

Mira Mesa High School (MMHS) is located in the Mira Mesa community of San Diego, California. MMHS has 18.3 and an 89.7 stability rate. Of the 2,262 students enrolled, 768 are registered in the free/reduced lunch program. MMHS boasts a daily attendance rate of 96.2%. The dropout rate is currently 0.03 per 100 students for grades 9–12. MMHS has been recognized for having the lowest dropout rate in the school district. Mira Mesa High School currently has formal educational partners: Proxima, Fieldstone Corporation, the U.S. Army, Wells Fargo Bank, and the San Diego Police Department Traffic Division.

MMHS operates as a Second-to-None school with an emphasis on School-to-Career key elements, the University of California a–graduation requirements, the California curriculum frameworks, and state and district content and performance standards. The education program features curricular paths, integrated academics and vocational education, job shadowing opportunities, career elective classes, advisory classes, college/career portfolios, service learning, and senior exhibitions. A school-wide literacy focus has been implemented through the district's new Institute for Learning. Other guiding forces are the WASC Annual Action Plan, and a variety of assessment measures including the SAT, the state STAR test, and Advanced Placement exams. MMHS has strong values and many traditions embedded in the school's mission statement: "To educate all students in an integrated setting to become responsible, literate, thinking, and contributing members of a multicultural society through excellence in teaching and learning." The school's vision demonstrates pride and commitment to the task, and supports respect for all members.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE PUERTORRIQUEÑOS ASOCIADOS FOR COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION (PACO)

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 18, 2000

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Puertorriqueños Asociados for Community Organization (PACO) on its 30th anniversary.

PACO is a non-profit organization in Jersey City that has served communities throughout New Jersey for 30 years. Since 1970, PACO has provided assistance with education and vocational training, job placement, housing, health services, emergency food and shelter, youth and elderly programs, and medical insurance.

By providing a variety of essential social services, PACO has made valuable contributions to the welfare of Jersey City residents, as well as to residents throughout New Jersey, insuring that the people who need it most receive a helping hand.

Today, this organization has every reason to celebrate. Because of years of selfless dedication and hard work, PACO has greatly improved the quality of life of many of our fellow citizens.

I commend PACO and its dedicated staff for all they have done for the residents of New Jersey. I ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing PACO and all its success.

A TRIBUTE TO PRIVATE FIRST CLASS RICHARD WILSON OF CAPE GIRARDEAU, MISSOURI

HON. JO ANN EMERSON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 18, 2000

Mrs. EMERSON. Mr. Speaker, PFC Wilson's biography reminds us who fights our nation's wars. They are men and women, from all walks of life, who answer the call to service and, in too many cases, make the ultimate sacrifice.

Richard Wilson grew up in Cape Girardeau, Missouri, in a family of seven children. He was a good student, a Boy Scout, a football talent, and a Golden Gloves boxer. He took an interest in military service and sought to enlist as soon as he could. On August 19, 1948, on his seventeenth birthday, he enlisted in the Army. Shortly thereafter, he reported to Fort Sam Houston for medical training. He subsequently volunteered for airborne school and reported to Fort Benning, Georgia for training. He was then assigned to Fort Campbell, Kentucky in a medical company of the 11th Airborne Division.

In June of 1950, war broke out in Korea. By late July, Wilson's unit was on alert to deploy to Korea. A final weekend at home on the Fourth of July was his family's last time with him. However, Richard Wilson wanted to marry his sweetheart before he shipped out for the Pacific. So, on August 28, 1950, three days before his departure, PFC Wilson married his sweetheart, Bonnie. He pulled duty during the day and shared a guest cottage at night until his unit shipped out. Bonnie was present to bid him farewell as his train pulled out.

Shortly after the Allied landings at Inchon and the liberation of Seoul, Wilson's unit arrived in Korea. His regiment participated in one of the largest airdrops in history on October 20, 1950.

The 187th regimental combat team, of which he was a part, dropped behind enemy lines, 30 miles north of Pyongyang to cut-off retreating North Korean Army units. It was a beautiful fall day as they made their landings among rice paddies and took up positions to block retreating enemy units. The afternoon and night of October 20 were quiet. The next day, however, Wilson's unit came under heavy fire from a vastly superior enemy determined to break through and escape to the north.

