

example for schools around the country to follow.

Taylor Middle School has been highly successful in fulfilling the necessary conditions of effective schooling. Through the dynamic and productive leadership of Principal Sharon Fritz, Taylor Middle School has developed a nurturing teaching environment, a rigorous and engaging curriculum, a safe environment for students and teachers, and a healthy involvement of parents and the community in strengthening educational resources. Students from Taylor convincingly demonstrate the many benefits of a good schooling environment through impressive student performances on measures of achievement, attendance rates, and the varied and ambitious pursuits of graduates of the school.

Taylor Middle School is more than deserving of the recognition it has and will continue to receive as a Blue Ribbon School. I hope that other schools across the country will be able to learn by the example of Taylor how to confront some of the seemingly intractable problems facing our educational system. I also hope that, in recognizing Taylor Middle School, my colleagues recognize the necessity of making educational excellence one of our highest priorities in the United States Congress.

#### A TRIBUTE TO THE "I CAN" CHOIR

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 6, 1996*

Mr. PAYNE of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an extraordinary group of young people from the country of South Africa. These individuals are members of the "I Can" Choir, which consists of 75 male singers who range in age from 14 to 24 years, and a coed traditional dance team.

The "I Can" Choir was formed in August 1990 and has performed throughout South Africa receiving numerous honors and winning several competitions. These singers possess strong, powerful voices and because of the group's commitment and hard work, this current 4-week tour of the United States has become a reality. The choir members combine their talent with information to direct attention to and educate their audience about the development of post-apartheid South Africa.

Their participation in the Black History Month program hosted by Mayor J. Christian Bollwage and Councilwoman Patricia Perkins-Auguste of the City of Elizabeth, NJ will help make this event extra special. In addition to singing, the choir will provide the audience with information on the historical effort to abolish apartheid and on actual conditions and challenges currently facing South Africa. As a member of the Subcommittee on Africa of the Committee on International Relations in the House, I am quite aware of the forces that help shape the decisions that are made in that country. I believe that it is important for our young people to use Black History Month to also become informed about conditions in African countries.

Mr. Speaker, I urge you and all my colleagues to join me in saluting this wonderful group of young people from South Africa, the "I Can" Choir. I think that the members of the

"I Can" Choir should be commended, not only for sharing their talent with the United States, but also for educating us about their country.

IN HONOR OF HARVEY HALL

HON. WILLIAM M. THOMAS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 6, 1996*

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to honor an outstanding individual, Harvey Hall, who is celebrating over 25 years of providing ambulance service to the people of Kern County. Harvey accepted his first job as an ambulance driver in 1960 because he thought it might be interesting. Little did Harvey realize that his interest in riding along for the night in his buddy's ambulance would lead to a job offer, 11 years with the Flinn Ambulance Co., and then 25 years as the owner of Hall Ambulance. Mr. Speaker, for his serendipitous ride, the residents of Kern County are grateful.

The first location for Hall Ambulance was in a house that also doubled as the living quarters for Hall, his wife, and their two children. Five years later Hall and his family moved down the street, but his work was never far as Harvey brought an ambulance home with him at night. Today, the dedication to service that caused Hall to take an ambulance home with him has helped create a business that services the cities of Bakersfield, Arvin, Oildale, Tehachapi, Lamont, Mojave, Boron, California City, Rosamond, and Taft.

The list of firsts for Hall Ambulance is impressive: 1975—the first mobile intensive care paramedic service in Kern County; 1975—first nonemergency transportation for wheelchair bound; and 1985—first private mobile medical communications unit for mass casualty incidents. But before Harvey achieved this stellar record, his beginnings were rather meager.

For his service, Harvey was designated in 1990 as one of the top three ALS providers in the United States by the National Association of Emergency Medical Technicians and was awarded the 1991 Paramedic EMS Service of the Year award by the National Association of Emergency Medical Technicians and the American Academy of Orthopedic Surgeons. In 1987, he offered basic life support training throughout Kern County and as a result 2,000 people were trained to help save lives. In 1992 he put in place one of the most sophisticated state-of-the-art computer-aided emergency communication centers in the country.

If this were not enough, Harvey also sponsors an Explorer Scout troop and he is involved in fundraising for the Boys and Girls Club of Bakersfield, the Police Athletic League, the Friendship House, and the Bakersfield College Foundation. In addition, Harvey has been the chairman of the Bakersfield Christmas parade for 11 years and has served on the Coalition to Protect Private Property Rights.

