

areas in which his Pleasanton company builds.

He donated supplies and his company's services to paint the exterior, repair the lawn; install sprinklers, and fix bathrooms and broken windows at Helms Middle School.

He looked at this dilapidated school—scheduled for overhauling from Measure D money and that he has tried to earmark his fees to West County School District for—and decided the school's needs shouldn't be put off. He said: "This is something we can do."

That's true. Good for you, Mr. Z. Now why didn't people right there in the community say that? Why didn't neighbors and parents do something? Do plumbers and painters and handy people not have children going through the schools?

As schools throughout the area, throughout the state, wait for state funds or for local bond money, parents and businesses in the community could be giving money, supplies, time and skills to make sure their area schools aren't falling down, that their kids and their neighbors aren't going to schools that bring grown men to tears.

When the state or bond money comes, it will go further and more will get done in the long run. But in many cases, attention is needed now.

A decrepit school can have psychological connections and results. As Zawidski said, to kids in attendance at schools like that, "it's apparent no one cares about them."

That's how their young brains process it anyway. Then the kids in turn don't care about themselves and don't strive to get the benefits that a good education brings.

Parents and the community must be involved. They must be active in all aspects of youths' education. That means: making sure your kids do their homework, meeting their teachers, seeing that they are learning. It also means making sure money for schools is spent as it should be; it means volunteering so that teachers have help and extra curriculum programs remain available; and there is certainly no reason it shouldn't mean that every couple of years you pick up a paintbrush and a screwdriver, to keep the school up to par.

Our schools, all of them, can use the extra help.

SAN PABLO SCHOOL GETS UNEXPECTED GIFT (By Jackie Burrell)

Developers don't often get to play hero, but a crumbling San Pablo middle school started this school year with a free facelift thanks to a Pleasanton company's Good Samaritan gesture.

And the builder didn't even toot its own horn afterwards.

Like any developer, Signature Properties coughed up the requisite developer fees to the West Contra Costa school district as it planned a new neighborhood of 3-bedroom homes and townhouses. Then Signature's vice president of forward planning Joe Zawidski stopped by Helms Middle School for a tour.

"We were disappointed with the state of the school," Zawidski said.

Helms principal Harriet MacLean was less circumspect. Zawidski nearly cried, she said, and then he made some calls.

Helms is on deck for a near-rebuilding under West Contra Costa schools' Measure D, a \$300 million bond measure voters passed in 2002 to renovate more than a dozen middle and high schools.

Signature, the same company currently embroiled in litigation with the Pleasanton School District over construction of Neal Elementary School, wanted its fees earmarked for improvements at Helms when the school was rebuilt, a two-year process expected to

begin in 2005. The company also offered to install a new playing field when it did landscape work at the development across the street.

Six weeks ago Zawidski and company owner Jim Ghielmetti couldn't stand it anymore.

"You know these kids are coming in now, this is their school and it's not right," said Zawidski. "The weeds were three feet, ceilings were falling down, the restrooms were not functional. It's not going to enrich those kids. It makes it apparent that no one cares about them. It's a tragedy."

Zawidski called MacLean then showed up with a construction crew to paint the school's exterior, install new spinklers and lawns, replace restroom faucets and repair every broken window.

"You would think he'd only be interested in curb appeal, but he replaced all the broken windows, even the one in the back, faucets in all the restrooms, all because he cares," MacLean said.

"San Pablo is a good community. This is just a way to reinvest in the community," said Zawidski. "This was something we could do and something we wanted to do."

REGARDING THE REINSTITUTION OF THE ASSAULT WEAPONS ACT

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 2004

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, the 1994 assault weapons ban has expired and our nation is again vulnerable to guns known to most in the law enforcement community as "the weapons of choice for criminals."

My bill would reinstate the repealed criminal provisions relating to assault weapons and large capacity ammunition feeding devices, and make America safer.

The House Republican leadership opposed reauthorizing the 1994 Assault Weapons Act and President Bush, though he had said he supported it, did nothing to help keep the law alive.

Indecisiveness. Flip-Flop. Isn't that what the other party calls "saying one thing and doing another"?

Because the President steadfastly refused to put his leadership—or lack thereof—where his mouth is and help renew the ban, it has expired without so much as even a vote in the House of Representatives.

