

Defense Business named Mr. Goldin as one of the world's most influential defense-industry leaders saying "he has tightened the workforce, introduced a stunning array of new missions, including information-gathering journeys to the Moon and Mars, and became the major player in the embryonic International Space Station."

He has also been named as one of the 100 most influential men and women in Government by the National Journal, which observed that "most space watchers say that Dan Goldin is a brilliant visionary who brought NASA back from the brink of a black hole."

Once again, the members of the Congressional Black Caucus, recognize the enduring contributions of Administrator Daniel S. Goldin and appreciate his dedication to the improvement of science, engineering, and mathematics education and research, among minority students in the United States.

TRIBUTE TO JAMES D. RUTH

HON. GARY G. MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 18, 2001

Mr. GARY MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise to honor James D. Ruth who is retiring after 22 years of exemplary service to the City of Anaheim and 45 years in public service.

Mr. Ruth's impressive resume includes numerous noteworthy accomplishments. Under his tenure as city manager, Anaheim became internationally recognized as a hub for entertainment and for its world class convention center. His crowning achievement was the role he played in negotiations for the construction of the 19,500-seat Arrowhead Pond arena, which has affectionately been called "the house that Ruth built," and his work with the Walt Disney Company to bring the Mighty Ducks of the National Hockey League to the Pond.

Mr. Ruth was very instrumental in the \$118 million renovation of Edison Field, and thereby the retention of the Anaheim Angels and Major League Baseball in Orange County. He negotiated with the Walt Disney Company to develop in Anaheim their new theme park, California Adventure, at cost of \$1.4 billion. In conjunction with the park expansion, the city initiated and began the implementation of a \$510 million improvement program to the Anaheim Resort Area and a \$1.9 billion renovation of the Santa Ana (I-5) Freeway. Revitalization projects provided low income housing in the Jeffrey-Lynne neighborhood west of Disneyland, a \$58.2 million Community Center, and a much needed Senior Center.

Mr. Ruth's vision, outstanding business and governmental acumen, strong leadership skills and dedication to public service have earned the admiration and respect of those who have had the privilege of working with him. I would like to congratulate him on these outstanding accomplishments and sincerely thank him for his exemplary record of service to the City of Anaheim.

DEFENDING AMERICA FROM BALLISTIC MISSILE ATTACKS

HON. BOB SCHAFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 18, 2001

Mr. SCHAFER. Mr. Speaker, we need to defend our country from ballistic missile attack. President Bush has taken a major step toward that goal by withdrawing from the 1972 ABM Treaty. President Bush has our sincere thanks and congratulations for removing the United States from a treaty that inhibited our defense and was repeatedly violated by Russia.

We need to act decisively to build a ballistic missile defense. The fact that our country is undefended from ballistic missiles is a reflection of our lack of political will to build a defense. The technology for a ballistic missile defense is available, and has been for years and even decades, as noted by the Director of the Strategic Defense Initiative Organization under President George H.W. Bush's administration.

I strongly urge the President to fully fund a robust ballistic missile defense program encompassing a variety of technologies and defenses. A robust defense made up of several layers will more easily guard against countermeasures such as those planned by China to attack U.S. radar and communication nodes, or by Russia to use ballistic missiles for launching hypersonic scramjets.

Full funding for a robust ballistic missile defense will call for increases in spending. This spending is justified. Our lack of ballistic missile defense is not justified. Freedom has a price, including a strong defense, and the ballistic missile threat is increasing, whether measured by North Korea's ballistic missile program, or China's buildup involving its road-mobile DF-31 ICBM.

Funding, for example, needs to be increased for the Space Based Laser program. Instead of being funded annually at between \$50–150 million, the Space Based Laser should be funded an order of magnitude greater at \$500–1500 million. This increase in funding will enable the Space Based Laser to be tested and deployment begin sooner than after 2010 as currently scheduled.

Lack of funding, not technology, keeps us from building a constellation of Space Based Lasers. In 1995, three major aerospace contractors wrote to the Chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, STROM THURMOND, on the Space Based Laser, pointing out how additional funding of approximately \$1.5 billion over four years could result in a test launch of a Space Based Laser.

While this estimate for testing the Space Based Laser in space was prepared nearly seven years ago, it clearly illustrates how the level of funding for the Space Based Laser should be on a billion-dollar level rather than \$50–150 million. (The Space Based Laser, with its boost phase interception capability and global coverage, will provide a more effective defense compared to the Mid Course Phase ground-based interceptor currently under development.)

