

## TRUCKER BUDDY INTERNATIONAL

HON. JERRY WELLER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 6, 1997*

Mr. WELLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a nonprofit organization known as Trucker Buddy International.

Trucker Buddy International is a program that matches truck drivers with school classrooms as pen pals who share their respective experiences through regular correspondence and classroom visits. The program gives students a real world look at the country through the eyes of professional truck drivers who visit places and see things which they share with students through letters and picture postcards. By tracking routes and schedules, a teacher can incorporate important lessons in geography, history, math, and more into the existing curriculum. Students also improve their communications skills by writing back to their trucker buddy. As an extra tool to benefit the teacher of each class, Trucker Buddy has created the Literary Achievement Award. Each teacher will receive a Literary Achievement Award to present to the student who has improved his or her writing skills the most.

The Trucker Buddy Program was created in 1992 by Gary D. King, a professional truck driver who first started corresponding with a fourth grade class in Williams Bay, WI. Today, Trucker Buddy has nearly 5,000 drivers matched with classrooms throughout North America and in several foreign countries.

I would like to commend the Trucker Buddy Program for taking a special interest in our children and their education.

DELAURO HONORS TIMOTHY SHRIVER FOR HIS WORK WITH THE SPECIAL OLYMPICS

HON. ROSA L. DELAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 6, 1997*

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, on Thursday, November 14, 1996 Columbus House will have its annual benefit. This year the benefit is entitled "It's a Small World" and is honoring two individuals who have given an extraordinary amount of themselves to the city of New Haven; Jean Handley and Timothy Shriver. Tim's work embodies the theme of this year's benefit which is bringing the global community to the city of New Haven. I had the pleasure of working with Tim last summer when the 1995 Summer Special Olympic Games were held in New Haven.

The 1995 games were the most successful world games in the 27-year history of the Special Olympics and had the added benefit of spotlighting the best that New Haven had to offer. I want to thank Tim for his great efforts on that project. His work enabled the city to shine and draw the national attention it so richly deserves. This past June, Tim was elected president and chief executive officer of Special Olympics International. I know that Tim offers Special Olympics International the vision, enthusiasm, and commitment to lead the organization into the 21st century.

Tim has spent most of his life working in education and promoting the development of

children and this background makes him particularly well-suited for his new position. Tim is an educator who cares deeply about children and has made a commitment to improving their lives. He has been an administrator and teacher in the New Haven Public School System and, prior to working with the Special Olympics, Tim was the supervisor of the New Haven Public Schools' Social Development Project. The project was an initiative he began in 1987. Tim's expertise in the area of education, and the social and emotional development of children enable him to bring a distinct perspective to his work for the Special Olympics.

Tim is devoted to the Special Olympics movement and has a keen understanding of the meaning, mission and spirit of the organization. At the heart of the Special Olympics is a belief that all athletes deserve a chance to push past their own limitations and to excel. The games gives these individuals an opportunity to explore their capabilities and to reach their potential. I know that under Tim's leadership, the Special Olympics will continue to flourish and to offer so many athletes an experience they will remember for a lifetime.

I am proud to join Columbus House in honoring Tim Shriver. His work should serve as an example to us all that we can make an important difference in the lives of children with special needs. The Special Olympics also make us aware of the value, potential and uniqueness of every person.

## CONGRATULATING PEOPLE OF NICARAGUA ON DEMOCRATIC ELECTIONS SUCCESS

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 5, 1997*

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to state my support for House Concurrent Resolution 18, congratulating the people of the Republic of Nicaragua on the success of their democratic elections.

The road to peace for the Nicaraguan people has been difficult and the path to democracy froth with conflict.

On October 20, 1996, 15.7 million ballots, 32,000 candidates, 35 political parties or associations express the wish of the Nicaraguan people for democracy. The ballots cast represented between 80 and 90 percent voter participation.

The elected positions ranged from President to city council members.

The Supreme Electoral Council of Nicaragua worked tirelessly to prepare for this election. The Chair and members of the Council showed a willingness to consult frequently and effectively with the political parties to resolve potentially serious issues before election day.

The Nicaraguan people deserve our congratulations for their patience during this long process and their determination to have democracy rule their country's destiny.

I hope that this election will pave the way for further achievements in the form of resolving the pending property issues which have resulted from appropriation of thousands of homes and businesses during the 1980's.

The Nicaraguan people have made the first step toward a stronger more vibrant Nicaragua for the 21st century.

## TRIBUTE TO ROBERT E. PERKINS, JR.

HON. BILL MCCOLLUM

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 6, 1997*

Mr. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize 25 years of outstanding national service by Mr. Robert E. Perkins Jr., Director of Government Affairs for the Greater Orlando Aviation Authority, and to wish him well in his upcoming retirement.

For the past 25 years, Mr. Perkins has been an asset to both the public and private sectors of customs relations and aviation administration. His Federal career began in the U.S. Air Force Strategic Air Command during the Vietnam conflict. He served his tour of duty at the former Pine Castle Air Force Base which is, coincidentally, now the site of Orlando International Airport.

During the late 1960's and early 1970's, Mr. Perkins served with the White House Press Corps and the Military Customs' Inspection Programs for the Department of Defense. His service for the Department of Defense encompassed all services in Vietnam, Guam, Taiwan, Thailand, the Philippines, and West Germany. In addition, Mr. Perkins served as Treasury Department representative for Operation Homecoming in the Philippines in 1972.

Mr. Perkins continued his distinguished public service at Orlando International Airport. During his tenure, he witnessed its designation as a port of entry in 1976 and its original international clearance facility construction in 1979. He concluded his customs career in 1986 as district director in Tampa, FL, where he supervised the customs operations for the entire 57-county Florida area.

Following his retirement from Federal service, Mr. Perkins entered the private sector as a law enforcement systems specialist. In 1989, he became executive director of Tampa Foreign Trade Zone, Inc., working to increase the foreign trade zone program in the Tampa Bay area.

In 1991, he joined the Greater Orlando Aviation Authority as Federal Agency Administrator and was quickly promoted to Director of Governmental Affairs in 1993. As Director of Governmental Affairs he was the link between the Authority and government officials at all levels. Through his hard work and perseverance, he made GOAA's voice heard as important legislation, funding, and operational programs affecting the aviation industry were implemented.

Mr. Perkins has been a truly integral part of the Customs and aviation industries. He will undoubtedly be greatly missed. So, today I ask my colleagues to join me in salute of this exceptional man. I am sure that I speak for all when I wish him well in his well-earned retirement.