

CONGRATULATING PAINT BRANCH HIGH SCHOOL ON BEING DESIGNATED A NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED SCHOOL OF EXCELLENCE AND A NEW AMERICAN HIGH SCHOOL

HON. CONSTANCE A. MORELLA

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 16, 2000

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, today I honor and congratulate the students, parents, and faculty of Paint Branch High School on receiving a Blue Ribbon School Award from the United States Department of Education. Achieving this honor demonstrates the commitment that both the faculty and administrators of Paint Branch have made to their students.

Paint Branch High School is continuously dedicated to excellence and committed to success. As Chair of the House Technology Subcommittee, I am especially proud of the science and media signature program. This program combines educational opportunities with three area high schools. Each school has its own signature program based on staff strengths and student interest. Additionally, Paint Branch High School is one of few in the county to offer three special education programs to help our students with special needs.

This weekend, Paint Branch High School will celebrate their great achievements. On October 13th Paint Branch students will hold a pep rally to share enthusiasm of this award and for the school's homecoming. In addition, the community celebration will bring together faculty, students, local business and community leaders. The National Blue Ribbon flag will be unveiled on Homecoming day, which will conclude the celebration. I congratulate the faculty, students and their supporters in organizing these events.

As a former educator in the Montgomery County's public school system, I am proud to recognize Paint Branch High School for its outstanding educational and extracurricular programs. I congratulate the school's students, faculty, supportive parents, and dedicated administrators. In addition, I thank Principal Fred Lowenbach whose leadership brought Paint Branch to its current reward. I wish Paint Branch High School continued success in achieving excellence in education.

IN SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF JOHN C. MCMEEKIN ON THE OCCASION OF HIS UPCOMING RETIREMENT FROM THE CROZER-KEYSTONE HEALTH SYSTEM

HON. CURT WELDON

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 16, 2000

Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege and an honor to have this opportunity to pay tribute to one of the truly outstanding individuals from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Mr. John C. McMeekin. Early next year John McMeekin will retire from his position as President and Chief Executive Officer of Crozer-Keystone Health System where he has served since 1990. The health care in-

dustry will lose a trailblazing leader when Jack steps down.

John McMeekin has been a leader in the health care field for over thirty-five years and his service is truly commendable. The Crozer-Keystone Health System consists of five hospitals with a licensed capacity of over 1200 beds, four long term care facilities totaling 800 licensed beds, a licensed HMO managed care organization and a network of salaried primary care and specialty physicians. System revenues totaled more than \$500 million in fiscal year 2000. Before joining Crozer-Chester Medical Center in 1983, Mr. McMeekin was a senior officer of Philadelphia Blue Cross and began his health career at Pennsylvania Hospital in 1965. He and his family reside in Philadelphia.

Mr. McMeekin is past Chairman of the Hospital & Health System Association of Pennsylvania and Chairman of their holding company, Health Alliance of Pennsylvania. In addition, he serves on the Board of VHA, the Board of Executive Committee of the American Hospital Association and chairs the AHA Regional Policy Group II. He also served on the Executive Committee and Board of the Greater Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce and was a trustee of Elwyn Institute. For twelve years Mr. McMeekin served as Public Governor on the Board of the Philadelphia Stock Exchange. He is a graduate of Penn State University and holds a Masters degree from the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania.

In September 1996 Crozer-Keystone opened their 200,000 square-foot, \$40 million Healthplex, a combination of a 40-bed acute care hospital and emergency service which includes 35,000 square feet of physician offices, four ambulatory surgical suites, a comprehensive rehabilitation facility and a large Sports and Fitness Club. Membership at the end of fiscal year 2000 was approximately 7,000.

Under Mr. McMeekin's able leadership, Crozer-Keystone served as an Action Learning Lab for AHA in November 1996 and has been cited for his work in measuring and monitoring the health status of its county of 550,000 people and for its investment in Information Systems. In February 1997 they began marketing their MedCarePlus directly to Medicare beneficiaries as one of the eight provider-sponsored HCFA Medicare Choices demonstration sites. Crozer-Keystone is a major teaching affiliate of Temple University in Philadelphia and a member of the Council of Teaching Hospital and the National Chronic Care Consortium.

Mr. McMeekin's distinguished career includes service on numerous boards and associations including American College of Healthcare Executives, American Hospital Association, Hospital and Healthsystem Association of Pennsylvania, and the Union League of Philadelphia. His efforts have not gone unrecognized. Included among the awards he has received are: Distinguished Performance in Management Award (Widener University, 1995); Health Care Hero's Award (Philadelphia Business Journal, 1996); First Carl E. Moore Award for Health Care Leadership (Philadelphia Health Management Corporation, 1998) and First Health System Innovations and Development Award (National Health Strategies, 1998).

