

A TRIBUTE TO THE EAST END
ARTS AND HUMANITIES COUNCIL
OF LONG ISLAND

HON. MICHAEL P. FORBES

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 31, 1997

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the East End Arts and Humanities Council, of Riverhead, Long Island, as this grassroots, community arts program celebrates 25 years of providing invaluable support and encouragement to the artists, writers, and performers in the communities of Eastern Long Island.

Located in an historic Main Street building in a space donated by the town of Riverhead, the East End Arts and Humanities Council is dedicated to fostering a positive environment for the arts throughout the rural landscape it serves between Moriches and Montauk on the south, and on the north from Port Jefferson to Orient. Long Island artists are fortunate to make use of all that the Arts Council makes available, from exhibition galleries to the region's only community school of the arts, outbuildings that are used as artist-in-residence studios and a charming village green used for outdoor art events and performances.

With a long and proud reputation as a safe haven and supportive environment, the East End of Long Island is home to a world renowned number of accomplished and emerging artists. To sustain this creative environment and service this thriving community, the East End Arts Council has helped develop a network of more than 200 arts organizations, each of whom is dedicated to sustaining and supporting a community that cherishes the arts.

There is no doubt, Mr. Speaker, that the arts are a vital force in society, enriching our lives with the beauty and impact of human expression and providing a source of entertainment and pleasure for all Americans. Just as importantly, the arts are an important tool in the education of our children. Several analyses of arts education show that children who study music demonstrate significantly improved ability to master mathematics, and students with four or more years of arts education consistently score higher on the SAT college entrance exam than students without an arts background. There is a clear and demonstrable connection between studying the arts and increased scholastic aptitude, a connection that as national leaders we are duty-bound to help foster and develop.

That is why, Mr. Speaker, I stand today before my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives and proudly offer my congratulations to the East End Arts and Humanities Council on this special 25th anniversary. May the Long Island community continue to be blessed by their work for many years to come.

TRIBUTE TO BRUCE BENSON

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 31, 1997

Mr. BOB SCHAFFER of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, in 1994 I received the Republican

nomination for Lieutenant Governor of Colorado, thus earning the privilege of running for office on the ticket of Mr. Bruce Benson of Denver. This experience allowed me the opportunity to build a friendship that is very important to me with a true Coloradan who embodies the genuine spirit of the West.

Mr. Benson and his wife Mary are the most generous people I know. Their devotion to the people of Colorado is legendary. In particular, Bruce's dedication to the State's higher education system has spanned official, voluntary, and professional capacity.

Once chairman of the Colorado Republican party, Mr. Benson continues to express his love for Colorado's picturesque vistas, wildlife, and environment through political activism and community leadership. His commitment to economic expression, job creation, public safety, and economic opportunity is seconded only by his interest in improving the quality of education for all Colorado children.

Mr. Speaker, I am blessed to know Bruce Benson as a friend, but more importantly, as a Coloradan. Clearly, his leadership in Colorado continues to inspire many and ensure greater hope and optimism for generations to come.

Mr. Speaker, the Denver Post, yesterday, published an editorial commentary praising the many contributions of Bruce Benson. I first commend the Post and further submit its comment for the RECORD.

[From the Denver Post, Oct. 30, 1997].

BENSON BUILDS LEGACY

With today's dedication of the Benson Earth Sciences Building at the University of Colorado in Boulder, former GOP gubernatorial candidate Bruce Benson translates his long history of service to CU into the most tangible of contributions: a building in which young people can learn.

The naming of the building commemorates Benson's leadership of the fund-raising drive that made the \$14.5 million building possible, as well as a substantial contribution from the Benson family. Nor will Benson rest on his laurels. He and his wife, Marcy, have also agreed to spearhead the campaign to raise more than \$271 million to support CU President John Buechner's ambitious Total Learning Environment initiative.

A 1964 graduate of CU, Benson received his degree in petroleum geology.

He is now the owner and president of Benson Mineral Group, but perhaps more importantly, he is also a consistent contributor—of time and energy, as well as money—to Colorado's civic well-being. His activities as both state chairman and candidate for the state Republican Party have won the headlines, but the range and depth of his activity are awesome. He's served not only in the public realm but in private philanthropy, as well. His chairmanship of the state commission on higher education from 1986-1989 underscores his sustaining interest in higher education. He is chairman of both the Denver Zoological Foundation and Boy Scouts of America in the area. Other beneficiaries of Benson's 16-hour-day energies include the Denver Botanic Gardens, Arthritis Foundation, Denver Museum of Natural History, Safe City Foundation and the University of Denver.

