

all security activities. These are important steps which I support.

I believe a Volunteer's safety is both the responsibility of the Peace Corps and the Volunteers themselves. Weeks of safety training and country background preclude any Volunteer's departure overseas and Volunteers are advised of the precautions necessary before integrating into some of the poorest and disparaged communities in the world. As Ambassador and Returned Peace Corps Volunteer, Tony Hall said, "You have to go into the service with your eyes open". Nonetheless, it is appropriate that the House International Relations Committee worked with the Peace Corps to address the needed improvements to security for Volunteers and the Peace Corps has begun implementing these changes.

As a member of the House International Relations Committee and a strong supporter of the Peace Corps, I urge passage of this legislation. We must do everything we can to ensure the mission of the Peace Corps is carried on and our Volunteers are protected.

SET A GOOD EXAMPLE CONTEST

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 9, 2004

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the community of Harlingen, Texas, where area children are recognized for doing good deeds in their homes, schools, and communities.

With school resources so overtaxed, our community has partnered with the Concerned Businessmen's Association of America to sponsor the Harlingen area's Set A Good Example Contest, offered to all children from the surrounding communities.

The original school contest was launched in 1982 to recognize schools supporting student-oriented programs that positively influence other students by promoting moral values such as honesty, trustworthiness, responsibility, competence, and fairness.

The Concerned Businessmen's Association of America is a non-profit educational organization incorporating successful business strategies to combat the social ills and problems that face young people.

We watch our children with new eyes every day, wondering what is going on inside their minds and what motivates them. The Harlingen community's parents, business people, educators, counselors—and most importantly, children themselves—are working together to ward off problems that are plaguing society today.

The best messenger for young people is other young people. There will never be one single answer to preparing our children to withstand the complex social issues they encounter each day. But future behavior, future understanding, will be based on the foundation our communities provide now.

I ask my colleagues to join me in commending the people of Harlingen, Former Mayor Connie De La Garza, and Mayor Rick Rodriguez for their efforts to be part of the solution to a problem that affects all of us in America. I thank them for leading the way to a better world for us all.

TRIBUTE TO ST. ELIAS
ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHRIS-
TIAN CHURCH

HON. JAMES T. WALSH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 9, 2004

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in tribute to St. Elias Antiochian Orthodox Christian Church of Syracuse which celebrates its 75th anniversary this year.

The Church's history begins a hundred years ago when St. Raphael, who is considered the father of the Archdiocese St. Elias belongs to, was the first Orthodox bishop consecrated in the New World. At this time, immigrants from Middle Eastern countries such as Syria, Lebanon and Palestine settled in Syracuse and formed the nucleus of the Antiochian Orthodox community there. Until the formal formation of St. Elias, visiting clergymen came to the community to administer the various sacraments to the faithful settlers.

St. Elias Syrian Orthodox Church of Syracuse, the forerunner of St. Elias Antiochian Orthodox Christian Church, was born November 10, 1929. First incorrectly incorporated as an Episcopal Church in 1930, this was corrected and reincorporated in 1960 and again reincorporated in 1988 when the Archdiocese changed its official name. The first home of the church was at 241 West Lafayette Street and the first permanently assigned Pastor was the Reverend John Khoury.

In 1939, a gathering which would become the social event of the year for the Arabic speaking community of Central New York and a tremendous fund-raiser was instituted. This event has turned into a successful Middle Eastern Festival bringing hundreds of people of Arabic and other backgrounds together to enjoy each other's company while becoming a large part of the St. Elias Parish Annual Budget when combined with the souvenir journal of the festival.

Over time the Church has evolved to include a Church School Program (1945), an English Liturgical Choir (1945), a Youth organization (1953), and the St. Elias Antiochian Orthodox Christian Women group (1966). In 1963, land was purchased on Onondaga Hill and the new St. Elias Church was consecrated on August 17, 1969 by Metropolitan Philip Saliba.

The founders of this parish established an ethnic church in the inception, in that most of the parishioners were of Arabic speaking background. However, St. Elias has become an American church made up of the melting pot that has made America. I congratulate the St. Elias parish on its 75th anniversary and wish the church continuing success.

HONORING THE 43RD ANNUAL
YMCA YOUTH GOVERNOR'S CON-
FERENCE

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 9, 2004

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 43rd Annual YMCA Youth Governor's Conference scheduled to be held in

Washington next week. I am pleased to once again have the honor of being the Congressional sponsor for the Youth Governor's breakfast with my fellow colleagues in the House.