From this Chamber, for the past 3 years, I have been highlighting the President's efforts on behalf of the rich and big corporations at the expense of working families and small businesses. Mr. Speaker, sadly, I once again must speak of the damage our President is inflicting on the average American.

There is no reason why we should let assault weapons back on the streets. Do people need an assault weapon to protect their home? No! Do people need an assault weapon to hunt? No! Do people need an assault weapon to target shoot? No! Semiautomatic weapons are killing machines with absolutely no positive value in any sensible community and lifting this ban has put these weapons of death back in the hands of criminals.

A Bureau of Justice Statistics survey published in November 2001 reported that almost 7 percent of State inmates and more than 9 percent of Federal inmates carried military-

style semiautomatic weapons in carrying out the crime for which they were convicted. In 1997, roughly 43 percent of inmates who carried a military-style semiautomatic or fully automatic weapon fired it and more than 25 percent of them killed or injured their victim.

Mr. Speaker, the expiration of the Assault Weapons Act favored gangs, terrorists, drug dealers, and other criminals, and put in danger my children and yours, and our heroes and protectors, the police officers.

Our local police are not prepared for the re-institution of assault weapons to our streets. The bulletproof vests that we give our police officers are no match for the guns that are going to be back out in our neighborhoods. And we are going to allow criminals to carry large-capacity clips with over 50 rounds, when our police officers can only respond with 10 to 15 rounds?

Every single law enforcement organization, including the Fraternal Order of Police and the National Sheriffs Association, supports our efforts to reinstitute the Assault Weapons Act. I would support my law enforcement officers, and the safety of our communities and of this Nation over any gun manufacturer any day.

President Bush sent America's youth unprotected—in unarmored HUMVEES and without bulletproof vests—to war in Iraq, and now has been instrumental in bringing back to America's neighborhoods weapons of war to threaten police officers and law abiding citizens.

Moreover, we know terrorists are now exploiting the weaknesses and loopholes in our gun laws. A terrorist training manual discovered by American soldiers in Afghanistan in 2001 advised al-Qaida members to buy assault weapons in the United States and use them against us.

The Assault Weapons Act has respected the rights of gun owners. Only criminals and terrorists have been kept from their guns of choice.

HONORING THE LIFE OF SIDNEY LANIER MCFARLAND

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 2004

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the distinguish life of Sidney Lanier McFarland. Mr. McFarland, who retired in 1975 after 36 years honorable public service, passed away on August 12, 2004, at the age of 89.

Mr. McFarland served for 20 years as Staff Director for the U.S. House of Representatives Interior Committee from the 83rd through the 93rd Congresses. During that time, he coordinated the efforts that authorized and enacted 79 major water projects into law. These laws authorized the U.S. Department of the Interior to build dams and canals that stored and diverted water for use by agriculture, municipalities and industry. The projects made possible the large and productive habitation of arid and semiarid lands, laying the groundwork for the enormous growth that subsequently transpired in the western United States. Among the committee's accomplishments under Mr. McFarland's direction were the Colorado River Storage Project that included Glen Canyon Dam and Lake Powell; the Trinity River

Project Unit, San Luis Project Unit and Auburn-Folsom South Unit of the Central Valley Project in California; the Fryington-Arkansas Project in Colorado; the Garrison Unit of the Missouri River Basin Project in North Dakota; and the Colorado River Basin Project, which includes the Central Arizona Project.

Mr. McFarland also worked on 169 other pieces of legislation enacted into law. These included amendments to federal reclamation laws, compacts on interstate streams, authorization of the Saline Water Research Program, the Small Reclamation Projects Act, the Water Resources Planning Act, the Water Resources Research Act, and legislation relating to irrigation districts.

Mr. McFarland was born on March 25, 1915, in Georgia and grew up working on his family's farm. After earning a civil engineering degree at Georgia Tech, he worked for the Georgia State Highway Department before being called to active duty with the U.S. Army in 1941. He proudly served his country during World War II and many years after in the Officer Reserve Corps.