We congratulate both the University of Colorado, which is adding a vital new learning center and launching an important effort to further enhance its program, and Bruce Benson, who has added a crowning credit to a noteworthy career of service.

Again, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Benson is a great Coloradan and certainly worthy of being hon-

ored and considered by the House as an exemplary American.

IN HONOR OF MICHAEL
PARTRIDGE

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 31, 1997

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Michael Partridge as he is honored by the Taminent Democratic Club at their 66th Annual Dinner Dance.

Mr. Partridge was born on the island of Cyprus on February 13, 1941. In 1947, he and his family moved to Astoria where Michael attended P.S. 4 and L.I.C. High School. From age seven through his early teens, Michael worked in his father's restaurant.

After high school, Michael studied philosophy and political science at Hunter College and later studied law at St. Johns Law and Boston Law. During his law school years, he met and married Mary and became the father of Harry. Michael also joined the National Guard during this time.

After practicing law for several years, Michael became disenchanted with the law and turned his attention toward other endeavors. Around this time, he met Ralph DeMarco who introduced him to the Taminent Democratic Club.

Michael's involvement with the Taminent included a rehabilitation program he founded with Peter Vallone to reverse the high recidivism rate at Rikers Island. During its first year, the Rikers' program placed all of its graduates in jobs or schools.

After launching his successful program on Rikers Island, Michael became involved in real estate. He rehabilitated apartment houses in Jamaica, Queens, and opened the Coliseum Mall, which helped to revitalize Jamaica Avenue.

Michael's interests also brought him into the political arena where he worked on Mario Cuomo's campaign for Governor of New York.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues rise with me in this tribute to Mr. Michael Partridge, a man who has worked very hard to improve his community. I would also like to honor the Taminent Democratic Club on the occasion of their 66th Annual Dinner Dance.

RECOGNITION OF REV. BOB ROBERTSON'S 25 YEARS OF SERVICE
TO THE EVERETT, PA, FIRST
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

HON. BUD SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 31, 1997

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, Rev. Bob Robertson of the Everett, PA, First United Church of Christ was recently honored for his 25 years of service to the church and to the community.

I rise to pay tribute to this outstanding man of the cloth. Bob Robertson not only has served his church with distinction, but has played an extraordinary, behind-the-scenes role in helping those most in need in the community. He is the Pastor to our church in our

little hometown which has a sign greeting you as you enter the borough: "Everett's Churches Welcome You", reflecting the value of religion and faith in our community.

Bob Robertson's guidance and sense of vision has been a rock on which the town has built itself as a great place to live and work. Bob is a selfless man who always puts the welfare of others in front of his own. His wife, Barbara, and their children have also played a key role in making our community a better place to live. I personally know of many of his good deeds to help people in need, deeds which have never been publicized but have touched the lives and hearts of many. He is an unsung hero who exemplifies the best there is in those who have dedicated their lives to their God, their church, and the people they serve.

TRIBUTE TO A.G. "BUD"
HARRISON

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 31, 1997

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege and honor to pay tribute to the exceptional public service career of my dear friend and one of San Mateo County's most dedicated public servants, A.G. "Bud" Harrison, upon his retirement from the Burlington City Council. His extraordinary devotion to serving his community, as well as his longtime commitment to educating young people about the importance of civic involvement, make him a genuine hero to all of us who care about the Bay Area.

Bud's strong belief in public service is rooted in his background and has been proven repeatedly throughout the course of his 67 years. Born in San Francisco, his future political intentions were foreshadowed at a young age when his classmates at Balboa High School elected Bud president of the senior class. After his graduation in 1948, he volunteered for a far more meaningful type of service in the U.S. Air Force. Bud spent 4 years in the military, aided his country during the Korean war, and was discharged in 1952 as a staff sergeant.

After his military career ended, Bud enrolled at the University of San Francisco, where he graduated in 1957 with a secondary teaching credential. It was then that he began his career which was destined to influence the lives of literally thousands of young men and women, as he became a political science teacher at Capachino High School.

Both of my daughters, Annette and Katrina, were privileged to be among those fortunate students in Bud's classes, and they recall his lessons with great fondness and appreciation. Remembered Annette: "In a time of great cynicism, he infused his pupils with a strong sense of civic activism and an appreciation for the remarkable role of politics in America." Katrina described Bud's "enthusiastic spirit which imbued his students with a love of public service."

