Kathi has been recognized by numerous local, state and national organization for her tremendous work—a remarkable tribute to her outstanding commitment to public service. Perhaps more importantly, behind the myriad of awards, citations, and recognitions, one can always find the warm, nurturing character that has endeared Kathi to everyone who has had the pleasure and privilege of working with her. I cannot begin to express my thanks and appreciation for the assistance that she has given to me, my staff, my family, . . . our community.

I am honored to stand today and join the family, friends, and community members who have gathered today to pay tribute to Kathi McDonnell-Bissell. I am sure I speak for many in saying that her undaunted spirit and vision has been an inspiration to us all. The Midland community is truly indebted to her for the compassion, generosity, and commitment she has shown.

Olaya Dance Studio

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ
OF TEXAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, June 15, 2000

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, today I pay tribute to an integral part of our cultural community, the Olaya Dance Studio of corpus Christi, Texas. They will be holding their annual recital this weekend on Saturday, June 17, and I want them to know how much we appreciate what they do.

In the Coastal Bend of South Texas, Olaya Dance Studio contributes mightily to the entertainment of the area through the dancing of children. It is, after all, children who fascinate us as well as entertain us, and teach us a little bit about ourselves.

The dancers at Olaya range in age from 3 through adult. They do a host of dances but are known particularly for Flamenco, which is Spanish classical dance, and Folklórico, traditional Mexican dances from different regions in Mexico. There are nearly 100 dancers, and Olaya Dance Studio attracts both boys and girls.

There are certain times of the year when people around Corpus Christi just cannot get enough of these talented young people. These dancers perform a valuable cultural community service. South Texans celebrate two holidays that are unique to the Southwest Border, Cinco de Mayo and the 16 de Septiembre. Cinco de Mayo pays homage to a great Mexican battlefield victory over the French in the 19th Century. The 16 de Septiembre celebrates Mexican Independence Day. On these two holidays, and for many other holidays throughout the year, including birthdays, anniversaries or other special occasions, the Olaya dancers are in great demand. They will even go to dinners held at homes of area restaurants to perform for special events.

Olaya Dance Studio is run by Olaya Solia, a director, choreographer, and performer who is dedicated to children and educating them through dance.

I ask that my colleagues join me in commending the Olaya Dance Studio for the contribution they make to the community of Corpus Christi and the Coastal Bend.

Providing for Consideration of S. 761, Electronic Signatures in Global and National Commerce Act

SPEECH OF
HON. NANCY PELOSI
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, June 14, 2000

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the conference report to the Electronic Signatures in Commerce Act. This legislation will revolutionize how financial services are provided by allowing business transactions to be started and finished on-line; bringing together technology and the economy.

In addition, S. 761 increases the efficiency and ease of conducting financial business. Imagine applying for a home mortgage or a car loan on-line. S. 761 not only eliminates unnecessary paperwork, it will save consumers time when they are applying for loans, insurance policies, and other financial services. No more waiting in line, no more being put on hold on the telephone, and no more waiting for applications to be mailed to you. Just the push of a computer key and consumers are able to complete and mail their applications to their financial institutions.

Due to State restrictions, only 1 percent of all mortgage and insurance transactions nationwide occur on-line. By removing these restrictions and allowing consumers to sign contracts on-line through an electronic signature, we can increase the number of automated transactions and reduce the heavy clerical and storage costs of paper-based records.

I am pleased that language was added to S. 761 which established “consumer consent” provisions requiring that consumers be given a choice as to whether they want to receive legal notices and records electronically or in writing. In order for electronic transactions to work, consumers would also have to grant or confirm their consent electronically before they would be allowed to receive electronic notices and records.

More Americans than ever before are relying on the Internet to conduct business transactions and manage their personal finances. S. 761 will play a vital role in e-commerce and in helping the United States to maintain its role as a technology leader in the global economy.

I urge my colleagues to vote “yes” on final passage of S. 761.

Impact Aid/TRIO

HON. J.C. WATTS, JR.
OF OKLAHOMA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, June 15, 2000

Mr. WATTS. Mr. Speaker, today I support two very important federal education programs: the Impact Aid program and the TRIO program.