The YMCA Youth Governor's Conference brings together some of the most outstanding youth leaders in America. YMCA Youth and Government is a nation-wide program that allows thousands of teenagers to simulate state and national government.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to personally recognize each of this year's YMCA Youth Governors for their dedication and service to America's youth.

Grant Reid of Texas; Jason Hill of South Carolina; William Bloom of Alabama; Cori Trazwell of Arizona; Xavier Lopez-Ayala of California; Elizabeth Brittenham of Connecticut; Angelyn Tinsman of Delaware; Nithya Krishnam of Florida; Jess Morgan of Georgia; James Hess of Idaho; Dustin Herr of Illinois; Lisa Wanninger of Indiana; R.T. Lowry and David Padron of Kentucky; Patrick Coco of Louisiana; Ben Crockett of Maine; Allison Korycki of Maryland; Emily Sheehan of Massachusetts; Brandon Laventure and Shaundra Crittenden of Michigan; Zachary Skalko of Minnesota; Robert Goggins of Mississippi; Alex Ricke of Missouri; David Earl of New Jersey; Jackie Burns of Model United Nations; Jamie Brooks of New Mexico; Alex Bowerman of New York; Rob Stephens of North Carolina; Joshua Watkins of Oklahoma; Jakob Wilson of Oregon; Sara Gellatly of Pennsylvania; George Richardson and Patrick Fox of Tennessee; Matthew Sundquist of Virginia; Joseph Jenkins of Washington; Nathaniel Cole of the District of Columbia; and Loren Balhorn of Wisconsin.

I wish all of the 2004 Youth Governors a very successful conference here in Washington, and I encourage them to continue their sincere devotion to leadership and public service in this and their future endeavors.

HONORING MONSIGNOR SEARS

HON. FRED UPTON

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 9, 2004

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the inspiring and passionate career of Monsignor Sears, of St. Joseph Parish of Michigan. For the past 20 years, Monsignor Sears has devotedly served the community of St. Joseph and beyond.

Since being assigned to St. Joseph Parish in 1984, Monsignor's contributions to our community have been remarkable. Monsignor has brought guidance, knowledge, and inspiration to all who had the blessed opportunity of meeting with or hearing one of his famous homilies. It is well-known that Monsignor always used story-telling and anecdotes as a way of teaching and inspiring his congregation. His ability to reach and move all those fortunate enough to cross his path has been well-known throughout Southwest Michigan for sometime now.

Highlights of Monsignor Sears' wonderful career include meeting with Mother Teresa in 1979, and speaking with Pope John Paul II during a visit to Rome. Locally, Monsignor was instrumental in starting the church's tithing in

1985—the church tithes about \$100,000 a year to various local and national needs. Although these accomplishments are extraordinary, Monsignor's greatest achievements may lie in his daily work and prayers with the parish staff and parishioners, as well as implementing influential local programs over the years.

There is no doubt that Monsignor Sears will be greatly missed as the pastor of St. Joseph Parish. However, knowing his passion for the community and devoutness to charity, Monsignor will continue his service to God and will continue to impact the communities of Southwest Michigan.

HONORING CONTRIBUTIONS OF
WOMEN, SYMBOLIZED BY "ROSIE
THE RIVETER," WHO SERVED ON
THE HOMEFRONT DURING
WORLD WAR II

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 2, 2004

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Con. Res. 413 honoring the contributions of the more than 6 million American women, symbolized by "Rosie the Riveter," who served our country on the homefront during World War II and the changes to our society that came about because of them. I am extremely proud to join all 62 women Members of Congress as cosponsor on this legislation as well.

Today, we recognize the contributions to those who may not have faced enemy fire but were no less a part of our decisive victory in those dark times: the millions of Americans who across the Nation heeded a call to serve when their country needed them.

During World War II, this remarkable band of women picked up the rivet guns left on factory floors and shipyard docks by their departing husbands, boyfriends, sons and dads and those women started building the tanks, airplanes, and ships that America needed to win the war.

The legacy of Rosie the Riveter is the creation of opportunities to all Americans. For the first time in America, during World War II, women and minorities gained access to high-paying jobs in industry. Employee-sponsored health care and services such as child care for children of workers were developed during this time. I am proud to join my colleagues today in applauding the improvements in the workplace and our society during the Rosie the Riveter Era and in honoring these women for stepping forward when their country needed them.

TRIBUTE TO FRANCISCO
SALDIVAR

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 9, 2004

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a unique American patriot, Francisco Saldivar, a man who, after having spent over

40 years with the Brownsville Independent School District, has recently retired as principal of Yturria Elementary School.

