

Serving on many boards of directors of charitable and community organizations, Mr. Cohen's 44 years of volunteer work include International Special Olympics, Adam Walsh Child Resource Centers (missing and exploited children), American Youth Soccer (ATSO), Lokrantz School (M.O.V.E.), Presidents' Summit on America's Future, Jewish Home for the Aging and Elizabeth Kubler-Ross Foundation. Current service includes the University of Judaism, King Solomon Education Foundation (tuition reduction), Healing Hands Project (reconstructive surgery), Club SODA (after school safe haven for middle and high school students), Shomrei Torah Synagogue, Blue Eagle Foundation (community sports and education facility), St. Joseph Center and General Colin Powell's America's Promise. In addition, David is very proud of his many years of imaginative pro-bono support of and active participation with the Stephen S. Wise Temple and its Schools, the largest Reform Jewish Temple in the United States. He created and now chairs the first Stephen S. Wise Temple Corporate Resources Division.

David is frequently heard commenting, "My greatest accomplishment is my daughter, Danielle Elizabeth, who at 13 has learned, embraced and implements every day the very best of what concerned citizenship is all about. I know that as my parents set the example for me, Danielle will lead her generation and those who follow to make a significant difference in our community, our country and the world. As she always says, 'One can count'".

Mr. Speaker, distinguished colleagues, please join me in paying tribute to Mr. M. David Cohen as he continues his extraordinary commitment to the community and our country. He has earned and deserves our recognition, praise and respect.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JULIA CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 3, 2000

Ms. CARSON. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent yesterday, Tuesday, May 2, 2000, and as a result, missed rollcall votes 131 and 132. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on rollcall vote 131 and "yes" on rollcall vote 132.

IN HONOR OF AYHAN HASSAN

HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 3, 2000

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, today I pay tribute to Ayhan Hassan who will be honored by the Residents For A More Beautiful Port Washington at its Annual Spring Gala on May 7th.

Ayhan Hassan truly exemplifies a person who has achieved the American dream. He was born in the Turkish portion of Cyprus, and became a citizen of the United States in 1982.

During that year, Mr. Hassan opened Shish Kabab, one of the most successful restaurants in Port Washington and on Long Island. In 1995, Mr. Hassan's Fish Kebab restaurant debuted across the street and in 1995 he created a third successful business in downtown Port Washington, the Mediterranean Marketplace.

In addition to being a prominent restaurateur, Mr. Hassan has been a major contributor to the beautification of downtown Port Washington. Ayhan Hassan has incorporated the beauty of the natural environment within his restaurants by using the trees, shrubs and flowers of Port Washington into the decorum of these properties.

Mr. Hassan has invested his time and also has used his own money to restore many of the old buildings in downtown Port Washington to play host to his three businesses. He has consulted many times with the members of the Residents For A More Beautiful Port Washington to inquire about how they would effectively make Port Washington a more enjoyable place to shop, eat and live. Ayhan Hassan is indeed a man dedicated to improving the quality of life for his community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me today in honoring Ayhan Hassan for his many years of active service to Port Washington and in wishing him many more to come.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MIKE McINTYRE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 3, 2000

Mr. McINTYRE. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, May 2, 2000, I was in North Carolina participating in my state's primary election and was unavoidably absent for rollcall votes 131 and 132. Had I been present I would have voted "yes" on rollcall vote 131, and "yes" on rollcall vote 132.

HONG VETERANS' NATURALIZATION ACT OF 2000

SPEECH OF

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 2, 2000

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 371, the Hmong Veterans Naturalization Act of 2000. I urge my colleagues to join in supporting this important legislation.

This legislation is long overdue. For too many years, the contributions made by our courageous Hmong allies during the Vietnam war went largely unrecognized. As we commemorate the 25th anniversary of the ignoble end to the Vietnam war, it is befitting that this bill has come to the House floor for consideration.

The Hmong veterans were an invaluable, staunch ally to the U.S. war effort in Southeast Asia. Throughout the Vietnam conflict, Hmong

guerrilla units, operating out of their native Laos, collected vital intelligence, protected key American installations in remote mountain locations, and rescued downed American pilots. In a statement submitted to the Judiciary Subcommittee on Immigration and Claims in the 105th Congress, a former CIA intelligence officer estimated that Hmong operations out of Laos tied down 50,000 North Vietnamese troops in that country.

