

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 2003

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, because of a family emergency I was unable to be present on Monday for three recorded votes.

Had I been present, I would have voted as follows: Rollcall No. 192, H. Con. Res. 166—Expressing the sense of Congress in support of Buckle Up America Week, I would have voted "yes"; rollcall No. 193, H.R. 1018—To designate the building located at 1 Federal Plaza in New York, New York, as the "James L. Watson United States Court of International Trade Building," I would have voted "yes"; rollcall No. 194, H. Con. Res. 147—Commemorating the 20th Anniversary of the Orphan Drug Act and the National Organization for Rare Disorders, I would have voted "yes."

**TRIBUTE TO MRS. EVELYN
BILLINGSLEY**

HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 2003

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, Mrs. Evelyn Billingsley was the head custodian at Blue Grass Elementary School in Knoxville, Tennessee. On May 19, 2003, she arrived at her final day of work in a white, stretch limousine.

A red carpet led the way into the halls of the school Mrs. Billingsley had swept, mopped and waxed for more than two decades. A crowd of adoring fans lined the carpet and sang, "When you leave, we'll be so blue. Miss Evelyn, we love you." After 23 years of service, Mrs. Billingsley has retired.

Affectionately called Miss Evelyn by her Blue Grass Elementary family, this hard-working lady is described by students and teachers alike as the glue that held the school together. I am told it was rare not to find Miss Evelyn in the school, even on weekends or snowdays.

Evelyn Billingsley never became rich or famous from the work she did, but she has touched the lives of countless people, and she will not only be remembered fondly at Blue Grass Elementary School, but she will be deeply missed. I have no doubt she has offered the children there lessons in life and love as she roamed the halls and cleaned the classrooms.

Knoxville, Tennessee, is a better place because of her, and I believe this Nation is, as well.

I would like to call to the attention of my colleagues and other readers of the RECORD the article which ran on May 20, 2003, in the Knoxville News-Sentinel concerning this outstanding American.

HONORING JOHN FERDINANDI, JR.

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 2003

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize John Ferdinandi Jr., posthumously awarded the 2002 Tranny "Citizen of the Year" award. His wife, Sally Ferdinandi, will accept the award on behalf of her late husband at the California Transportation Foundation's 14th Annual Tranny Award Ceremony on May 21, 2003 in Sacramento, California.

Throughout Mr. Ferdinandi's life, he was an active and positive force in the community. He was the founder of Fresno Area Residents for Rail Consolidation (FARRC), and was a vital member of the committee responsible for drafting the Expenditure Plan for the extension of Measure C, Fresno County's half-cent sales tax for transportation improvements. John was also Chairman of the Mayor's Task Force on the Rail Committee, as well as a member of the Council of Fresno County Governments Committee.

Mr. Ferdinandi was nominated for the Tranny award by the Fresno County Council of Governments at the recommendation of its Board of Directors. The Board sought to recognize him for his tireless advocacy work for transportation improvements in the Fresno area. Although John passed away on January 26th of this year, his contributions to Fresno County and the surrounding communities will remain. He was greatly admired and respected by all who came to know him. We are truly grateful for everything he has accomplished.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing John Ferdinandi, Jr. for his significant and steadfast efforts for the betterment of the greater Fresno community.

**A TRIBUTE TO DAVID "DAVE"
LEMAY**

HON. RANDY "DUKE" CUNNINGHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 2003

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my gratitude for the exceptional services which Scripps Ranch High School Principal David LeMay has performed for the students of San Diego City Schools and for our great nation. Dave's leadership, his promotion of excellence, his positive involvement in student activities, and his deep commitment to educational excellence and sound educational practices make him a truly admirable American and one deserving of recognition by this body. It is for his outstanding dedication and his thirty-three years of service to the students of San Diego that I wish to congratulate and thank Principal Dave LeMay.

Dave's leadership history did not begin with an administrative position in the San Diego City Schools or even in the classroom. It began with his service as a United States Army officer in 1966. Dave served our country in the Vietnam War; and was awarded the Bronze Star in recognition of his courage, bravery, and valor.

Following military service, Dave completed his education at San Diego State University; and, in 1970, he began teaching history at O'Farrell Junior High in San Diego. Dave's instructional expertise was soon recognized, and he was selected as a district demonstration teacher for comprehensive and gifted certificated staff. After eight years of classroom teaching, Dave became an Administrative Intern at Midway Continuation High School. A short six months later, he was appointed Vice Principal of Garfield Independent Learning Center. In 1978, he became Vice Principal of Wagenheim Junior High School, a position he held for the next two years prior to becoming Vice Principal at Samuel Gompers Secondary School in 1980. At Gompers Dave was instrumental in instituting an Advanced Placement tutorial program for underrepresented students.

Dave's administrative rise continued in 1984, when he was appointed Vice Principal of Point Loma High School. He held that position until the fall of 1986 when he became Principal of Montgomery Junior High School. Three years later he was appointed Principal of Crawford High School, a position he held for seven years. At Crawford Dave was instrumental in restructuring second language education to include a Newcomer Center which served immigrant children. Dave also won School Board approval for a School-to-Work bungalow building project. The first bungalow was completed in 1992. Since that time, eight additional bungalows have been built by students enrolled in construction technology.

Since 1996 Dave has been the principal of Scripps Ranch High School. Under his stewardship, the school has been honored by the United States Department of Education as a National Blue Ribbon High School of Excellence. Additionally, Dave has been instrumental to the success of my Technology Fair for high school students. Each year more than two-thousand students from high schools throughout my Congressional District attend the event at Scripps Ranch High School. The purpose of the "Tech Fair" is to encourage students to study math and science and to go college. The program has been so successful that it has been modeled by the San Diego Science Alliance and by other Congressional Representatives' Offices.

Truly, Dave is a consummate administrator. He has a warm, easy manner with people. He is a great listener. He is quietly effective at making positive changes. He demands the best by modeling the best. Dave is hard-working, task-oriented, organized and efficient. It is hard to conceive of a principal who is more knowledgeable of or more involved in a school than Dave LeMay. In addition to his pursuit of educational excellence, Dave is fervent in promoting other aspects of student life such as drama, the arts, music, and athletics. He seldom misses a school event.

Principal David LeMay is the longest-serving high school administrator at San Diego City Schools. Dave's remarkable contributions to the students of San Diego speak to his intellect, his professional drive, and his relentless pursuit of excellence. After thirty-three years, Dave will retire on June 30, 2003. I urge my colleagues to join me in wishing him the very best success as he starts a new chapter in his life, and I hope that he will always be blessed with fair winds and following seas.