EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING MOUNTAIN VIEW MIDDLE SCHOOL

HON. TOM UDALL
OF NEW MEXICO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, June 15, 2000

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the Mountain View Middle School in Rio Rancho, NM. Mountain View was recently chosen by the U.S. Department of Education as a Blue Ribbon School and is one of only 198 schools in the United States that received this prominent award. The Rio Rancho public school system is a model of first-class learning, and Mountain View is a product of this exemplary system. It embodies all the characteristics for which all schools should strive.

It was my pleasure to meet recently with the principal of Mountain View, Kathy Pinkel, and congratulate her personally on this esteemed accomplishment. Joining me in offering congratulations was John Jennings, the mayor of Rio Rancho. On that occasion, Ms. Pinkel described the tireless labors that the faculty and staff have contributed to reach this crest of pride.

This is excellent news for the Rio Rancho community. This is one of the top education awards in the country, and I applaud all those involved in ensuring that education is a top priority in Rio Rancho. I call special attention to the faculty and staff at Mountain View—they obviously have a great passion for what they are doing, and this award is verification of their dedication. Also, community cooperation is crucial in making a school exceptional. I pay special tribute to the parents and also all the citizens of Rio Rancho who continue to be actively involved in the public school system. Such cooperation is crucial in order to make a school exceptional, and the entire Rio Rancho community can be extremely proud of this combined effort.

Blue Ribbon Schools are selected based on their effectiveness in meeting local, State, and national educational goals. Schools chosen for the award must display the qualities of excellence that are necessary to prepare young people for the challenges of the new century. Blue Ribbon status is awarded to schools that have strong leadership; a clear vision and sense of mission that is shared by all connected with the school; high quality educators; challenging and up-to-date curriculum; policies and practices that ensure a safe environment conducive to learning and schools that help all students achieve high standards.

Education is one of my top priorities in Congress. A strong and diverse education is an essential building block for the youth of society, whether it is today, or 100 years from now. Mountain View Middle School has been providing students with the tools to exceed in the tasks they will encounter throughout their lifetimes. It is imperative that we recognize and continue to support this educating process and all of those who contribute to it.

Mountain View Middle School in Rio Rancho, NM, has been a strong influence in the lives of the students they have taught and the entire community they have served. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this time to ask my colleagues to join me in acknowledging this accomplishment. I congratulate Mountain View Middle School on its Blue Ribbon award and thank all those involved for their invaluable contribution to the State of New Mexico and to the entire Nation.

HONORING LIEUTENANT CHARLIE JORDAN

HON. BOB SCHAFFER
OF COLORADO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, June 15, 2000

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, today I honor Lieutenant Charlie Jordan on the occasion of his upcoming retirement planned for August 31, 2000. Lt. Jordan has served 29 outstanding years with the Sterling Fire Department, in Sterling Colorado.

In September 1971, the area native joined the department as a volunteer to fulfill his desire to help his community. Over the years, he learned to follow the great examples of veterans, and as a result on February 5, 1988, Charlie Jordan was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant.

Additionally, Lt. Jordan has served in a leadership position since 1995 on the board of directors for the Colorado Metropolitan Arson Investigation Association. Lt. Jordan has also been active in both the Logan County Crime Stoppers and American Red Cross.

Mr. Speaker, Lt. Charlie Jordan is a shining example of an individual who has given so much to his community. As a Member of Congress, I am pleased to recognize Lt. Jordan for his outstanding contributions to the Northeastern Colorado community. He is surely an example for us all.

HONORING FIRE CHIEF AL GRAMS

HON. GARY G. MILLER
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, June 15, 2000

Mr. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise to celebrate the contributions that Fire Chief Al Grams, of Chino Hills, California, has made to his community.

Chief Grams began his 36-year career as a firefighter with the City of Covina in 1964. He was promoted to Administrative Captain in 1974 and advanced to Battalion Chief in 1981. In 1987, the San Gabriel Fire Authority hired Chief Grams as an Administrative Chief, but he returned to the City of Covina in 1991 as a Battalion Chief. The Chino Valley Independent Fire District gained the valuable experience of Chief Grams in 1991 when he became their Division Chief of Operations. Just three years later, in 1994, he was promoted to Fire Chief.

Under his leadership, the Chino Valley Independent Fire District has witnessed a budget increase from $11 million to $13.5 million. The Fire District has also added new fire stations, including the status at Butterfield Ranch.

In addition to his public service, Chief Grams has sought to enrich his community by founding the Chino Valley Fire Foundation Citizens Helping in Educational Fire Safety (CHIEFS). This organization raises over $30,000 each year to educate the community about fire and life safety. Chief Grams is also a member of the California Fire Chiefs Association, Rotary, the International Fire Chief’s Association, and he serves on the YMCA Board of Directors.