Mr. Speaker, the distinguished career of John C. McMeekin places him in the first rank of outstanding health care leaders of our time. His service to his profession and his fellow

man serves as benchmark for us all. I know Jack personally. He is a good friend, a dedicated family man, and a patriotic citizen. It has been a pleasure to work closely with him, and an honor to be his friend.

At this time, I would ask my colleagues to join me in paying special tribute to John C. McMeekin. On the occasion of his retirement as President and Chief Executive Officer of Crozer-Keystone Health System, we thank him for his dedicated service and we wish him all the best for the future.

IN MEMORY OF ZOE ANN ORR MARCUS

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 16, 2000

Mr. FARR of California. Mr. Speaker, today I honor the life of Zoe Ann Orr Marcus of Watsonville, California. Ms. Marcus, an integral part of the Pajaro Valley communities, died on Thursday, September 28, 2000.

Zoe was born in 1913 in Berkeley, California, but soon moved south to San Jose with her parents. She graduated from Stanford University with a degree in biological sciences, and received her master's degree in marine biology from Hopkins Marine Station in Pacific Grove. She later returned to Stanford to earn her teaching credentials. It was at Stanford that she met her future husband, Frank Fletcher Orr, and they were married in 1941. At that time, Mr. Orr was the managing editor of the Watsonville Register Pajaronian, but he was to later serve with the U.S. Army in the European Theater during World War II. While he served as chief of still-picture operations, Ms. Marcus taught at Woods Hole Marine Institute in Massachusetts.

After the war, the couple returned to Watsonville, and in 1949 Mr. Orr was named editor of the Pajaronian. It was at this time that Mr. Orr purchased his family homestead on what is now East Beach Street in Watsonville. This Victorian farmhouse was built in 1868 by Mr. Orr's great-grandfather, Godfrey Bockius. Bockius was one of the original organizers of the town of Watsonville, and was eventually elected as a county judge and a state assemblyman. Zoe and Frank restored this house together, adding a wing and modernizing many features of the original building. It was in this house that the Orr's entertained members of the Pajaronian staff, local community members, and the heads of local arts groups. Zoe's reputation as the pre-eminent hostess was well known throughout Santa Cruz County and the Pajaro Valley.

Frank Orr passed away in 1985, and in 1989 Zoe and long-time family friend Gerald Marcus were married. It was in these years that Ms. Marcus was most active in her community. Perhaps one of her most enduring legacies was her donation of the Bockius-Orr house and its lands to the Pajaro Valley Historical Association in 1991. The Association uses this house as an office and a museum open to the public. Zoe was also active in the Girl Scouts, the Santa Cruz Symphony, the Cabrillo Music Festival, Shakespeare Santa Cruz, the Cabrillo Foundation, the Greater Santa Cruz County Community Foundation and the American Association of University

Women. She was honored for her volunteer work by both the Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors and the University of California, Santa Cruz.

Mr. Speaker, as you can see, Zoe Ann Orr Marcus was an important part of many different aspects of life in Santa Cruz County and beyond, and will be sorely missed by her stepdaughter Mary Marcus of Capitola; stepson John Marcus of Watsonville; and cousin Betty Ann Chandler of San Jose. Her familiar presence will also be missed by the many people who have been touched by her energy and passion for life.

HONORING DR. JAMES T. WILLERSON BEING NAMED INTERIM PRESIDENT OF THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS HEALTH SCIENCE CENTER AT HOUSTON

HON. KEN BENTSEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 16, 2000

Mr. BENTSEN. Mr. Speaker, today I honor Dr. James T. Willerson for being named Interim President of the University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston, one of the two world class medical schools in my district.

An internationally distinguished cardiologist and medical educator, Dr. Willerson has served since 1989 as the Edward Randall III Professor and Chairman of the Department of Internal Medicine at the University of Texas Medical School at Houston. Dr. Willerson's dedication to research in cardiology has made him highly respected by his peers, students, and community.

A native of Texas, Willerson grew up in San Antonio, where both of his parents were physicians. He graduated from the University of Texas at Austin with a B.A. in 1961. He received his Medical Degree from Baylor College of Medicine in 1965. Dr. Willerson completed his internship and residency at the Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston.

Dr. Willerson is known throughout the Texas Medical Center community as a fine physician, scientist, teacher, and administrator. Before joining the University of Texas Medical School at Houston, Dr. Willerson was a Professor of Medicine and Director of the Cardiology Division at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical School in Dallas and Director and Principal Investigator of the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute's Specialized Center of Research under a major grant from the NIH.

He has received numerous national and international awards, including the "James B. Herrick Award" from the American Heart Association in 1993 and named the American College of Cardiology's Distinguished Scientist for 2000. He was also elected a Fellow in the Royal Society of Medicine of the United Kingdom and made Honorary Member of the Society of Cardiology in Peru in 1994, and in Spain in 1996. Also, Dr. Willerson is a past President of the Paul Dudley White Cardiology Society at Harvard Medical School and Massachusetts General Hospital.

