

Elementary School reached all of the appropriate levels on their Terra Nova test. Ms. Martha Wilson's Kindergarten class is an outstanding group of young people. I wish the best of luck to the following group of kindergartners who shared this special day with me at the Shady Lane School: Courtney Callahan, Nicholas Battee, Jaimie Beeker, Destiny Bingham, Brian Buck, John Childress, Robert Kilcourse, Kody McMichael, Marisa Peters, Matthews Raively, Deborah Robinson, Karen Sabater, Donald Smith, Richard Smith, Marcus Smith, Ayana Thomas, Jessica Welch, George Williams, and Nylan Wolcott.

RECOGNIZING CHICAGO BOTANIC GARDEN'S BUEHLER ENABLING GARDEN

HON. JOHN EDWARD PORTER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 26, 1999

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to recognize one of the most beautiful places in my District, the Chicago Botanic Garden, and to celebrate the Garden's grand opening of the Buehler Enabling Garden.

The Chicago Botanic Garden is a clear leader in horticultural therapy and barrier-free gardening. It is only fitting that in the year that our nation celebrates the 10th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act, the Chicago Botanic Garden celebrates the grand opening of a beautiful and unique 11,000-square-foot garden design to encourage life-long gardening for people of all ages and abilities. Over two years of design and construction work culminated in the July 17th and 18th grand opening of the Buehler Enabling Garden, a garden that will serve to demonstrate an array of techniques that can make gardening fully accessible to people with disabilities.

For millions of individuals, gardening offers relaxation, social involvement, exercise, and a sense of accomplishment. Unfortunately, for people with disabilities, gardening may be cumbersome and difficult. The Chicago Botanic Garden's Buehler Enabling Garden, however, is not only barrier-free but its plant materials and garden structures have been carefully chosen to accommodate people with disabilities and older adults. The Enabling Garden is intended to serve as a model for people with disabilities, human service professionals and landscape architects. In fact, on July 28th, the Chicago Botanic Garden will hold a symposium for professionals in the health, human service and design fields to learn how to transfer techniques learned at the Enabling Garden to their own institutions or their own backyards.

Some of the examples of such gardening techniques are raising flower bed and containers, building vertical gardens and hanging baskets on pulley systems, and providing adequate seating, shade, water and paving within the garden for the disabled. The Buehler Enabling Garden also exhibits a wide range of devices, tools and plants that contribute to accessibility and sensory appeal for the sight-impaired. Appropriate tools used in an enabling garden are generally small and lightweight or

have large, foam-padded handles that are easy to manipulate. In addition, the variety of plants that are best suited for an enabling garden could include fragrant or textural plants for those people with visual impairments, or dwarf plants in containers or hanging baskets that can bring gardening activities within easy reach.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased that the Chicago Botanic Gardens is sharing its expertise in horticultural therapy to make gardening accessible to people of all abilities. I invite all Members to join me in recognizing the grand opening of the Buehler Enabling Garden at the Chicago Botanic Garden.

RECOGNIZING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF CASPIAN CITY MANAGER ROSALIE KING

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 26, 1999

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a dedicated public servant who has served her small northern Michigan community of Caspian for almost a quarter of a century.

A reception for Rosalie King tonight celebrates her many services to the residents of Caspian. Although I can't be at that event, I'd like to share some thoughts with you and House colleagues on her work.

Let me first remark on the kind of community in which Rosalie has worked since 1978.

Much of northern Michigan was settled in the late 1800s. Most of these towns in northern Michigan were part of an early boom in such industries as mining—both copper and iron mining—and timber. By the turn of the century, many of these settlements had become communities. In the next quarter century services, such as water and wastewater treatment and brick streets, were added to these many small towns.

The problem faced by many of these towns is the aging of this basic infrastructure. Water pipes no longer provide pressure sufficient for adequate fire protection, and in some cases they sustain failures because of frost heaving or age-related problems that force continuous and expensive repairs.

More important, with the boom years far behind, basic infrastructure does not permit the development of industrial parks or the rehabilitation of downtowns that can be the basis for economic redevelopment.

It has been in the area of pursuing grants for this kind of community maintenance and redevelopment that Rosalie King has excelled. As the city manager of Caspian she has successfully won millions in grants and equally successfully administered them, making future grant acquisition more likely.

I have had the pleasure of being able to work with the dynamic community leader who has fought so long and hard for the betterment of the citizens she serves. Rosalie personifies the best of what local leadership can be and she has demonstrated the best that programs like Rural Development can be in terms of helping small communities maintain a quality of life and an ability to maintain and even at-

tract economic investment. Other northern Michigan communities look to Caspian as an inspiration and a model for community pride and leadership.

