

process. Given current conditions in China and recent actions by the Chinese government, I am not convinced that relinquishing this leveraging tool is in our best national interest at this time.

It is for all of these reasons that I must oppose permanent normal trade relations at this time. I am not convinced that it is in the best interest of Tennesseans and our country to reward China with unconditional permanent normal trade relations when it is clear they do not meet our standards for human and worker rights and could threaten our national security. Clearly trade must continue and we must pledge ourselves to work with the Chinese reformers to move their country towards free market democracy. However, until significant improvements are made in these areas, I cannot in good faith vote to grant PNTR.

I look forward to the day when China fully joins the international community in a commitment to democratic values, human rights, and trade that is truly free and fair. Until that time, we have a duty to use whatever tools we have available to us to influence China to take that path. My vote against PNTR for China is one such tool, and I utilize it in good conscience and with a conviction that it will benefit both the Chinese and American people.

TRIBUTE TO THE PARTICIPANTS  
OF THE S.P.H.E.R.E.S. PROJECT

**HON. JOHN SHIMKUS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 8, 2000*

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend John Link, Amy Rahe, Carmen Reiner, and Adam Wietes. These four middle school students from Carlinville Middle School in Carlinville, IL, are tackling tough community issues as participants in the Bayer/NSF Award for Community Innovation.

Their project is Saving Prairies and Helping Environmental Regions Expand Successfully—S.P.H.E.R.E.S. Through this project they have successfully strengthened local support to create a preserve where native prairie grasses and indigenous creatures could flourish and students could study and experience the prairie habitat.

I want to take this opportunity to thank these students who at such a young age have made it their responsibility to preserve our environment. I am proud of them and look forward to all else they may accomplish.

IN HONOR OF HELEN STEINEL'S  
RETIREMENT AFTER 30 YEARS  
IN EDUCATION

**HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 8, 2000*

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Helen Steinel on her retirement after 30 years in education.

Helen Steinel began her illustrious career in education as a teacher. She taught at Holy

Family, St. Joseph's, St. Joseph and Michael, and Mother Seton elementary schools, all schools in Union City, NJ. For the last several years, Helen has been the principal of Mother Seton School, where she is a mentor to her faculty, and where she has educated teachers as well as children in her work with student teachers.

For 30 years, Helen has dedicated herself to the education of children, and for 30 years, she has touched the lives of students and teachers in a way that her years of dedication cannot measure. Helen understands and imparts to others the knowledge that education is a profound tool for understanding the world and a necessary instrument in realizing one's full potential as a human being.

It is said that teaching another something of value takes compassion, understanding, and patience; and absent these virtues, the simple process of imparting knowledge can become strained and cumbersome, leaving both teacher and pupil estranged, unable to truly learn from each other. In honoring Helen today, I honor the virtues that allow teachers to become great educators.

Today, I ask that my colleagues join me as I honor Helen Steinel, a great woman and educator I respect and admire.

TRIBUTE TO AKIRA INOUE

**HON. ROBERT A. UNDERWOOD**

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 8, 2000*

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, Each year, the Guam Chamber of Commerce selects the "Small Business Person of the Year" from a pool of individuals and business partners who either own and operate or bear principal responsibility for small business establishments on Guam. The chamber takes into account staying power, sales growth, growth in payroll, innovativeness in product or service, response to adversity, and civic contributions. This year the honor was bestowed upon local businessman, Akira Inoue.

Having held assignments in Australia, New Guinea, Saipan and other neighboring islands, Akira chose to settle on Guam, an island he deemed to be the ideal hub for Japanese oriented businesses. On September 1, 1968, he established Nanbo Guam, Ltd. Initially engaged in the importation and wholesale of general merchandise from Japan, Nanbo Guam started underwriting insurance in June of 1969.

With neither experience nor training in the insurance business, Akira assumed the function of general agent for The Tokio Marine and Fire Insurance Co., Ltd., of Japan. The company enjoyed a steady growth and, with it, the trust and support of the Guam community. When Typhoon Pamela devastated the island of Guam in 1976, Nanbo Guam's efforts to provide prompt settlements did not go unnoticed. Along with their good reputation came new applicants and increased premium sales. Akira credits this as the basis of Nanbo Guam's success.

Through the years, Nanbo Guam has developed and grown steadily. In 1977, the com-

pany began handling life insurance as the general agent for Pacific Guardian Life, Honolulu. In 1978, they established the Sun Rise, Inc., and opened the Japan Food Supermarket. In the 1980's, Nanbo Guam engaged in real estate ventures and revived their import business by establishing the Nanbo Trading Company. In the 1990's, they broadened the scope of their insurance business by concluding another general agency agreement property and casualty insurance with the Nippon Fire and Marine Insurance Co., Ltd., of Japan and by securing a claims agency agreement from the United Services Automobile Association. Akira Inoue's business acumen, innovations and his capable direction is undoubtedly the driving force behind Nanbo Guam's success.

Outside of his business ventures, Akira additionally devotes personal time and resources to civic and community activities. As one of the founding members of the Japan Club of Guam, he served as its first vice-president in 1972. From 1973 through 1977, he served as the club's president. During his tenure, he was instrumental in raising donations for the Christmas Seal Fund Drive. He was also actively involved with the Vietnam Refugees Relief Drive in addition to serving on the Board of Governors of St. John's Episcopal School. Between 1987 and 1989, he was a member of the committee to establish a Japanese school on Guam. Serving once again as president of the Japan Club of Guam from 1992 through 1995, he worked towards the full payment of the construction loan for the Japanese school and organized a relief fund drive for the victims of the 1995 Kobe earthquake. Akira is also a distinguished member of the Rotary Club of Tumon Bay.

For over three decades, Guam's business community has reaped great benefits from Akira Inoue's efforts and dedication. I join his proud family—his wife, Machiko, his sons, Naoyuki and Tetsuji, and daughters, Sachiko and Yoshiko—who, together with the Guam Chamber of Commerce and the people of Guam, celebrate Akira Inoue's contributions and success. I commend and congratulate him for being chosen as this year's "Small Business Person of the Year."

TELECOMMUNICATIONS, TRADE,  
AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

**HON. EDWARD J. MARKEY**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 8, 2000*

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation requiring the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) study the issue of alleged potential health risks associated with wireless phones. This legislation builds upon a provision that I offered to legislation then pending in the House Commerce Committee during the previous Congress. That underlying legislation ultimately was not enacted in the previous Congress and today I offer the wireless health study amendment as a standalone piece of legislation, entitled the "Wireless Phone Health Risk Assessment Act of 2000."

Mr. Speaker, when I first raised the issue of cellular phone safety at a House Telecommunications and Finance Subcommittee