

you could say I am still working to buy gas for the car."

"She lives to teach. She loves to teach," says Ms. Dody's daughter Donna Waters, who is a principal in the same McDonald County School District. Ms. Dody's teaching career began in 1946 at the one room school at Henneman in Barry County. She taught in Wheaton, North Kansas City, Fairview and Granby before landing at Rocky Comfort in 1966.

After 58 years of teaching, Ms. Dody is not only a role model to her students and their parents, but to other teachers. She spends her summers in workshops and seminars to improve her skills and better deliver information to those young minds she nourishes each day. In addition, Ms. Dody also works on her 275-acre cattle farm near Stark City. While she confesses to no longer brush hogging, her daughter says she still mends fences and works cattle.

Rocky Comfort Principal Shandra Stephens calls Ms. Dody "A neat lady. She is a person I can go to, because she is such a good sounding board. She has credibility and lability."

Perhaps the greatest compliment to Ms. Dody's skills as a teacher are from parents and grandparents who want Ms. Dody to teach their children. Her career now spans three generations. Among the countless numbers of students who have passed through her classroom in Rocky Comfort are her two grandsons, her son-in-law, and two current members of the McDonald County School Board.

There had been rumors that Ms. Dody would quit teaching last year, but voters in McDonald County approved the construction of a new elementary school in nearby Longview that will replace the Rocky Comfort Elementary School. That was too much for Ms. Dody to pass up. She returned to the classroom this year and will move into her new classroom when the Longview Elementary opens in January. Now, she is telling her colleagues she will try to stay in the classroom for two more years to reach her 60th year of teaching.

Ms. Dody's spirit, dedication and love of teaching shows up every day in the classroom. She shares the joy of teaching with the children, fellow teachers and parents in her community.

America owes much to Ms. Dody and teachers like her who have given a lifetime to educating our elementary school students in American values.

CONGRATULATING ESPN ON ITS 25TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 7, 2004

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate ESPN on its 25th anniversary. At 7 p.m. on September 7, 1979, the Entertainment and Sports Programming Network began broadcasting SportsCenter from Bristol, CT in my district. Bill Rasmussen had the crazy idea that a 24-hour sports cable network might be a success. It started with a single building with no running water and a

control truck on cinderblocks showing such odd sports as Australian rules football and darts. Twenty-five years later, he has proven to be right. That single building has grown into nine control rooms, 31 edit suites, more than 2,000 television monitors, and a library of over a million tapes.

ESPN is now one of the most widely known brand names in the world and more than 90 million people are exposed to ESPN each week. It has expanded its networks to include ESPN2, ESPN Classic, ESPNEWS, ESPN Deportes, ESPN Today, and ESPN Radio. ESPN.com receives over 2.3 million page views during peak hours with its instant score updates. Meanwhile, workers stuck in their cubicles from 9 to 5 can find a diversion for a few minutes reading Page 2, Page 3, and the Sports Guy's insight on what it means to be a Red Sox fan. ESPN the Magazine has reached a circulation of 1.7 million in just five years and won the National Magazine Award for General Excellence in 2003. ESPN Zone restaurants in eight cities serve as the ideal place to grab a bite and watch the game.

ESPN's signature program, SportsCenter, has developed a cult following and many viewers will admit to watching multiple episodes of the same sports report back-to-back-to-back. It has touched all corners of the globe with locally produced episodes in Canada and Brazil, a Spanish version for the rest of Latin America, China, India, and Taiwan. SportsCenter has not only helped create sports superstars, its personalities have become stars in their own right. Chris Berman, Keith Olbermann, Bob Ley, Greg Gumbel, Dan Patrick, Stuart Scott, and Craig Kilborn have become celebrities and their vernacular has become the language of the sports fan.

Not to be forgotten is the major role ESPN has played in the expansion of women's sports. Who would have thought in 1979 that the NCAA women's lacrosse national championship game would be shown in front of a national television audience? Or that the highest rated basketball telecast ever on ESPN would be the 2004 NCAA women's basketball championship, won by the University of Connecticut. That includes more than 6,000 men's and women's basketball games. Where else can young girls aspiring to become the next Mia Hamm watch their heroes?

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in congratulating Bill Rasmussen for his crazy idea and thanking ESPN President George Bodenheimer and all the folks at Bristol U. for their passion and dedication to bringing the wonderful world of sports into living rooms 24 hours a day, seven days a week. I am proud to say that ESPN is in the First Congressional District and I wish you 25 more years of success.

