

addition, it is one of only three elementary schools statewide to be awarded the coveted "A+" ranking by the Arizona Educational Foundation's Model Schools Program in 1999. Selection for this honor was based on Elvira's exemplary student focus and support, active teaching and learning environments, powerful community and parent partnerships and strong educational leadership.

Let me tell you a little about the student body at Elvira. Currently, 88.6 percent of the school's 690 children participate in the federal freereduced breakfastlunch program, which qualifies Elvira as a Title I school. Almost 48 percent of the students are Limited English Proficient, 10.4 percent receive Special Education services and the student mobility rate is nearing 30 percent.

But as I said, Elvira welcomes challenges. The culture of Elvira values all stakeholders and has high expectations for each of its members. A strong sense of devotion is exhibited by staff, parents and community members who join together to advocate for children.

While most of the families in Elvira are in a lower socio-economic strata, and while the school community has dealt with numerous adverse circumstances and incidents in the past several years, Elvira's resiliency holds, and the community has reacted with caring and commitment to children and their promise for the future. Elvira continually seeks avenues for close analysis of programming in order to improve and expand upon learning environments which nurture the development of the full potential of each child. High expectations for student behavior and learning have been manifested in mandatory daily homework, advocacy of parents for school uniforms, and family support enabling Elvira to become a pioneer school for the well-known violence prevention program known as PeaceBuilders.

The examples of commitment and dedication at Elvira Elementary School are numerous. That is why I am so proud of this school and its principal, my friend Mary Jane Santos. Thanks to her commitment and the dedication and work of parents, community and staff, Elvira Elementary School is continually elevating student achievement and moving toward its vision of creating learning environments that empower all students to reach their full potential. For these reasons, I respectfully ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Elvira Elementary School.

A TRIBUTE TO GABRIEL EREM

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 12, 2001

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I invite my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Gabriel Erem, the publisher of Lifestyles magazine, upon his being selected as the inaugural recipient of the prestigious "Jerusalem Award" by the UJA-Federation of New York. This is in recognition of his thirty years of community involvement and for donating his time and resources to numerous charitable causes. The award will be presented on June 18th, 2001 in New York City.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Erem has lived the quintessential American dream. He was born in Hungary among the ruins of WWII to Holocaust survivors Rabbi Akiva Eichler and Borbala Frank. After winning a national writing contest in 1964, Gabriel caught the attention of the Communist party and was eventually persecuted by them for his writings. Fearing for his safety he escaped to Israel, where he attended Tel Aviv University and later worked as a freelance journalist for several major newspapers. After Mr. Erem arrived in North America he founded a publishing company and has risen to the top of the publishing profession.

Mr. Speaker, in addition to managing a successful magazine, Gabriel Erem serves on a number of humanitarian and charitable boards both in the United States and abroad. He is the Co-Chairman of the Children of Chernobyl organization and has worked on the establishment of the Endowment for Democracy School in Budapest, Hungary. He is a member of the Executive Committee of the Israel Bonds organization, and serves on the Supervisory Boards of Bar Ilan University, Rambam Medical Center, Boys Town of Jerusalem and The Center of the Cantorial Arts. Mr. Erem is also a Member Emeritus on the council that bestows the Raoul Wallenberg Humanitarian Awards on behalf of the Shaarei Zedek Medical Center of Jerusalem and is an advisor to the College of Tosh where the new Torah Study Center was named after his late father, Rabbi Akiva Eichler.

Mr. Erem is an advisor to New York University Law School, Mount Sinai Hospital in New York, and the Mount Sinai Hospital Foundation in Toronto. Mr. Erem's commitment to educating people about the Holocaust led him to join Steven Spielberg's Survivors of the Shoah Visual History Foundation. He is also an associate member of the Conference of Presidents of Major Jewish Organizations and is a member of the National Committee on American Foreign Policy. Gabriel Erem has been married for 29 years to his wife, Susan, and they are the parents of two lovely children.

Mr. Speaker, Gabriel Erem's Lifestyles magazine was established to salute Jewish contributions in all areas of life. Over the past thirty years, the magazine has published profiles of extraordinary human beings ranging from Nobel Laureates, to giants of the art world, and individuals who have excelled in their various fields. Under Mr. Erem's leadership Lifestyles has established itself as a respected voice of integrity and continues to spotlight numerous and various humanitarian causes in each issue.

Mr. Speaker, Gabriel Erem, a child of Holocaust survivors, is being honored for his passionate commitment to teaching Jewish history and culture and preserving the Jewish legacy to the world. He has made numerous contributions to Holocaust education in our country, including the dedication of several issues of his magazine to teaching future generations about the lessons of the Holocaust. He is a man of outstanding commitment and accomplishment in the noblest of pursuits, who continues to contribute to culture, education, ethnic understanding, and the spreading of democratic and free market principles. Through his vast commitment to preserving and nurturing Jewish

communal life, both in the United States and Canada, Gabriel Erem has made a tremendous and enduring gift to the education of future generations about Jewish history and culture.

Mr. Speaker, I invite my colleagues to join me paying tribute Gabriel Erem for his contributions to our society and applaud him on receiving the UJA-Federation of New York's first annual Jerusalem Award.

OUTSTANDING HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS FIRST CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT OF NEW MEXICO

HON. HEATHER WILSON

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 12, 2001

Mrs. WILSON. Mr. Speaker, the following graduating high school students from the First Congressional District of New Mexico have been awarded the Congressional Certificate of Merit. These students have excelled during their academic careers and proven themselves to be exceptional students and leaders with their scholastic achievements, community service, and participation in school and civic activities. It is my pleasure to be able to recognize these outstanding students for their accomplishments. Their parents, their teachers, their classmates, the people of New Mexico and I are proud of them.

CERTIFICATE OF MERIT AWARD WINNERS 2001

Jayne Chino, Career Enrichment Center
Julio Dominguez, Rio Grande High School
Tomas Jason Garcia, Menaul High School
Lynda Griego, Evening High School
Margery Martha Gullick, Valley High School
Emiliano Herrera III, St. Pius High School
Sara K. Keller, Temple Baptist Academy
Adriana Kennedy, Freedom High School
Kristin Mitchell, Manzano High School
Christina Cook, Estancia High School
Renee Nicole Eden, Hope Christian School
Sarah Burrows Gonzales, Albuquerque High School
Eric Grossman, Albuquerque Academy
Joel L. Gurule, Evangel Christian Academy
Matthew Jones, Cibola High School
Kristin N. Kelly, Sandia Preparatory School
Matt Long, Eldorado High School
Anthony Montoya, Los Lunas High School
Jessie Montoya, School on Wheels
Bianca Pullen, Del Norte High School
Francisco Romero, Mountainair High School
Basil Jerome Steele Jr., Sandia High School
Megha Narayan, La Cueva High School
Amanda Rogers, Moriarty High School
Diva Sanchez, New Futures High School

IN HONOR OF DAVID L. CHERRY

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 12, 2001

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of David L. Cherry, a member of the New York Police Department. Mr. Cherry graduated from St. Joseph's College in Brooklyn in May 2001. He earned distinguished honors at graduation, including his selection as a member of the Delta Gamma Sigma Honor Society.