Additional money for research and development into other high-energy laser technologies is called for. In October 2001 key defense scientists recommended a substantial cash infu-

sion into laser technology. Over and above funding for the Space Based Laser, additional funding is needed for research into high-energy lasers. These lasers could include chemical gas lasers such as the DF laser (the Space Based Laser uses an HF chemical reaction), excimer and free electron lasers, or even solid-state lasers. Nor should high-energy particle beams be neglected, which showed promise in the 1989 BEAR experiment. (Particle beams as well as lasers can provide effective mid-course phase discrimination of decoys from warheads.) This research into lasers and particle beams would be invaluable, and result in commercial applications. Funding, similar to the Strategic Defense Initiative, should be on a billion-dollar level.

In addition, funding is needed to re-start the Brilliant Pebbles space-based interceptor program that was successfully ground-tested under President George H.W. Bush's administration, and successfully flight-tested in the Clementine lunar mission. Annual funding for this program should be expected at around \$500–1500 million to deploy a constellation of at least a thousand interceptors. Brilliant Pebbles can provide a boost phase interception capability, as well as mid-course phase interception. This space-based defense is not far off into the future, but was approved to enter its acquisition phase under the Bush Senior administration in 1992. To supplement the mid-course interception capability of Brilliant Pebbles, funding for the SBIRS-low constellation of missile launch detection and tracking satellites should be accelerated.

The funding increases needed for ballistic missile defense are in line with any other major arms acquisition program. But the political will is now needed to ask for this funding. It is worth noting that current U.S. defense spending is at one of its lowest levels since before Pearl Harbor.

I urgently request that President Bush prepare a ballistic missile defense budget that will enable the United States to exploit its technology in high-energy lasers and hit-to-kill interceptors. Much of this technology should be deployed in orbit where it can provide global coverage, multiple opportunities for interception, and a boost phase interception capability.

TRIBUTE TO THE DOMINICAN AMERICAN NATIONAL ROUNDTABLE

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 18, 2001

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, Representatives of the community with a common heritage from the Dominican Republic gathered December 7–9, 2001 for the fourth annual conference of the Dominican American National Roundtable. Each year, this group comes together to reflect on the past year, discuss areas of need within the community, and plan for the upcoming year. This year's conference was especially meaningful in light of the recent tragedies affecting the Dominican American community and I extend my most sincere congratulations to the DANR and its president Adriano Espaillat for hosting such a successful weekend here in Washington DC.

Already struggling to overcome the devastating effects of September 11 attacks on the World Trade Center and Pentagon, the crash of American Airlines Flight #587 has impacted our Nation's Dominican community deeply. Almost all 260 persons aboard the flight were of Dominican ancestry and, as was pointedly demonstrated during the conference, it seems as if every person of Dominican heritage in the United States has been personally touched by this tragedy. During the opening session Moises Perez, Executive Director of Alianza Dominicana a social service community based non-profit agency located in northern Manhattan illustrated this with this with a story of personal quest to find one person who did not know someone aboard the plane. He has yet to find one person.

Our ability to gather and reflect on these recent occurrences was essential in providing a discourse for this community to begin to make sense of these horrific events. It also provided a forum to discuss the next forward step. As the Dominican community continues to mourn the loss of so many loved ones, we must support its efforts to continue its work to address the items that impact the community.

This year's conference celebrated the opening of the DANR's Washington DC office. The DANR seeks to bring the voices of all people of Dominican origin who lived in the United States together and provide a forum for analysis, planning, and action to advance the primary interests of the community. The office will serve as the coordinating center for the Dominican American's agenda, ensuring that their voice is heard at the national level and their interests are being addressed in the legislative arena. Representing the largest Dominican community in the United States, I am strongly supportive of the opening of this office and I pledge my support to this community as it continues to grow in strength and size in the United States.

This year's theme, "Empowerment through Education" demonstrates the importance of education to the future of this community. Like many Americans, education is high on the list of critical priorities for the Dominican American community. However, the Dominican American population is plagued by sky rocketing drop out rates, poorly funded and dilapidated schools, educators ill-prepared to face the challenges of migratory communities and bilingual education, and a lack from or familiar with the community.

I commend the DANR's commitment to its youth. In addition to the participation of so many key leaders within the community, the presence of a large number of young people was particularly heart-warming and telling of the potential success this community will find if it is given the opportunity to participate in the framing and addressing of the issues and challenges which face it. From high school to graduate school, these students represented the future leaders of the Dominican American community and their dedication to their roots in the Dominican Republic and United States is evident. Too often our children are forced to shed and hide the heritage that defines them. Our culture is not a curse; it is a blessing, and we must never let our youth forget that where we come from is essential in determining who we will become.