RIBS TO OUR TROOPS IN IRAQ— COURTESY OF THE HOLTVILLE ATHLETIC CLUB

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 7, 2004

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker and colleagues, I rise today to recognize the Holtville Athletic Club and the entire Holtville community for cooking 1,000 pounds of ribs and sending

them to our troops in Iraq, in the "Ribs to Iraq Project." I also want to give special thanks to the Naval Air Facility in El Centro for assisting in the coordination and transportation of the smoked BBQ pork ribs.

The Holtville Athletic Club is a small, non-profit organization that is known in Imperial Valley for its Rib Cook-off Extravaganza that is enjoyed by visitors from all over the world each winter. The "Ribs to Iraq Project" started from a desire to thank our troops in Iraq for their commitment to our country. The project took about a year to implement. Twenty barbecues were built with the assistance of the Navy base. The ribs were completely pre-cooked, sauced and frozen by club members. Holtville citizens wrote letters to the soldiers that were included in the care package. The project ended up bringing an entire and grateful community together to participate in this project.

The BBQ-Ribs were packaged and frozen for transportation via the USS *Denver*, USS *Howard*, and the USS *Mobile Bay* to the Middle East arriving in July of this year. The Athletic Club attached its own special message to each case of ribs: "These specific ribs were prepared on barbecues built by the club with volunteer assistance of Navy specialists, who we welcome and embrace as a very special part of our community and heart. Please enjoy the enclosed ribs wherever they may find you."

I've seen my constituents show their appreciation to our troops in many ways. And this is just one example of a great community project that brings the residents together to accomplish an extraordinary goal.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the Holtville Athletic Club for bringing the community of Holtville together in the "Ribs to Iraq Project." I am sure the troops in Iraq were thankful for a little taste of homemade loving barbecue.

HONORING THE ST. MARY SCHOOL PAROCHIAL INVITATIONAL BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT ON THEIR 30TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 8, 2004

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to join the community in celebrating the 30th Anniversary of the St. Mary Parochial Invitational Basketball Tournament. This is a remarkable milestone and I am proud to extend my sincerest congratulations to all of those involved in making this annual event such a great success.

What first began as a two-day event with eight competing teams has grown into the longest running and largest parochial school basketball tournament in Connecticut. In this, its thirtieth year, sixty teams from across the state will participate in a two-week long tournament that will also include a cheerleading exhibition. Over seven hundred boys and girls in grades three through eight will participate—making this year's tournament a real landmark event.

Each of the teams which will compete in the St. Mary Invitational have already accomplished so much. Through their hard work and efforts they have already learned one of life's

most important lessons—the value of team work. Basketball, like all sports, teaches us the value of sportsmanship, camaraderie, practice, and commitment to excellence. These are skills which will serve these young people well as they begin to make a difference in the world. I am proud to extend my sincere congratulations and very best wishes to them all as they begin the tournament.

I would be remiss if I did not extend a special note of thanks to the many volunteers who so generously donate their time and energy to making this event possible. Coaches, parents, faculty, administrators, and friends all play important roles in bringing the St. Mary Invitational to life. Without your dedication, commitment, and energies, we would not be able to share this very special event with our young people. The fact that many of the adults who today volunteer their time to the tournament were once players themselves is testament to the legacy of this special event.

In its thirty-year history, the St. Mary Invitational has touched the lives of over fifteen thousand young people across Connecticut. It is with my deepest thanks and sincerest appreciation that I rise today to join the many well-wishers in extending my heart-felt congratulations to the St. Mary School Parochial Invitational Basketball Tournament on their 30th Anniversary. You have made such a difference in the lives of so many and I know that you will continue to leave an indelible mark on our community.

LET FREEDOM RING

HON. ROBERT T. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 8, 2004

Mr. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, today my colleague from the 3rd district of California, the Honorable DOUG OSE and I ask all our colleagues to join us in a special commemoration of the tragic events of September 11, 2001. On September 11, 2004, as part of the "Let Freedom Ring—Bells Across America" remembrance, participating churches across the nation will, beginning at noon, toll four bells at one-minute intervals to honor those who perished on the four hijacked commercial aircrafts on September 11, 2001. On the fifth minute, a chorus of bells will be played to recognize and pay tribute to the countless people whose lives were greatly affected by the events of 9/11. As the churches of the Sacramento Region join together to remember one of the most tragic days in our nation's history, we ask all our colleagues to join us in the "Let Freedom Ring—Bells Across America" remembrance.