Chief Grams’ 36-year career of fighting fires distinguishes him as a true American hero, worthy of our praise and gratitude.

CONGRATULATIONS, DARLENE L. COX

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE
OF NEW JERSEY
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, June 15, 2000

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask my colleagues here in the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in congratulating a highly accomplished professional, Ms. Darlene L. Cox, who has been selected to receive a 2000 Congressional Community Service Award for her outstanding civic work in the Tenth Congressional District. I have had the privilege of working with Ms. Cox on community health issues, and her selection to receive this honor is truly reflective of her hard work and commitment to excellence as president and CEO of the East Orange General Hospital.

Ms. Cox is the president and chief executive officer of Essex Valley Healthcare, Inc. East Orange General Hospital in New Jersey, a position she assumed in 1999. Under her leadership, East Orange General Hospital has emerged as a key player in the delivery of quality health care and as a major employer of the community. During the course of a successful career spanning two decades, Ms. Cox has distinguished herself as a leader in the positions of health care executive and nursing administrator. Most recently, she served as Vice President and Chief Nursing Officer at the New York Presbyterian Hospital. Prior to
that, Ms. Cox was chief nurse and adminis-
trator of Patient Care Services at the Univer-
sity of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey
(UMDNJ).
While on a sabbatical from UMDNJ from 1991 to 1992, Ms. Cox served as a White
House Fellow. In addition to serving as Spec-
cial Assistant to the Secretary of Veterans Af-
fairs, she also served as Executive Assistant
to the President of the United States. Ms. Cox
represented the University Hospitals as a wit-
ness before the House of Representatives
Subcommittee of the House Government Op-
erations Committee to discuss the impact of
the AIDS crisis on the acute care environment.
She has written and published several articles
relating to patient care and presented a posi-
tion paper on the Immigration Nursing Relief
Act of 1989 to a Subcommittee of the House
Judiciary Committee. Ms. Cox has held a
number of prestigious academic positions. She
has been the guest lecturer at various aca-
demic forums and was the keynote speaker to
the Graduating Class of 1992 at Seton Hall
School of Nursing in South Orange, NJ. She
is a member of the North Jersey Unit of the
Negro Business and Professional Women’s
Club, the Black Nurses of New-
ark, the New Jersey Hospital Association and
other professional organizations. She has also
participated in 100 Black Women Teen Men-
toring and Health Fair projects and is the re-
cipient of numerous professional and commu-
nity service awards.
Mr. Speaker, I know my colleagues join me
in congratulating Ms. Cox and extending our
very best wishes for continued success.

TRIBUTE TO MYKE REID
HON. WILLIAM (BILL) CLAY
OF MISSOURI
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, June 15, 2000
Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, I am happy to join
the members of the Virginia Postal Workers
Union, AFL–CIO in paying tribute to APWU
Legislative Director, Myke Reid. Mr. Reid is a
native of Portsmouth, VA, and before he be-
came a National Officer, he served many
years as an officer of his own Local and State
Organization.
Mr. Reid served the Norfolk Virginia Local as
Business Agent (Executive Vice President),
Steward and Editor; the State of Virginia as
President, Legislative Director and Washington
Regional Council Chair and Secretary-Treas-
urer.
Currently, Mr. Reid serves as the Assistant
Legislative and Political Director for the Amer-
can Postal Workers Union, the largest postal
union in the world. With over 350,000 mem-
bers, the APWU has members in every city,
town, and hamlet in the United States. Serving
in his third term as an elected officer of the
union, Mr. Reid works as a lobbyist for APWU,
as well as a member of the union’s PAC Com-
mittee. Prior to his election as the Assistant
Director in 1992, Mr. Reid served nine years
as Special Assistant to the President of the Amer-
ican Postal Workers Union for legislative and
political affairs.
During his tenure at APWU, Mr. Reid has
worked to secure passage of Hatch Act Re-
form, the Family and Medical Leave Act, the
Federal Employees Retirement System Act,
the Spouse Equity Act, the Postal Employees
Safety Enhancement Act, the Veterans Em-
ployment Opportunities Act and many others.
Mr. Reid has diligently worked to protect the
viability of the Postal Service and oppose
Postal Privatization.
Active in the community, Mr. Reid has been
appointed by Democratic Governors of Virginia
to the Virginia Employment Commission Advis-
sory Board, and the Virginia Community Col-
lege Board, as well as the Human Rights
Commission by his mayor. He has chaired the
Alexandria Democratic Committee for two terms,
and the Alexander Redevelopment and Housing
Authority Board, also for two terms. He has
served on the Democratic National Com-
mittee’s Platform Committee, and was
elected as a Delegate in 1988 and 1992 to the
Democratic National Convention.
He has also served on the board of the Na-
tional Consumers League, and Planned Par-
thenthood of Metropolitan Washington and rec-
ognized on several occasion with inclusion in
Marquis Who’s Who and by Outstanding
Young Men of America. Active as a volunteer
for many political campaigns, Mr. Reid was
privileged to serve as an “International Ob-
server” during the election of former President
Nelson Mandela of South Africa.
Mr. Reid has a B.A. from Norfolk State Uni-
versity and resides in Alexandria, VA. Mr. Speaker, I join the Virginia State APWU
in recognizing the very special achievements
of Myke Reid, whom I have known very well
since he came to Washington, DC in 1983 by
virtue of my previous capacity as Chairman of
the House Post Office and Civil Service Com-
mittee and currently as Ranking Member of
the House Education and Work Force Com-
mittee. APWU is certainly well served to have
Mr. Reid representing their Union before the
Congress of the United States.

