

Once again, I strongly support this legislation.

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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 Twin Peaks Middle School in Poway and its leaders, Principal Sue Foerster and Superintendent Dr. Bob Reeves. Twin Peaks 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 11 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 Twin Peaks Middle School's superior work be included in the RECORD:

Twin Peaks Middle School is in the city of Poway, a suburban community of about 45,000 located 25 miles northeast of San Diego, California. Known as "The City in the Country," Poway maintains a rural feeling where horse trails are common and the annual rodeo is an important event. Retail trade, service industry, and government jobs presently provide the greatest opportunity for employ-

ment in Poway, although most of their residents travel to other areas of the county to work. The dedicated Twin Peaks staff exemplifies its vision of providing an excellent education for all students by making a conscious effort to continuously enhance and enrich the culture and conditions in the school so that teachers can teach more effectively, leading to students who become lifelong learners. This focused effort to strive for excellence is shared by teaches, parents, students, and community members who work together to create outstanding programs that maximize the potential of each student while acknowledging individual learning styles.

Students feel this enthusiasm for learning and want to be at Twin Peaks, as shown by the average attendance rate of over 99 percent. Students maintain an active voice in perpetuating these traditions through the Associated Student Body that provides Friday spirit days, barbecues, dances, Teacher Appreciation Day, and Harbor Cruise excursions. Other yearly events include ski trips, Women's Day speakers, Shadow-A-Student Day, the geography bee and spelling bee, Sixth Grade Olympics, sixth grade camp, a seventh grade trip to Medieval Times, band concerts, and choral and drama productions. Visitors frequently comment on the positive atmosphere that pervades the campus. Twin Peaks Middle School truly is a wonderful place to teach and learn.

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HONORING CATHERINE CATCHINGS

**HON. DALE E. KILDEE**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 18, 2000*

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor for me to rise before you today to pay tribute to Ms. Catherine Catchings, the Illustrious Commandress of Oman Court No. 132. The Daughters of Isis, Ancient and Accepted Free Masons, based in Flint, Michigan, will honor Ms. Catchings at their 40th annual Commandress Ball on October 21.

Catherine Catchings moved from Alabama to Flint, Michigan, in 1957. She joined Mt. Calvary Missionary Baptist Church and has maintained an active membership, working with the choir, Young Matrons Auxiliary, and the Willing Workers Club.

Because of Catherine's long standing dedication to enhance the quality of life for others, she began a long career with Hurley Medical Center, leading to her recent retirement. During this time, she also became President of AFSCME Local 825. Under Catherine's leadership, Local 825 made community service a key focus. Community Service became an established as a standing committee of the union, and members participated in various projects benefiting the needy. Catherine has worked with the United Way, Red Cross blood drives, and the Children's Miracle Network Run for Children. As a member of the American Legion Auxiliary, she works diligently on behalf of our area's veterans. She is involved with the Veterans Hospital Project, writes letters and purchases gifts for the veterans' families, and distributes information on such sub-

jects as bone marrow research and donor registration.

As Worthy Matron of Royal Star Chapter 27, Order of the Eastern Star, Prince Hall Affiliation, Catherine established a Scholarship Fund, organized donation drives on behalf of the Flint Shelter, Transition House, and Carriage Town Mission. As Youth Sponsor for the Crescent Moon Youth Fraternity, she helps create future community leaders through nursing homes visits and Christmas caroling. She is truly a tremendous role model, and many people in the Flint community have had their lives enriched by her unselfish acts.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my fellow Members of Congress to join me in honoring the Illustrious Commandress, Ms. Catherine Catchings. Her devotion to making this nation a better place to live should reinforce our strong commitment to our communities. We owe a debt of gratitude to Catherine, her husband, and their two sons.

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IN HONOR OF CATHY GONZALEZ,  
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 Cathy Gonzalez 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.

Cathy Gonzalez is the vice president of Human Resources for the Pershing Division of Donaldson, Lufkin & Jenrette Securities Corporation. In her role at Pershing, Mrs. Gonzalez is responsible for leading many of the firm's community relations efforts. She works with the Jersey City Board of Education to provide meaningful school-to-work opportunities for local students. Under her leadership, employees of Pershing participate in a variety of charitable activities.

Ms. Gonzalez is vice chairperson of the United Way of Hudson County and vice president of the Board of Managers of the Hudson Unit of the American Cancer Society. She has received recognition from Gateway II, Van Vorst Block Association, Ferris High School, and New York Blood Services.

Pershing, a leading provider of global correspondent financial services to over 650 financial institutions, moved its corporate headquarters to Jersey City in 1989. Pershing has established an outstanding relationship with the community by actively practicing its corporate value of social responsibility.