The 187th regimental combat team's mission was to ensure the high ground north of the town of Opari. On the morning of October 21, 1950, as the unit conducted a reconnaissance in force, it was flanked on three sides and forced to withdraw after sustaining heavy casualties. During this action, PFC Wilson rendered life-saving aid to numerous casualties. As his unit prepared to withdraw further, Wilson noticed that one casualty that had been presumed dead was still alive. Despite the or-

ders to withdraw further, Wilson moved to aid and comfort the casualty. As he administered morphine and prepared to dress the casualty's wounds, he was killed by point blank enemy fire. On August 2, 1951, his widow was presented with the Medal of Honor by General Omar Bradley, in recognition of PFC Richard G. Wilson's conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity above and beyond the call of duty.

PFC Wilson volunteered to serve his country. He did so honorably. He came to us as a product of a principled family with strong values. He made remarkable contributions to the proud legacy of Army medicine. He bore great burdens with dedication and selflessness. And he was taken from us too soon.

BLUE RIBBON SCHOOL WINNER

HON. RANDY "DUKE" CUNNINGHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 18, 2000

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Rincon Middle School in Escondido and its leaders, Principal, Lou Bailey and Superintendent, Rob Guiles. Rincon has been designated by the U.S. Department of Education as a National Blue Ribbon School for 2000. I am proud to inform my colleagues that my district had an amazing record of eleven schools selected for that prestigious honor this year. I would also like to note that the Academy of Our Lady of Peace right outside my district in San Diego County was also named a Blue Ribbon School. I applaud the educators, students and communities in each of the San Diego County schools who pulled together in pursuit of educational excellence.

Blue Ribbon Schools are recognized as some of the nation's most successful institutions, and they are exemplary models for achieving educational excellence throughout the nation. Not only have they demonstrated excellence in academic leadership, teaching and teacher development, and school curriculum, but they have demonstrated exceptional levels of community and parental involvement, high student achievement levels and strong safety and discipline.

After schools are nominated by state education agencies for the Blue Ribbon award, they undergo a rigorous review of their programs, plans and activities. That is followed with visits by educational experts for evaluation. Ultimately, those schools which best demonstrate strong leadership, clear vision and mission, excellent teaching and curriculum, policies and practices that keep the schools safe for learning, family involvement and evidence of high standards are selected for this prestigious award. I am pleased that they are now receiving the national recognition they are due.

As school and community leaders head to Washington for the Department of Education awards ceremony, I want to thank them once again for a job well done. More satisfying than any award, these leaders will have the lifelong satisfaction of having provided the best education possible and a better future for thousands of children. I am proud of what they

have achieved, and want to share their achievements so that more people benefit from their accomplishments. I ask that a summary of Rincon Middle School's superior work be included in the record:

Rincon Middle School is located in the northeast part of Escondido 40 miles north of San Diego. One of four middle schools in the Escondido Union School District, Rincon is surrounded by open fields and farmlands and has preserved its rural feel, despite its proximity to the city. The natural beauty of Rincon's setting creates a relaxed and secure environment that welcomes students and staff. Since its inception five years ago, Rincon has been building strong connections between parents, teachers, and students, as well as partnerships within the business community. Rincon students are respectful, eager learners who strive to meet the high standards set for them.

Rincon's philosophy is that every student is a learner. The Rincon community values the social, physical, intellectual, and artistic development of all students. Portfolio Day, Americans on Display, 6th Grade Olympics, Living Historians, concerts, and art exhibits are some of the many traditions that foster the full development of the middle school student. These same activities unite parents and community with their school. Community involvement is important to Rincon. The students are emerging as service oriented young adults with a growing sense of community awareness. Students take part in many activities that foster a connection to their community such as: The Garden Project, School Buddy Readers, Park Clean-up Day, Peer Tutors, Natural Helpers, Guardian Angels, and student assistants for the severely handicapped. On Career Visitation Day Rincon students spend a day shadowing a professional and bring back experiences to share in their exploratory classes. Across the spectrum, students at Rincon experience a challenging curriculum appropriate to their academic level.

IN HONOR OF JUSTICE MARIE T. GARIBALDI, UNITED WAY'S CONGRESSWOMAN MARY T. NORTON MEMORIAL AWARD WINNER

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 18, 2000

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Justice Marie Garibaldi for winning the United Way's Congresswoman Mary T. Norton Memorial Award. The award, which was initiated by United Way of Hudson County in 1990, recognizes those who exhibit a deep commitment to human service as exemplified by Congresswoman Norton during her 13 terms in the House of Representatives (1925-1950). The Congresswoman was a forward-thinker who advocated for government action to help address issues we are still grappling with today, such as day care, fair employment practices, health care for veterans, and inclusion of women in high levels of government service.

