

an Olympic bronze medalist in 1960, and Ricardo "Rocky" Juarez, who won the World Championships in 1999 and a silver medal at the 2000 Olympics.

Although our school receives recognition for our famous graduates, the most important accomplishment over the past 75 years is its continued ability to produce educated citizens who are a credit to the community they live in. Jefferson Davis is more than a school. It is a living community of goals, dreams and accomplishments where students are pushed to excel.

In this community, we like to say, "Once a Jeff Davis Panther, always a Jeff Davis Panther." Our alumni are key to our school, and provide critical support to our mission. You can see our graduates in the community, and they are always willing to help, regardless of the task. They serve as examples of what students can do, of what they can become, if they work hard and believe in themselves. In this spirit of giving, and sacrifice, I would note that more than 80 Jeff Davis students have given their lives to protect our freedom in the wars and conflicts of our country.

The demographics of the community have changed over the years, but the commitment to excellence has never faltered. This school community sees a high school diploma not as an end product, but as a stepping stone for higher education. The focus of its program is to prepare students for post-high school education. Recently, 724 students took the PSAT exam in preparation for the SAT that is required for college admission. In partnership with Tenneco, El Paso Energy, and Project: GRAD, graduates can receive a \$4,000 scholarship to pursue higher education.

According to the U.S. 2000 census data, only 26 percent of Hispanics who enter college graduate, and the national Hispanic dropout rate is 34 percent. At Jeff Davis, however, a school that is more than 80 percent Hispanic, the dropout rate is less than 1 percent, over half of the students go to college, and 42 percent of those who go to college graduate. Some choose community or local junior colleges, but the list of universities with Jeff Davis alumni includes top-flight schools like the University of Houston, the University of Texas, Texas A&M, Princeton, Duke, Rice, Cornell, and the University of Virginia.

Our school is truly a community of learners. Parents, students, educators, and businesses come together to provide support so that students can succeed. The power of this learning community to realize its potential has remained constant throughout its 75 years. Jefferson Davis High School is successful because it is a vibrant, caring, community that encourages students to not only dream big, but to follow those dreams.

In that way, the first students who walked through these doors in 1926 are not that different from those here in the year 2002. Success is expected, and with support from our community, it is achieved—38 students graduated in 1927, and more than 300 will graduate in 2003. The goals, desires, and dreams of the students is the one constant over that time. I am proud of the progress this school is making, and proud to be a graduate of Jefferson Davis High School.

## TRIBUTE TO MR. GILBERTO MELENDEZ, IN MEMORIAM

### HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, October 21, 2002*

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to call the attention of my colleagues to a distinguished gentleman who resided in the 6th District of New Jersey. It is with great respect that I pay tribute to Mr. Gilberto Melendez, who is being honored, In Memoriam, by the Latino American Committee of Monmouth County.

Mr. Gilberto Melendez was born in Fajardo, Puerto Rico on November 1, 1943. He and his family moved to the United States in 1944. His mother, Bernardina R. Melendez, worked as a bookkeeper for the newly founded ASPIRA in New York. He lived in New York until he moved to Neptune in 1968.

In 1973, Mr. Melendez was elected to the Neptune Township Committee and served two, three-year terms. In 1977, he was hired by Monmouth County as Secretary to the County Tax Board, a position that was later changed to County Tax Administrator. In 1979, he served as mayor of Neptune and served on the Planning Board. In March 1991, he was reappointed to the Planning Board of Neptune to serve a two-year term.

Additionally, Mr. Melendez was a member of the Kiwanis Club and the Liberty Fire Department in Neptune as well as the Puerto Rican Civic Association. Gilberto Melendez was a pioneer in the field of politics. He was recognized by County leaders and served as Mayor of Neptune at a time when very few Latinos were active in politics. He is remembered as a tax expert and a fair man who often spoke up on behalf of the average taxpayer.

Gil, as his sister, Elba Figueroa, called him describes him as, "A wonderful brother, always there when he was needed and just as caring as an older brother could possibly be. His sense of humor is what we most remember about him. Our parents brought us up with much love for each other and to love God because without Him we were nothing."

Stories of Mr. Melendez's popularity and compassion were legendary in the county. Friends would say that everywhere he went he knew somebody and everyone loved him.

Mr. Speaker, it is my sincere hope that my colleagues will join me in paying tribute to Mr. Melendez, as the Latino American Committee of Monmouth County honors him, In Memoriam, for his unwavering dedication and commitment to the advancement of Latinos.

## TRIBUTE TO AMY BLACK

### HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, October 21, 2002*

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ms. Amy Black, a media specialist at Dunn Elementary School in Ft. Collins, Colorado. Recently, USA Today named Ms. Black as one of its 60 All-USA Teacher Team members. I congratulate Amy for this honor and thank her for 22 years of dedicated service to the children of Ft. Collins.

Exceptional teachers like Amy Black provide a strong educational foundation for the chil-

dren and young adults of this nation. Ms. Black must be commended for her commitment to excellence and her desire to help students succeed.

