

town clerk—a position from which he retired earlier this year.

Stanley's involvement with the New Haven community stretches far beyond his professional and political career. His participation in a number of local civic and service organizations reflect his personal commitment to enriching the lives of our fellow citizens. The United Way, the Private Industry Council, and the Dixwell Community Development Corporation are just a few who have benefitted from his time and efforts.

I am pleased to rise today to extend my deepest thanks and appreciation to Stanley Rogers for his invaluable contributions to our community and my very best wishes as he enjoys his retirement.

TRIBUTE TO POLK CREEK ELEMENTARY

HON. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 13, 2001

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Polk Creek Elementary in recognition of their achievement as an "Exemplary" school.

Polk Creek Elementary has been selected as one of the top 50 schools in West Virginia. "Exemplary" status is based on Stanford Achievement Test results, attendance, drop out rates, and writing exam scores.

I commend the leadership and faculty on their dedication to the children that walk through their doors each day. They have set an incredible example for the other 817 schools in West Virginia.

I equally commend the students and parents of Polk Creek Elementary for their commitment to a quality education and a bright future.

Efforts to bring superior education of all of West Virginia and America are among our top priorities. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring Polk Creek Elementary.

HONORING TEXAS LEGISLATIVE BLACK CAUCUS

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 13, 2001

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the legacy of representation and positive activism that has been fostered by the Texas Legislative Black Caucus. Since its inception, this fearless and focused group of State leaders has consistently fought to ensure that the policy priorities of Texas reflect the best interests of all of our citizens. The education, economic, civil and human rights initiative have revolutionized State services and have helped ensure that all Texans are empowered to achieve the American dream.

The Caucus will host its statewide conference from March 14–16, 2001. This year's topic, "Excellence and Achievement for the Millennium," is particularly poignant. As Texas prepares to lead the Nation in the technology driven, global economy of today and tomorrow,

it is critical that its leaders devise ways to ensure that everyone is included. No organization in the State is better prepared or has a better track record of holding those in power accountable for the tools given to Texas families to improve their lives.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that the U.S. Congress join me in paying honor and tribute to the Texas Legislative Black Caucus as they continue their critical fight for all Texas families.

TRIBUTE TO PICKENS SCHOOL

HON. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 13, 2001

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Pickens School in recognition of their achievement as an "exemplary" school.

Pickens School has been selected as one of the top 50 schools of West Virginia. "Exemplary" status is based on Stanford Achievement Test results, attendance, drop out rates, and writing exam scores.

I commend the leadership and faculty on their dedication to the children that walk through their doors each day. They have set an incredible example for the other 817 schools in West Virginia.

I equally commend the students and parents of Pickens School for their commitment to a quality education and a bright future.

Efforts to bring superior education to all of West Virginia and America are among our top priorities. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring Pickens School.

HELP AMERICA VOTE ACT OF 2001

SPEECH OF

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 12, 2001

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, we could do better than this bill. We should do better than this bill. But clearly, today, we will not do better than this bill—and so, with some reluctance, I will vote for this bill.

Over the course of this year, the House has considered several important measures, including bills to respond to the terror attacks on our country. But this could be the most important bill of the year, and maybe even of this 107th Congress—because nothing is more important for the health of our democracy than improving the fairness and inclusiveness of our elections. That is why I am cosponsoring H.R. 1170, introduced by Representative Conyers.

That comprehensive reform bill would establish uniform and nondiscriminatory requirements for Federal elections, which must be met by the 2004 general election. Under that bill, all voting machines would have to: Allow voters to verify their votes before tabulation; notify voters of over votes and under votes; provide an auditable record; and be equally accessible to voters with disabilities and special needs.

Also, under that bill provisional ballots would be permitted in all Federal elections and all voters would have to get a sample ballot and

instructions 10 days prior to election day, and would have to be notified of their voting rights under federal and state law and of the federal and state agencies to contract if they think their rights are violated.

