

Mr. Speaker, Nelson's offer of appointment poises him to attend the United States Military Academy this fall with the incoming cadet class of 2004. Attending one of our nation's military academies is an invaluable experience that offers a world-class education and demands the very best that these young men and women have to offer. Truly, it is one of the most challenging and rewarding undertakings of their lives.

Nelson brings a special blend of leadership, service, and dedication to the incoming class of West Point cadets. While attending Edison High School in Milan, Nelson has attained a grade point average of 4.047, which places him seventh in his class of one hundred forty-three students. Nelson is a member of the National Honor Society, French National Honor Society, Honor Roll, Varsity Scholarship Team, and has placed highly on the American Legion Americanism and Government test and the Greater Toledo Council of Teachers Mathematics exam.

Outside the classroom, Nelson has distinguished himself as a fine student-athlete. On the fields of competition, he has earned letters in Varsity Football and Baseball, and was named Field Captain of the Varsity Football team this year. Nelson has also been active in the Boy Scouts of America, earning the rank of Eagle Scout in 1998. He is a member of the French Club, Drama Club, Choir Band, and was a representative to Buckeye Boys' State.

Mr. Speaker, I would ask my colleagues to stand and join me in paying special tribute to Nelson B. Gray V. Our service academies offer the finest education and military training available anywhere in the world. I am sure that Nelson will do very well during his career at West Point and I wish him the very best in all of his future endeavors.

SENSE OF THE HOUSE IN SUPPORT OF AMERICA'S TEACHERS

SPEECH OF

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 9, 2000

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, today I honor teachers throughout our nation and speak in support of H. Res. 492, which expresses a sense of the House of Representatives in support of America's Teachers.

Teaching is one of the oldest and most important professions in the world, yet it is a profession which is underappreciated by too many. I come to the House floor today to demonstrate my appreciation for the teachers who shaped my life and those who inspire our children today.

Diane Hooper is one such individual from California's 14th Congressional District who has devoted her life to shaping and improving the lives of tomorrow's leaders by educating and inspiring her students. Ms. Hooper teaches math at Sequoia High School and she was named San Mateo County's Teacher of the Year for 2000 for her outstanding contributions.

The 14th Congressional District is blessed with Vonneke Broekhof-Miller and team teach-

ers Brenda Goldstein and Andrew Lucia. They teach middle school science at Peterson Middle School in Sunnyvale and were honored at the 1999 American Teacher Awards last November.

Paul Jorgans, a teacher at Stanford Middle School in Palo Alto was recognized for developing cutting-edge curriculum for integrating computer technology into classroom curriculum. Clarence Bakken from Palo Alto Unified School District, Gayle Britt from the San Carlos School District, and Shane Tatman from the Cupertino Union School District were recognized for excellence in teaching by the Innovations in Teaching Awards Program. These teachers are shaping the way students learn in the 21st Century by using innovative and proven methods that inspire other teachers and lead to increased student learning and greater achievements.

Teachers touch the future and shape it every day. My sister, Veronica Georges, teaches in the Sequoia School District and my daughter and son-in-law are devoted educators as well. They along with Linda Mitchell, Pat Dawson, Sheila Haberkorn, Kris Weaver, and Dale Deffiner are the mothers, fathers and sisters of my staff who are influencing America's future today. I'm exceedingly proud of them and the superb work they do daily.

This statement of recognition by the House of Representatives is but a small tribute of gratitude to those who have dedicated themselves to education. On behalf of a grateful nation, I salute every teacher in our land!

TRIBUTE TO SOUTHERN HOMES SERVICES

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 16, 2000

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Southern Homes Services (SHS) as it celebrates its 150th anniversary. Since 1840 SHS has provided quality services to preserve, build and stabilize the lives of children and families within their communities.

During the first 100 years of its existence SHS provided services for youngsters who had been placed in its care because of the death of their fathers and the mothers' inability to care for their children. But, in the early 1950's SHS refocused its mission. The result was the adoption of a psychiatric residential treatment program for children that included support services for their families.

Today SHS is a multi-disciplined, multi-facility that is licensed as a Residential Treatment Facility. Annually it provides comprehensive services to more than 2,000 children and adolescents with severe emotional problems. Its comprehensive mental health and social services include: foster and kinship care; residential treatment services; an on-site licensed private school; outpatient mental health and psychiatric services; in-home family preservation services; and mentor/volunteer opportunities.

In February 2000, SHS became one of the first children's services agency to be accredited as a behavioral Healthcare Organization by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO).

In recognition of its 15 decades of providing critical services to at-risk children when their families are the most vulnerable, I join SHS as it celebrates this important milestone.

TAIWAN INAUGURATES A NEW PRESIDENT

HON. EARL F. HILLIARD

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 16, 2000

Mr. HILLIARD. Mr. Speaker, today I pay tribute to Mr. Chen Shui-bian who will be inaugurated as the tenth president of the Republic of China on May 20th. I am honored to stand before you today in a spirit of freedom and change. President-elect Chen Shui-bian's victory on March 18, 2000, signals a new milestone for Taiwan's history of democratization. His Excellency defeated two other formidable opponents, and for the first time in Chinese history, an opposition party attained real political power from the ruling National Party. Taiwan united and is now clearly a model for reform and promise for most Asian countries.

As Taiwan voters collaborate on a brighter future, reevaluating the past proves a desirable democratization record which must be commended. The United States, and all countries of the free world, should pledge open support to President Chen Shui-bian, and encourage meaningful discussions of reunification issues in an effort to build better relationships with mainland China.

I congratulate a leader of vision and express my full confidence in Taiwan's President-elect Chen Shui-bian and the people of Taiwan.

HONORING REV. DR. JOE SAMUEL RATLIFF

HON. KEN BENTSEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 16, 2000

Mr. BENTSEN. Mr. Speaker, today I recognize Rev. Joe Samuel Ratliff for his 30 years of service in the ministry.

Since 1980, Rev. Ratliff has faithfully addressed the needs of the Brentwood Baptist Church community. Throughout his tenure as the church's spiritual leader, Rev. Ratliff has brought remarkable vision, transforming the 400-member church into a dynamic 10,000-member congregation. Brentwood has experienced unprecedented growth since Rev. Ratliff has been at the helm, including a new 1,800-seat sanctuary, land acquisitions, and an enhanced role as public servant and community activist in the surrounding community. The growth and success that Brentwood Baptist Church has undergone stems from a visionary pastor who is truly connected to his community and to his congregants.

Rev. Ratliff is the eldest of his mother's nine children. As a child growing up in Lumberton, NC, he was always active in the church, and played piano at services as a teenager. But he did not aspire to a career in the ministry until after he moved to Atlanta to attend Morehouse