

A TRIBUTE TO MADGE JENNINGS OVERHOUSE

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 20, 2003

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, today we rise to recognize the achievements and life of Madge Jennings Overhouse. We have had the privilege of knowing Madge for many years, and can personally attest to her lasting legacy of achievement through selfless volunteerism. Hers is the epitome of a life dedicated to public service.

Madge Jennings Overhouse was born in July 29, 1924 in The Dalles, Oregon, and soon moved to San Jose. She attended San Jose State University, graduating cum laude with honors in history. Madge married Howard Overhouse in 1949, and they have one son, Richard, and three lovely grandchildren.

Marge's career as a librarian spanned almost 40 years and two institutions. She started out at San Jose State, then moved to San Jose Community College. Typical of Madge, she assumed a leadership role in her profession, serving on the Santa Clara County Library Commission from 1976 to 1982, as well as serving on the California Library Agency for Systems and Services from 1979 to 1984, representing Santa Clara County as an alternate for Supervisor Rod Diridon. Madge also served on the Steering Committee for the Master Plan of California Libraries.

Madge's contributions to the community throughout her lifetime are legion, and the list of civic organizations that Madge has helped is long. We would like to take a moment to talk about them here. Madge was one of the first women to serve on the Executive Board of the Santa Clara County chapter of the Boy Scouts of America. The Santa Clara County Fair Association benefited from Madge's input as a Board member from 1987 to 1995. Madge also served on the boards of the Iota Delta Chapter of the Chi Omega sorority and the Campbell Historical Preservation Board. Madge is also a long-time member of the San Jose Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce. In addition, Madge lent her talents to the Multi-Modal Transportation Task Force, which led to the completion of Highway 85, which is now a major transportation artery in the Bay Area. During my time on the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors, Madge's support on important measures such as this, which often meant doing the "leg-work" that no one else volunteered to do, was instrumental on so many occasions.

Madge has an absolutely amazing record of political involvement. For more than thirty years, Madge has been a stalwart in the Democratic Party at the local, state, and national level. Madge has fostered and encouraged the careers of numerous public officials in California.

Madge's lifelong commitment to volunteerism has been honored by almost every civic organization in Santa Clara County, and we are delighted to offer our heartfelt congratulations and gratitude to Madge for a lifetime of public service achievement.

RECOGNIZING THREE TALENTED RHODE ISLAND EDUCATORS

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 20, 2003

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the achievements of three talented and committed educators from Rhode Island. These outstanding teachers have been selected to receive the 2003 Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching.

The Presidential Award for Excellence in Math and Science Teaching was established in 1983 by the White House and is sponsored by the National Science Foundation. Each year, NSF identifies educators from the 50 states and 4 U.S. territories as leaders in the improvement of science and mathematics education. These educators are awarded a \$7,500 grant from the National Science Foundation and a Presidential citation and serve as role models for their communities and colleagues. Additionally, the grants allow them to continue inspiring their students through innovative teaching.

This year, the winners from my district are Ms. Ann Simonelli from Holden Elementary School in Warwick, Mr. Daniel Potts from Chariho Middle School in Wood River Junction, and Ms. Susan Osberg from North Kingstown High School. Ms. Simonelli has been teaching for 22 years, Mr. Potts for 12 years, and Ms. Osberg for 37 years. Their dedication to educating the leaders of tomorrow is laudable. As the United States works to improve its international rankings for math and science education, it is important to reward teachers who excel in these areas.

Mr. Speaker, I find it heartening that there are educators in this country who devote so much time and effort to shaping the minds of our young people. I hope you and our colleagues will join me in recognizing and congratulating these outstanding teachers on receiving this prestigious award.

PENN STATE MONT ALTO 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 20, 2003

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Penn State Mont Alto for its 100th Anniversary as a well respected institution of learning. When this institution was first established, in May 1903 by the governor of Pennsylvania, it was known as the Pennsylvania State Forest Academy in Mont Alto. The academy was only the third forestry school in the entire nation, behind Yale and Biltmore respectively. The school was founded by Dr. Joseph T. Rothrock to train men for service in

the state forests. To this day, the Forest Academy still educates America's foresters in addition to students in many other academic programs.

The earliest goal of the academy was to reforest much of the surrounding land, especially in areas made barren by forest fires and charcoal production. On Arbor Day in 1905, the academy's first administrator, George Wirt assigned students to search for native tree species not found on campus. These students returned with over 400 specimens reflecting 30 different varieties of species. These collected specimens were the beginning of the Mont Alto arboretum. An arboretum that to this day continues to provide a training ground for students, as well as a research site for the development of new hybrids.

The Pennsylvania State Forest Academy in Mont Alto has been constantly evolving throughout its history. In 1929, the academy merged with the Pennsylvania State College (now University) becoming one of the Commonwealth campuses. At that time, the campus was used only for the first year of training for Penn State forestry students. The students would then complete their three remaining years at the main campus in University Park. The campus continued to grow and by 1963 the first one or two years of most Penn State majors were being offered at the Mont Alto campus. The school completed its evolution in 1997, when students were able to earn their baccalaureate degrees at the Penn State Mont Alto campus.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in commending Penn State Mont Alto for its 100 years of commitment and dedication to providing a quality education to so many young people.

JUDICIAL NOMINATIONS

HON. RICHARD BURR

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 20, 2003

Mr. BURR of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, the Constitution of the United States gives the other body the responsibility for confirming, in a fair and just manner, judicial nominees chosen by the President. Unfortunately in the current political climate, qualified nominees are being held captive, causing a vacancy crisis in the federal judiciary.

Injecting ideology into the confirmation process is misguided at best and downright irresponsible at worst. The American people expect better out of their elected officials. There is a drastic shortage of judges in the federal court system, Mr. Speaker. With every passing day that these nominations are allowed to stagnate in the other body, the crisis worsens. These vacancies are denying swift and balanced justice for the American people.

This problem must be addressed in a non-partisan way by placing well-qualified and experienced judges on the bench in an expedient manner. The President has thus far fulfilled his duty by nominating well-qualified men and women to the federal bench. It is long past time for my colleagues in the other body to act.