Throughout his career, Dr. Willerson has distinguished himself as a caring doctor and gifted teacher who demands the best. I congratulate Dr. James T. Willerson on being

named Interim President of the University of Texas Health Science Center.

TRIBUTE TO LA RESURRECCION UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

HON. JOSE E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 16, 2000

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, it is with joy and pride that I pay tribute to La Resurreccion United Methodist Church which, this past Sunday, moved to a new home in the Melrose Community of the Bronx at the historic Methodist building, which was built in 1878 by German Methodists.

La Resurreccion has initiated effective ministries to address the needs of the community, such as creating one of the only church-sponsored Harm Reduction/Needle Exchange programs. This program targets single room occupancy hotels in New York City, serving over twenty five hundred participants and employing fifteen to twenty people. La Resurreccion has created an Immigration Clinic with the assistance of lawyers who provide their services free of charge to assist undocumented immigrants with legal advice. La Resurreccion has also opened an after-school tutoring program called Creando Horizontes, designed and directed by educational professionals to target and enhance the reading and math skills children from the first to the eighth grades.

Mr. Speaker, in collaboration with various community agencies, public officials and community leaders, La Resurreccion works to address the needs of our community. Among their prophetic ministries are: Educating and Empowering the Community, Advocating for Gay and Lesbian Rights, Advocating for the release of the Puerto Rican Political Prisoners, Advocating for Peace in Vieques, and Denouncing both Police Brutality and Anti-Immigration Laws. Presently, they are working with various agencies to create entrepreneurial opportunities for our young people.

It is a privilege for me to represent the 16th district of New York, where the new home of La Resurreccion United Methodist Church is located. I am delighted by the church's success. I have witnessed first-hand the exemplary work they are doing for our community and I am deeply impressed. I applaud the commitment and the efforts of La Resurreccion United Methodist Church's staff, under the leadership of Reverend Eddie Lopez, Jr., in the assistance they provide to our community, as well as in facilitating educational opportunities for our youth.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing La Resurreccion United Methodist Church and its staff and in wishing them continued success in their new building.

SECURE RURAL SCHOOLS AND COMMUNITY SELF-DETERMINATION ACT OF 2000

SPEECH OF

HON. PETER A. DeFAZIO

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 10, 2000

Mr. DeFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 2389. Stabilizing county

payments has been my top legislative priority for the past several years. Enactment of this legislation has been a long time coming. Almost exactly a year ago, I argued for the passage of H.R. 2389 on the floor of the House. Today, I am asking my colleagues in Congress to again support H.R. 2389. This bill is a significant improvement over what the House approved last November and is a product of long and difficult negotiations with the Senate and Administration.

Counties in my district are suffering from declining federal timber payments. As a result, county governments are being forced to cut critical county services; work camps, juvenile justice programs, rural deputies and other essential county funded programs. The reduction in Forest Service receipts has also impacted rural road and school funding.

Throughout most of the 20th Century, Western Oregon served as the timber basket for the United States. Oregon's fourth congressional district, for many years, had the highest public timber harvest of any congressional district. Its lumber and wood products industry was also the most public timber dependent in the nation. Many rural community economies revolved totally around forestry, lumber, and wood products.

Today, timber output on public lands is at an all-time low. The costs to my district from changing public land management include lost high wage jobs, loss of economic infrastructure, and substantially reduced county budgets. I appreciate, and have worked with Members concerned with public land management. I believe a vote in favor of this legislation is a vote of support for better management of Federal forests because you are taking care of the communities which are most impacted.

Last year many Democrats had concerns with the environmental impacts of H.R. 2389. I want to directly address those concerns. This revised bill has absolutely no incentive for increased logging. The difficult negotiations over this bill resulted in compromise legislation affording counties increased flexibility for expending guaranteed payments. What was once a potentially controversial set-aside for forest management projects is now expanded to fund salmon restoration work, road decommissioning, forest-related educational training, after-school programs, and critical emergency response activities, search and rescue, and forest work camps.

Secondly, the revised legislation has been modified so that any proceeds from a county-funded timber sale are returned to the United States Treasury instead of back to the Forest Service region. While I supported the original House-passed version of H.R. 2389, the revisions address some outstanding concerns expressed by the environmental community and the Administration. Counties in my district have produced a list of non-controversial projects which will fund important activities such as salmon restoration.

Finally, I want to thank the staff on both sides of the aisle and in both chambers who have put such long hours and hard work into this legislation. Penny Dodge, Kathie Eastman, my former staffer Jeff Stier, Amelia Jenkins, Chris Schloesser, Erica Rosenberg, Tom Pyle, Doug Crandall, Bill O'Conner, Troy Tidwell, Lindsay Slater, Dave Tenny, Sarah Bittleman, Mark Rey, Sara Barth, Kira Finkler, Brian Kuehl, and Eric Washburn. In addition, I want to thank staff from the Administration