In Bud's 33 years at Capachino High School, and in his 16 years as a political science instructor at the College of San Mateo, he made a lasting contribution not only to lives of thousands of young people but also to the success and stability of our democratic

system of government. For this, Mr. Speaker, we are all in his debt.

Bud's most significant lessons were those of his own example. He did not preach mere platitudes about public service to his students; rather, he was an inspiring example of the impact that a sole individual can have by becoming involved in his or her community. His 35-year career spanned a wide variety of local offices and an even broader array of well-represented and appreciative constituents. The citizens of Burlingame elected Bud to three terms as their mayor, as well as to 12 years of service as a city councilman. In addition, Bud worked tirelessly as a San Mateo County supervisor, as a Burlingame planning commissioner, civil service commissioner, and a member of the Library Board of Trustees, and as a longtime member of the board of directors of ReCare, formerly Easter Seals, and as the director of the San Mateo County Convention and Visitors Bureau, and in a host of other important civic positions.

Through all of these challenging posts, and all of Bud's dynamic efforts to make Burlingame and San Mateo County a better place to live and raise a family, he has been loyally and lovingly supported by his wife of 44 years, Doris, by his four children, Chuck, Mary, Terry, and Cheri, and by his six grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, as Bud Harrison's distinguished career in public service comes to a conclusion with his retirement from the Burlingame City Council, I ask all of my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to this outstanding man, an example of the best that our communities have to offer, and a true role model to all those he has taught in his classes and in his life of community activism.

EDUCATION: A COMMUNITY
AFFAIR

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 31, 1997

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 16th Annual Community Education Day to be observed on Tuesday, November 18, 1997. In my hometown of Flint, MI the day will be celebrated at a breakfast meeting for more than 300 people. Hosted by the Genesee Area Community Education Association and the National Center for Community Education, the program will be keynoted by my very dear friend, Dorothy Reynolds, President of the Community Foundation of Greater Flint.

"Education: A Community Affair," is the theme of this year's celebration. Sponsored by the National Community Education Association (NCEA), this special day was established in 1982 to recognize and promote strong working partnerships between schools and communities.

Community Education Day in 1997 focuses on the importance of community members and institutions working together to not only support schools and enhance learning opportunities for students but to provide those opportunities for everyone. The learning community in turn is empowered to build and maintain the support systems—social, economic, health—that make it a nurturing, caring vital place, a place where communities can prosper.

National Community Education Day is co-sponsored by over 35 national organizations, among them the American Association of School Administrators, the National Civil League, the Children's Aid Society, the U.S. Department of Education, and Youth Service America.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues in the House of Representatives to acknowledge the contributions that community education has made to millions of children and families. I am proud that the National Center for Community Education is located in my hometown of Flint. I applaud the efforts of Mr. Daniel Cady and the staff at the center for their commitment to education partnerships. We well know that when educators, families, and communities work together, schools get better. As a result, students get the high quality education they need to lead productive lives. Our children deserve nothing less.

TO THANK AMBASSADOR COWSIK
FOR AN EXCELLENT JOB

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 31, 1997

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, the Washington diplomatic corps is about to lose one of its brightest lights with the departure of Shymala B. Cowsik, the Deputy Chief of Mission of the Embassy of India. Ms. Cowsik will soon conclude her distinguished 2-year tour of duty in the United States. In her all too brief tenure, Ambassador Cowsik has been a force in the steadily improving relations between the world's two largest democracies, India and the United States.

Mr. Speaker, Ambassador Cowsik has been no stranger to Capitol Hill during her tenure. She has worked tirelessly to educate Members of Congress and their staff about the ongoing economic liberalization process in India, and the possibilities for an ever closer relationship in the fields of trade and investment. Of course, international relations are not just based on economic factors, and Ambassador Cowsik has played a major role in helping to guide a complex and expanding bilateral relationship based on shared values of democracy and human rights, respect for the rule of law, and a growing appreciation for the cultures and traditions of each other's country.

Ambassador Cowsik has had an eminent career in India's Foreign Service. She has served as India's Ambassador to the Philippines, and has held major posts in Thailand and Yugoslavia. She now moves on to serve as India's Ambassador to Cyprus.

As the co-chairman of the Congressional Caucus on India and Indian-Americans, and as a Member of Congress representing one of the largest Indian-American communities in the United States, I consider ties between the United States and India to be of the utmost importance in our Nation's foreign policy. While we still have a ways to go to give Indo-United States ties the priority they deserve, the momentum is clearly moving in the right direction. In the last 2 years, those efforts have made giant strides, and the excellent work of Ambassador Cowsik has played a major role. We will miss her, even as we wish her every success in continuing to represent