

Turkey is one of the U.S. strongest and most reliable allies. For over fifty years Turkey and the United States have fought for shared principles through the Korean War, the Cold War, the crisis in Iraq, the Balkans, Kosovo, and elsewhere. In addition, Turkey is a major ally in combating terrorism, Islamic fundamentalism, and injustice around the world. In Kosovo, Turkey not only was instrumental in the NATO operations, but its humanitarian assistance to refugees was key to helping ease the suffering of the victims.

EU candidacy has also fueled the rapprochement between Turkey and Greece. While the respective foreign ministers had started to meet, the tragic earthquake in both countries provided the much-needed impetus. In recent months the two countries signed a series of cooperation agreements covering areas as diverse as terrorism, the environment, tourism, cultural cooperation, investment protection, customs, and scientific and technological issues.

Recent press reports indicate that Turkish Armed Forces will take part in NATO maneuvers which will be carried out in Greek territory in May, and that last week, Greece allowed Turkish four F-16 planes to use its air space for the first time, while they were flying to Germany to attend "Elite 2000" maneuvers. These improved relations will not only benefit Greece and Turkey, but also the United States, NATO, and Europe at large.

Mr. Speaker, as a long time observer of Turkey, I continue to support that country's further western integration, and congratulate my friends in Turkey on the election of their new President.

HAYDEN HISTORICAL MUSEUM
NAMED THE CENTER OF GRAVITY

HON. BARON P. HILL

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 17, 2000

Mr. HILL of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to announce the dedication of the Hayden Historical Museum's "Center of Gravity" marker in Hayden, Indiana. On Saturday, May 20, 2000, I will attend the ribbon-cutting ceremony in Hayden to commemorate nearly 150 years of a phenomenon that has relocated two major transportation systems and caused other unusual events in Hayden's history.

Town historians say the first train rolled into Hardenburg (now Hayden) on July 4, 1854. Allegedly, the train crew reported that the usual amount of steam power needed to "pull out of Hardenburg" would not suffice. Similar reports continued over the years, but no apparent conclusions or solutions were identified as to what "pulled things down" in Hayden. Years later, the railroad relocated to the south side of town where this mysterious force seemed to disappear.

However, the story doesn't end there. In the 1920s, U.S. Hwy. 50 came through town on the road now running in front of the Hayden Historical Museum. Once again, motorists complained of a strange force that slowed them down, caused their engines to misfire,

and made it hard to start again if they stopped. After a few years, authorities relocated the highway farther south of town than the railroad and again the problems ended.

Hayden High School teacher and coach Charles "Chuck" Hurley coined the popular phrase "the Hayden Spirit" for a similar phenomenon that seemed to "pull back" people to Hayden just as the trains and cars seemed to be "pulled down" by the infamous force. The "Center of Gravity" is not the only force that attracts people to Hayden, Indiana. Hayden is a great place to live and raise your family. The citizens of Hayden take great pride in their community and work hard to keep their churches, schools and civic organizations strong. The "Hayden Spirit" represents what is best about Hoosier small town life. I am honored the citizens of Hayden have asked me to join them on Saturday when they mark the point from which this mysterious power emanates—the "Center of Gravity."

The Hayden Historical Museum keeps the Hayden community strong. The museum commemorates Hayden's past accomplishments and helps build its strong future. Elementary school members of Hayden's Little Hoosier Historians and middle school members of Whitcomb's Winners use the Museum every day to study the history of their town and state. The Museum library contains books, authentic letters, and a pictorial history of the town where Hayden's children can learn about the people and history of their small town of 250 people.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to represent the people of Hayden in Congress. I applaud their enthusiastic commitment to education, arts, family, and community. The dedication celebration this weekend honors not only the Hayden Historical Museum's status as the "Center of Gravity," but also the illustrious past and promising future of a remarkable Indiana community.

HONORING LAW ENFORCEMENT
OFFICERS

HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 18, 2000

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of National Law Enforcement Week and to honor the men and women who serve our Nation as Law Enforcement Officers.

America's law enforcement officers are one of our most valuable resources. Almost one million individuals nationwide perform an incredibly important task as they put their lives in danger on a daily basis to protect and serve the people. As a former police officer, and the father to a former police officer, I know the inherent risk involved in the profession and salute these men and women for their efforts.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased that since 1993, the 12th District of Illinois has received funding for 272 new law enforcement officers under the COPS grant funding program. These additional officers have worked to increase the safety and well being of my constituents.