It is important to note that the Hmong veterans performed their invaluable guerrilla role at great peril to themselves and to their families. Moreover, many of them suffered dearly at the hands of the Communist North Vietnamese and Laotian forces after the U.S. withdrawal from Southeast Asia in 1972.

H.R. 371 provides special relief and consideration for those Hmong veterans who have sought to emigrate to the United States. It recognizes the fact that many of the Hmong face unique language problems that would normally disqualify them for U.S. citizenship. These problems stem from the Natural Cultural Barriers that exist between Asian and Western societies, as well as the distinct issue of an underdeveloped and underutilized Hmong written language.

H.R. 371 addresses this unique problem by waiving the English language requirement and provides special consideration for the civics requirement associated with naturalization. The bill was amended in subcommittee to address concerns over the potential for fraud by clearly outlining steps that needed to be taken to determine a veteran's eligibility, and limiting the total number of potential beneficiaries to 45,000.

Mr. Speaker, I reiterate that this legislation is long overdue. I visited Hmong Commanding General Vang-Pao at his field headquarters in Central Laos in 1973. At that time, I was deeply impressed at how these people were willing to place their own lives and welfare on the line to not only fight for their freedom, but also to assist our American war effort and to save American lives. To paraphrase the author of this legislation, their actions during the Vietnam war demonstrates that the Hmong have already passed the most important test of all, risking their lives to defend freedom and save American personnel.

Accordingly, for this, we owe them our gratitude. This legislation corrects a long overdue problem, and is a significant step on the road to repaying the debt we as a Nation owe the Hmong veterans.

TRIBUTE TO DR. DAVID RICHARD PRESTON

HON. BRAD SHERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 3, 2000

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, today I pay tribute to Dr. David Richard Preston, an educator and management consultant who founded the Department of Organizational Behavior at Phillips Graduate Institute. In his capacity as Executive Director of this master's degree program, Dr. Preston teaches and guides the research of professional students who are

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learning how to make organizations more successful and humane.

Albert Einstein once wrote, "Try not to become a man of success, but rather a man of value." David Preston has spearheaded programs designed to promote personal, professional and organizational values for the past fifteen years. His efforts began as a high school student, when he developed and implemented events in which student leaders and public officials engaged in dialogue about policy, to the benefit of disabled students. Dr. Preston has maintained his ties to public education, through training teachers at UCLA and by volunteering in such programs as Students Run Los Angeles, in which he participated in the Los Angeles Marathon alongside students from Haddon Avenue Elementary School in Pacoima, California.

Dr. Preston's teaching expertise has been recognized locally and nationally. Over the past seven years, his courses at UCLA have received praise from students and colleagues. He is sought after by professional associations and corporations for his expertise on topics such as team building, time management, leadership and motivation. Dr. Preston's first book, *Time for Success*, has helped many of his students and clients achieve their goals.

Two years ago, Dr. Preston was asked to create an academic program that would help professionals deal with the human issues that create challenges in organizations.

Phillips Graduate Institute invited Dr. Preston to write the curriculum, hire adjunct faculty, recruit students and create business alliances for what would eventually become the Department of Organizational Behavior. Today, the department serves approximately twenty students in each class. In addition to the basic skills needed in the business environment, each student takes courses such as Ethics, Conflict Resolution, and Organizational Change. Students are taught adult learning styles, how satisfaction is linked to performance, and how organizational values can lead to success beyond mere profit.

Dr. Preston's students are as ethnically and professionally diverse as the organizations they serve. In a recent class, a workgroup included an entrepreneur, a financial planner, a human resources specialist, and the CEO of a hospital. The common thread that weaves students together is that they work with people and have the desire to create and maintain successful long-term working relationships. By teaching management strategies that emphasize values such as honesty, loyalty, and teamwork, Dr. Preston is giving these students the tools that can change the face of business.