I would like to thank all those whose hard work made the weekend possible, especially the DANR President Adriano Espaillat. I would

also like to extend my appreciation to the DANR Board of Directors including Alejandra Castillo, Raysa Castillo, Miguel De Jesus, Ana Garcia, Epifanio Gil, Josefina Infante, Rafael Latingua, Mania Luna, Manuel Matos, Rafael Morel, Barbara Perez, Moises Perez, Felipe Rodriguez, Ydanis Rodrigues, Elvis Ruiz, Luis Salcedo and Silvio Torres-Saillant and the DANR staff consisting of Jose Bello, Rademes Peguero, Victor F. Capellan, Ninoska Uribe, Roberto Alvarez, and Margarita Cepeda.

I look forward to continuing our work to supporting and advancing the Dominican American community.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO SOUTHEAST ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 18, 2001

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Southeast Elementary School for earning the Golden Apple Award for educational excellence.

The annual Golden Apple Award is awarded by Governor John Engler for improved scores in the 4th and 5th grades on the Michigan Education Assessment Program, which test the sections of math, science, reading, and writing. Schools must attain a 60-point increase over three year period to receive the honor.

Last year 54 percent of the students successfully passed the reading portion of the MEAP test compared to 77.3 this year. Also, 74 percent of the students passed the math portion last year compared to 90.7 this year.

The advances by Southeast Elementary School were a result of aggressively employing strategies to help students who placed in the bottom 20-30 percent for the MEAP. Southeast employed dozens of teachers, tutors, and volunteers in a 6-8 week program last winter. The program students focused on reading, writing, math, and science on a daily basis. Further, the school utilized a full-time literacy leader to concentrate on English skills and an educator to concentrate in math. Both programs centered on working with small groups or individuals to help the students improve in the areas in which they were lacking in.

Therefore Mr. Speaker, I respectfully ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Southeast Elementary School for earning the Golden Apple Award. I salute their commitment to teaching our nations future leaders and commend each educators commitment to teaching these important skills.

TRIBUTE TO THE HOUSE OFFICE OF EMPLOYEE ASSISTANCE

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 18, 2001

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, I would like to acknowledge that the House Office of Employee Assistance has been recognized with the EAP Digest/Employee Assistance Professionals Association Quality Award for EAP Excellence for 2001.

The House of Representatives, for the last fourteen years, has been privileged to have a high-performing team in its Office of Employee Assistance. Those of us who have worked with these individuals have often experienced their high level of service and passion for their work. Now, the entire nation will know too, as the House Office of Employee Assistance has been recognized with the EAP Digest/Employee Assistance Professionals Association Quality Award for EAP Excellence for 2001.

The award states, "Evaluation and quality improvement has always been a key component of the U.S. House of Representatives program. Whether through client satisfaction surveys, peer reviews or more innovative techniques such as customer interviews and the system-wide evaluation, all modes of evaluation came to the same finding: The Office of Employee Assistance demonstrates exemplary continuous improvement efforts that enhanced the quality of EAP services."

The House team of Bern Beidel, Liz McBride, Debbie Frank, Kristin Welsh-Simpson, and Patty Prince should feel quite proud of its accomplishments and for this recognition that is well deserved.

It's also appropriate to pay tribute to a number of former House Members and employees who laid the groundwork for this program. First, former Clerk of the House, Donald K. Anderson, whose initiative and vision were instrumental in the House instituting an employee assistance service. Second, thanks goes out to the initial Members of Congress who were critical to winning the endorsement of the elected Members—former Speaker Tom Foley, former Minority Leader Bob Michel, former Members Bill Emerson, Rod Chandler, Ben Jones, Mary Rose Oakar, and current Senator Pat Roberts.

The combined work of these professionals has yielded an exemplary level of support for House employees through a program that is now recognized as among the best in its field. Congratulations to the Office of Employee Assistance team, and keep up the outstanding work!

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 1, NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND ACT OF 2001

SPEECH OF

HON. THOMAS E. PETRI

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 13, 2001

Mr. PETRI. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the H.R. 1 Conference Report, which is the result of months of relentless effort on the part of Members and particularly staff in both chambers in both parties. It is also a great achievement for President Bush, who made education the top priority of his domestic agenda from his first day in office. This conference report largely reflects his priorities and his active support and involvement in this process have been crucial in bringing us to this point.

In the context of a bipartisan, bicameral compromise final product, there are many features of this bill that represent significant departures from the old, failed Federal education policy. In this bill, we have given states and school districts an unprecedented level of