So Mr. Speaker, on the 25th anniversary of Hall Ambulance, congratulations and job well done to Harvey Hall for all his service to the people of Kern County.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEE

SPEECH OF

HON. BILL PAXON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 1, 1996*

Mr. PAXON. Mr. Speaker, I want to address section 702 of the conference report that adds a new section 222(e) to the Communications Act which would require that subscriber list information be provided to independent telephone directory publishers on nondiscriminatory and reasonable rates, terms, and conditions. This is a simple requirement to protect an area of telecommunications where there has been competition for more than a decade, but where service providers have used pricing and other terms to try to limit that competition. Now we are prohibiting such anticompetitive behavior.

This provision is one of those covered by section 257 of the conference report that requires that the FCC make rules that identify and remove barriers to entry for companies involved with providing telephone and information services.

Since the FCC will soon be considering how to interpret the language in section 222(e) to prevent future problems with the sale of subscriber list information to independent publishers, I would like to emphasize one key point. I have consistently sought to assure that in determining what constitutes a reasonable rate under this bill, the most significant factor should be the incremental cost of delivering that listing to the requesting party.

I appreciate this opportunity to clarify this important provision.

TRIBUTE TO MAYA ANGELOU

HON. KWEISI MFUME

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 6, 1996*

Mr. MFUME. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Maya Angelou, one of the most impassioned voices not only of the African-American community but of mankind as a whole. Ms. Angelou once explained, "I speak to the black experience but I am always talking about the human condition—about what we can endure, dream, fail at and still survive." For this reason, she was tapped by President Clinton to address the Nation during his inauguration. She was the first poet, since Robert Frost spoke at the Kennedy inaugural almost 32 years prior, to address the Nation during such a moment of political change. In composing a poem for the inaugural address, she sought to remind us all that we are more alike than unlike. She credits her ability to bring people together, as well as the President's fondness of her work, for why she was chosen.

Although many Americans became aware of Ms. Angelou during the swearing-in ceremony, she has been speaking to the Nation through a variety of mediums for decades. She is a woman of many talents—an author, actress, singer, dancer, songwriter, and teacher. Although much of her written work is based on the experiences of a black woman, she always manages to make her words applicable to everyone.

It is these experiences which become the foundation of her most acclaimed work, a five-volume autobiography. The first book, *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*, which received a National Book Award nomination, documents her early experiences in Arkansas, Missouri, and California. In the autobiography, she reveals the many hardships she has faced but through which she has persevered. It was through this novel that the world came to understand the obstacles she overcame. Raped at the tender age of 8 she retreated into her own world and would not utter a single word for the next 5 years. But the book also reveals the good in her life such as the birth of her only son, Guy. It is the honesty of her words which draws admirers from politicians, like myself and the President, to those who flock to hear her speak on the lecture circuit.

In her 12 books 6 of which are poetry, she has managed to write about every part of her life, focusing on such universal themes as struggle, success, love, family and identity. Her books have been a commercial and critical success. In 1972, she was nominated for the Pulitzer Prize for *Just Give Me a Cool Drink of Water 'fore I Diie*, a collection of 39 poems. Her poetry, which also reflects much of her life, explores the South, racial confrontation, and the strength of blacks in the face of hardship. One critic claimed that her poems "are characterized by a spontaneous joyfulness and an indomitable spirit to survive."

Ms. Angelou has also been recognized for her talents on stage and screen. Her performance in "Look Away" garnered a nomination for the prestigious Tony Award. In addition, her work in the mini-series, "Roots", earned her an Emmy Award nomination in 1977. In the same year, she received the Golden Eagle Award for the documentary *Afro-American in the Arts*.

Ms. Angelou continues to work devoting herself to helping shape the minds of your youth. Since 1981, she has been the first Reynolds Professor of American Studies at Wake Forest University. Ms. Angelou's contributions to our national culture are enormous and continue to enrich all our lives.

WILLIAM H. CROCKER MIDDLE SCHOOL; A MODEL OF EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 6, 1996*

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, the U.S. Department of Education has recognized William H. Crocker Middle School in Hillsborough, CA, as a blue ribbon school. As a blue ribbon school, William H. Crocker Middle School serves as a shining example of high-quality education for rest of the country. The school is one of only 266 throughout our entire Nation and only 39 in California to be selected for this high honor.

I invite my colleagues to join me in extending our most sincere admiration and congratulations for the wonderful educational environment that Crocker Middle School provides for our young Americans. I am indeed proud to have this outstanding institution in my congressional district.

