

fine young people will undoubtedly carry on their father's tradition of hard work and dedication well into the future.

Mr. Speaker, very few people serve as selflessly as did Ken Beck. His career embodied so many civic ideals. He is a model that each of us should emulate.

It is with this, Mr. Speaker, that I say thank you to Ken Beck on behalf of the people of western Colorado and wish him well in his much deserved retirement.

CONGRATULATING COMMUNITY
MAGNET SCHOOL ON RECEIVING
THE NATIONAL BLUE RIBBON
SCHOOLS AWARD

HON. JULIAN C. DIXON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 3, 1999

Mr. DIXON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to extend my heartfelt congratulations to the Community Magnet School on receiving the National Blue Ribbon Schools Award from the United States Department of Education.

Community Magnet School is one of only 226 schools in the nation, and the only school in Los Angeles, to have received this prestigious award in 1999. The award recognizes Community Magnet Schools' exemplary work in student achievement, community and parent involvement, and ongoing teacher and staff training. The school provides its students with a variety of innovative educational experiences, including the Caring Adults Teaching Children How (CATCH) one-on-one academic mentoring program and the Getty-Annenberg Transforming Education Through the Arts Challenge, an integrated arts curriculum.

The 32nd Congressional District of California is fortunate to be home to such an outstanding institution. Community Magnet School's emphasis on the study of the humanities and the social sciences through a multicultural perspective will enrich the lives of its students and our community for years to come. I commend Community Magnet School for being a recipient of the National Blue Ribbon Schools Award and wish them continued success.

RECOGNIZING THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CHARTERING OF
UAW LOCAL #599 LOCATED IN
FLINT, MICHIGAN

HON. DEBBIE STABENOW

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 3, 1999

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the members of United Auto Workers (UAW) Local #599, located in Flint, Michigan, on the 60th Anniversary of its charter. I would like to commend the 23 members of the local that received the 19th annual Walter P. Reuther Award for Distinguished Service. I will list the recipients at the end of my remarks.

Local #599 was chartered on January 10, 1939, and has been an integral part of the great accomplishments of the labor movement during this century. It is important to remem-

ber that not long ago in this country, laborers, including children, toiled in squalid factory conditions for pitiful wages. Within a generation, dramatic strides were made to greatly improve the quality of life of workers. With continued effort, organized labor has secured numerous important rights, including safe workplaces, decent wages, health and life insurance, worker's and unemployment compensation, and continuing education and training. This progress continues to this day, as the UAW recently completed a new round of contract negotiations with the big three automakers. The labor movement in the United States, led by Local #599, has been at the forefront of progress in the area of civil and human rights, representing one of the great social advances in history.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to pay tribute to the great contributions that the members of Local #599 have made to Michigan and the country, and I ask my colleagues to do the same. I would specifically like to acknowledge the leadership of Local President Arthur McGee, and recognize the recipients of the Walter P. Reuther Distinguished Service Award. This award is one of two sanctioned by the International Union UAW, and is given for exceptional meritorious service by UAW members and community leaders. The 19th Annual Walter P. Reuther Award Recipients are: Robert Aidif, David Aiken, Dennis Carl, Russell W. Cook, Harvey "Whitey" DeGroot, Patrick Dolan, Larry Farlin, Maurice "Mo" Felling, Ted Henderson, James Yaklin, Ken Mead, Don Wilson, Frank Molina, Shirley Prater, Gene Ridley, John D. Rogers, Dale Scanlon, G. Jean Garza-Smith, Nick Vuckovich, Jerry J. Ward, Greg Wheeler, Tom Worden, and Dale Bingley. I again congratulate these members for their service to the UAW, their communities and their country. It is an honor to represent the members of UAW Local #599 in the United States Congress.

FEMA AND CIVIL DEFENSE
MONUMENT ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. WILLIAM F. GOODLING

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 1, 1999

Mr. GOODLING. Mr. Speaker, as we have seen in vivid detail in just the last month, Mother Nature can and does visit calamity upon us violently and with brief notice. Hurricane Floyd, with all its might and fury, is proof once again how powerless we are against the forces of nature.

The danger comes not just from hurricanes. In the West and South, the constant threat of wildfires from summer's heat often turns the countryside into a tinderbox. In the South and Midwest, steamy afternoons bring forth devastating tornadoes as this Spring's events in Oklahoma and Kansas have shown us.