But Rosalie King has been more to her community than a public official. She is one of those rare individuals who has been able to give complete dedication to all areas of her life, family, church and community. In addition, she has been interested and involved in recreation programs, especially hockey.

I know Rosalie will continue to dedicate her many talents to the friends and neighbors that make up the Caspian community. I ask you, Mr. Speaker, to join me in this salute to Rosalie King, a dynamic city manager, as she brings to a close a long distinguished career.

IN COMMEMORATION OF THE GRAND OPENING OF THE EASTMONT COMPUTING CENTER FOR THE OAKLAND COMMUNITY

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 26, 1999

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the Eastmont Computing Center, located in East Oakland, California, on its grand opening. This multi-million dollar computing center is a project of The Oakland Citizens Committee for Urban Renewal (OCCUR), which was established in Oakland, California in 1954 for the purpose of raising the quality of life for all of Oakland's residents, with the emphasis on serving those in the greatest need of a balanced delivery of goods, effective public policy, and services. OCCUR created the Eastmont Computing Center (ECC) to serve as a community resource on information technologies in order to provide universal computer and Internet access and employment focused training to Oakland citizens.

The Eastmont Computing Center provides cutting-edge information technology training to youth and other residents of under-served communities. The Center provides a broad range of unique skills and employment training programs to youth, senior citizens, and community-based organizations.

The Center is one of only three California recipients of the highly competitive U.S. Department of Commerce Telecommunications and Information Infrastructure Assistance Program grants. Additional funding for the Center is provided by a number of government, foundation, corporate and individual donors including the Eastmont Town Center, Pacific Gas and Electric, Chevron, Pacific Bell, The San Francisco Foundation, Oracle, Hewlett Packard and IBM.

I wish to commend the management and staff of the Eastmont Computing Center for their tireless work and for their diligence. It has been through their perseverance that they have garnered the resources necessary to establish and operate this training facility for the benefit of all the citizens of Oakland.

I wish to extend to the Eastmont Computing Center, its staff, donors and support volunteers sincere best wishes for success as they begin to deliver technology access and employment training services to the citizens of Oakland.

HONORING RAYDELL MOORE'S 35 YEARS AS A POSTAL UNION NATIONAL OFFICER

HON. MAXINE WATERS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 26, 1999

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to bring to the attention of my colleagues the recognition of Mr. Raydell Moore of Long Beach, California by the American Postal Union (APWU), AFL-CIO, as one of their longest serving national officers. Mr. Moore has served APWU proudly for 35 years as a national officer in the western region.

Mr. Moore was born in Austin, Texas and received has formal education there. While in high school, he played football and was a teammate of Dick (Night-Train) Layne who later played for the Detroit Lions. Mr. Moore graduated from Tillitson College with a B.A. Degree in Chemistry.

Mr. Moore served in the U.S. Air Force beginning in 1945. After his discharge, he began his employment with the Postal Service in June 1952 and later became active with the Union in Long Beach, California.

He was the Executive Vice President of the Long Beach Local in 1963 and became Executive Vice President of the California National Postal Union in 1964.

In 1964, Mr. Moore became the National Postal Union Regional Representative and held that position until 1971, while also serving as the Long Beach Local President between 1965 and 1971. In 1971, the American Postal Workers Union, AFL-CIO was formed and Mr. Moore was the APWU National Representative between 1971 and 1977. His position was to represent the union at regional level labor-management meetings and resolve disputes with the region on both contract interpretation and employee discipline.

In 1977, Mr. Moore was elected Western Regional Coordinator for the entire Western Region of APWU, the largest geographic area in the United States, representing 13 states and Pacific territories. Mr. Moore has been re-elected every election since then and is one of only 12 officers to serve on APWU's National Executive Board, the highest ranking authority of the APWU.

Mr. Moore has served APWU and its former unions for 35 years with distinction; one of the longest consecutive tenures in labor history. I am proud to salute him for his generous service to the union and the people of the western region of the United States.

MAJOR DRUG TRANSIT COUNTRY ACT OF 1999, H.R. 2608

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 26, 1999

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, a front page story in last Friday's Miami Herald indicates the Administration has launched a full scale review of the role of Cuba in the drug trade. It's a review that along with many others here in the Congress we fully welcome. We look forward to seeing the Administration's conclusions on Cuba's links to drug trafficking targeting the United States.

The Miami Herald also points out that as part of the State Department's review, lawyers are having a hard time sorting out what a "major" drug transiting nation may be under federal law, and whether the designation of a "major" transit nation should take into account drugs that may just pass over Cuban skies or through its territorial waters on the way to the USA.