Justice Marie Garibaldi was the first woman to serve on the New Jersey Supreme Court,

the State's highest court. She was also the first woman to serve as president of the New Jersey State Bar Association, and as director of the State Chamber of Commerce, New Jersey Bell Telephone Co., and the Washington Savings Bank. Justice Garibaldi was a Trustee of St. Peter's College, Honorary Trustee of the National Organization of Italian American Women, and a founding member of the Executive Women of New Jersey.

She is the recipient of several awards from her alma maters, including the Medal for excellence from the Columbia University School of Law. She has received Honorary Doctor Degrees from St. John's University Law School, Seton Hall University Law School, and Drew University; and Honorary Doctor of Humanities Degrees from Upsala College, Caldwell College, College of Saint Elizabeth, and Saint Peter's College. In her honor, the American Inns of Court Foundation established The Justice Marie L. Garibaldi American Inn of Court for Alternative Dispute Resolution.

Justice Garibaldi retired from the Court on February 1, 2000. Since her retirement, she has been appointed to the Board of Directors of Crown Cork & Seal Company, Inc., and the National Italian American Foundation.

Justice Marie Garibaldi embodies the life work of Congresswoman Mary T. Norton. On behalf of my colleagues in the House of Representatives, I congratulate her for her outstanding service to the community and for carrying on the work of Congresswoman Mary T. Norton.

CONGRATULATORY REMARKS IN RECOGNITION OF THE 135TH ANNIVERSARY OF ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

HON. JO ANN EMERSON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 18, 2000

Mrs. EMERSON. Mr. Speaker, today I salute Zion Lutheran Church in their 135th year of service to the community of Gordonville, Missouri.

Zion Lutheran Church was organized in 1865 by a group of local farmers who were German immigrants. They secured their first pastor, Reverend Polack, who led the church through the early years. Their first church building was erected soon after the official organization of the church on August 13th. The earliest recorded minutes date back to 1870 where the evidence of the congregation's German heritage was strong. The founders often kept the church records in German or a mix between German and English. And why not, since the services were in German through the first 50 years, and the congregation was filled with mostly German immigrants.

However, even a church is affected by war, and the pressure to speak English during World War I caused the church to adapt. Until 1920, Zion maintained its strong ties to the German homeland, but the congregation knew times were changing when its first English confirmation service was held. Today, services are held in English, but the church seal and an inscription on the church bell, still in Ger-

man, remind them of their long and storied past. In the neighboring cemetery, many of Gordonville's German immigrants were buried, and their descendants remain members of the church to this day.

I commend Zion Lutheran Church for its strength and longevity, and expect this church may be recognized sometime again in this body many years from now.

BLUE RIBBON SCHOOL WINNER

HON. RANDY "DUKE" CUNNINGHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 18, 2000

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mt. Carmel High School in Scripps Ranch and its leaders, Principal, Joan Stewart and Superintendent, Dr. Bob Reeves. Mt. Carmel has been designated by the U.S. Department of Education as a National Blue Ribbon School for 2000. I am proud to inform my colleagues that my district had an amazing record of eleven schools selected for that prestigious honor this year. I would also like to note that the Academy of Our Lady of Peace right outside my district in San Diego County was also named a Blue Ribbon School. I applaud the educators, students and communities in each of the San Diego County schools who pulled together in pursuit of educational excellence.

Blue Ribbon Schools are recognized as some of the nation's most successful institutions, and they are exemplary models for achieving educational excellence throughout the nation. Not only have they demonstrated excellence in academic leadership, teaching and teacher development, and school curriculum, but they have demonstrated exceptional levels of community and parental involvement, high student achievement levels and strong safety and discipline.

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As school and community leaders head to Washington for the Department of Education awards ceremony, I want to thank them once again for a job well done. More satisfying than any award, these leaders will have the lifelong satisfaction of having provided the best education possible and a better future for thousands of children. I am proud of what they have achieved, and want to share their achievements so that more people benefit from their accomplishments. I ask that a summary of Mt. Carmel High Schools' superior work be included in the record:

Mt. Carmel High School, located in San Diego, California, is the heart of the local community. Life on campus and in the surrounding