I urge my colleagues to join me in honor of Law Enforcement Week and our courageous

law enforcement officers. These men and women deserve this praise and recognition.

HONORING THE BIRTHDAY OF
DICK DOUGHERTY ON MAY 9TH,
2000

HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 18, 2000

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to take a moment to recognize the 80th birthday of Dick Dougherty, a man who has spent over 50 years of his life involved in journalism in New York State. Currently, he is widely known by the people of Rochester, New York for his editorials in the Democrat and Chronicle, our hometown paper. I consider him to be a national treasure and without the dose of sanity and humor his column provides me five days a week I would be lost.

According to his wife Pat, Dick's family was not certain about his future success after he flunked out of his first year of engineering school at Duke University. After this, he went on to serve in the military as a soldier on the European front during WWII. When he came home, his perseverance led him to complete a journalism degree at Syracuse University. On June 15, 1948 he began his 50 year career with his first journalism job at the Binghamton Press. After two years with the Binghamton paper Dick came to Rochester as a reporter for the morning Democrat and Chronicle and has remained in our city ever since. In 1975 he was assigned by the Times-Union, a Rochester afternoon paper until 1997, to report on a transcontinental bicycle trip. It was on this trip that he discovered his unique talent and love for reaching out and touching the lives of others with his words.

At the age of 56 when most people are beginning to look forward to retirement Dick began his career as a columnist by writing an editorial three times a week for the Times-Union paper. This column now runs daily in the Democrat and Chronicle as Dick continues to captivate the people of Rochester with his unique point of view and perspective on life. Personally, I love to share his columns with my friends, family, colleagues and I have been known to send them to the President.

It is my distinct privilege to recognize Dick Dougherty as a resident of my home district in Rochester, New York. I offer him my heartfelt congratulations on the celebration of his 80th birthday on May 9th, 2000 and I invite my colleagues to do the same as we acknowledge this significant and important man.

TERRACE COMMUNITY CHARTER
SCHOOL

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 18, 2000

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, today I pay tribute to an outstanding charter school in Tampa, Florida. The reason a Member of

Congress from the great state of Colorado would recognize and congratulate the Terrace Community School in Florida is because I have visited the school and heard its principal, Mr. David Lourie, speak eloquently about its successes.

On March 27, 2000, the Education Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations held a hearing at TCS entitled, "Putting Performance First: Academic Accountability and School Choice in Florida." Chairman Pete Hoekstra of Michigan conducted this hearing as part of his Crossroads 2000 project, a continuation and expansion of his ground-breaking education investigation, which culminated in the Education at a Crossroads report. As a member of the Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee and a passionate education reform advocate, I have attended several Crossroads hearings to find out what is working and what isn't in education across the country.

The latest installment of this important examination of American education took us to Florida, where we heard about the exciting efforts to raise the academic achievement for all students, implement school choice, increase school accountability, empower parents and improve the Florida education system. At the forefront of education reform in Florida are the state's charter schools. Specifically, the Terrace Community School (TCS) is an outstanding example of what education can, and should, be.

Mr. Speaker, I want to share with you a few facts about TCS and its successes. First, TCS bills itself as a "public school of choice." To some, that may be a contradiction in terms, to others, a threat, but to me, it represents the first step toward a free-market education system whereby parents can choose the best school for their child. TCS will only remain a "public school of choice" if it remains free of federal government intrusion and regulation, and if it satisfies its customers—parents and students.

To date, these two criteria are being met. In terms of freedom to educate, Florida Governor Jeb Bush and Lt. Governor Frank Brogan have been national leaders in liberating education from the shackles of government regulation. In addition, Members of Congress like Chairman HOEKSTRA and me have worked tirelessly to ensure charter schools remain free from the tangled web of federal government involvement. And, TCS is clearly meeting the needs of its customers. According to its 1998–1999 annual shareholder report, or education prospectus, of the 118 students who completed the 1998–1999 school year, 112 have re-enrolled for 1999–2000, a return rate of 95 percent. This is an unequivocal demonstration of value. Further, when surveyed by TCS, the parents clearly endorsed the education taking place there. Ninety-five percent of parents are very satisfied with their child's experience at TCS, while ninety-three percent felt the teachers and administration are fulfilling the mission of the school.