The Conyers bill would provide for federal reimbursement to the states for meeting these requirements and a matching grant fund program that would provide advance assistance to enable states and localities for that purpose. And the bill would establish a politically balanced study Commission to examine voter registration and maintenance of voters rolls; issues of voter intimidation; accuracy of voting; establishing a federal or State election-day holiday; modified polling place hours; and whether an existing or a new Federal agency should provide continuing assistance to states. It would also examine access to ballots and polling places, including notice of voting locations and access for voters with disabilities, limited English proficiency, visual and hearing impairments, and with other special needs. The commission would develop recommendations of the best practices in voting and election administration.

These are all things that should be done—and while it does into do everything that should be done, this bill takes very important steps to improve current conditions. I opposed the rule because I wanted the bill to do more. I supported the motion to recommit for the same reason. But we should not refuse to do something even if we are not going to do all we should. So I will support the bill in the hope that it will be improved as the legislative process continues.

GETTING AMERICA'S ANTI-TERRORIST MESSAGE TO CENTRAL ASIA

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 13, 2001

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased that the International Relations Committee recently passed legislation to create Radio Free Afghanistan. I also commend the Administration for the steps it has taken to ensure that the United States does not lose the public relations battle as it wages the war on terrorism. It is vital that the people of Afghanistan and its neighbors know the truth about America's objectives in combating terrorism and understand how our actions benefit all of mankind.

Setting up Radio Free Afghanistan will give us a valuable tool to fight the vicious propaganda that Osama bin Laden and his supporters continue to spew forth. But Radio Free Afghanistan cannot succeed in isolation. Its broadcasts must be supplemented by stepped up and improved broadcasts to Afghanistan's neighbors—Pakistan and the Eurasian states of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan. As my colleagues are aware, the Taliban are actively supporting an Islamic extremist insurgency in the Fergana Valley, where the borders of Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan converge. It is conceivable that the Taliban's ultimate objective is Kazakhstan, the largest country in the region, rich in oil and minerals.

Broadcasts by Radio Free Europe and Radio Liberty to these countries should be increased both in air time and in quality. They

should also be broadcast in FM frequency, not short-wave, in order to reach the largest percentage of the population. In the case of Kazakhstan, I understand that these broadcasts are transmitted only in the Kazakh language, despite the fact that Russian remains the most widely used language in Kazakhstan. The only Russian-language broadcasts report on events in Russia, not in Kazakhstan. We need to broadcast in Russian to the Russian speakers in Kazakhstan.

Journalists and publishers in Kazakhstan and elsewhere are struggling to report the truth to their readers and listeners, but they are harassed and periodically shut down by the authorities. Getting newsprint on a reliable basis is also a problem. On November 27, 2001, President Nazarbayev threatened the media unless editors developed a code of conduct for journalists. The threatened clampdown came after critical articles appeared in the media concerning President Nazarbayev's son-in-law. Government agencies are sabotaging or shutting down Internet access as well. Local sources of non-government controlled news would be a valuable complement to U.S. government broadcasts. U.S. assistance, including supplying printing presses and ensuring continued access to the Internet, would be greatly welcomed by these lonely and persecuted voices of democracy and freedom.

In our broadcasts to these countries, we should bear in mind that repression and corruption are causing the people to lose hope; and if the governments that rule in the five former Soviet republics of Central Asia do not loosen their grip on their people, the people may respond to the siren call of Islamic extremists as holding out the only source of hope for change. Accordingly, even as we work with the governments of Central Asia to oust the Taliban and al-Qaeda from Afghanistan, we need also to make it very clear both to the governments and the peoples of the region that we oppose the repression and corruption that are causing so much suffering, deprivation and opportunities for Islamic extremists.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO MARIANO APRAIZ

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 13, 2001

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize a representative of the American spirit and drive, Mariano Apraiz. Mariano is from Spain originally, who after living in this nation for over thirty years, will take his oath and become a citizen of the United States. The ceremony will take place in Denver, Colorado on Friday, December 14.

The reason I bring Mariano's name to bear is to tell his story and determination to become an American. Mariano came to this country to find a new way of life and experience new opportunities in the world. He found work as a miner, rancher, and eventually a position in the local school district. Now at the age of 55, Mariano has made for himself successful life in this country and I praise him for his determination and courage to live his dream.

