

joint declaration with the Appeal of Conscience Foundation have reaffirmed their commitment to building a multi-ethnic, multi-religious and multi-cultural society in Bosnia and Herzegovina. We in turn pledge them our support in strengthening their courageous stand for peace and tolerance in their country.

It remains our challenge to help disseminate to the widest possible audience their message of 'live and let live'. The Dayton Peace Accord signed by political leaders requires implementation by the people. To this effect the top religious leaders in Bosnia and Herzegovina, united in the newly created Inter-Religious Council of Sarajevo can make an invaluable contribution.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TODD TIAHRT

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 17, 1998

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, yesterday I was unavoidably detained and missed two votes. The first, agreeing to the Senate amendments on H.R. 1847, the Telemarketing Fraud Prevention Act; and the second, passage of House Resolution 401, the Sense of the House that Social Promotion Should Be Ended. I support both measures and had I been present I would have voted "yes" on roll-call No. 232 and No. 233.

A SPECIAL SALUTE TO EAST TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL FIRST PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS

HON. LOUIS STOKES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 17, 1998

Mr. STOKES. Mr. Speaker, I would like to call the attention of my colleagues to a very special event taking place on Capitol Hill this week. On Thursday, June 18, 1988, Capitol Hill will host a staged robotic competition, the "Capitol Hill Robotics Invitational". This invitational will involve eleven high school robotics teams from across the nation. This even underscores an innovative program known as FIRST. FIRST, (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology), is a national nonprofit group founded to promote interest in math, science, and technology. It partners engineers from major corporations and small businesses, scientists from the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, the military, and mentors from universities, with high school students around the country.

Regarding the "Robotics Invitational," I would also like to take this opportunity to share a story with my colleagues. a story of a school that five years ago implemented this new program dedicated to improving students proficiency in science and math. Five years later this high school has an attendance rate of 82 percent. The enrollment has increased to 1400. Seventy-one percent of the students pass the State Proficiency Tests. When the Robotics Invitational is held on Capitol Hill I plan to be on hand to cheer on a very special team from this school. The name of this school is East Technical High School, and I am proud to say that this school is located within my Congressional District.

Mr. Speaker, permit me to tell you more about the success story that is East Tech High School. Today, students run to their math and science classes, and many work hard to obtain the 3.00 Grade Point Average necessary to become involved with the FIRST program. All twelve members of the initial FIRST team have graduated and are now enrolled in four year engineering programs at university levels. East Tech High School is the epitome of a phoenix rising from the ashes, considering it was scheduled for closing those short five years ago.

The East Tech Student Engineering/FIRST Team currently has 40 members. It was this team that recently finished 9th out of 150 teams at the National Science and Math Competition in Orlando, Florida. And it is this team, selected from 200 other teams, to have their Robotics team along with eleven other teams from across the country, participate in the robotics competition this week on Capitol Hill.

East Technical High School, along with the aid of the NASA/Lewis Research Center who introduced FIRST to the School, has sparked the intelligence in these students that came so close to being extinguished with the slated closing of their high school. This team is indicative of the talents that lie beneath the surface of many young people in urban environments who never receive a chance or get the impact of a program like FIRST.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to share stories of programs like FIRST that exist and get our young people involved in the fields of math and science. In fact, I am now told that more students try out for East Tech's FIRST team than they do for basketball and football combined. This program was the spark, but I feel that the students in East Technical High School had it in them all along. These students need to be commended today for the perseverance and hard work they have shown. I am sure these students have even more success awaiting them in the future.

Thank you Mr. Speaker for allowing me the opportunity to share this special success story with my colleagues. Once again, I would like to congratulate the students of East Technical High School for their achievements and for a job well done.

EAST TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL MEMBERS

Orlando Antongiorgi, Michael Bors, Kaishaelia Brown, Jaria Chatmon, Rita Greeham, Sha'Lawnda Griffe, Breesha James, Jesse Mathis, Aja Maxwell, Mario Mendes, Drew Odum, Kanita Parra, Khadijah Qadaar, Shakina Shields, Sierra Smith, Christi Sutton, Sophia Syed, Bobby Vannoy, Sharonda Whatley, and Tiffany Neal.

EAST TECHNICAL FACULTY TEAM MEMBERS

Jan Berlin, Sarah Broadnax, Terry Butler, Mary Carter, and Jerome Seppelt.

NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION EMPLOYEES

Donald Campbell, Director, Joann Charleston, Alicia González, Larry Greer, John Hairston, Dan Kocka, and Mary Palumbo.

CORPORATE SPONSORS

Lora Johnson/TRW and Julie Rehm/Battelle.

HONORING ANGEL RUIZ

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 17, 1998

Mr. BOB SCHAFFER of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Angel Ruiz, a ninth-grader at Thompson Valley High School, who has recently been named Youth of the Year by the Boys & Girls Club of Loveland. The winner of this prestigious award is selected among those who won the Youth of the Month award for 1997. Ruiz was honored with the monthly award in September.

As an active member of the Boys & Girls Club of Loveland for a little over a year, Ruiz participates in a variety of service oriented projects. He regularly spends his time after school quizzing younger children on spelling works and math tables and enjoys the opportunity to serve as a role model for those he tutors. He also serves as a staff member where his duties include cleaning the club, managing membership renewals and orienting new members.

Mr Speaker, it is important to note that over the past year Angel Ruiz's Grade Point Average has soared from 1.5 to 3.8 on a 4 point scale. As a Member of Congress representing Colorado's Fourth Congressional District where Angel Ruiz lives and devotes his time to serve his community, I am proud to honor this youth for his great contribution to the town of Loveland and to our entire state.

HONORING ALAN R. WALDEN

HON. BENJAMIN L. CARDIN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 17, 1998

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Alan R. Walden, who is retiring in July from his broadcasting career of 44 years. Throughout his distinguished journalism career, Mr. Walden has covered almost every major national and international event and he has set a standard of excellence in journalism that is hard to match.

Every weekday morning, thousands of Baltimoreans wake up to Alan Walden's thorough, in-depth news reports as the anchor of WBAL-AM's morning show. He uses his insight and knowledge to give listeners an important perspective on regional, national and international events. On weekday evenings, listeners also can hear his insightful commentary on "Walden Ponderings."

Born in New York City, Mr. Walden has won virtually every major broadcast journalism award. His career has included jobs as news director of radio stations in New York, Boston and Cleveland, and vice president of Radio News for Metromedia Inc. In addition, he helped bring broadcast journalism into a new age as one of the principal architects of NBC News and Information Service, the first 24-hour-a-day news network in the United States.

As senior correspondent for NBC Radio News specializing in international affairs and domestic politics, Mr. Walden has covered the Camp David Peace Accords, SALT II, the Falkland Islands War, the invasion of Grenada, the civil war in El Salvador and the Panama Crisis.