When these disasters befall us, we must thank God there are dedicated men and women who answer the call, our nation's emergency management professionals. These dedicated individuals respond day or night in any conditions to protect the lives of their fellow citizens at a moment's notice, many of whom are volunteers. In addition to acts of nature, these brave men and women help pro-

tect us against manmade threats of terrorism for which we have become all too aware in recent years.

To honor these brave people Mr. BARTLETT and I introduced H.R. 348. This legislation authorizes the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to place a monument honoring this nation's emergency management and civil defense workers on the grounds of the National Emergency Training Center (NETC) in Emmitsburg, Maryland. The monument has been offered as a gift by the privately-funded, non-profit National Civil Defense Monument Commission to honor their comrades who have devoted their lives and careers to Emergency Management and Civil Defense.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize Mr. John Bex, a former Regional Director of the Defense Civil Preparedness Agency, of Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania, Chairman of the Monument Commission, Alexander Atzert of Gaithersburg, Maryland and all members of National Civil Defense Monument Commission for their work and dedication on behalf of this legislation and I am pleased to support its passage.

A TRIBUTE TO CHARLIE WALLER

HON. PAUL RYAN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 3, 1999

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor one of my constituents, Charlie Waller. As we near Veterans Day, I feel it is appropriate to point out the achievements of one of our fine servicemen—achievements made while dealing with a unique disability.

You see, Charlie may be the most highly decorated man to serve in the U.S. Armed Forces with the sight of only one eye.

Charlie entered the U.S. Army (Air Corps) as a desk clerk. He was subsequently sent overseas first to Algeria and then to several locations in Europe. He served in the Communications Section of the 725th Squadron, 451st Bomber Group.

While there, it was noted by several of the soldiers in his unit that he was an excellent soldier. He also received several awards, including 10 battle stars, 2 presidential unit citation awards, an Army good Conduct medal, An American Campaign Medal, The European-African Middle Eastern Campaign Medal, 2 Oak Leaf Clusters, & the WWII victory Medal. This information has been verified by the National Personnel Records Center. Eventually, his commanding officers realized that he was not eligible to serve in a combat unit and he was promptly sent back to the states.

In 1997-98, Representative Mark Neumann assisted Charlie in having his records officially changed to reflect that he only had his limited vision of one eye prior to entering the service.

Again, Charlie overcame his disability and served his country with courage and honor. It is for his dedication and achievements that I honor him today.

TRIBUTE TO HITCHINER
MANUFACTURING COMPANY, INC.

HON. CHARLES F. BASS

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 3, 1999

Mr. BASS. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to have this opportunity to recognize Hitchiner Manufacturing Company, Inc., of Milford, New Hampshire. Hitchiner Manufacturing tomorrow will receive the Employer Support Freedom Award. This award is granted annually to those select companies that distinguish themselves in support of the National Guard and Reserve. Hitchiner Manufacturing will be one of only five companies to be so recognized this year, and will represent the Northeast Region's twelve states including Washington, DC.

Earlier this year, the New Hampshire Committee for the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve Committee submitted Hitchiner Manufacturing as the state's nominee for this award. Hitchiner Manufacturing is a major New Hampshire-based manufacturing firm. It has more than 1200 employees at three New Hampshire plants and employs 22 members of the National Guard and Reserve. It has always encouraged its employees to volunteer their time to support local and civic organizations, and was the 1998 New Hampshire ESGR Pro Patria Award winner.

For almost 50 years, Hitchiner Manufacturing has had employee policies that far exceed the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act. It has extended salary and benefit packages during times of national crisis as well as world conflicts, such as Desert Storm, Somalia, Deny Flight and Bosnia. In fact, it has a specific policy to compensate employees for the difference between an employee's civilian and military pay while performing his or her military training. They have also provided professional counseling to soldiers who are going through difficult times.

But the company's good work goes beyond its own employees. At the Annual New Hampshire ESGR Awards luncheon held in January of this year, the Company President and CEO, Mr. John Morison, III, agreed to video tape his comments so that the New Hampshire ESGR Committee could share his thoughts and perspectives with other employers across the state. His presentation is now part of a major statewide Chamber of Commerce initiative. New Hampshire Adjutant General Major General John Blair, along with several key military leaders, are currently reaching out to Chambers of Commerce and other civic organizations across the state through a speakers program. "The Value of Employing Citizen Soldiers in the Workplace". It is clear that Hitchiner Manufacturing has set the pace for other New Hampshire-based companies to follow.

In closing, I wish again to commend Hitchiner Manufacturing President and CEO John Morison and all the company's employees on this proud day.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BERNARD SANDERS

OF VERMONT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 3, 1999

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably delayed during rollcall vote 504 on October 14, 1999. Had I been present, I would have voted "no".