The "Let Freedom Ring—Bells Across America" remembrance is the brainchild of Mr. Stu Varner, a resident of the Sacramento Region. Like millions of his fellow Americans, Mr. Varner was greatly affected by the catastrophic series of attacks that occurred at New York City, the Pentagon, and Shanksville, Pennsylvania. Mr. Varner held a deep conviction that those who lost their lives on 9/11 should never be forgotten, and that they should be properly recognized as heroes. Mr. Varner believed that September 11 should be a day of somber and serious reflection much like Memorial Day and Veterans Day. As a re-

sult, Mr. Varner developed the idea of the "Let Freedom Ring—Bells Across America" remembrance. Mr. Varner wishes that the synchroscopic ringing of bells by churches across America will help create a wave of remembrance for the thousands who lost their lives and the many more whose lives were drastically affected as a result of 9/11.

Mr. Speaker, as the churches of the Sacramento Region participate in the "Let Freedom Ring—Bells Across America" remembrance, my colleague Mr. DOUG OSE and I are honored to pay our respect and tribute to the innocent people whose lives were prematurely cut short or greatly altered by the 9/11 tragedy. We ask our colleagues to join us in remembering the tragic events of September 11, 2001 by participating in the "Let Freedom Ring—Bells Across America" remembrance.

TRIBUTE TO LAKE FENTON COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 8, 2004

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today to bring to your attention an event that took place in my district. On Saturday, August 21, 2004 the Lake Fenton Community School district gathered to mark the official ribbon cutting and formal dedication of their newly constructed Lake Fenton High School. The celebration concluded on Sunday, August 22, 2004 with a non-denominational service and community open house.

Lake Fenton High School was first dedicated on May 19, 1961. With increasing enrollment and changing educational needs the Lake Fenton Board of Education and the Lake Fenton Schools Support Services/Facilities Committee implemented plans to build a new high school. Their hard work and dedication resulted in three elective bond activities, and the final product is the first newly built facility within the Lake Fenton School district and the only new high school constructed within Genesee County in over 30 years. This is indeed an accomplishment worth commending.

The new high school boasts state of the art technology, computer and science labs, a media center, auditorium, gymnasium, and an outdoor athletic facility. The labs will allow the school to fully support their new program entitled "Project Lead the Way". This program introduces students to the demanding field of Engineering and Digital Electronics. As stated by their Principal, Julie Clontz, Lake Fenton High School is trying to in every way possible to adjust their curriculum to meet the needs of the students and help prepare them for life after high school. The completion of this beautiful new facility and the implementation of these exciting educational programs is without a doubt a step in the right direction. Superintendent Ralph Coaster has provided excellent leadership in this endeavor.

Mr. Speaker, as a Member of Congress, I consider it both my duty and privilege to work to improve the quality of our public school system. I am glad that communities such as Lake Fenton share this sentiment. They continue to work diligently to ensure students have the tools necessary to compete and succeed. I ask my colleagues of the 108th Congress to

please join me in congratulating this fine community and its school district and in wishing them the very best in future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO ALAMEDA HIGH SCHOOL VALEDICTORIAN BEN HOFFMAN

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 8, 2004

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Alameda High School Valedictorian, Ben Hoffman. Ben, a resident of Alameda, California, did not use notes or index cards when he spoke with rhyme and rhythm to his fellow classmates during the graduation ceremonies for the Alameda High School Class of 2004. His remarks were met with a standing ovation.

Ben's Valedictory Address, entitled "Responsibility" is an outstanding commentary about the challenges and opportunities facing the youth of today. He shared with his graduating class, remembrances of the past four years, looked at the injustice and violence in today's world and urged his classmates to make the world a better place in the future.

RESPONSIBILITY

(By Benjamin Hoffman)

A lot of people look at graduation, and say that it will give us many new opportunities,

I think its more than that, I think it gives us many new responsibilities

We live in a world where people of different nations

Face starvation, extermination
Exploitation, or discrimination
Based solely on race, religion or sexual orientation

These are the problems that we are facing
Perpetuated by a lack of education
But here we are at our graduation.

For the past four years in this community

We've had a unique opportunity

To get a chance to truly see

The value of growing up in unity

And it'll just take a sec

If we take time to reflect

Bout the great affect

How we learned to connect

Protect and respect everyone we met

Without expecting to collect

And all of this in an atmosphere

That provided not a thing for us to fear

And I'm being sincere when I say I hold dear

The value and promise of these past four years

And now we have a responsibility

Because of our recent history

To promote an end to slavery

And poverty, and adversity

Wherever it may be

Until the world is free.

Free from the confines that define

The lives that so many people are resigned

To be living, without giving

Any hope that mankind is not blind

But much of mankind is blind to the suffering that exists

And our first obstacle is going to be to conquer ignorance.

But we got to start at home

Gotta conquer our own

Before our true potential can finally be shown

Its been so easy to get caught up in only thinking

About doing drugs or drinking,