

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING MOUNTAIN VIEW MIDDLE SCHOOL

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 15, 2000

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the Mountain View Middle School in Rio Rancho, NM. Mountain View was recently chosen by the U.S. Department of Education as a Blue Ribbon School and is one of only 198 schools in the United States that received this prominent award. The Rio Rancho public school system is a model of first-class learning, and Mountain View is a product of this exemplary system. It embodies all the characteristics for which all schools should strive.

It was my pleasure to meet recently with the principal of Mountain View, Kathy Pinkel, and congratulate her personally on this esteemed accomplishment. Joining me in offering congratulations was John Jennings, the mayor of Rio Rancho. On that occasion, Ms. Pinkel described the tireless labors that the faculty and staff have contributed to reach this crest of pride.

This is excellent news for the Rio Rancho community. This is one of the top education awards in the country, and I applaud all those involved in ensuring that education is a top priority in Rio Rancho. I call special attention to the faculty and staff at Mountain View—they obviously have a great passion for what they are doing, and this award is verification of their dedication. Also, community cooperation is crucial in making a school exceptional. I pay special tribute to the parents and also all the citizens of Rio Rancho who continue to be actively involved in the public school system. Such cooperation is crucial in order to make a school exceptional, and the entire Rio Rancho community can be extremely proud of this combined effort.

Blue Ribbon Schools are selected based on their effectiveness in meeting local, State, and national educational goals. Schools chosen for the award must display the qualities of excellence that are necessary to prepare young people for the challenges of the new century. Blue Ribbon status is awarded to schools that have strong leadership; a clear vision and sense of mission that is shared by all connected with the school; high quality educators; challenging and up-to-date curriculum; policies and practices that ensure a safe environment conducive to learning and schools that help all students achieve high standards.

Education is one of my top priorities in Congress. A strong and diverse education is an essential building block for the youth of society, whether it is today, or 100 years from now. Mountain View Middle School has been providing students with the tools to exceed in the tasks they will encounter throughout their lifetimes. It is imperative that we recognize and continue to support this educating process and all of those who contribute to it.

Mountain View Middle School in Rio Rancho, NM, has been a strong influence in the lives of the students they have taught and the entire community they have served. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this time to ask my colleagues to join me in acknowledging this accomplishment. I congratulate Mountain View Middle School on its Blue Ribbon award and thank all those involved for their invaluable contribution to the State of New Mexico and to the entire Nation.

HONORING LIEUTENANT CHARLIE JORDAN

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 15, 2000

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, today I honor Lieutenant Charlie Jordan on the occasion of his upcoming retirement planned for August 31, 2000. Lt. Jordan has served 29 outstanding years with the Sterling Fire Department, in Sterling Colorado.

In September 1971, the area native joined the department as a volunteer to fulfill his desire to help his community. Over the years, he learned to follow the great examples of veteran leaders, and as a result on February 5, 1988, Charlie Jordan was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant.

Additionally, Lt. Jordan has served in a leadership position since 1995 on the board of directors for the Colorado Metropolitan Arson Investigation Association. Lt. Jordan has also been active in both the Logan County Crime Stoppers and American Red Cross.

Mr. Speaker, Lt. Charlie Jordan is a shining example of an individual who has given so much to his community. As a Member of Congress, I am pleased to recognize Lt. Jordan for his outstanding contributions to the Northeastern Colorado community. He is surely an example for us all.

HONORING FIRE CHIEF AL GRAMS

HON. GARY G. MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 15, 2000

Mr. GARY MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise to celebrate the contributions that Fire Chief Al Grams, of Chino Hills, California, has made to his community.

Chief Grams began his 36-year career as a firefighter with the City of Covina in 1964. He was promoted to Administrative Captain in 1974 and advanced to Battalion Chief in 1981. In 1987, the San Gabriel Fire Authority hired Chief Grams as an Administrative Chief, but he returned to the City of Covina in 1991 as a Battalion Chief. The Chino Valley Independent Fire District gained the valuable expe-

rience of Chief Grams in 1991 when he became their Division Chief of Operations. Just three years later, in 1994, he was promoted to Fire Chief.

Under his leadership, the Chino Valley Independent Fire District has witnessed a budget increase from \$11 million to \$13.5 million. The Fire District has also added new fire stations, including the status at Butterfield Ranch.