In addition, I was unavoidably delayed on November 1, 1999 during rollcall votes 550, 551, and 552. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on rollcall votes 550 and 551 and "no" on rollcall vote 552.

TRIBUTE TO THE LATE WALTER
PAYTON

HON. EARL F. HILLIARD

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 3, 1999

Mr. HILLIARD. Mr. Speaker, today I rise with great sadness to recognize the loss of one of this country's greatest athletes—Mr. Walter Payton. As a former football player, I knew from the moment that he touched the field that he would dominate the game and become one of the great heroes of the league. There was a "sweetness," as his nickname suggests, about him that let you know that he was in total control, and would have you wrestling to overpower him until the bitter end. His life is a testament to the American Dream, and embodies the struggles of a soldier at war against himself and his fellow man. Upon entering the league he was told he wouldn't be successful because of his small build, but through a rigorous workout and perseverance he became the best running back ever in the NFL. No other football player since him has brought such style and grace to a game defined by muscles and egos. In a society that is constantly coronating heroes and idols for our youth, I lift up Walter Payton as the epitome of valor, the symbol of truth, and the embodiment of what it means to be an American.

Martin Luther King once challenged us to do our jobs so well that all the hosts of heaven and earth will pause to say, here lived a great man who did his job well. This week, as we continue to reflect upon his career and look to the future, I ask that those of us on earth pause in tribute to a man who not only played football well, but served his people, his family and his country well. May we keep his family in our prayers and his legacy in our hearts.

RECOGNIZING DUVAL COUNTY
VETERANS SERVICE OFFICER J.
O. BARRERA FOR OUTSTANDING
SERVICE

HON. CIRO D. RODRIGUEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 3, 1999

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Duval County Veterans Service Officer Jose Oscar Barrera. It is with great appreciation that I recognize Mr. Barrera for his many years of dedicated service to the citizens of Duval County.

J.O. Barrera was born and raised in San Diego, TX. After graduating from high school, on November 18, 1942, Mr. Barrera was called to military service in the United States. Mr. Barrera returned to live in San Diego in December 1945. He accepted a job with Duval County in 1946 in the Tax Collector's Office. On February 1, 1955, he was appointed Duval County Veterans Service Officer, a position he continues to hold to this day.

During his tenure as Duval County Veterans Service Officer, Mr. Barrera received recognition for his outstanding service several times. In 1973, he was offered the position of Service Officer for the State Veterans Affairs Commission of Texas in San Antonio. Upon serious consideration of the offer, he declined, preferring to remain in his home town where he could continue to provide needed assistance to the veterans he knew best.

At the 32d annual meeting of the Texas County Service Officers Association held in Dallas in 1979, the membership honored Mr. Barrera with one of the highest awards for veterans service. He was named Outstanding Veterans County Service Officer for the 60-county San Antonio Region. On February 26, 1999, he was presented with AMVETS National Commander's Appreciation Certificate from the AMVETS/American Veterans Organization Office in Houston for his sincere dedication in assisting veterans and their dependents.

At the 52d annual Statewide Conference for Veterans Service Officers held September 28 through October 1, 1999, in Dallas, Mr. Barrera was awarded two certificates for his years of service. State Representative Ignacio Salinas, Jr. awarded Mr. Barrera a certificate recognizing his 44 years of service as Veterans Service Officer for Duval County. He was also awarded a certificate of excellence in service to the veterans of Duval County by State Senator Judith Zaferini.

Mr. Barrera exemplifies what every county should have, a competent Veterans Service Officer who dedicates his life to the veterans of his county. Mr. J.O. Barrera continues to proudly serve the veterans and their dependents in Duval County, TX. It is most appropriate to honor his work, dedication, and commitment to public service.

TRIBUTE TO THE LATE FLETCHER
HENDERSON, JR.

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 3, 1999

Mr. BISHOP. Mr. Speaker, Fletcher Henderson, Jr. is remembered as one of the great figures in jazz history.

Born in 1898, in the southwest Georgia community of Cuthbert, he pioneered as an arranger, composer and leader of an acclaimed band featuring the likes of Louis Armstrong, Coleman Hawkins and Lester Young.

He has been gone since 1952, but his memory is kept alive by the people of Cuthbert and Randolph County who are restoring the street and home where he was born and raised and who annually stage a jazz festival in his name, which was held for a full week in late October featuring the Fort Benning U.S. Army and Andrew College jazz