

of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Georgia [Mr. COLLINS] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. COLLINS addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

#### AMERICA'S 39TH POET LAUREATE, ROBERT PINSKY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New Jersey [Mr. PALLONE] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, this fall, the acclaimed poet Robert Pinsky will take his place as America's 39th poet laureate.

I am very proud to point out to my colleagues that Mr. Pinsky was born and raised and graduated from the public high school in my hometown of Long Branch, NJ, a historic seashore community that was the inspiration for many of his poems.

Mr. Pinsky is truly the right poet laureate for our time in history. In announcing his appointment, the Librarian of Congress, James H. Billingham, noted that his accomplishments in translation, his interest in making poetry accessible through digital technology on the Internet, and his own probing poetry promise an exciting year for us in Washington.

He follows in the footsteps of many great poet laureates, including Robert Frost, Gwendolyn Brooks, Robert Penn Warren, and Conrad Aiken.

The duties of the poet laureate have traditionally included promoting poetry in this country through seminars, workshops, and speaking engagements. Judging from Mr. Pinsky's rich imagination and creative use of language in the computer, I am sure we can count on him to make his mark on the poet laureates' role in a significant and lasting way.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Pinsky is the author of five collections of poetry, including his most recent publication, "The Figured Wheel: New and Collected Poems 1965 to 1995."

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He is the poetry editor of the weekly Internet magazine called Slate. In 1994, Mr. Pinsky translated Dante's "Inferno" from the Italian and won great national acclaim for the deep poetic talent displayed in this formidable task. The students at Boston University where he is a professor are certainly fortunate to have him teaching in their creative writing program.

I know that I reflect the views of my constituents when I express how proud I am that a native son of the Sixth Congressional District of New Jersey will hold the esteemed and historic title of Poet Laureate.

So at this time I would like to share with my colleagues a few of Mr.

Pinsky's poems so that we might welcome him to Washington with a deeper appreciation of his outstanding poetry.

First of all, these are from the Figured Wheel which I mentioned. The first one, if I could read it briefly, Mr. Speaker, is about my home town of Long Branch, which is also Mr. Pinsky's home town, and he talks about the ocean, which we are all so very fond of since Long Branch is along the shore. It is called "A Long Branch Song."

Some days in May, little stars.  
Winked all over the ocean. The blue  
Barely changed all morning and afternoon.  
The chimes of the bank's bronze clock;  
The hoarse voice of Cookie, hawking  
The Daily Record for 35 years.

I have to say, Mr. Speaker, that brings home to me because I remember Cookie who was hawking the Daily Record, our local newspaper, for a long time when I was growing up.

The next poem is also about Long Branch. It is a little longer but not much. I would like to read it, if I could, to my colleagues, Mr. Speaker. It is called "Long Branch, New Jersey."

Everything is regional,  
And this is where I was born, dear,  
And conceived,  
And first moved to tears,  
And last irritated to the same point.  
It is bounded on three sides by similar places  
And on one side by vast, uncouth houses.  
A glum boardwalk and,  
As we say, The Beach.  
I stand here now  
At the corner of Third Avenue and Broad-  
way.

Waiting for you to come by in a car,  
And count the red carlights  
That rush through a fine rain  
To where Broadway's two branches—North  
Broadway and South Broadway—both reach  
To the trite, salt, welcoming ocean.

I like to read that one, Mr. Speaker, because not only is Broadway near where I was born and grew up but it is also where my congressional office is, on Broadway.

The last one I would like to read, I hope there is time in the time I have allotted, is called "To My Father, for Milford S. Pinsky," who I remember was Robert Pinsky's father, a local obstetrician in Long Branch.