Mr. Saldivar comes from an educator's background. His mother, a teacher from Mexico, helped make an early impression on his life-long desire to educate and give back to the community. To this end, Mr. Saldivar has served in a number of roles and duties within the school district, from teacher to administrator.

Mr. Saldivar spent over 12 years teaching fourth grade before becoming an assistant principal at Victoria Heights Elementary. Since then, he has also served as an assistant director of adult education as well as the principal of several elementary schools, most recently with Yturria.

With each new role he took on, Mr. Saldivar invariably displayed his selfless dedication to providing a well-rounded and worthwhile education. Indeed, as principal of Yturria Elementary, Mr. Saldivar still managed to take the time to help ease the transition of transfer students.

And after 6 years as principal of Yturria, Mr. Saldivar is finally retiring; and while he will certainly miss his old position, we will miss his commitment to our children's education even more.

There is no question that the education of our young people constitutes an important priority in our society. Education does more than simply impart knowledge; it prepares our children for the challenges they will meet in adulthood. Mr. Saldivar has worked with children for nearly half a century; he knows the problems they face, and has actively worked to alleviate them.

Our Nation is strengthened by dedication of educators like Mr. Saldivar in our school systems. The origins for our Nation's future will always lie within our youngest generations.

I ask my colleagues to join me in commending Principal Francisco Saldivar, for his indelible influence over the young minds in the Valley. His legacy is in the bright young minds he touched and shaped. We wish him the best of luck in his future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO THE LOCKHEED MARTIN
PLANT IN SYRACUSE, NEW
YORK

HON. JAMES T. WALSH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 9, 2004

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in tribute to the men and women of Lockheed Martin Plant in Syracuse, New York, which was recognized as one of the top ten plants in the United States by Industry Week magazine.

IndustryWeek looks to reward plants that are leading the nation in their efforts to develop competitiveness, increased customer satisfaction and an outstanding work environment. The 2,039 men and women employed at this Lockheed Martin plant were recognized for their accomplishments of \$650 million in sales and \$1.0 billion in backlog. Among these employees are 1,250 scientists and engineers and 350 manufacturing and support staff. The payroll for this honored Lockheed Martin plant in Syracuse is greater than \$108 million per year and has been in operation since 1948.

I would like to express my congratulations to the employees of the Lockheed Martin plant in Syracuse for receiving such an outstanding honor. They work very hard and deserve such recognition. I offer them my sincere congratulations.

IN HONOR OF BILL B. PASSMORE,
THE FATHER OF LAKE HIGH-
LANDS EDUCATION

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 9, 2004

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the father of Lake Highlands Education, Bill B. Passmore. I am proud to represent the Lake Highlands community in the 32nd Congressional District of Texas, and Mr. Passmore's commitment to education in the community has been long and distinguished. Mr. Passmore is being honored this Sunday afternoon, June 13, 2004 for his career achievements, and I congratulate him and his family on a lifetime of accomplishments.

After graduating from The University of Texas at Austin with a BBA degree in 1949, he taught for two years in Angleton High School before moving to Dallas. Mr. Passmore resumed his teaching career at Richardson High School in the fall of 1952. He taught business subjects for two years before being named the Business Manager and assistant to Superintendent J.J. Pearce for the 1954–55 school year.

Mr. Passmore was selected in 1955 as the principal to open the first school in the Lake Highlands area: Lake Highlands Elementary School. He was later named as the third principal to serve the school in 1976. Named principal of Richardson High School in 1956, he remained in that capacity for nine years.

When the Dallas County Community College District (DCCCD) opened El Centro College as its first campus, Passmore was hired as the first of eight counselors for the college. During six years at El Centro, he left the counseling department to serve as Dean of the Evening School and later as the Associate Dean of Instruction. When the Richland College opened in 1972, he moved to the new campus to serve as Association Dean of Instruction until 1976 when he returned to the RISD as principal of Lake Highlands Elementary School.

In 1979, Mr. Passmore was again asked to serve as principal of a new school in the Lake Highlands area: Merriman Park Elementary. He retired from Merriman Park Elementary in 1989, and since that time has worked ten years for the University of North Texas on a part-time basis as a University Supervisor of Student Teachers.

During his professional career, Mr. Passmore earned his Master's Degree from the University of North Texas and some 36 hours of post-graduate credit from the University of Texas at Austin. He was a member of the Richardson Kiwanis Club for 12 years and served for one year as its president. He was a staff member or an administrator during the opening of seven new campuses in Angleton, Richardson, and DCCCD. Mr. Passmore's personal commitment to education and the Lake Highland's community have been exceptional