

proWess. Ryan was also recognized as a Wendy's High School Heisman Nominee.

Outside the classroom, Ryan has distinguished himself as an excellent student-athlete. On the fields of competition, Ryan has earned varsity letters in football, basketball and track. Ryan has been active in the Northern Ohio Orchestra, drama club, and the Ambassadors Club.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to rise today to pay special tribute to Ryan G. Hefron. Our service academies offer the finest education and military training available anywhere in the world. I am sure that Ryan will do very well during his career at the Air Force Academy and I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing him well as he begins his service to the nation.

HONORING ROVILLA R. ELLIS ON
HER RETIREMENT

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 21, 2001

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, on May 5, 2001 Rovilla R. Ellis, the Executive Director of the Mesa Verde Museum Association, retired after 28 years. I would like to take this moment to have Congress say thank you for all of her hard work and dedication to the museum over the years. She has been a great asset and will be missed greatly by all she worked with.

The Mesa Verde Museum Association is a non-profit organization established by Congress in 1930 to assist and support various interpretive programs, research activities and visitor centers.

Rovilla began her career in 1972 as a part time bookkeeper with the association. Over the years she moved up through the ranks to become Executive Director. Rovilla saw the gross revenues grow from \$54,000 in 1972 to well over \$900,000 in recent years. She has worked with five park superintendents during her time at Mesa Verde.

"Rovilla has made a positive, long-lasting and important contribution to Mesa Verde National Park during her career," said Superintendent Larry T. Wiese. "Her many years of service reflect a deep love for Mesa Verde and a strong commitment to the mission of the National Park Service. We are sad to see her leaving the park, but we know that she will enjoy her retirement."

Mr. Speaker, I hope Congress will join me in expressing my thanks to Rovilla Ellis for her years of service to the Mesa Verde National Park and to wish her good luck in her retirement.

HONORING CENTRAL PRIMARY
SCHOOL, BLOOMFIELD, NEW
MEXICO

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 21, 2001

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to acclaim the accomplishments of

one of New Mexico's top primary schools that shows the nation what it takes to be a leader in the educational field. I want to congratulate the Central Primary School in Bloomfield, New Mexico, for receiving the U.S. Department of Education's highest award, the 2000-2001 Blue Ribbon Schools Award for outstanding achievement in elementary education.

The Blue Ribbon Schools Award is presented to schools that excel in numerous fields, from strong leadership, clear visions for the future, and a strong sense of mission to the high quality of teaching and up-to-date curricula, and a commitment to share their knowledge with other area schools. This year, the Blue Ribbon Schools Award was only given to 264 elementary or primary schools nationwide. Mesa Elementary School in Clovis, New Mexico, was also presented with the Blue Ribbon Schools Award this year.

The Bloomfield school district is in the "Four Corners" area of the state, which is the only place in the U.S. where four states—New Mexico, Colorado, Utah and Arizona—meet. This area has an extremely diverse population, with the school-age children reflecting this diversity in the classroom. There, one-third of the students are Anglo, one-third of the students are Hispanic, and one-third of the students are Navajo.

The ability of Central Primary to continually strive for excellence in the classroom and the community is transferred to its students, who learn the important skills they will need to live successful lives.

Mr. Speaker, today I wish to acknowledge the outstanding achievements of the Central Primary School for its impressive achievements in the field of education. I thank the school for its commitment to the children of New Mexico.

BILL TWEET: LABOR TO NEIGHBOR
AWARD WINNER

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 21, 2001

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Bill Tweet, as he is honored by the San Diego-Imperial Counties Labor Council, AFL-CIO with the Labor to Neighbor award.

Actively committed to escalating labor's involvement in the community, Bill Tweet, Business Manager and Financial Secretary-Treasurer of Ironworkers Local 229, has consistently mobilized numerous volunteers for Labor to Neighbor campaigns. Through their annual Labor to Neighbor golf tournament, Bill and the Ironworkers have raised funds to educate union members about worker issues and political candidates sensitive to the needs of working families. Bill is also the President of the San Diego Building Trades Council.

"Bill has been a strong supporter of a united labor movement," says Mary Grillo, Executive Director of the Service Employees International Union, Local 2028. "He works hard to bring local unions together to build labor's political power."