The glazed surface of the world, dusk.  
And three mallard that land  
In the dim lake, each  
Scudding in a bright oval . . .  
What chance, man, for the thin  
Halting qualities of the soul?  
Call this, prologue to an explanation,  
Something like the way Uncle Joe Winograd  
With a carpenter's flat silence  
Might act on some given stretch  
Of Uncle Italo Tarantola's lifelong  
Lawyerly expanding monologue.  
What I wanted, was to dwell  
Here in the brain as though  
At my bench, as though in a place  
Like the live ongoing shop—  
Between kitchen and factory—  
Of a worker in wood or in leather.  
Implements ranged in sizes and shapes,  
The stuff itself stacked up  
In the localized purposeful clutter  
Of work, the place itself smelling  
Of the hide, sawdust or whatever.  
I wanted the exact words;

I wanted the way to pronounce  
Evenly the judgment which a man  
Who was quiet holds back as distinct  
But not final in the presence  
Of a good talker. I a good talker  
Ask you a quiet man to recall the inside  
Of a shop, glassdust and lenses  
Everywhere, broken eyeglasses, forms  
And odd pieces of paper, voices  
Like phones ringing, tools  
Broken and whole everywhere, mail  
Unread, the sign—"Milford S." or  
"Robert"—hanging like a straight face . . .  
Surface, tyranny of the world visible,  
Images that spread outward  
From the brain like lines crazing—  
Or like brief silvery ovals  
That glide over the dark,  
Ethereal, yet each wingbeat  
Firm in time, of more  
Substance than this, this mothlike  
Stirring of words, work or affection.

#### TRIBUTE TO MARTIN STRAUER

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. JENKINS). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Missouri [Mr. HULSHOF] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. HULSHOF. Mr. Speaker, as you know, this is National Teacher Appreciation Week and today is National Teacher Day. I want to take time out to recognize the hundreds of men and women back home in Missouri's Ninth District whose dedication to educating our youth takes precedence over long hours and meager compensation. There are many who demonstrate such excellence within the classroom.

One shining example is Martin Strauser. For the last 30 years Mr. Strauser has taught at St. Clair High School. Just this past March Mr. Strauser was the proud recipient of the 1996 Educator of the Year Award. He was honored for his years of service, his contributions to the school system, and for helping thousands of young people throughout his lifetime.

According to his nomination letter, Mr. Strauser, quote, "has served as a fine example for high school students throughout his career." Many former students have given testimonials about his positive leadership.

Mr. Strauser, an industrial arts teacher, insists that one of his goals is to teach students not only occupational skills which will help them find future employment, but also to provide opportunities to teach students lessons in life to be successful.

Martin Strauser is known for his honesty, dependability and dedication to his profession and his students.

Mr. Speaker, Martin Strauser not only helps his students build shop projects, but helps young adults build their lives. Congratulations are in order for teachers like Martin Strauser, a lifelong educator and mentor.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana [Mr. VISCLOSKEY] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. VISCLOSKEY addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Arizona [Mr. HAYWORTH] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. HAYWORTH addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

#### TRIBUTE TO NANCY McROBERTS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Kansas [Mr. SNOWBARGER] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SNOWBARGER. Mr. Speaker, it is appropriate that during Teacher Appreciation Week we pause to recognize the finest of those who have made positive differences in our lives and who likewise shaped the futures of our children and grandchildren.

It is my pleasure to recognize this evening a very special educator from my district, in fact from my home town of Olathe, KS. Nancy McRoberts is the 1997 Kansas Teacher of the Year. She was chosen as her district's nominee from among more than 30 teachers nominated by their staffs at their individual schools and was then selected Teacher of the Year from among 90 nominated teachers State-wide.

Nancy teaches family and consumer sciences at Olathe North High School. Her selection as Kansas Teacher of the Year recognizes her exemplary efforts in and out of the classroom during her more than 18 years as a teacher. She has also received the Superintendent's Personal Commitment to Excellence Award as well as her school's Faculty Eagle Award.

But Nancy's resume, as impressive as it is, cannot adequately convey the concern she shows for her students or the extraordinary commitment she has made to keeping pregnant teenagers and mothers in school. I had the pleasure of visiting with Nancy in the Capitol recently, and it was not hard to sense the fulfillment she gets from teaching. More importantly, her students sense it.

Nancy develops a close relationship with her students and quickly earns not only their trust but their respect. For instance, she has been known to call absent students at home to find out why they were not in school.

In addition to her normal classroom teaching duties, Nancy runs the Olathe school districts's Teens as Parents program, which endeavors to keep teen mothers and pregnant students in school until graduation. The program has been recognized as one of the best in the State and has earned the Kansas State Board of Education's Promising Practices Sunflower Award. Not only is she keeping students in high school, she also provides them with encouragement to continue their education beyond the 12th grade.

