

July 11, 2000

seniors needs. It is too important to our seniors to allow politics to stop this legislation.

COMMENDING UPLAND CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

HON. GARY G. MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 11, 2000

Mr. GARY MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commend Upland Christian School, of Upland, California, on its recent accreditations.

For over two decades, Upland Christian School has based its classes on the premise that the Bible is the literal truth. In addition to teaching the typical courses, such as English, math, and history, Upland Christian School has taught that there are absolutes in the world. This combination of religion within academia has attracted a steady increase in enrollment, from a handful of students to its current enrollment of 650 students.

In addition to celebrating the graduation of its third senior class, Upland Christian School can now boast of its accreditation by the Association of Christian Schools International and the Western Association of Schools and Colleges. Neither accreditation is an easy feat; both require arduous curricula reviews and proof that the school is meeting stringent standards.

The teachers, students, parents, school board members and administrators of Upland Christian School deserve high accolades for this achievement.

I commend Upland Christian School for its commitment to high standards, quality teaching, and its adherence to God's law.

PUBLIC SERVICE OF MAYOR TOM JELEPIS OF BAY VILLAGE, OH

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 11, 2000

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the public service of one of the best mayors from northeast Ohio's local communities. This year marks the last and final year of the term of Mayor Tom Jelepis of Bay Village, Ohio, a western suburb of Cleveland. Tom is choosing to pursue other challenges down the road, and this marks his final few months of public service as Bay Village's respected mayor.

The entire Bay Village community and the adjoining West Shore communities owe Tom a debt of gratitude. Thanks to Tom's remarkable ability to forge a consensus in resolving one of the most daunting threats to the Bay Village and West Shore quality of life, represented by the agreement reached in June, 1998 to halt the proposed tripling of train traffic following the acquisition of Conrail by CSX and Norfolk Southern railroads. When the announcement was made in August, 1997 that train traffic would likely be more than tripled through the quiet, densely populated communities along

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Cleveland's West Shore communities, Tom Jelepis was one of the first public officials to begin to forge a large bipartisan coalition to find a reasonable alternative, an alternative which would stop the train traffic increase and would preserve Bay Village's and the West Shore's attractive quality of life.

It was Tom's relentless perseverance, his ability to reach out to find common ground and consensus, and his enviable charm and wit that managed to bring people together to find a workable agreement that helped hundreds of thousands of local residents. Without Tom Jelepis' involvement, there would likely not have been a positive outcome, a result which halted the proposed tripling of train traffic and brought forward a plan beneficial to all parties and local communities. I had the pleasure to work side by side with Tom Jelepis throughout this challenging time, and I can say with confidence that he represents the very best in public service. His dedication, his sense of decency, and his sincerity is unmatched in public life.

There are very few people in public life—no, in all aspects of life—with Tom Jelepis' unique combination of charm, wit, perseverance, and grace. He is my friend, and I am proud that he is my friend. He is a natural, as a businessman, as a family man, as a community leader, and as a mayor. The entire Bay Village community owes him a genuine "thank you" for his many years of service.

I hold a deep and sincere respect for Tom Jelepis and I wish him the very best of luck in all his future endeavors.

IN HONOR OF BENNIE HOLMES, JR.

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 11, 2000

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect and sadness that I rise to honor the life of Bennie Holmes Jr., who passed away recently at too young an age. Mr. Holmes' leadership in the civil rights movement and as an anti-poverty activist earned him the respect of our entire San Francisco community; his caring heart and kind ways earned him our affection. Bennie's presence in the community can never be replaced, but the work of his life will live on after him.

Bennie was born and reared in McComb, Mississippi, and it was there that he learned the values of hard work, community, and his deeply rooted sense of justice. In the late 1950's, he moved to California, and in 1961 he was graduated from Monrovia High School in Los Angeles County. He later moved to San Francisco and continued his education at San Francisco State University, where he earned a degree in Political Science.

Mr. Holmes worked much of his life for racial equality. He helped to found the N.A.A.C.P. Junior Chapter at Pasadena College in 1961. In 1964 he organized a group from San Francisco which joined the 1964 march for civil rights that went from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama. He fought continually for the cause of civil rights with the Congress On Racial Equality, the Student Nonviolent

Coordinating Committee, and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and with such individuals as Martin Luther King, Jr. and James Farmer.

Dedicated to fighting poverty and improving the lives of low-income residents, Bennie worked most of his professional life with the Economic Opportunity Council of San Francisco. For the past thirty-three years, Bennie was employed by this nonprofit group in several different capacities. He organized and raised money for numerous anti-poverty programs in San Francisco and worked to clothe, feed, and find employment for the neediest among us. Known and trusted by everyone, Bennie was regarded as the "eyes and ears" of the community because he was always looking out for those in need.

Mr. Holmes also organized workshops at which tenants learned their rights when dealing with landlords, worked with youth groups, and chaired the Direct Action Committee and Study Group through which he traveled extensively in Africa, Europe, and the United States.

Well-regarded for his tireless community service, Bennie was also admired for his delicious barbecue ribs. At social and political events, he could always be found behind the grill, serving the community in yet another way.

Bennie Holmes left us much too soon. He worked his entire life for civil rights, equal opportunity, and economic and social justice. He treated everyone with respect, and he was respected for doing so. His passing is a loss to all of our San Francisco community.

My thoughts and prayers are with his mother, Leola Wells Holmes, his children, and his entire family.

IN HONOR OF THE 100TH BIRTHDAY OF OLIVE WHITMORE

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 11, 2000

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 100th birthday of Ms. Olive Whitmore.

Ms. Whitmore, a native of Cleveland, is the oldest of 3 children. Her birthday, October 14, 2000, marks the 100th year of her active life. She lived in Cleveland for 76 years, which made her well known in her community. She holds the longest term as a member of the West Boulevard Christian Church, which she has belonged to since she was 3 years of age. Prior to her move to South Westerly in 1983, she was a charter member of the Order of Eastern Star and Electa. Her talented voice contributed to the choir under the direction of Charles Dawes of the "Cleveland Orchestra." The choir was well recognized for their performance during the first 4th of July celebration at the Cleveland Municipality Stadium. Her former community fondly remembers her also for the time she was employed helping customers in Halle's Department store between 1957 and 1970. After her retirement she continued her active lifestyle, and became a noted traveler, traveling to Nova Scotia and throughout the United States.