Ms. Gonzalez was born and raised in Jersey City, NJ. She holds a master's degree in health administration and began her career working for Christ Hospital, where she initiated volunteer efforts in the community.

Cathy Gonzalez 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.

#### TRIBUTE TO NELSON FAIRBANKS

### HON. MARK FOLEY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 18, 2000*

Mr. FOLEY. Mr. Speaker, this past summer marked the end of long and distinguished career for a leader of Florida's agriculture and business industries. Our dear friend, Mr. J. Nelson Fairbanks retired from his post with the U.S. Sugar Corporation.

In 1966, the charm and beauty of inviting Clewiston, Florida lured Nelson from the family farm in Louisiana. Twelve years later, he would join U.S. Sugar as vice president of corporate development. Since those first days, Nelson later took over the helm as CEO and for more than a decade guided the company and its employees through unprecedented change and growth.

By molding U.S. Sugar, Nelson also shaped the industry and his community as well.

In today's quick-fix, high-tech, "dot-com" world, Nelson and the people of U.S. Sugar truly understand the meaning of a hard day's work. They are the wholesome hospitable people that take a deep pride in laboring hard to feed America's families.

The community will indeed miss Nelson's leadership and vision. Yet, we are comforted in the knowledge that regardless where retirement takes Nelson, love for the people of Clewiston and U.S. Sugar runs thick in his veins like molasses.

#### THE PRAIRIE ROSE CHAPTER OF THE DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION SALUTES CONSTITUTION WEEK

### HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 18, 2000*

Mr. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, the week of September 17-23 has been officially designated as Constitution Week. This marks the 213th anniversary of the signing of our Constitution.

The guardian of our liberties, our Constitution established our republic as a selfgoverning nation dedicated to rule by law. This document is the cornerstone of our freedom. It was written to protect every American from the abuse of power by government. Without that restraint, our founders believed the republic would perish.

The ideals upon which our Constitution is based are reinforced each day by the success

of our political system to which it gave birth. The success of our way of government requires an enlightened citizenry.

Constitution Week provides an opportunity for all Americans to recall the achievements of our founders, the nature of limited government, and the rights, privileges and responsibilities of citizenship. It provides us the opportunity to be better informed about our rights, freedoms and duties as citizens.

Mr. Speaker, at this time I particularly want to take note of the outstanding work of the Prairie Rose Chapter of the Kansas Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution, which is actively involved in the Third Congressional District in events this week commemorating Constitution Week. The Prairie Rose Chapter has been involved with this effort in our communities for a number of years and I commend them for doing so.

Our Constitution has served us well for over 200 years, but it will continue as a strong, vibrant, and vital foundation for freedom only so long as the American people remain dedicated to the basic principles on which it rests. Thus, as the United States continues into its third century of constitutional democracy, let us renew our commitment to, in the words of our Constitution's preamble: "form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defence, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity . . ." I know that the Prairie Rose Chapter of the Kansas Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution joins with me in urging all Americans to renew their commitment to, and understanding of, our Constitution.

#### 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE HERITAGE HILL FOUNDATION

### HON. MARK GREEN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 18, 2000*

Mr. GREEN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, this week in my home town, the Heritage Hill Foundation will celebrate its 25th anniversary. I'm proud today to offer a few remarks honoring this exciting occasion before the House.

It's hard to believe that the Heritage Hill Foundation is 25 years old. Back in 1975, a few folks got together and decided that they were going to dedicate themselves to creating a museum of living history right in Brown County. They banded together and founded the Heritage Hill Foundation.

Over the years, this foundation has been a model organization—serving as the example for other state and local groups to follow as they sought to improve their communities.

I'm proud to have served on the board of this foundation. But I'm even more proud of what it has achieved. It has turned that dream of a living history museum into the reality that today stands as Heritage Hill State Park.

The foundation has a long list of achievements to its credit. It has raised millions for the creation and operation of Heritage Hill State Park. It has restored century-old buildings to their original glory, and built new reproduction structures that make the past come

alive for the generations of today and tomorrow.

The successes of Heritage Hill are a direct result of the commitment and hard work by all those involved with Heritage Hill Foundation, and the support and help offered by our community. They're also the result of the enthusiasm of those folks, young and old, who visit Heritage Hill and remind all of us involved in the project that our investment has truly paid off.

Thank you, Heritage Hill Foundation.

#### 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 Rancho Bernardo High School in Rancho Bernardo and its leaders, Principal, Paul Gentle and Superintendent, Dr. Bob Reeves. Rancho Bernardo 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 education excellence.

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