In addition to his public service, Chief Grams has sought to enrich his community by founding the Chino Valley Fire Foundation Citizens Helping In Educational Fire Safety (CHIEFS). This organization raises over \$30,000 each year to educate the community about fire and life safety. Chief Grams is also a member of the California Fire Chief's Association, Rotary, the International Fire Chief's Association, and he serves on the YMCA Board of Directors.

Chief Grams' 36-year career of fighting fires distinguishes him as a true American hero, worthy of our praise and gratitude.

CONGRATULATIONS, DARLENE L. COX

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 15, 2000

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask my colleagues here in the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in congratulating a highly accomplished professional, Ms. Darlene L. Cox, who has been selected to receive a 2000 Congressional Community Service Award for her outstanding civic work in the Tenth Congressional District. I have had the privilege of working with Ms. Cox on community health issues, and her selection to receive this honor is truly reflective of her hard work and commitment to excellence as president and CEO of the East Orange General Hospital.

Ms. Cox is the president and chief executive officer of Essex Valley Healthcare, Inc. East Orange General Hospital in New Jersey, a position she assumed in 1999. Under her leadership, East Orange General Hospital has emerged as a key player in the delivery of quality health care and as a major employer of the community. During the course of a successful career spanning two decades, Ms. Cox has distinguished herself as a leader in the positions of health care executive and nursing administrator. Most recently, she served as Vice President and Chief Nursing Officer at the New York Presbyterian Hospital. Prior to that, Ms. Cox was chief nurse and administrator of Patient Care Services at the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey (UMDNJ).

While on a sabbatical from UMDNJ from 1991 to 1992, Ms. Cox served as a White House Fellow. In addition to serving as Special Assistant to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, she also served as Executive Assistant

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Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

to the President of the United States. Ms. Cox represented the University Hospitals as a witness before the House of Representatives Subcommittee of the House Government Operations Committee to discuss the impact of the AIDS crisis on the acute care environment. She has written and published several articles relating to patient care and presented a position paper on the Immigration Nursing Relief Act of 1989 to a Subcommittee of the House Judiciary Committee. Ms. Cox has held a number of prestigious academic positions. She has been the guest lecturer at various academic forums and was the keynote speaker to the Graduating Class of 1992 at Seton Hall School of Nursing in South Orange, NJ. She is a member of the North Jersey Unit of the Negro Business and Professional Women's Club, The Concerned Black Nurses of Newark, the New Jersey Hospital Association and other professional organizations. She has also participated in 100 Black Women Teen Mentoring and Health Fair projects and is the recipient of numerous professional and community service awards.

Mr. Speaker, I know my colleagues join me in congratulating Ms. Cox and extending our very best wishes for continued success.

TRIBUTE TO MYKE REID

HON. WILLIAM (BILL) CLAY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 15, 2000

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, I am happy to join the members of the Virginia Postal Workers Union, AFL-CIO in paying tribute to APWU Legislative Director, Myke Reid. Mr. Reid is a native of Portsmouth, VA, and before he became a National Officer, he served many years as an officer of his own Local and State Organization.

Mr. Reid served the Norfolk Virginia Local as Business Agent (Executive Vice President), Steward and Editor; the State of Virginia as President, Legislative Director and Washington Regional Council Chair and Secretary-Treasurer.

Currently, Mr. Reid serves as the Assistant Legislative and Political Director for the American Postal Workers Union, the largest postal union in the world. With over 350,000 members, the APWU has members in every city, town, and hamlet in the United States. Serving in his third term as an elected officer of the union, Mr. Reid works as a lobbyist for APWU, as well as a member of the union's PAC Committee. Prior to his election as the Assistant Director in 1992, Mr. Reid served nine years as Special Assistant to the President of the American Postal Workers Union for legislative and political affairs.

During his tenure at APWU, Mr. Reid has worked to secure passage of Hatch Act Reform, the Family and Medical Leave Act, the Federal Employees Retirement System Act, the Spouse Equity Act, the Postal Employees Safety Enhancement Act, the Veterans Employment Opportunities Act and many others. Mr. Reid has diligently worked to protect the viability of the Postal Service and oppose Postal Privatization.

Active in the community, Mr. Reid has been appointed by Democratic Governors of Virginia to the Virginia Employment Commission Advi-

sory Board, and the Virginia Community College Board, as well as the Human Rights Commission by his mayor. He has chaired the Alexandria Democratic Committee for two terms, and the Alexander Redevelopment and Housing Authority Board, also for two terms. He has served on the Democratic National Committee's Platform Committee, and was elected as a Delegate in 1988 and 1992 to the Democratic National Conventions.