My congratulations go to Bill Tweet for these significant contributions. I can personally

attest to Bill's commitment, and believe him to be highly deserving of the San Diego-Imperial Counties Labor Council, AFL-CIO, Labor to Neighbor award.

IN SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF WESLEY R. BAER ON HIS APPOINTMENT TO ATTEND THE UNITED STATES MILITARY ACADEMY AT WEST POINT

HON. PAUL E. GILLMOR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 21, 2001

Mr. GILLMOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to an outstanding young man from Ohio's Fifth Congressional District. I am happy to announce that Wesley R. Baer of Middle Point, Ohio, has been offered an appointment to attend the United States Military Academy at West Point, New York.

Mr. Speaker, Wesley's offer of appointment poses him to attend the United States Military Academy this fall with the incoming cadet class of 2005. Attending one of our nation's military academies is an invaluable experience that offers a world-class education and demands the very best that these young men and women have to offer. Truly, it is one of the most challenging and rewarding undertakings of their lives.

Wesley brings an enormous amount of leadership, service, and dedication to the incoming class of West Point cadets. While attending Lincolnview High School in Van Wert, Wesley attained a grade point average of 3.9 which places him fourteenth in a class of sixty-one. Wesley is a member of the Gold Honor Roll, National Honors Society, and the Leaders of the Future 4-H Club.

Outside the classroom, Wesley has distinguished himself as an excellent student-athlete. On the fields of competition, Wesley has earned letters in Varsity cross-country and basketball. Wesley has also been active in the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, the Lincolnview Spanish Club and the Lincolnview Science Club.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to rise today to pay tribute to Wesley R. Baer. Our service academies offer the finest education and military training available anywhere in the world. I am sure that Wesley will do very well during his career at West Point and I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing him well as he begins his service to the nation.

HONORING A FALLEN HERO, FIRE-FIGHTER ANTHONY (TONY) ALLAN CZAK

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 21, 2001

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, in July of 1976 a 900 acre wild fire ripped through the Battlement Creek area of Western Colorado. During the blaze, four brave forest service firefighters from different parts of the country were killed

while trying to knock out one of the deadliest forest fires in recent memory. On July 21st of 2001, these four men will be honored at the opening of a memorial to be dedicated in their memory. I ask that Congress take a moment to honor these four men for giving their lives in the line of duty.

The four-day blaze which claimed the lives of three hotshot firefighters and one pilot was started by lightning, and took nearly 300 fire fighters to douse the blaze. Twenty-five year old Anthony (Tony) Allan Czak was in his fourth year working on the Mormon Lake hot-shot crew from Coconino National Forest in Arizona and was serving as the crew boss for the 76 season when he was killed by a "fast moving finger of fire".

Tony was born in Buffalo, New York and later moved to Phoenix, Arizona with his wife Janice to attend the University of Arizona. On the Morning of July 17, 1976, the crew was assigned to build a section of fire line to protect Federal lands belonging to the BLM. After they were finished, Tony sent the line crew out of the fire and into a safety zone. He then went back into the burn area to help the remaining three members with the burnout operations. Without warning, the fire took off and overran Tony and two other crewmembers. The fourth member of the crew survived.

Mr. Speaker, four men gave their lives protecting Federal land during the Battlement Creek fire in July of 1976. Anthony Czak and his crew will be honored by the citizens of the Battlement Creek area for their courage and bravery. I would ask that Congress honor them and thank them for their work.

Anthony's family should be proud of what he accomplished in his life and what he did for the people of Battlement Creek.

HONORING MESA ELEMENTARY
SCHOOL, CLOVIS, NEW MEXICO

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 21, 2001

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the New Mexico elementary school that continues to make leaps and bounds in the superior educational standards that we strive for in the national public schools system. Mesa Elementary School in Clovis, New Mexico, has an outstanding history of educational advancement, and today I wish to congratulate Mesa Elementary for receiving the U.S. Department of Education's 2000-2001 Blue Ribbon Schools Award for outstanding achievement in elementary education.

