

It was a great honor to have as one of the inductees Nancy Berry, the Principal of Columbia Elementary School in Logansport, Indiana. At Columbia Elementary School you would be welcomed to "Berryland," the creative classroom of Nancy Berry, where children acquire an appreciation to learn. Nancy has taught in the classroom for Logansport Community School Corporation for over 20 years. Although she has been principal for the last three years, she still keeps active in the classroom.

Nancy, as well as the other inductees, has the gift to spark the imaginations of our children and the commitment to demand excellence and character, not only from students, but also in inspiring other teachers to strive for these goals. Nancy has created educational materials as well as a management program that promotes dignity, imagination, self-discipline, and responsibility. As Nancy puts it "behavior is like a shirt, it can be changed."

It was my privilege to welcome these outstanding teachers to the National Teachers Hall of Fame, and on behalf of grateful parents and a grateful nation, to express thankfulness for their hard work and dedication.

COMMEMORATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE KOREAN WAR

HON. SAM GEJDENSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 25, 2000

Mr. GEJDENSON. Mr. Speaker, it is with great appreciation today, on the fiftieth anniversary of the Korean War, to celebrate those who fought for this country and its ideals.

I respect those who served in the Korean War and for the more than 54,000 who didn't return. I commend the men and women who served valiantly and with little recognition. These brave veterans returned home and went back to work to make our country the greatest nation on Earth.

Because of this lack of attention, the Korean War has frequently been called "The Forgotten War." Today I say that we have not forgotten. To this day, American and South Korean troops stand watch on the Korean peninsula, living testaments to this critical episode in the annals of the Cold War. Millions of citizens in South Korea remember the sacrifices Americans made and cherish the freedom that we fought to preserve for them.

Let me also pay special tribute to those who have made it their mission to ensure we do not forget those who fought there and did not return. Bob Dumas, a constituent of mine, continues his untiring search for his brother, Roger, who remains MIA in North Korea. Remains of another twelve American servicemen were returned to the U.S. by North Korea on Saturday. I believe we must continue to press until we have accounted for all lost in the conflict.

Finally, let me challenge my colleagues to take this opportunity, while we are remembering this "Forgotten War," to renew our commitment to those who served with honor, those who fought bravely, and those who died with valor in the service of our country—our veterans. Whether they served at Chosin Reservoir, Bunker Hill, Bloody Ridge, or Heartbreak Ridge, let us respect their service and

sacrifice through fully supporting those programs which they truly deserve: adequate funding of medical facilities including mental health programs; more Community Based Outreach Clinics to bring health care closer to our aging veterans; more coordination among federal agencies for our homeless veterans; and continued support of education and rehabilitation. Given the sacrifices of our veterans, we owe them much more than just a debt of gratitude—we owe them the care that they earned.

ASSURING QUALITY OF ELDER CARE IN NURSING HOMES—THE INTRODUCTION OF H.R. 4898 TO REQUIRE AIR CONDITIONING IN NURSING HOMES

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 25, 2000

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, on June 15th and 16th of this year, three elderly patients died at the SunBridge Care and Rehabilitation home in Burlingame, California, in my Congressional District and five others at the home were hospitalized during a heat wave when temperatures in the county soared to 108°. When county officials visited the nursing home in Burlingame during last month's heat wave, fans were pointed toward staff, while elderly people were dying. Those deaths are under investigation by state and local officials in California.

Mr. Speaker, we cannot have the federal government financially supporting nursing homes where conditions are life-threatening. That is why I have introduced H.R. 4898, legislation which will require air conditioning in nursing home facilities which receive Medicare or Medicaid funding. If the operators of these profit-making facilities are not willing to assure humane conditions for the elderly living there, they will not receive federal funds.

H.R. 4898 amends the Social Security Act to add the requirement for air conditioning to the specifications which nursing home facilities must meet in order to be eligible for federal funds. Because Medicare and Medicaid provide a major portion of the funding for many of the patients at most nursing homes in the country, this legislation will require virtually all such facilities to have air conditioning.

Mr. Speaker, these deaths in California occurred just a week after the release of a congressional study which was conducted at the request of the members of the Bay Area congressional delegation. This study revealed how substandard the conditions are in nursing homes in our area. The study found that only 6 percent of Bay Area nursing homes were in "substantial compliance" with federal standards, and 41 percent of homes were found to have violations of federal standards "that caused actual harm to residents or placed them at risk of death or serious injury." In short, this report says our nursing homes are in crisis, and corrective action is necessary. Just one week later we saw the consequences in the tragedy in Burlingame.

Mr. Speaker, this need for air conditioning is not just a California problem. The heat wave now affecting much of the Southern states over the past two weeks has been blamed for the deaths of at least 12 people in Texas and

four in Louisiana. Heat kills. It is an absolute outrage that elderly people in nursing homes are dying because it's too hot. We need to take action to protect our elderly who are in nursing homes. I urge my colleagues to join me as cosponsors of H.R. 4898 so that we can protect our elderly citizens, our father and mothers, grandfathers and grandmothers, brothers and sisters, and friends from the heat when they are cared for in nursing homes.