Second, the mission of TCS is crucial to its success. The very first objective of TCS is to provide a foundation of knowledge which will allow students to have successful academic careers. Elaborating on that point, TCS states, "We believe that all children can learn and that children will rise to the high expectations

of their parents and teachers." And what does TCS teach? "We offer the students the opportunity to be challenged by a rigorous, classic core curriculum taught in a planned progression by teachers who stress abundant practice and careful feedback." Finally, recognizing that education involves more than just books, the TCS "founders believe that, in addition to a strong academic program, a school should help guide each child to develop his or her character." This is clearly a blueprint and commitment to effective, excellent education.

Third, I am pleased to report TCS has been successful in meeting its stated goals. For example, the class of 2002 raised their median national percentile on CTB/McGraw-Hill's "Terra Nova Multiple Assessments Test" in every category tested—reading, language, math, science and social studies. In math, TCS students jumped a remarkable 13 percentage points. The class of 2001 also achieved exceptional results on Terra Nova, showing gains in all subject areas, and an 11 point increase in science. Finally, the class of 2000 demonstrated growth in all but one subject area, and improved its overall Terra Nova score by 10 percentage points. On another measure of student performance, the math FCAT (Florida Comprehensive Achievement Test), TCS fifth-graders outperformed a majority of their peers in the county and across the state.

Charter schools must prove they are fulfilling their educational goals and that their students are, in fact, learning. They must do so, first and foremost, to meet their responsibility to educate children, to satisfy the terms of their charters, and to keep their customers, the parents, satisfied and willing to reinvest their most precious resource, their children, in the school. There can be no question TCS is achieving its goals and meeting its customers' needs.

As catalysts for positive change in children's learning, parents' options, school system quality and state reform efforts, charter schools are the vanguard. As exemplified by the Terrace Community School in Tampa, Florida, or the Liberty Common School in Fort Collins, Colorado, charter schools provide a desperately needed alternative to the failing government-owned monopoly schools. However, we must guard against overzealousness at the federal level. Charter schools have been successful because they have been free of the U.S. Department of Education and federal bureaucrats. Charter schools succeed and thrive today because of the strength of state charter school laws and because of the leaders in these schools.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud the efforts of Mr. Laurie, the teachers, parents and students of TCS, and hope their achievement, optimism, and freedom continue unabated for many years to come.

THE NEW MEXICO FIRES

HON. JOE SKEEN

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 18, 2000

Mr. SKEEN. Mr. Speaker, as most of you know New Mexico has had a series of terrible

fires sweeping throughout forests in the past few weeks. My good friends and Members of Congress from New Mexico, HEATHER WILSON and TOM UDALL, have done an excellent job of informing us of the impact the Los Alamos fire has had on the citizens of northern New Mexico. As the fires continue to burn, we hear stories that make the New Mexico Congressional delegation proud and honored to represent and serve the citizens of the Land of Enchantment. In the days and weeks to come, many stories will surface regarding the efforts of the citizens of New Mexico and we will be relaying them to our good friends in the U.S. Congress.

Today I'd like to talk about the United States Post Office and the work and sacrifice they made to help keep our New Mexico communities together. Following the evacuation of Los Alamos and the surrounding area, thousands of residents were displaced to shelters, hotels, motels and homes across northern New Mexico. They were separated from their neighbors, their friends, their pastors and priests. They were separated from their children's teachers, coaches, scout leaders and den moms. They did not know what they would find when they would be allowed to return home.

However, something wonderful happened. Congress was not involved, an Executive Order was not issued, and no declaration was made by a public official. Instead, the United States Post Office decided to begin operating an outdoor Post Office where these refugees from the fire could come each day and collect their mail. They could meet their neighbors, their friends, their ministers, and the countless numbers who had been displaced. They could share information, they could console those who have lost their homes and they could provide support to each other. This temporary outdoor Post Office became the heart and soul of a city in exile.

Each day the Postal Service Letter Carriers, their supervisors, the window clerks and the leadership of the US Postal Service stepped up to the plate for New Mexico. I think all the citizens of New Mexico support me when I say thanks to the United States Postal Service for insuring that the mail got through and thank you for your help in holding a community together.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN ELIAS BALDACCI

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 18, 2000

Mr. BALDACCI. Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday, May 17, 2000, I traveled to Michigan to be with my friend and colleague, BART STUPAK and attend the funeral of his son, BJ. Over the past few years, I had the opportunity to meet BJ and play some baseball with him. He was a fine young man, and his death comes as a great shock to all of us. My thoughts and prayers continue to be with BART and his family as they struggle to cope with this tragedy.

As a result of my travel, I missed four votes. Had I been present, I would have voted in the following ways.