HONORING PASTOR EDWARD L.
MCCREE, SR.
HON. DALE E. KILDEE
OF MICHIGAN
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, June 15, 2000
Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you
and my colleagues in the U.S. House of Rep-
resentatives today on behalf of one of Pontiac,
Michigan’s top citizens. From June 11 through
June 18, the congregation of Macedonia Mis-
sionary Baptist Church in Pontiac will gather
and celebrate the work of its Pastor, Edward
L. McCree, Sr., and his 27 years of commit-
tment as Macedonia’s spiritual leader.
After graduating from Fermale High School
in 1960, young Edward McCree went on to
Detroit Bible College and the University of De-
etroit. He then uprooted his family to Ten-
sessee, where he attended the American Bap-
tist College. Edward achieved what he consid-
ered his mission to possess a thorough edu-
cation, and graduated from American Baptist
College in 1973. Edward was soon ordained
at Cedar Grove Missionary Baptist Church in
Mount Juliet, TN.
Edward returned his family to Michigan that
same year, as he was chosen as Pastor of
Macedonia Baptist Church, where he has re-
mained ever since. During these years, Pastor
McCree has reached out to spread the Lord’s
word as well as serve compassionately. In 1990, he
preached in the National Baptist Congress of
Christian Education to more than 40,000 peo-
ple. He also organized a television outreach
ministry which also allowed him to reach a
wide audience. As Pastor of Macedonia, Pas-
tor McCree has worked selflessly and tire-
lessly to help his congregation grow phys-
ically, emotionally, and spiritually. He is a
ounselor and confidant to the entire Mac-
edonia family. He is a constant source of guid-
ance to civic and community leaders, and peo-
ple of all races, denominations, and walks of
life. Pastor McCree has improved his church’s
technological equipment as well as the build-
ing itself, and organized the creation of a day
care center and emergency food kitchen.
Pastor McCree is known not only throughout
the Pontiac community, but throughout the
country as a dynamic preacher, leader, lect-
urer, and community activist. He has served as
State Coordinator and Administrative 1st
Vice President of the Wolverine State conven-
tion, chairman of the American Baptist College
Michigan Alumni Chapter, and has been recog-
nized by “Who’s Who in Black America.”
Pastor McCree’s influence is strongly felt in
the local community as well. He has worked
with the Pontiac Area Urban League, the May-
or’s Advisory Committee, the Greater Pontiac
Missionary Baptist District Association, and the
OIC board of Oakland County.
Mr. Speaker, our community would not be
the same without the presence and influence
of Pastor Edward L. McCree, Sr. I know that
I am a better person and a better Member of
Congress because of his commitment to the
Lord’s work. And I know that our community is
a better place in which to live because of Pas-
tor McCree’s spiritual mission. I am pleased to
ask my colleagues in the 106th Congress to
join in congratulating his 27 years of pastoral
service.

DEPARTMENTS OF LABOR, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, AND EDUCATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2001
SPEECH OF
HON. MAX SANDLIN
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, June 14, 2000
The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under
consideration the bill (H.R. 4577) making ap-
propriations for the Departments of Labor,
Health and Human Services, and Education,
and related agencies for the fiscal year end-
ing September 30, 2001, and for other pur-
poses:
Mr. SANDLIN. Mr. Chairman, today we
voted on H.R. 4577, the Labor, Health and
Human Services, and Education bill for fiscal
year 2001. On behalf of the educators, adminis-
trators and students in East Texas, I would like to express my strong op-
position to the education appropriations out-
lined in this measure. The inadequate overall