A citizen of Colorado's Fourth Congressional District, Amy Black is truly a great American. I ask the House to join me in extending our sincere thanks and warmest congratulations to Ms. Amy Black.

## OUTSTANDING TEACHERS WITHIN MINNESOTA'S SIXTH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

### HON. BILL LUTHER

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, October 21, 2002*

Mr. LUTHER. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize a number of outstanding teachers within Minnesota's Sixth Congressional District. Their dedication to America's youth is indeed commendable.

Everyday, these teachers enter the classroom prepared to provide students with the best education possible. They succeed in instilling children with the belief that they can achieve their goals. Their leadership provides students with the guidance to become successful. Their ability to shape our children's futures reflects their unceasing commitment to education.

I would like to thank these teachers for their enthusiastic efforts in preparing our children for the future.

Margaret Bruce, Hoover Elementary in Coon Rapids, Minnesota. Recently, Walmart has recognized Margaret for her work with special needs students. Margaret makes each of her students feel special everyday.

Karen J. Carlson, McAulliffe Elementary in Hastings, Minnesota. As District Coordinator, Karen has improved the Hastings' schools reading and language arts program. She has also implemented a class for sixth graders that has successfully improved students' reading ability.

Kathy Dolinar, Rice Lake Elementary in Lino Lakes, Minnesota. Kathy has created a morning support program that brings parenting opportunities into Lexington. She has also opened a new drop-in center for students to interact with one another and familiarize themselves with technology.

Jim Glazer, Grey Cloud Elementary in Cottage Grove, Minnesota. As a media and technology teacher, Jim has developed an extra-curricula computer club and developed Grey Cloud Elementary's student-produced daily news program. He guides students and staff with successful media and technology instruction.

Alice Gracek, Glacier Hills Elementary. Alice opened Glacier Hills Elementary in 1993 and has proven to be a strong and influential teacher and leader. She guides the curriculum for the school district, specifically using her talents and knowledge to write science curriculum.

Jean Heisterkamp, Highland Elementary in Columbia Heights, Minnesota. As a speech and language teacher, Jean shows constant dedication to her students. Jean makes each student feel special by recognizing his or her special characteristics. Her leadership is apparent by her willingness to assist and mentor other teachers and their students.

James Hoey, Farmington Middle School in Farmington, Minnesota. James provides a unique classroom experience for each student that enters his classroom through lively discussions. He eases students' fears about the first day of school by making a telephone call to each individual before hand.

Karen Holland, Valley View Elementary in Columbia Heights, Minnesota. Karen captures her students' interests by engaging their imagination in reading. She listens to students and encourages them to be open to others' perspectives in the classroom.

Maria Kaiser, Forest Lake High School in Forest Lake, Minnesota. Maria has created a computer graphic design program that enables students to produce advertisements for local businesses. As the Forest Lake High School yearbook advisor, Maria has won numerous awards for her work with the school's yearbook.

Karen Lips, Roosevelt Middle School in Blaine, Minnesota. Karen has developed and maintained numerous math competitions, including MATHCOUNTS. Karen also creates intriguing lessons for her students, while engaging them in teamwork. She continually provides guidance for the district during curriculum changes as well.

Jane Matheson, Sandburg Middle School in Anoka, Minnesota. Jane recently received the Anoka-Hennepin Teacher Outstanding Performance award. Her teaching techniques give every student the fundamentals to learn.

Susan Olson, Valley View Elementary in Columbia Heights, Minnesota. Everyday Susan challenges her students to use problem solving techniques and higher-level thinking. She teaches her fourth-grade class with an inventive curriculum, including French language and culture, pre-algebra, and public speaking.

Diane Oslund, Jefferson Elementary in Blaine, Minnesota. In Diane's classroom, there is a very diverse student body, including a large number of students with special needs. Diane has gone to great strides to provide all students with the skills necessary to achieve their goals and has allowed every student to exceed their expectations.

Kristin Ruetten, Valley View Elementary in Columbia Heights, Minnesota. For the past two years at Valley View Elementary, Kristin has created ways to relate to her students and make every lesson captivating. She has worked to strengthen her student's self-confidence and academic abilities.

Glen Semanko, Sandburg Middle School in Anoka, Minnesota. At Sandburg Middle School, Glen provides students the opportunity to grow socially and academically. He directs the Student Builder's Club, a community service organization that builds student's self-confidence through volunteerism.

Lisa Silmser, Sandburg Middle School in Anoka, Minnesota. Recently, Lisa received the Teacher Outstanding Performance award in Anoka-Hennepin Schools and also received an additional scholarship for special projects. Receiving this award demonstrates her commitment to achievement and to creating learning opportunities for her students.

Bonnie Stassen, Newport Elementary in Newport, Minnesota. Bonnie has shown remarkable leadership skills in the Newport Elementary special needs department. She continually acts as an advocate for students and tries to instill her knowledge in her students.