William H. Crocker Middle School has achieved this high honor through its persistent

and highly effective pursuit of local, State and national education goals. These goals reflect the areas in which our educational institutions across the country are most in need of improvement. Crocker Middle School's remarkable success in overcoming some of the most difficult problems our schools face today makes it a perfect example for schools around the country to follow.

Crocker Middle School has been highly successful in fulfilling the necessary conditions of effective schooling. Through the dynamic and productive leadership of Principal Daniel G. Kreuzer, Crocker Middle School has developed a nurturing teaching environment, a rigorous and engaging curriculum, a safe environment for students and teachers, and a healthy involvement of parents and the community in strengthening educational resources. Students from Crocker convincingly demonstrate the many benefits of a good schooling environment through impressive student performances on measures of achievement, attendance rates, and the varied and ambitious pursuits of graduates of the school.

Crocker Middle School is more than deserving of the recognition it has and will continue to receive as a blue ribbon school. I hope that other schools across the country will be able to learn by the example of Crocker how to confront some of the seemingly intractable problems facing our educational system. I also hope that, in recognizing William H. Crocker Middle School, my colleagues recognize the necessity of making educational excellence one of our highest priorities in the U.S. Congress.

THE TUSKEGEE AIRMEN—TRUE AMERICAN HEROES

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 6, 1996*

Mr. PAYNE of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, as we commemorate Black History Month, I would like my colleagues here in the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in saluting three true American heroes who will be honored at a special ceremony in New Jersey on February 22.

On that date, as part of the County of Essex African Heritage Month celebration, a tribute will be paid to three Tuskegee Airmen—George Wanamaker, Howard L. Bragg, and George Watson, Jr.

These three men earned a place in history through their heroic actions during World War II when they served with the Tuskegee Airmen, African-American combat pilots who flew over 1,500 combat missions and shot down more than 400 enemy aircraft.

Sadly, in the segregated society of that era, these war heroes were not able to enjoy the full rights accorded to other citizens when they returned home to the United States. Through their struggles on foreign soil and at home, they remained determined, courageous, and dignified. Today, they continue to be involved in the betterment of their communities.

Their story was the subject of a theatrical production at Ford's Theater in Washington, DC, as well as a television movie which was recently aired.

Mr. Speaker, I know my colleagues join me in expressing our appreciation to these men of

unsurpassed bravery and patriotism who put their lives on the line overseas and confronted racial injustice at home. We recognize their sacrifice and honor them for their service to our country.

MISSISSIPPI INTERSTATE COOPERATIVE RESOURCES AGREEMENT ACT

HON. STEVE GUNDERSON

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 6, 1996*

Mr. GUNDERSON. Mr. Chairman, today I am introducing the Mississippi Interstate Cooperative Resources Agreement Act, which would provide Federal recognition for an alliance formed to protect Mississippi River Drainage Basin fishery resources. By directing the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to conduct a pilot test of the Mississippi Interstate Cooperative Resources Agreement, or MICRA, the bill is intended to take an important stride in protecting the future well-being of the interjurisdictional rivers of the United States, as well as their valuable fisheries and natural resources.

NEED FOR LEGISLATION

Interjurisdictional rivers flow between, or are common to, two or more State boundaries. These rivers form large ecosystems that are important to the Nation in terms of both their economic and intrinsic values. The Mississippi River Basin includes the drainage of six such interjurisdictional rivers: the Mississippi, Ohio, Missouri, Tennessee, Arkansas, and Red Rivers. Including its tributaries, the basin contains about 98 rivers and small tributaries, sustains approximately 98 fish species, and spans 28 U.S. States.

Many fishery resources in the Mississippi River Basin have suffered serious declines over the past few decades. Many States in the basin list numerous native riverine species as threatened, endangered, or nearly eliminated. This is, in large part, due to the interjurisdictional nature of the basin. When rivers that provide critical habitat to a multitude of fish and wildlife cross State boundaries, State-sponsored resources management and preservation programs become hampered. Typically, there is no single entity that has complete responsibility for the fishery resources in the wide variety of rivers and tributaries making up the Basin. This absence of clear jurisdiction allows management of those resources to fall through the cracks.

In addition, as a shared resource, the Mississippi Basin suffers from the problem of the commons. Individual States are often hesitant to invest in interjurisdictional rivers because other States may benefit without contributing themselves. Compounding the problem is the sheer size of the resource base associated with the Mississippi Basin. For decades, States believed that management was unnecessary—the resource was limitless.

The implementation of MICRA has been a positive first step in addressing these problems by serving as a catalyst in bringing managing partners together and combining their economic and manpower resources.

MICRA'S ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Drafted in 1989, the Mississippi Interstate Cooperative Resources Agreement was