

Zach Vanderham, Jessica Parks, and Darren Mann, who are seniors at Mt. Whitney High School in Visalia, California in my district. These three young people have developed an anti-smoking program aimed at their peers that I hope will serve as a model for other schools throughout the country. They have created a CD ROM titled "Teens Kick Ash" that explains the dangers of smoking in a manner to which other young people can relate and understand.

As part of a competition organized by a national student marketing organization, Zach, Jessica, and Darren developed this CD in order to dissuade their fellow students from taking up this destructive, dangerous habit. Their project has proven so effective that the CD's have been distributed to dozens of other schools in the Visalia Unified School District, which have incorporated the project into their curriculum. Mr. Speaker, all Americans now know the dangers that smoking presents, and realize that we must do more to prevent our young people from starting this destructive habit. I am very pleased that these three students from Tulare County, California have had the good sense and initiative to educate their peers on smoking's dangers and to do their part to keep the next generation of Tulare County citizens from starting to smoke.

I have an article from the Visalia Times Delta newspaper that I ask unanimous consent be included in the RECORD in its entirety.

**STUDENTS DESCRIBE SMOKING DANGERS
LA JOYA SHOWS PROJECT CREATED BY THREE
MT. WHITNEY DECA STUDENTS
(By Melinda Morales)**

Twenty three seventh-grade students sat in the dark in Dave Rodgers' health class at La Joya Middle School Tuesday, waiting not for the lights to come on but for the show to begin.

They would be the first group of students to view a CD-ROM production called "Anti Tobacco Education 2000, Teens Kick Ash," created by three Mt. Whitney High School students.

The students, members of DECA—an association of marketing students—had taken on the job of creating the CD-ROM as part of a marketing project for the annual DECA competition in Jan Jose next month. They wanted to see how other students would react to what they saw.

"We felt smoking was a big problem in our community and we wanted to produce a CD about it," said Zach Vanderham, a senior and DECA member. "They seemed to really enjoy it."

What captivated the students were the video vignettes, produced by drama students at Mt. Whitney, interspersed throughout the disc. One that got a reaction from the class showed students coughing and choking as they smoked for the first time and asked why anyone would want to continue smoking after that kind of reaction.

The CD-ROM presentation is the first of its kind, produced by students in the Visalia Unified School District. Rodgers, a health education specialist, said getting information to students in the middle schools is a priority for him.

"Any opportunity I get to have someone come in from the outside and talk to my students about drugs and the dangers they present, I jump on it," he said. When they get to high school, sometimes it's too late."

He said the combined video and audio presentation in CD form, organized format and worksheet for the lesson are easy to use.

"We try to incorporate technology as much as possible," Rodgers said. "And kids like visuals."

Beatrice Mejia, 12, said the facts and grim photos on the effects of chewing tobacco made an impression on her.

"I didn't know that the tobacco could do so much damage," she said.

The project was the brainchild of Mt. Whitney DECA adviser Stephen Rogers, who worked with the Tulare County Health and Human Services Agency to get the money for the project.

"We got a \$5,000 grant to buy the equipment for the project," Rogers said. He made arrangements with a production company in Los Angeles to show his students how to use the equipment and create their own story. Then he let them go.

"They really did it all themselves," he said. The grant enabled them to buy the equipment and produce 350 copies of the disc that will be used in schools throughout the district.

The grant came from the state's Tobacco Use Prevention Education fund which is to be used strictly for educating kids about the dangers of tobacco. Lucinda Mejdell-Awbrey, coordinator of student support services for health and human services, said the tobacco education money was used last year to put on health fairs in the middle schools in the district.

"The money comes from the tax on tobacco sales, and the amounts have been dropping each year because tobacco sales are going down," Mejdell-Awbrey said. Most of the money is used to purchase educational materials for health teachers of fourth-through eighth grades.

Jessica Parks, a junior, helped Vanderham lead the presentation to the class, guided the students through the worksheets and answered questions. Darren Mann, senior, operated the computer and navigated the course for Parks and Vanderham. He also did much of the hands-on computer work for the project.

The three students, who began working on the project in November, will now complete the written requirements for the presentation and submit it for the competition in March.

**CONGRATULATIONS TO ST.
FRANCIS HOSPITAL ON 45 YEARS
OF SERVING OUR COMMUNITY**

HON. GERALD D. KLECZKA

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 24, 2001

Mr. KLECZKA. Mr. Speaker, on Saturday, April 28, 2001 the Milwaukee community will gather to celebrate the 45th Anniversary of St. Francis Hospital.

The blessed Felician Sisters opened the doors to this beautiful new facility in 1956, and with the leadership of its first administrator, Sister Mary Liliose, started to minister quality and compassionate health care to those in need.

In the years that have followed, St. Francis Hospital has grown and matured, combining a patient-centered, healing ministry with the latest in advanced technology. Today, the facility offers an array of services, specializing in areas such as laser/laparoscopic surgery, orthopedics, sports medicine and women's health services. In addition, this 260 bed, general acute care hospital is internationally recognized for its outstanding cardiac care programs.

Now a St. Francis Hospital Center for Cancer Care is currently being constructed in

Franklin, Wisconsin, to provide comprehensive services to cancer patients throughout south-eastern Wisconsin. The facility has been designed with input from cancer survivors and will provide a healing environment to attend to the unique medical and spiritual needs of cancer patients and their families.

A large part of what makes St. Francis Hospital such a special place is its strong commitment to building a healthier community. From its free health care screenings for seniors to its Angel of Hope Clinic located in a homeless shelter on Milwaukee's south side, the staff of St. Francis consistently serves with great care and compassion.

On behalf of all the people whose lives have been touched by the Felician Sisters and the physicians, nurses and support staff at St. Francis Hospital, thank you for 45 years of outstanding care to the community, and God's blessings for many more years of exceptional service to the people of Wisconsin.

**IN RECOGNITION OF JUAN NEKAI
BABAUTA AND HIS WORK WITH
THE CLOSE UP FOUNDATION**

HON. ROBERT A. UNDERWOOD

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 24, 2001

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I take this opportunity today to recognize my friend Juan Nekai Babauta, the Resident Representative to the United States from the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI), for his efforts on behalf of the Close Up Foundation. I particularly commend Mr. Babauta for his continued commitment to the issue of civic education for young people and especially for his diligent work with the Close Up Foundation, the nation's largest nonprofit, nonpartisan citizenship education organization.

Mr. Speaker, as many of my colleagues know, the CNMI became a territory of the United States and an American commonwealth in 1976. Since then the citizens of the CNMI, with whom my constituency, the people of Guam, share indigenous identity and Chamorro heritage, have elected a Resident Representative to serve them in the Nation's capital. To date the CNMI is the only American jurisdiction that has not been afforded representation in Congress, thus I often feel compelled to offer remarks here in the House for Guam's Pacific neighbors.

As you know, Mr. Speaker, many of the islands of Oceania face daunting challenges in the area of economic stability and growth. Their relatively limited size, small population and extended distance from major markets, makes building a strong and sustainable economy among the most difficult tasks facing contemporary government. With the competing needs of various sectors of society, the government is forced to make tough choices. Roads must be maintained and airports must be modernized, hospitals must be improved and schools must be expanded and repaired, health care must be available to all and social safety nets must be in place for the neediest citizens. Pressing demands on an island's resources must be balanced with an eye towards meeting the needs of the day, while not ignoring future needs. Public servants like Juan Nekai Babauta make invaluable contributions to the extremely difficult balancing act