Maribeth Swalve, Royal Oaks Elementary in Woodbury, Minnesota. Maribeth's dedication

to student learning is apparent by her expertise and performance as an educator for Royal Oaks Elementary School. She sets high expectations while being a patient and positive influence for students.

Nadine Thurow, Bailey Elementary in Woodbury, Minnesota. Over the past year, Nadine has been an active member of Bailey Elementary School's Character Education Team. She provides leadership and creativity in implementing a successful character-building program to help students realize the value of positive relationship among students, parents, and staff.

Nancy Wadie, Royal Oaks Elementary in Woodbury, Minnesota. Nancy has been a dedicated member of Royal Oaks Elementary. She is actively involved in the school's site council, staff development committees, and numerous curriculum activities. She spends much of her personal time ensuring that students have positive learning experiences.

Jen Wayne, PACT Charter School in Anoka, Minnesota. At the PACT Charter School in Anoka, Jen has initiated various programs to assist her students in achieving excellence, which include the Honor's Program, the Advisory Program and Curriculum, and various Symposiums. Her commitment to innovative education has instilled in her students the desire to excel.

#### TRIBUTE TO MR. WALLACE MORALES

#### HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, October 21, 2002*

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to call the attention of my colleagues to a constituent in the 6th District of New Jersey. It is with great pleasure that I introduce Mr. Wallace Morales, who is being honored by the Latino American Committee of Monmouth County.

Mr. Morales was born in Ponce, Puerto Rico in 1955. His father was a career Serviceman and his family lived in various parts of the United States and Europe before settling in Long Branch, New Jersey in 1966. Mr. Morales attended Long Branch High School where he was a member of the school's undefeated wrestling team in 1973. He holds a Bachelor's degree from Monmouth University and a Master's degree from Kean University. For the last 24 years he has taught Bilingual Education and/or English as a Second Language in the Long Branch School System, most recently at the Audrey W. Clark School. He is married with two children and is a parishioner of St. Michael's Roman Catholic Church in Long Branch.

Mr. Morales is a member of the Kappa Delta Pi Honor Society, TESOL, and the Latino American Committee of Monmouth County. Throughout the years, Mr. Morales has been an active member of the community. He has worked as a Camp Counselor and volunteered as an Assistant Baseball Coach for the Long Branch Department of Parks and Recreation. He has served as a math tutor at the High School and as a district tutor for Pupil Personnel Services for the Long Branch School District. He served as a Wrestling Coach at the Long Branch Junior School and

the Long Branch High School, and a Coach at the Seashore Day Camp in Long Branch. He has entertained children and adults with his singing and playing the guitar at the Long Branch Public Library, the Elberon Public Library, the Ronald McDonald House, the Spanish Fraternity, the Brookdale Learning Center and the Long Branch Public Schools.

Mr. Morales has also participated in many activities of interest to the Latino American Community, such as the Columbus Day parade, the United Nations/Hispanic Heritage Month Celebration, Puerto Rican Discovery Day, the Spanish Fraternity Tutorial Program, the Three Kings Day Program, the Cinco de Mayo Celebration and Luzo-Brazilian Heritage Month Celebration.

Mr. Speaker, it is my sincere hope that my colleagues will join me in honoring and recognizing Mr. Wallace Morales as the Latino American Committee of Monmouth County honors him for his dedication to the educational advancement of Latinos.

#### TRIBUTE TO UNIVERSITY OF DAYTON COLLEGE REPUBLICANS

#### HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, October 21, 2002*

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate the University of Dayton College Republicans. The student-led organization is comprised of the university's best and brightest students. Furthermore, the club played an important role in leading the Great State of Ohio in establishing the current Administration of President George W. Bush.

According to the group's mission statement, the purpose of the University of Dayton College Republicans is to promote and foster the ideals of the Republican Party, aide in the election of local, state and national Republican candidates and involve as many students as possible in the pursuit of life, liberty and happiness.

Mr. Speaker, the UD College Republicans have clearly distinguished themselves among other political organizations on campus. Their outstanding web site ([www.udayton.edu/colrepub/](http://www.udayton.edu/colrepub/)) details the superior attitudes, opinions and beliefs that set the organization apart and attract the loyalty of their wisest peers. The group's creed reads as follow:

I BELIEVE the strength of our nation lies with the individual and that each person's dignity; freedom, ability and responsibility must be honored.

I BELIEVE in equal rights, equal justice and equal opportunity for all, regardless of race, creed, sex, age or disability.

I BELIEVE that free enterprise and encouragement of individual initiative have brought forth this nation opportunity, economic growth and prosperity.

I BELIEVE the government must practice fiscal responsibility and allow individuals to keep more of the money they earn.

I BELIEVE the proper role of government is to provide for the people only those critical functions that cannot be performed by individuals or private organizations and that the best government is that which governs least.

I BELIEVE the most effective, responsible and responsive government is government closest to the people.