

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

PAYING TRIBUTE TO CHESTER RICHARDSON

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 14, 2007

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Chester Richardson who passed away on January 2, 2007.

Chester made a profound impact on the Las Vegas community during his lifetime. Chester possessed a vast knowledge of the gaming industry, expertise obtained while working as the surveillance manager of the Luxor Hotel and Casino as well as his experiences as vice-chairman of the Southern Nevada workforce Investment Board, chairman of the SNWIB Programs/Performances committee, and chairman of the SNWIB Youth Council.

Chester also dedicated his life to his community. He was instrumental in the development of the first drug abuse prevention community based organization in northern Nevada, was a field investigator for the Reno/Sparks NAACP Branch investigating labor complaints and served four terms as the local NACCP election chairman. Chester was very much involved in designing a successful affirmative action plan and began the elimination of the Rule of Three in the State legislature. Chester also assisted local businesses in obtaining over \$300,000 in micro business loans. His other accomplishments include serving as the Nevada General Secretary and as the first Grand Worthy Patron of the Nevada International Free and Accepted Modern Masons. Chester was also an associate minister for the Second Baptist Church in Las Vegas.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor the life and the legacy of Chester Richardson. His dedication to service and community was truly exemplary and should serve as an example to us all. Chester will be profoundly missed.

INTRODUCING THE TEACHER TAX CUT ACT AND THE PROFESSIONAL EDUCATORS TAX RELIEF ACT

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 14, 2007

Mr. PAUL. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to introduce two pieces of legislation that raise the pay of teachers and other educators by cutting their taxes. I am sure that all my colleagues agree that it is long past time to begin treating those who have dedicated their lives to educating America's children with the respect they deserve. Compared to other professionals, educators are under-appreciated and under-paid. This must change if America is to have the finest education system in the world.

Quality education is impossible without quality teaching. If we continue to undervalue edu-

cators, it will become harder to attract, and keep, good people in the education profession. While educators' pay is primarily a local issue, Congress can, and should, help raise educators' take home pay by reducing educators' taxes.

This is why I am introducing the Teachers Tax Cut Act. This legislation provides every teacher in America with a \$3,000 tax credit. I am also introducing the Professional Educators Tax Relief Act, which extends the \$3,000 tax credit to counselors, librarians, and all school personnel involved in any aspect of the K-12 academic program.

The Teacher Tax Cut Act and the Professional Educators Tax Relief Act increase the salaries of teachers and other education professionals without raising federal expenditures. By raising the take-home pay of professional educators, these bills encourage highly qualified people to enter, and remain in, education. These bills also let America's professional educators know that the American people and the Congress respect their work.

I hope all my colleagues join me in supporting our nation's teachers and other professional educators by cosponsoring the Teacher Tax Cut Act and the Professional Educators Tax Relief Act.

SACRED HEART MEDICAL CENTER DELIVERS HIGH QUALITY HEALTH CARE

HON. CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 14, 2007

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Sacred Heart Medical Center for being rated as a top performer in the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services Premier Hospital Quality Incentive project.

Sacred Heart Medical Center has been providing quality health care to the people of Eastern Washington for more than 120 years. Their mission to provide a community of healing, collaborate with caregivers, and uphold a commitment to excellence guides the kind of care they provide every day.

As a top performer, Sacred Heart Medical Center was evaluated on their performance and outcome measures in five clinical areas—acute myocardial infarction (heart attack), heart failure, coronary artery bypass graft (CABO), pneumonia, and hip and knee replacement.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend Sacred Heart Medical Center for setting the standard for clinical excellence, and for providing excellent health care to the Eastern Washington community. I invite my colleagues to join me in congratulating the doctors and employees of Sacred Heart Medical Center on this great achievement.

HONORING THE LIFE OF MAXWELL BRUNER, JR.

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 14, 2007

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, it is an honor for me to rise today to recognize the life of Northwest Florida's beloved Maxwell Bruner, Jr.

Mr. Bruner is survived by his wife, Linda, eight children, ten grandchildren, and sister and brother-in-law, Burt and Barbara Bruner Godwin. To his family and friends, I would like to offer my sincere condolences. Northwest Florida has suffered a great loss.

Born on July 12, 1931, in Ashford, Alabama, Max Bruner, Jr., grew up during the Great Depression on the farms in southeast Alabama. He was the son of a farmer and local businessman. It was not until after his graduation from Auburn University, where his interest in politics and government grew, that he made his way to Fort Walton Beach, Florida, in 1957—a place where his footsteps would be planted and never washed away.

Mr. Bruner was an active member in the business, civic, and church communities, and entered into the Okaloosa County School District as an assistant principal, quickly rising to principal at Fort Walton Elementary School. In 1963, Max Bruner became principal of the newly integrated Eglin School. Okaloosa County School District became one of the first districts in the South that integrated schools. After two years, Mr. Bruner was elected Superintendent of Schools. Voted in for five consecutive terms, he made a significant impact on the Okaloosa County School District and molded it into the success it is today.

His passion for change and commitment to excellence came at a time when it was needed the most. Facilities were overcrowded, which forced schools to hold double sessions and hold classes in churches. In a time when schools were segregated and students not given the opportunity they deserved, Max Bruner ensured that they received the proper materials. He established a \$40 million construction plan and developed educational programs to accommodate every learning level, including the gifted and disabled. He knew the importance of education and believed that all students must be given the opportunity to learn. Maxwell Bruner worked tirelessly for the advancement of the local public school system and transformed the Okaloosa School District into one of the best in the state of Florida.

To some Max Bruner will be remembered as an educator, and to others, a warrior. To some he will be remembered as a loyal Auburn fan, and to others, a comrade in the United States Air Force. He will long be remembered by his family and friends as a loving and compassionate father, grandfather, husband, and companion; and we will all remember his energy, motivation, and generosity. From his humble beginnings as a child

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