While a common sense interpretation of the law should assume that these illicit drugs, either passing over the skies of Cuba or through its territorial waters should be considered a factor in determining whether a nation is a major drug transiting country that substantially impacts the U.S., there appears to be some confusion down at Foggy Bottom.

The bill I introduced today, H.R. 2608 along with Chairman BURTON is very simple, addressing this issue of the major transiting nation list determination under the Foreign Assistance Act Section 481(e) as relates to drugs headed for the USA. This bill merely clarifies that the term "through which is transported" in fact expressly includes drugs passing through the territorial airspace, land and water of a country on the way to our nation. There should be no need for any more legal resource time on this issue.

It will be my intention to move this simple, non-controversial clarification bill through the House International Relations Committee quickly.

There should be no further confusion on this matter, so that the full review of the Cuban illicit narcotics situation not be distracted by endless debate over something as obvious as drugs passing over the skies of Cuba or being dropped into or moving through Cuban waters on the way to our cities and local communities.

Mr. Speaker, I submit the full text of the bill to clarify this situation.

H.R. 2608

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. AMENDMENT TO FOREIGN ASSISTANCE ACT OF 1961.

Section 481(e) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2291(e)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"For purposes of paragraph (5)(B), the term 'through which are transported' includes the territorial airspace, land, and water of a country."

DON'T WRITE OFF RURAL AMERICA

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 26, 1999

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, rural America is hurting these days and the rest of the country should take notice. The current period of relative economic prosperity has abandoned most sectors of the agriculture economy, often because of deliberate decisions made at the White House.

For example, U.S. trade policy presently favors manufactured products, high tech equipment, and medical supplies in exchange for easy access to American markets for foreign farmers. Nor are trade policies fair for our

farmers and ranchers, Mr. Speaker. Foreign growers enjoy far easier access to our markets than we do to theirs.

Westerners tend to be closely tied to agriculture. That's why so many of my rural constituents find it hard to believe there are actually people in Washington, D.C. who harbor hostility toward them.

Just last month, Mr. Speaker, after his party voted against several rural issues, the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee chairman told reporters Democrats have "written off the rural areas." The DCCC Chairman Rep. PATRICK KENNEDY (R.I.) later admitted he shouldn't have said it. I agree, but he did, and in doing so illustrated the disdain with which some in Congress view rural America.

Coloradans understand America must count on rural areas, not dismiss them. Statistics confirm the importance of rural settings. Agriculture is still America's number one employer providing more jobs, more business transactions, more entrepreneurial opportunities, and more paychecks than any other sector of the economy.

In Colorado alone, agriculture accounts for over 86,000 jobs, resulting in over \$12 billion of commerce. Clearly, Mr. Speaker, agriculture is integral to our economy and should not be ignored or "written off."

Colorado produces an impressive variety of commodities in addition to cattle, wheat, corn, potatoes, sugar beets and dairy products. Growers also raise pinto beans, peaches, carrots, mushrooms, barley, sunflowers, watermelon, oats, sorghum, quinoa and wine grapes. Our ranchers' expertise raising cattle, sheep, lambs, poultry and hogs, is expanding to include specialty livestock—bison, elk, emus, ostriches, and fish.

Agricultural products extend beyond food. Colorado is well-known for its production of fresh-cut flowers, sod and turf grass, and hay. Colorado's agricultural-based inputs also contribute vital components to the manufacturing of soaps, plastics, bandages, x-ray film, linoleum, shoes, crayons, paper, shaving cream, tires, and beer.

As consumers, rural Americans provide markets for goods and services, injecting much-needed capital into the marketplace. Rural purchases of trucks, tractors, houses, implements, fuel, computers, and other items have an enormous impact on the economy providing jobs and income for salespeople, waitresses, homebuilders, real estate agents, feed dealers, mechanics, and bank tellers just to name a few.

Still there are other reasons rural America matters. Colorado boasts over 24,000 farms and ranches, accounting for over half of our state's 66 million acres. People who live on the land are the best environmental stewards. Landowners work actively with soil conservation districts to protect water resources, manage wind erosion, reduce pollution, and control water runoff. In fact, Colorado's farmers are credited with saving an additional 51 million tons of topsoil annually for the past 10 years. They have also seeded 1.9 million acres of private land to permanent grassland under the Conservation Reserve Program, thereby producing thriving wildlife habitat.

Most of all, Mr. Speaker, America's soul is found in its rural communities. A nation launched by planters and preachers, America's founding strength was mustered and sustained by the moral character of rural people. Their values of hard work, honesty, integrity,