

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 Wieties. 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

briefing I chaired in 1993, there were roughly 15 million people using such phones—today there are over 70 million users of wireless phones. In addition, the FDA, which coordinates Federal oversight of the wireless phone health issue, has previously indicated that a significant research effort over a sustained period of time is needed to provide the greater body of scientific information that scientists and regulators will need to more adequately assess any potential health risks.

It is my belief that because wireless phone companies receive their licenses to operate from the Federal Government, that the government has a responsibility to step up its efforts to address this issue. Indeed, having helped create the wireless revolution over the years by freeing up federally administered airwaves for these new services, I have simultaneously advocated that the government must also have a serious commitment to additional research in order to reassure consumers that any lingering concerns about whether these wireless devices pose a health risk are addressed.

This legislation authorizes \$25 million over a 5-year period for the FDA to analyze health risks associated from radiofrequency emissions from wireless phones. I believe it is a modest but important allocation of a portion of total Federal research funds, an authorization that is specifically dedicated to scientifically assess wireless phone health risks.

CELEBRATING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE OKEFENOKEE HERITAGE CENTER

HON. SAXBY CHAMBLISS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 8, 2000

Mr. CHAMBLISS. Mr. Speaker, today I am proud to honor the 25th Anniversary of the outstanding Okefenokee Heritage Center. It is an honor for the community to be gifted with this great facility for teaching and learning.

The Okefenokee Heritage Center has been an institution serving South Georgia for 25 great years. When the building was finished 1975, it added a world of learning for all ages in the community. This is why I pay tribute to the silver anniversary of this vital facility for Waycross and Ware County. I praise the tireless efforts that the people of Waycross have contributed for this great museum. I hope for continued success in the future and I thank them for their dedication and hard work.

I believe that the following editorial from the Waycross Journal Herald clearly depicts how important this Heritage Center is. I sincerely appreciate the hard work and support of people like Catherine Larkens, Current Director of the Center, Sonya Craven, President of the Board, to all the Board Members, Ware County Commissioner Chairman Roger Strickland, Mayor John Fluker, Dr. William Clark, III and Gus Karle. Most importantly, I want to recognize Mrs. Sue Clark. As a result of her determination and perseverance, today we celebrate 25 years of the Okefenokee Heritage Center and its significant contributions to our county.

[From the Waycross Journal-Herald, June 1, 2000]

OKEFENOKEE HERITAGE CENTER OBSERVES
25TH

Friends and supporters of the Okefenokee Heritage Center gathered yesterday at the center's Augusta Avenue site to commemorate 25 years of service to this community. It was a memorable, sun-splashed afternoon of short speeches and renewed acquaintances.

Mrs. Sue Clark, wife of well-known Waycross eye surgeon Dr. S. William Clark Jr., is credited with being the primary community figure who conceptualized, promoted and implemented the idea of building a heritage-themed museum in Waycross. It was her perseverance and organizational drive, together with the resources of the Seaboard Coast Line Railroad and several other key players, which helped to make today's heritage center a reality.

In his prepared remarks, former Rice Yard Superintendent A.A. "Gus" Karle commented Wednesday that he located the center's "Okefenokee Chief" steam engine at a South Carolina rock quarry and told Mrs. Clark about his find. He said she contacted the quarry's owners that same day and within days had marched into the Seaboard Coast Line's corporate offices at Jacksonville and arranged to have the locomotive transported to Waycross.

"I got a call from Seaboard CEO Prime Osborne. He mentioned this locomotive and said Sue Clark had just left his office," said Karle. Together with Seaboard's Henry Pigge, plans were soon put into motion to transport the 1912 vintage locomotive from South Carolina to Waycross in December 1973.

The locomotive is the showpiece among the Heritage Center's exhibits. It's a wonderful example of early 20th century technology spared from the salvager's torch and preserved for future generations by Sue Clark's vision.

The locomotive's steam whistle was operating Wednesday, harkening back to a day when the telegraph key was the fastest means of communication and belching, noisy steam locomotives rolled into Waycross from all directions, disgorging passengers and welcoming new ones on those "magic carpets made of steel."

It was America's "Age of Innocence," a time before the horrors of World War II and national ascendancy to superpower status. It was a time when this newspaper was located at the corner of Plant Avenue and Isabella Street (now Jack Williams Park), enabling the late Editor & Publisher Jack Williams Sr. to gaze out his office window at locomotive engineers and their passengers as they rounded the crossing enroute to the Waycross Rail Depot.

His son, the late Jack Williams Jr., said the building's glass windows would actually shake in their frames as these steel behemoths passed outside.

The old building is gone now, but a scaled-down reproduction rests beside the railroad track at the Heritage Center for future generations to enjoy.

What a wonderful facility our Heritage Center has truly become. The entire community owes a debt of gratitude to Sue Clark for her hard work and vision. Her ancestor, the late Dr. Daniel Lott (one of four founders of Waycross in 1871) would be justly proud of what she has accomplished.

TRIBUTE TO RETIRING ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT DR. TOM F. LUTHY, JR.

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 8, 2000

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, it has come to my attention that a long and exceptional career in education is nearing an end. Dr. Tom F. Luthy, Jr., of Lebanon, Missouri, is retiring after more than 40 years of service to Lebanon Public Schools.

Tom began his teaching career as an 18-year-old college student in 1958 at the Blackfoot School. After that, he taught grades five through eight for two years at the two-room Bolles School before teaching for two years at the Lebanon High School. After a year of teaching at the newly built Glendale High School in Springfield, Tom returned to Lebanon as the school's first-ever department chair in charge of the social studies program. He continued to teach history for 15 more years at the high school.

When the high school moved to its present location in 1976, Tom stayed as the assistant principal of Lebanon Junior High. Two years later, he became the principal and spent the next 17 years guiding the lives of the young people who attended his school. After that, he became the Lebanon R-111 Schools assistant superintendent for personnel and instruction. As an assistant superintendent for the past eight years, Tom has hired more teachers than are currently on the entire district staff. He also guided the district through its highly successful review under the Missouri School Improvement Plan in 1998.

Tom has had a great impact on education in the Lebanon area. Early in his career, he created the American Heritage program at the high school. He also was involved in the formation of the C-5 school and was instrumental in naming that school after Joel E. Barber, who was president of the school board at the Blackfoot School where he began his career. After retirement, Tom will still impact education by continuing his work with the statewide Goals 2000 project, which is developing a new physical education model for Missouri.

Mr. Speaker, Tom Luthy's passion for excellence in education has made a difference in the lives of students and teachers. I know all Members of Congress will join me in paying tribute to his outstanding service to the Lebanon education community.

HONORING THE LAKE ERIE
NATURE AND SCIENCE CENTER

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 8, 2000

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, today I celebrate the Golden anniversary of the Lake Erie Nature and Science Center. For 50 years, this asset of Greater Cleveland has provided the community with invaluable educational opportunities, wildlife resources, and a natural preservation of a beautiful environment.