

today, as we begin Asthma Awareness Month, I urge my colleagues in Congress to join me in helping our country cope with this serious condition. When children are well enough to go to school, when parents learn how to ward off attacks, when scientists better understand asthma's causes, we can all breathe easier.

SUPPORTING A NATIONAL
CHARTER SCHOOLS WEEK

SPEECH OF

HON. JIM DeMINT

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 1, 2001

Mr. DEMINT. Mr. Speaker, Americans are united around a common goal to help every child in America to receive a world class education. It is a goal that should unite this legislative body around successful education policies—ideas that respond to parents, empower teachers, and educate children.

As we work to improve America's education, let's not lose focus on what is working—such as the tremendous growth and proven success of America's charter schools.

Charter schools prosper because they bind parents, teachers, community and state leaders together to tailor an education program that fits the needs of local students. They prosper because they unleash the intelligence and innovation of our students.

Earlier this year, in partnership with the South Carolina Department of Education, I hosted a Public Charter School Summit in Greenville, South Carolina. The summit's purpose was simple: educate and excite local leaders about the potential of charter schools in South Carolina.

We told them that charter schools are public schools that are free from many state and local requirements. In exchange for this freedom and flexibility to try new approaches in education, the school must deliver results in student achievement. It is a contract with the governing board—flexibility in exchange for proven academic results.

By drawing upon the ideas and energy of local and state leaders, South Carolina and other states can turn the education corner. That is how strongly I believe in the transforming ability of charter schools.

We owe our best effort to improve the schools of our state. I am proud of the charter schools which have opened in South Carolina. They have banded together to form the South Carolina Charter School Association, an organization that has helped charter schools not only survive, but flourish in South Carolina. I commend our state's efforts to lift hurdles in the current charter school law and move to make South Carolina a charter-friendly state.

The education of our children is a public trust which we must not take lightly. Like many other aspects of our culture and society, there are principles that stand the test of time. But we need to boldly explore creative solutions that allow our nation's institutions to fit the needs and demands of modern times. Our students deserve a top-notch, cutting-edge education system.

Charter schools are supported by leaders of both parties and of all political learnings. It is

hard to dispute the results when competition, education flexibility, and community partnerships are offered to America's schools.

Mr. Speaker, in the midst of all our debates over ways to improve America's schools, I ask that we pause and give special attention and recognition to the work of charter schools all across the nation. Thousands of parents, teachers, community leaders, and students are providing each day that schools will succeed when education dollars and decisions are kept close to the community.

TRIBUTE TO THE KANSAS CITY
RAILWAY AND THE GATEWAY &
WESTERN RAILWAY COMPANY

HON. KAREN McCARTHY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 2, 2001

Ms. MCCARTHY of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to both the Kansas City Southern Railway and the Gateway & Western Railway Company. These two rail companies are the recipients of the 2001 E.H. Harriman Gold Award, the highest award for railroad employee safety in the rail industry.

At the core of both of these companies is an unwavering commitment to safety, so it is fitting that they were chosen as recipients of the E.H. Harriman Gold Award. The late Mrs. Mary W. Harriman in memory of her husband, Edward H. Harriman, a pioneer in American railroading, founded these annual rail employee safety awards in 1913. Chosen by a committee of transportation professionals, the awards are granted to railroads on the basis of the lowest casualty rate per 200,000 employee hours worked. This formula takes into account the volume of work performed, as well as the number of fatalities, injuries and occupational illnesses confirmed by the Federal Railroad Administration.

The Kansas City Southern Railway Company is a Class I rail system, which operates over 2,728 track miles in 11 central and southeastern states. It was founded in 1887 with the vision of providing the most direct salt water access from the Midwest. Today Kansas City Southern has the shortest route between Kansas City and the Gulf of Mexico, serving the ports of Port Arthur, Texas, New Orleans and West Lake Charles, Louisiana, and Gulfport, Mississippi. Their commitment to safety, along with innovative business practices, makes Kansas City Southern a leader in the rail industry. Their vision of safety encompasses the wellbeing of every employee.

Thriving on the vision and principles of its parent company, Kansas City Southern, Gateway Western Rail is also a formidable force in the rail industry. As one of only four rail gateways along the Mississippi River system in St. Louis, Gateway serves as a major interchange point between eastern and western railroads. It interchanges traffic with every major rail carrier in the United States and has access to the Mississippi River via two barge terminals. Since its inception in 1990, Gateway Western has enjoyed a steady increase in business volume and an outstanding record of safety.

Kansas City Southern Railway and Gateway & Western believe in the necessity of safe

worker conditions in saving lives. They cultivate an environment where employees look out for one another and actively participate in improving the safety of all workers, and an environment where employees are jointly responsible for the safety process. Kansas City Southern Railway and Gateway & Western Railway Companies are dedicated to uncompromising safety in meeting the needs of their customers, their employees, and the communities they serve.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you to join me in congratulating Kansas City Southern and Gateway & Western Railway Companies on receiving the Harriman Gold Award. Their commitment to putting safety first in the railroad industry serves as a national model.

EDWARD J. SANTOS MEMORIAL
DEDICATION

HON. MARTIN T. MEEHAN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 2, 2001

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I am humbled today to honor an inspiring American. Edward J. Santos, a native of Lowell, Massachusetts will be honored Sunday, May 6, 2001, at a Memorial Dedication, in his hometown at Hosford Square.

Edward Santos was a true American hero. He served his nation and cared for his loved ones as a war veteran, dedicated public servant, an active member of his community and family patriarch.

As a Sergeant in the United States Army, Ed served from July 7, 1942, to December 2, 1945. During his wartime service Ed earned the Combat Infantryman, Badge, Bronze Star Medal, Good Conduct Medal, European African Middle Eastern Theater Campaign Medal, Defense Meritorious Service Medal and the Army Occupational of Germany Medal.

Ed was a very active member of his community, playing a major roll in Lowell politics for more than 40 years. He was a Past Commander of VFW Post 662, a member of the Portuguese American Veterans, Lowell Lodge of Elks, Lowell Veterans Council, Portuguese American Civic League, Portuguese American Center, Holy Ghost Society, National Association of Letter Carriers, Lowell License Commission and a Trustee of the Lowell Memorial Auditorium. He was beloved by the membership of St. Anthony's parish where he was a member of the Holy Name Society.

Since his passing, Ed has been deeply missed by his friends and family including sons Ron, Edward Jr., James and Thomas. Ed and his lovely wife Pauline were the proud grandparents of thirteen wonderful grandchildren.

I am proud to call Edward J. Santos my friend as are the hundreds of lives he touched throughout his exceptional life.