As a sponsor of the Future Homemakers of America Association, Nancy has organized students to purchase and donate bags of story books to young mothers they could read to their children, as well as to students in a local elementary school reading program. I might add that she is also a certified childbirth instructor and last summer interned at the Olathe Medical Center and Children's Mercy Hospital.

In one of the many newspaper articles written about this remarkable teacher, Nancy McRoberts said, "I see education as a field where you can make your mark in the world." Well, Nancy, you have made your mark, and it will echo through the lives of the students you have so conscientiously taught over almost 2 decades of public service.

It is my pleasure to honor and to thank the 1997 Kansas Teacher of the Year, Nancy McRoberts.

#### TRIBUTE TO CATHY PRIEST

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Ohio [Mr. NEY] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, just tonight I was talking to Rich Riley. He works for the Attorney General in Cleveland, OH. He has been a successful young man, and we were talking about his position. I was commending Rich on how well he has done service to the people of the State of Ohio. His comment, Mr. Speaker, was that he owes it, his success, to his teachers. That is what I am here about tonight. This week we celebrate National Teacher Appreciation Week.

As a teacher by degree, I know firsthand the work and dedication it takes to be an educator. That is why I would like to take a few minutes to commend one of the many great teachers in Ohio's 18th Congressional District.

Cathy Priest is in her 11th year at Coshocton High School in Coshocton, Ohio. Last year Cathy was named Ohio Teacher of the Year and Ohio University Educator of the Year.

As her representative in Congress, I would like to personally thank Cathy Priest for her wonderful accomplishments and service to her community and to her students.

Cathy teaches world history, American history, sociology, current events, and was student council advisor for 9 years.

In 1992, she began an ongoing video library project as a member of the technology committee for Coshocton High School. She is also a member of the video classroom resource team for the Discovery Channel and the Learning Channel. In the capacity of consultant and workshop facilitator, she provides professional development in the use of television to enhance curriculum, media literacy education, and on-line training.

Cathy has worked with media specialist Sandra Marvin to develop an ex-

tensive video library featuring cable in the classroom programming to meet curricular needs for grades K through 12. She also conducts staff development workshops designed to enhance the curriculum by using television as an instructional tool while also incorporating media literacy education.

Mrs. Priest received her BA in English and history from West Liberty State College in West Virginia, her Masters in social science from Ohio University, and is a graduate of the Harvard Institute of Media Education and the International Space Program. She also did postgraduate work at the University of Alabama and Ashland University.

Over the years, Cathy Priest has made a real difference in her community. She is a model teacher who inspires her students through dedication and hard work. In 1992, three of Mrs. Priest's students won a national academic contest sponsored by the Discovery Channel. As grand prize winners, she and her students traveled to Tanzania for an extended safari. In large part because of her hard work and belief in her students, they were able to take part in a truly exciting, life-changing experience.

Mrs. Priest is currently involved as a mentor for the Coshocton Youth Foundation. This first-of-its-kind organization is philanthropy by, with and for young people.

Recently Cathy has been chosen to represent the State of Ohio in the People's Republic of China for the U.S. China Conference on Education. This conference has been set up for educators to learn about one another's cultures, customs and country, as well as to forge educational partnerships for the 21st century. During the conference, Mrs. Priest will present a paper titled "Technological Literacy, an Educational Goal."

There is nothing more important, Mr. Speaker, to the future of our country than the opportunity for a high quality education for all Americans. I commend teachers all over the country who have chosen the important task of educating tomorrow's leaders. In order to build on and improve our education system, we need to emphasize what works; namely, back-to-basics education, parental involvement, safe and disciplined schools, and sending dollars to the classroom. If we work together as lawmakers, teachers and parents, I believe all of our children can reach the limits of their talents to exceed their ambitions and to progress beyond the dreams of their parents.

With a strong educational foundation and teachers like Cathy Priest, there is nothing our children can not do. For that, we will be forever indebted to our Nation's teachers.

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HONORING DR. ROBERT LASLEY

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. JENKINS). Under a previous order of the