Mr. Speaker, distinguished colleagues, please join me in honoring Dr. David Richard Preston for his service both as Executive Director at Phillips Graduate Institute, and for his continual efforts to foster action on behalf of education in the business community. He is a role model for educators and business leaders who want to improve performance within their organizations, and together improve cooperation and corporate citizenship as a society.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN RECOGNITION OF MASON LANKFORD FIRE SERVICE LEADERSHIP AWARD RECIPIENT PAUL BOECKER

HON. JUDY BIGGERT

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 3, 2000

Mrs. BIGGERT. Mr. Speaker, today I recognize and congratulate a true leader in fire safety and emergency preparedness with whom the people of the 13th District of Illinois have the distinct pleasure of living.

Tonight, that leadership will be honored at the National Fire and Emergency Services Dinner held by the Congressional Fire Services Institute. There, Paul Boecker, Fire Chief Emeritus of the Lisle-Woodridge Fire District, will receive the Mason Lankford Fire Service Leadership Award.

As my colleagues are no doubt aware, this award was established in 1998 in honor of the late Mason Lankford, who was a strong advocate of all first responders. Lankford was also instrumental in the formation of the Congressional Fire Services Caucus and the Congressional Fire Services Institutes.

Paul Boecker is a worthy successor to this legacy.

It's hard to know where to begin to list Paul's accomplishments. Perhaps it is simplest to say that, when he retired on July 2, 1994, he had made the Lisle-Woodridge Fire District one of the finest in the world.

But that might not fully capture what he did. During his 23 years as fire chief, he took a volunteer fire department of part-time firefighters and two stations that responded to 454 calls to one that now responds annually to more than 4,800 calls with 100 full-time firefighters at five stations.

In 1993, the district became the first fire protection district and one of only 15 fire departments in the nation to achieve the ISO Class 1 rating.

Paul's accomplishments aren't limited to the local level. For 14 years, he served as chairman of the Emergency Management Committee of the International Association of Fire Chiefs. He is the author of the "Common Sense Disaster Management—Think Big!" program that is presented at numerous state fire schools.

His list of awards is so long as to make a full accounting here impossible. However, anyone who has been named citizen of the year in so many different places has clearly had an impact.

Beyond his own personal accomplishments, Paul was instrumental in encouraging his personnel—from firefighters to administrators to fire chaplains—to contribute to the growth of the national fire service. From his staff came ideas, encouraged by Paul, that led to the Federation of Fire Chaplains and the Illinois Fire Chiefs' Secretary Association.

Paul is a man devoted to his profession, his family, and his friends. He exemplifies the spirit and dedication of the men and women in the fire service.

I congratulate Paul Boecker for winning the Mason Lankford Fire Service Leadership Award. It is an honor to represent him in Con-

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gress and an honor to recognize his achievements here today.

COMMENDING CALHOUN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

HON. ED WHITFIELD

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 3, 2000

Mr. WHITFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commend a school in my District—Calhoun Elementary School, located in McLean County, Kentucky. The school was honored on May 2 as a Distinguished Title I School by the U.S. Department of Education and the National Association of State Title I Directors (NASTID) at an awards luncheon in conjunction with the annual meeting of the International Reading Association. Each Distinguished School is nominated by its state.

The Title I program provides critical help to schools with students from low-income families. Title I funds are targeted at boosting poor achievement and improving basic skills. The purpose of the Distinguished Title I Schools award is to honor the successes of these schools and provide valuable information so other schools may learn what has made these schools so effective.

Calhoun Elementary School is made up of students in kindergarten through fifth grade. Programs at Calhoun Elementary include a computer lab which is incorporated into the science, social studies, reading, and math curriculums. Calhoun Elementary has increased parental involvement by over 100%. The Family Reading Night has tripled in size since its inception last year. Other activities involving parents include parent and child computer night, sweatshirt decorating, and speakers on topics of interest to parents, all of which are planned by the Title I Parent Liaison. Calhoun students participate in a keyboard lab to learn music, history, notes and background. This has enabled students to become more proficient in science and math. Calhoun students have improved achievement scores by at least 16 points.

Title I has enabled the school to adopt extensive programmatic and systematic changes to help ensure the success of their students. New teaching strategies have incorporated tasks which require higher order thinking skills used in critical problem solving. Teachers engage students in challenging activities which capture the students' interests. Teachers have also focused attention on addressing the needs of a student body with multiple intelligences and diverse learning capabilities.

The students, teachers, administrators, and parents at Calhoun Elementary School should be proud of their extraordinary achievement. Their determination and community-based solutions set an outstanding example for other schools to follow.