The Blue Ribbon Schools Award is presented to schools that excel in numerous fields, from strong leadership, clear visions for the future, and a strong sense of mission to the high quality of teaching, up-to-date curricula, and a commitment to share their knowledge with other area schools. This year, the Blue Ribbon Schools Award was only given to 264 elementary schools nationwide. The Central Primary School in Bloomfield, New Mexico, was also presented with the Blue Ribbon Schools Award this year.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

Mesa Elementary School promotes the philosophy that children are intelligent in numerous ways and incorporate this belief into the daily functions of the school. Principal Jan Cox has done an incredible job of translating this notion of applied learning into the mission of the school by bringing together the staff, students, parents, and the community of Clovis to provide an environment conducive to excellence.

Student participation is one of the areas in which Mesa Elementary has shown to be one of the best in the country, and it has become a defining characteristic of the school. When it opened in 1991, Mesa Elementary students were involved from the start, selecting the school colors, mascot, and composing both the school song and pledge.

Today, one student from each grade serves on the Student Advisory Council, which aids Principal Cox in various aspects of administrative processes at Mesa Elementary. Students help select the daily cafeteria menu by serving on the Nutrition Advisory Council. Kindergarten through sixth grade students run businesses in the Mesa Elementary Mall, supplying students with products, from school supplies to refreshments. The Mesa Tech Lab, a computer resource center for the school, utilizes students who are proficient with computers as lab "techies" to help other students learn the programs.

One of the most influential learning tools that Mesa Elementary provides for its students is the Students Who Are Tutors (SWAT) team, a group of student mentors. The SWAT team was created under the Reading Renaissance Program (RRP), a nationwide literacy program aimed at improving students' critical thinking skills and their performance on standardized tests. In this program, students from higher grades assist students from lower grades who are not yet independent readers. Mesa Elementary was a model school for the RRP, and this past year the school made a presentation at the first ever RRP Conference in Nashville, Tennessee.

Mesa Elementary has won numerous awards for excellence over the past six years, including the Redbook Magazine Award for Excellence in 1995, the Reading Renaissance Model School and Library Awards in 1998, and the President's Physical Fitness Award in 1996, 1997 and 2000.

Through their determination to achieve quality educational standards and provide influential learning environments, the staff, students, and parents of Mesa Elementary School have exemplified what it takes to be true leaders in education for elementary schools across the country. I wish to commend Mesa Elementary School upon receiving the prestigious Blue Ribbon Schools Award, and I know that it will be one of the leaders in providing quality education for New Mexican students for years to come.

May 21, 2001

AL SHUR: LABOR LEADER OF THE
YEAR

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 21, 2001

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Al Shur, as he is honored by the San Diego-Imperial Counties Labor Council, AFL-CIO as Labor Leader of the Year.

As the Business Manager of IBEW Local 569, Al Shur has proven his longstanding commitment to worker justice. Also a member of the Executive Boards of the Labor Council and the State Federation of Labor, Al has been instrumental in championing the causes of labor.

Under his leadership, IBEW partnered with the National Electrical Contractors Association (NECA) to train high skilled workers through their apprenticeship program. Al's well-known advertising program, developed along with NECA, has raised the visibility and importance of unions in creating good family-supporting jobs.

In addition, Al's guidance assisted in securing the Project Labor Agreement for the downtown ballpark. "Al knows the true meaning of unity," says Secretary-Treasurer Jerry Butkiewicz. "He continuously works to support other locals and to promote the labor movement."

My congratulations go to Al Shur for these significant contributions. His dedication and commitment speak volumes about who Al is. I believe him to be highly deserving of the recognition as the San Diego-Imperial Counties Labor Council, AFL-CIO, Labor Leader of the Year.

WELCOME PRESIDENT CHEN

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 21, 2001

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, Taiwan marked its president's first anniversary in office on May 20, 2001. President Chen Shui-bian, a Taiwan-born statesman, should be commended for his leadership and vision for his country.

President Chen has protected the tradition of political liberty for the 23 million citizens of Taiwan. His strong support for an educated population strives to ensure a society based on freedom and opportunity. I applaud his openness to democracy and the free exchange of ideas with other nations and cultures.

With the continued encouragement and assistance from the West, Taiwan can continue to be a beacon of hope for freedom in Asia.

On the occasion of President Chen's first anniversary in office, I wish President Chen Godspeed and good fortune as he transits through New York en route to Central America later this month.