

Welfare Laws, water augmentation, right to farm, Colorado Children's Trust Funds.

Speaker George received many honors. He has received honors from the Colorado Association of School Boards, Colorado Bankers Association, Colorado Association of Naturopathic Physicians, Colorado Restaurant Association, Colorado Rehabilitation Coalition, Colorado Crime Stoppers, CCI Domestic Violence Coalition, Colorado Academy of Audiologists. In 1994 and 1996, he was the recipient of the AP Legislator of the Year award.

This year marked the end of Speaker George's tenure in elected office. His career embodied the citizen-legislator ideal and was a model that every official in elected office should seek to emulate. The citizens of Colorado owe Speaker George a debt of gratitude and I wish him well.

HONORING BOBBY W. BEASLEY

HON. BOB ETHERIDGE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 23, 2000

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, today I pay tribute to one of my constituents, Bobby W. Beasley, the superintendent of Harnett County Schools. Mr. Beasley is retiring on June 30, 2000, after 36 years of dedicated service to the children of North Carolina. He has served the people well, and his leadership will be sorely missed in my home county.

Bobby Beasley, like many of those educators who have moved North Carolina to the forefront of education reform over the past 20 years, was born in one of our rural counties, Union County near Charlotte, and grew to manhood in Laurinburg, a small town in the Sandhills of the state. After graduation from Laurinburg High School, he enrolled at East Carolina University in Greenville intent on becoming a teacher. Four years later, he began his career as a math teacher and coach at Stokes-Pactolus School in Pitt County.

After only 3 years as a teacher, Mr. Beasley was appointed principal of Bethel Elementary and Bethel Middle School, also in Pitt County, and he remained a school administrator for the rest of his career. Along the way, he also continued his formal education, obtaining the master's degree from East Carolina University and, later the six-year certification in school administration.

Mr. Beasley came to Harnett County in 1974, recruited by Superintendent R.L. Gray to be principal of Angier High School. Those were momentous times in Harnett County, a largely rural tobacco county about to be caught up in a tremendous school consolidation effort designed to make its schools the equal of those just north of it in Wake County, home of the state's Capital City. Mr. Beasley was a key advisor at this consolidation took place, moving in a principal of one of the new schools, Western Harnett High School, when it opened in 1977.

Quiet, well liked by students, and a curriculum and instruction specialist, Mr. Beasley

ran Western Harnett High School for 10 eventful years before being appointed assistant superintendent for curriculum and instruction in the Central Office in 1987. His focus began countywide as the school system evolved from rural to urban. With the retirement of Superintendent Ivo Wortman in 1994, Mr. Beasley was handed the reins of leadership for the Harnett County system.

Mr. Beasley's terms as assistant superintendent and superintendent coincided with a decided push for education excellence on the part of North Carolina and its school systems. A testing and accountability system that has made the state an education leader in the nation was instituted in 1990 after the state dropped to the bottom of the nation in the SAT rankings in 1989. SAT average scores began a run upward in 1990 and have led the Nation in improvement. In addition, the state's scores on the National Assessment of Educational Progress have been among the nation's best.

Harnett County schools have responded well to this accountability demand. Under Mr. Beasley's direction, the average SAT scores have improved dramatically, this year topping the state's average. Writing scores of 4th graders are above the state average, and test scores across the board show that Harnett County students have responded to the need to work harder, score higher, and prepare themselves better for the technologically complex world in which they will live.

Harnett County has invested more than \$77 million in new schools and school improvements during Mr. Beasley's tenure as superintendent. He has shown himself to be an effective voice for school improvement, to be a public servant our leaders trust and admire, and to be a visionary man who knows what our county can and should become.

It has been said that an elementary teacher may touch up to 1,000 students over a lifetime of teaching, that a high school teacher may influence 3,000, that a high school principal may impact perhaps 10,000 individuals. Bobby Beasley has served in each of these capacities—one after the other. He has gone on to take the awesome responsibility of running an entire system at a critical time in the life of Harnett County and been intimately successful.

It has been said that a man and his times must coincide if great progress is to result. This quiet man who believed in the students he taught and those who attended the schools he administered was in harmony with what was needed.

And Harnett County was better in the past—and will be eminently better in the future—because of Bobby Beasley's efforts.

HONORING FATHER PHILIP J. CASCIA OF PROSPECT, CONNECTICUT

HON. JAMES H. MALONEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 23, 2000

Mr. MALONEY of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, today I honor the remarkable contributions

made by Father Philip J. Cascia of Prospect, CT, in the important cause of world peace. In setting up Intersport USA, a non-profit sports exchange program, he has for over a decade played a prominent role in promoting friendly relations between the people of the United States and those of other nations around the globe.

Father Philip J. Cascia was born in Springfield, MA, in 1951, later moving to Connecticut where he graduated from St. Thomas High School in Bloomfield. After his college education and theological training in Maryland, Father Cascia returned to Connecticut where in 1977, he was ordained as a Catholic priest for the Archdiocese of Hartford. His early assignments took him to Waterbury and Prospect, and in 1985 Father Cascia became the spiritual director at Sacred Heart High School in Waterbury. During this period Father Cascia's dedication to his local communities led to the establishment of a soup kitchen, a homeless shelter, a thrift store, and an affordable housing program. It is a mark of his leadership that all of these community services remain active to this day.

It was during his time at Sacred Heart that Father Cascia took the wrestling team that he had established for inner-city children at the school to the former Soviet Union. As the first trip of its kind, the initiative earned national recognition in both America and the USSR, as well as the attention of President Reagan, whose encouragement inspired Father Cascia to establish Intersport USA. Expanding the program, Father Cascia has taken his youth athlete exchange programs to China, Vietnam, South Africa, and Cuba, and is now working to organize programs with Libya, North Korea, and Japan. Many of Intersport's programs have evolved into regular exchange visits.

Intersport USA has profoundly shaped the experiences of young athletes, allowing them to mingle freely with their counterparts from other countries, both competitively and socially. Father Cascia continues to be at the forefront of this work, fostering mutual respect among all participants, and allowing goodwill to replace ignorance and hostility.

Through this sports-based diplomacy, Father Cascia has acted as a tireless ambassador for peace, laying the foundations for friendlier relations between America and the countries in which he has visited. One example was his visit in 1990 to Hanoi, where at the entrance to the sports arena, the Vietnamese Government raised the American flag for the first time ever in that city. He has not only met his stated goal of "plant(ing) the seed of peace and understanding in the minds and hearts of young athletes," but has also helped secure a more peaceful future for America's citizens. Mr. Speaker, I welcome you and the House of Representatives joining with me today in commending Father Cascia on his work and on his success in promoting greater understanding between nations around the world.