CHINA LAKE NAVY MUSEUM

HON. WILLIAM M. THOMAS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 25, 2000

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, on July 28th supporters of the Naval Air Warfare Center, Weapons Division, China Lake will gather together in Ridgecrest, California for the ribbon cutting of a new Navy museum dedicated to the history and achievements of the people who have worked at China Lake since the 1940s. As a Life Member of the Museum Foundation that is collecting private funds to create this monument, I support this effort to preserve a complete record of China Lake's record for future generations.

Those of us familiar with China Lake have a strong sense of what the Navy personnel and employees there have done for this Nation's defense. China Lake personnel developed the first Sidewinder air to air missile. China Lake has been the source of technological advances in cruise missiles, fuel-air munitions, infrared and other technologies that Americans in uniform rely on in their quest to defend the nation. It is a remarkable story proving what exceptional dedication can accomplish.

By building this museum, we can preserve a record of the achievements of people at China Lake. Those achievements are a source of justifiable pride in eastern Kern County, California. With this museum, they become a source of inspiration to visitors and to those important future Americans who will come to China Lake to solve new problems.

RECOGNIZING THE SHREWSBURY HIGH SCHOOL COLONIALS BASEBALL TEAM

HON. JAMES P. MCGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 25, 2000

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join the community of Shrewsbury, Massachusetts, in celebrating the outstanding performance of the Shrewsbury High School Colonials Baseball team. Their remarkable season came to an abrupt end on June 19th with their defeat in the Division 1 State Championship game. This defeat, however, could not detract from their extraordinary season.

The mentality of the Colonials' baseball team can be summed up in a common idiom—"comeback kids." However there is nothing "common" about this group of distinguished young men. This season, driven by the passionate leadership of Coach Dave Niro, the Colonials surprised many with late-inning

rallies, strong defense, and incredible hitting. As a matter of fact, four of their last six wins were come-from-behind victories. It was their "never-say-die" attitude that lifted the spirits and performance of the Shrewsbury High School Baseball team to a level that very few anticipated.

Teamwork was the key to the Colonials' highly successful season. Led on the field by co-captains Catcher Jimmy Board and First Baseman Jamie Buonomo, every player performed to the highest level. The sensational play of outfielders Shayne Barnes, Tommy Crossman, and Tim Kilroy, the outstanding defense of infielders Jon Bacotti, Alex Biaz, Ryan Bigda, Bill Orflea, and Andy Morano, the mastery of pitchers Shawn Walker, Lee Diamotopolous, Brendan Slavin and Mike Sigismondo, the clutch hitting by designated hitter Matt Vaccaro and the numerous contributions by players Bob Roddy, Nick Dion, Matt Amdur, Todd Cooksey, Tim Ford, and Brian Merchant helped make this season such a success. Also, special recognition must be extended to Head Coach Dave Niro, assistants P.J. O'Connell and Jay Costa, and manager Michelle Pessolano.

It is with tremendous pride that I recognize the members of the Shrewsbury High School Colonials Baseball team for an unforgettable

season. I congratulate them on their accomplishment and wish them the best of luck in the years to come.

OVERSIGHT AND INVESTIGATIONS
ON PORTALS BUILDING

HON. RON KLINK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 25, 2000

Mr. KLINK. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, the Commerce Committee received a letter from the Department of Justice which stated that the Department found that "there is not a sufficient basis to warrant a criminal investigation" concerning whether a document was "intentionally" withheld by Tennessee developer Franklin Haney or one of his business associates in a "deliberate" attempt to obstruct the Committee investigation of the lease for the Portals building. That building is now the headquarters of the Federal Communications Commission.

This letter marks the second time in two years that the Justice Department has rejected the majority's call for a criminal investigation because staff believed its Portals' work had

been obstructed. In December of 1998—after the Committee's year-long investigation and seven days of hearings resulted in a spectacularly unsuccessful attempt to uncover improper political influence in the leasing of the Portals building—the majority wrote a staff report outlining its unsubstantiated suspicions and asked Justice to determine if the witnesses had made false statements "under oath in a deliberate effort to mislead the Committee and obstruct its legitimate fact-finding processes."

This referral was made, even though not a single witness testified to improper influence, and not a single document provided the necessary evidence. Justice responded by stating that there was no "specific and credible" evidence to support the allegations of perjury and conspiracy.

The majority has never accepted the results of their own investigation or even the FBI's. The FBI has already done an extensive investigation of the origins of and statements in the unproduced document and obtained no evidence to warrant prosecution. So now apparently the allegation is that if the Committee had had the document, it could have done a better job. Nothing in the Committee's history indicates any truth in that statement.