April 5, 2001

EXPRESSIONS OF REMARKS

HON. ED PASTOR

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 4, 2001

Mr. PASTOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Portable Practical Educational Preparation, Inc. (PPEP), and its founder, Dr. John David Arnold, for bridging the digital divide in two ways: 1) by bringing information technologies into under-served rural farmworker and Hispanic communities, and 2) by providing the educational opportunity for at-risk and farmworker students to obtain technology-based skills through PPEP's 13 charter high schools strategically placed in rural areas and inner cities. Through these efforts, PPEP is not only removing barriers of educational and economic inequity by successfully bringing the super information highway infrastructure to rural communities, but also encouraging the use of that highway through education and training.

I applaud PPEP for its dedication to bringing information technologies to rural and small schools in Arizona with the creation of Arizona Educational Network (AzEdNet). This secure network provides an economical link between public and charter school sites and the Arizona Department of Education for the state-required transfer of student data. The unique design of this network saves the taxpayers of Arizona substantial funds while providing fast and secure bandwidth to remote rural areas. This network provides online access to students while protecting them from online predators and unwelcome sites by providing "best efforts" filtering software.

PPEP's educational opportunities are made available through a school system of 13 charter schools. To ensure academic excellence, PPEP has taken a leadership role in creating the Arizona Performance Based Accreditation Program for charter schools. The Arizona Performance Based Accreditation Program has been recognized by the State School Board Association, the Arizona Board of Regents, and the National Office for Charter Schools. With its peer-review system for school accountability, is now a national model for charter school accreditation. In 1998 PPEP was also instrumental in creating the Arizona Regional Resource Center which provides technical support and online consultation for charter schools. These developments have strengthened charter schools as an educational delivery system and have improved the credibility of charter schools. Subsequently, the United States Department of Education selected PPEP to operate the High School Equivalency Program (HEP) for farmworkers through a charter high school. This is the first HEP in the nation funded through a charter school.

Furthermore, PPEP has taken learning beyond the traditional classroom by using emerging technologies to create the migrant farmworker Lap Top Project, "a virtual high school" with self-paced curriculums that have provided the opportunity for some 6,000 rural, at-risk students to obtain technology-based skills since 1996.

I salute this vision to carry rural people forward into the technical diversity of the 21st Century.

A TRIBUTE TO PREBEN MUNCH NIELSEN

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 4, 2001

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I invite my colleagues to join me today in paying tribute to one of the great heroes of World War II—Preben Munch Nielsen, a Dane who has received little recognition for his heroism. In many ways, he is a symbol of the gallantry and heroism of the Danish people during the tragedy of that war.

Mr. Speaker, as the only survivor of the Holocaust ever elected to the Congress, I want to pay special tribute to Mr. Munch Nielsen and also to the courage and strong commitment to basic human decency of the Danish people, who saved virtually the entire Jewish community of Denmark from the horrifying fate that befell six million Jews in the rest of Nazi-occupied Europe. The Danish people took spontaneous action—at great risk to their own lives—