human beings.

At age 17, he left Oxnard and joined the Army. He trained to be a medic and a paratrooper. On March 16, 1966, in the jungles of Vietnam, Alfred was severely and repeatedly wounded as he crawled from comrade to comrade to render aid, to protect his comrades and to retrieve weapons and ammunition needed in the firefight they were in.

By the time Alfred was loaded into a helicopter, he was near death. A chaplain gave him last rites. He survived. Because of his efforts, so did his sergeant and at least one other in his platoon.

But the medal Alfred was due was lost in red tape, until this week, when the record was corrected.

During the intervening 34 years, Alfred left the Army, completed his college education, because U.S. citizen, returned to the Army, returned to Vietnam, and left the Army as a lieutenant. Now married with two children, Alfred is an inspector general for the U.S. Selective Service.

When President Clinton presented the Medal of Honor to Alfred, the hero downplayed his actions in Vietnam as "common valor that was done every day." We know differently. We know that Alfred is spe-

cial. We know we would do well to emulate his values and his humility. We honor him to remind us of the ideal American: someone who works hard, is willing to risk everything in times of crisis, and who shrugs it off as just the right thing to do.

Mr. Speaker, I know my colleagues will join me in honoring Alfred Rascon for his heroism in Vietnam 34 years ago and for being the role model he remains today.

TRIBUTE TO DR. W. LEE IRVING

HON. VERNON J. EHLERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 10, 2000

Mr. EHLERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. W. Lee Irving, who is ending his term as President of the American College of Osteopathic Obstetricians and Gynecologists. Dr. Irving has held the position since March 1999 and will relinquish his duties in April 2000 at the organization's annual meeting in Nashville, Tennessee.

Throughout his career, Dr. Irving has had a tremendous impact on the advancement of professional opportunities for obstetricians and gynecologists around the country. In addition to his role as President, Dr. Irving has worn many different hats during his career. From 1993 to 1999 he served as the College's Chairman of the Residency Evaluation Committee. From 1990 to the present he has served as a member of the College's Certifying Board and Board of Trustees. At Metropolitan Hospital in his hometown of Grand Rapids, Michigan, he served as Program Director from 1985 through 1999. He currently serves as Chairman of the Obstetrics-Gynecology Department at Metropolitan Hospital.

Contributions to his profession do not end there. He was recently appointed to the Council for Resident Education in Obstetrics and Gynecology, a national organization that oversees the training of all OB-GYN residents for both the Osteopathic and Allopathic professions. During his tenure as President, he has also been credited with fostering a closer working relationship between the American College of Osteopathic Obstetricians and Gynecologists and the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists.

Mr. Speaker, I commend Dr. Irving for the countless contributions he has made to his profession. As you can see, Mr. Speaker, Dr. Irving has had a tremendous impact in his field of expertise. I applaud him and thank him for his work as President of the American College of Osteopathic Obstetricians and Gynecologists, and wish him continued success in his work in medical and educational programs. I ask my colleagues to join me in saluting Dr. Irving for his outstanding contributions.

HONORING LOS ANGELES COUNTY UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA MEDICAL CENTER

HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 10, 2000

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Los Angeles County University of Southern California Medical Center (LAC+USC) for its outstanding commitment to community service, as recognized by the Baxter Allegiance and the American Hospital Association. Only one institution each year is awarded the prestigious Foster G. McGraw prize for innovative health-care programs and expedited access to care. LAC+USC earned that recognition this year, an especially impressive achievement given that just a few years ago this hospital was on the brink of closure.

The LAC+USC Healthcare Network has successfully identified the unique needs of its surrounding population and found creative solutions to address those needs. For example, learning that childhood asthma represented the number one cause of school absenteeism in the Los Angeles Unified School District, LAC+USC's Healthcare Network formed a partnership with the school district and the Allergy and Asthma Foundation of America to establish a Mobile Asthma Clinic. The Mobile Asthma Clinic has since reduced absenteeism by more than 20 percent for children seen by the clinic, nearly 65 percent of the children served has gained control of their asthma, and related emergency room use has declined by 18 percent. This program is just one of many innovative approaches the LAC+USC Healthcare Network has implemented to deliver top-notch health care to hard-to-serve population, others include: the Violence Intervention program, the Day Care Center, the Trauma Outreach Program and the Safe Kids program.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the Los Angeles County University of Southern California Medical Center for the extraordinary and commitment it has demonstrated in bridging the health care gap for Los Angelenos.

IN RECOGNITION OF DR. JEWELLE TAYLOR GIBBS FOR OUTSTANDING SERVICE TO THE SOCIAL WORK PROFESSION AND THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA AT BERKELEY

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 10, 2000

Mrs. LEE. Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege and an honor to stand before you today and pay tribute to an outstanding educator from the great State of California and my congressional district, Dr. Jewelle Taylor Gibbs.

After a distinguished 20 year career in teaching and research, Dr. Gibbs is retiring from the University of California at Berkeley's