He has also served on the board of the National Consumers League, and Planned Parenthood of Metropolitan Washington and recognized on several occasion with inclusion in Marquis Who's Who and by Outstanding Young Men of America. Active as a volunteer for many political campaigns. Mr. Reid was privileged to serve as an "International Observer" during the election of former President Nelson Mandela of South Africa.

Mr. Reid has a B.A. from Norfolk State University and resides in Alexandria, Virginia.

Mr. Speaker, I join the Virginia State APWU in recognizing the very special achievements of Myke Reid, whom I have known very well since he came to Washington, DC in 1983 by virtue of my previous capacity as Chairman of the House Post Office and Civil Service Committee and currently as Ranking Member of the House Education and Work Force Committee. APWU is certainly well served to have Mr. Reid representing their Union before the Congress of the United States.

HONORING PASTOR EDWARD L. MCCREE, SR.

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 15, 2000

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you and my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives today on behalf of one of Pontiac, Michigan's top citizens. From June 11 through June 18, the congregation of Macedonia Missionary Baptist Church in Pontiac will gather and celebrate the work of its Pastor, Edward L. McCree, Sr., and his 27 years of commitment as Macedonia's spiritual leader.

After graduating from Ferndale High School in 1960, young Edward McCree went on to Detroit Bible College and the University of Detroit. He then uprooted his family to Tennessee, where he attended the American Baptist College. Edward achieved what he considered his mission to possess a thorough education, and graduated from American Baptist College in 1973. Edward was soon ordained at Cedar Grove Missionary Baptist Church in Mount Juliet, TN.

Edward returned his family to Michigan that same year, as he was chosen as Pastor of Macedonia Baptist Church, where he has remained ever since. During these years, Pastor McCree has reached out to spread the Lord's word to thousands of people. In 1990, he preached in the National Baptist Congress of Christian Education to more than 40,000 people. He also organized a television outreach ministry which also allowed him to reach a wide audience. As Pastor of Macedonia, Pastor McCree has worked selflessly and tirelessly to help his congregation grow physically, emotionally, and spiritually. He is a counselor and confidant to the entire Mac-

edonia family. He is a constant source of guidance to civic and community leaders, and people of all races, denominations, and walks of life. Pastor McCree has improved his church's technological equipment as well as the building itself, and organized the creation of a day care center and emergency food kitchen.

Pastor McCree is known not only throughout the Pontiac community, but throughout the country as a dynamic preacher, leader, lecturer, and community activist. He has served as State Coordinator and Administrative 1st Vice President of the Wolverine State convention, chairman of the American Baptist College Michigan Alumni Chapter, and has been recognized by "Who's Who in Black America."

Pastor McCree's influence is strongly felt in the local community as well. He has worked with the Pontiac Area Urban League, the Mayor's Advisory Committee, the Greater Pontiac Missionary Baptist District Association, and the OIC board of Oakland County.

Mr. Speaker, our community would not be the same without the presence and influence of Pastor Edward L. McCree, Sr. I know that I am a better person and a better Member of Congress because of his commitment to the Lord's work. And I know that our community is a better place in which to live because of Pastor McCree's spiritual mission. I am pleased to ask my colleagues in the 106th Congress to join in congratulating his 27 years of pastoral service.

DEPARTMENTS OF LABOR, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, AND EDUCATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2001

SPEECH OF

HON. MAX SANDLIN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 14, 2000

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4577) making appropriations for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Service, and Education, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2001, and for other purposes:

Mr. SANDLIN. Mr. Chairman, today we voted on H.R. 4577, the Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education bill for fiscal year 2001 (FY 2001). On behalf of the educators, administrators and students in East Texas, I would like to express my strong opposition to the education appropriations outlined in this measure. The inadequate overall funding in H.R. 4577 completely undermines the public prioritization of education as a paramount concern in 2000.

Make no mistake—these education cuts come as no surprise. Beginning with the passage of the House budget resolution for FY 2001, my Republican colleagues have shown their true intentions with regard to education funding. As passed, the budget resolution provide \$56.8 billion for 2001 appropriations for education, training, employment, and social services—almost \$5 billion less than the level provided in the House Democratic budget and the President's budget. The conference agreement on the budget would eliminate Head