Mr. Speaker, when asked by the Grand Junction Sentinel why he wants to gain citizenship, he simply replies, "I want to vote." I think this statement speaks volumes for the pride Mariano has in his new country. He wants to be part of the process, he wants to participate in civic responsibility, and he wants to make a difference. Mariano has grown to love this nation and in these difficult and trying times, he is a symbol of national pride and spirit.

HONORING THE BISHOP FAMILY AS THEY RECEIVE THE MASS MUTUAL 2001 FAMILY BUSINESS OF THE YEAR AWARD

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 13, 2001

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to congratulate an outstanding family and my good friends, the Bishops of Guilford, Connecticut as the recipients of the Mass Mutual 2001 Family Business of the Year Award. This remarkable family has been a fixture of the Guilford community for nearly 400 years and we are all proud to join with them as they celebrate this very special occasion.

Connecticut has a long and proud history in agriculture and our famous fruit orchards have become a highlighted attraction for visitors. From picking your own fruits and vegetables to learning the intricacies of the perfect apple cider, our orchards offer an unique view into one of our nation's oldest industries. The Bishop family has run Bishop Orchards since its establishment in 1871. Today, the families of brothers Albert and Gene Bishop preserve this New England treasure while expanding the business to meet the needs of today's consumers. With three hundred acres lined with apply, peach, and pear trees, the Bishops continue to work hard to ensure the success of the orchards.

Located on the shores of the Long Island Sound, Bishop Orchards captures the spirit of New England. The Bishop family, recognizing the importance of preserving its natural beauty, were one of the first of our local farmers to initiate an integrated pest management program, significantly reducing the pesticides and chemicals used in the orchards. Integrated pest management programs utilize alternative means of pest control to ensure successful crops while protecting the surrounding ecosystem from harm. While more labor intensive, setting traps for bugs and pest will ensure that the orchards and the surrounding environment will be enjoyed for generations to come.

There is more to the Bishop family than their business—they are an integral part of the Guilford community. They have long been involved in the Town of Guilford, holding a variety of positions on local town boards and demonstrating a unique commitment and dedication. Many members of the Bishop family have also participated in statewide civic and agricultural organizations. In fact, Jonathan Bishop was recently appointed to the USDA Farm Service Agency State Committee, where I am sure he will work hard to ensure the continued stability and protection of Connecticut farmers.

The Bishop family has left an indelible mark on our local community and I am proud to join the Center for Family Business and their many friends and family in congratulating the Bishop family as the 2001 Family Business of the Year.

RECOGNIZING BOB HAYES

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 13, 2001

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the spirit of America. Perhaps at no time before has the determination, drive and perseverance that make up the American spirit been more evident. All of us should take a moment to recognize the contributions that many Americans make to ensure that our country represents the highest standard of excellence.

One such American is Mr. Bob Hayes. I want to recognize him on the occasion of his induction into the Ring of Honor, sponsored by St. Phillips School and Community Center in Dallas. Bob Hayes is an American of extreme accomplishment. During the course of his remarkable life, he has helped knock down color barriers all around the world.

Mr. Hayes was an All-American track star at Florida A&M University, an Olympic gold medalist, and an indispensable part of the Dallas Cowboys football team. Just as importantly, he has mentored thousands of track athletes through the Bob Hayes Invitational Track Meet, which has been in existence since 1964.

Bob Hayes is the only person to ever win both an Olympic gold medal and a Super Bowl ring. He was billed as "The World's Fastest Human" as he sprinted to world records in the 100 and 200 yard races. He still holds the Cowboys record for career touchdown receptions.

I would also like to salute the St. Phillip's School and Community Center. Among other things, the school and center promote cultural awareness and self-esteem. They serve more than 700 young people in the Dallas-Fort Worth area.

Mr. Speaker, the St. Phillip's School and Mr. Bob Hayes represent the focus on excellence that sets America apart from the rest of the world. I join the residents of the Thirtieth Congressional District in saluting an American who has shown us all how to excel.

TRIBUTE TO MOUNT NEBO ELEMENTARY

HON. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 13, 2001

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Mount Nebo Elementary in recognition of their achievement as an "exemplary" school.

Mount Nebo Elementary has been selected as one of the top 50 schools of West Virginia. "Exemplary" status is based on Stanford Achievement Test results, attendance, drop out rates, and writing exam scores.