Mr. McFarland's military service is one of great honor and distinction. He was a member of the 551st Engineer Heavy Pontoon Battalion, initially assigned to General George Patton's Third Army. Under fire during Patton's rapid push across France into Germany, Mr. McFarland and his fellow soldiers courageously built several heavy pontoon bridges. In December 1944, the battalion was caught in the Battle of the Bulge, at which time the German army, holding everything east of the Rhine River, made a rapid breakthrough in an attempt to capture Antwerp. During the night of March 25, 1945, and part of the following day, Mr. McFarland's battalion completed the construction of a 1900-foot pontoon bridge across the swift-moving Rhine River, making it possible for the Allied Armies to cross and initiate the big push to end the war. As noted by Major General Inglis, Chief Engineer of the 21st Army Group, the Rhine River crossing was "... one of the great military accomplishments of this war."

Mr. McFarland, who was buried with military honors at Arlington National Cemetery, is survived by his loving wife of 63 years, Barbara, of Sun City West, Arizona; daughter Margie and her husband Robert Collins of Albuquerque, New Mexico; daughter Carol and her husband Bob Leone of Edgcomb, Maine; son Sid, Jr., of Dayton, Ohio; and son Christopher and his wife Lauren of Austin, Texas. He also has five grandchildren: Jennifer Collins, Lindsay and Sara Leone, and Renan and Shea McFarland.

I ask my colleagues to join me in paying final tribute to a great American.

TRIBUTE TO PATRICK RYAN

HON. FRED UPTON

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 2004

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Patrick Ryan, a stalwart in education for the folks of southwest Michigan. Over the last 62 years, Pat has dedicated his life to the educating, mentoring, and training of local youth. Whether, as a teacher, counselor, principal, or athletic coach, Pat touched the

lives of every student who had the fortune of receiving his wisdom and tutelage.

Over his inspiring career the number of students, colleagues, and parents who benefited from Pat's devotion to education is immense and it would be an extremely difficult task to hear from all these folks. However, over the years a couple of themes have constantly been bountiful when speaking of Pat. For students, he was a leader who constantly taught that everyone has the chance and ability to make a difference—all one needs to do is always give 100 percent to any task, big or small. For his colleagues, he was the standard that all strived to reach. And for parents, he was the teacher who through example, demonstrated respect, kindness, and courtesy to their child.

Pat also shined and inspired in his life outside of the classroom. He and his wife have four children, but somehow over years found the time to take troubled children into their home and provide stability into their lives. He counseled women with troubled pregnancies, served on the Little League Board of Directors, and taught religious education. To list the accomplishments of a man like Pat is not an easy endeavor to undertake, and to be quite honest, not possible without feeling inadequate. He was a teacher who gave his all to the education and inspiration of his students, and was a man who dedicated his life to the betterment of his fellow citizen.

I can think of no better honor than to have a past student say that, "you were the reason why I chose to become an educator." Over the years Pat has received this testimonial time and time again, and I believe this is an exact statement of an amazing teacher and human being.

Mr. Speaker, Pat Ryan is simply "The Best."

150TH ANNIVERSARY OF WILLIAMS TOWNSHIP IN BAY COUNTY, MICHIGAN

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 2004

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a community in my district that is celebrating an important milestone. This weekend, Williams Township in Bay County, Michigan will celebrate its 150th anniversary. Williams Township is a small community, but a warm welcoming one, and should stand as an example to us all.

In the fall of 1854, Williams Township began its history in the same way as many communities in Michigan and throughout the country. A small party of six men visited the area, which was then uninhabited wilderness. Charles Bradford, John Gaffney, William Spafford, Charles Fitch, George W. Smock, and Lyman Brainard found the land inviting, and returned to Flint, Michigan to purchase the land they would shortly settle. On November 18th, 1854, John Gaffney felled the first tree in the area. It was his birthday, and Williams Township's.

In 1855, the Township was organized as a part of Midland County. Two years later, Williams, along with Hampton Township succeeded in persuading the Michigan State Leg-

islature to combine them into the new Bay County. Though there was much dispute over whether Midland and Saginaw County residents could vote on approving the new county, the State Supreme Court allowed it to go forward in 1858, and on August 10th, the new Bay County held its first board meeting.

Those early settlers of Williams Township were primarily farmers, and their numbers gradually increased. By 1869, the population had grown significantly, and the Township was reduced to its present size of 36 square miles. Today, the population is about 4,500 strong, with another 2,000 or so in the City of Auburn, which split from the Township in 1948. And though the largest employer now is Dow Corning Corporation, which has its world headquarters and a specialty materials plant in the Township, farming and agriculture remain a vital foundation to the Township's economy.

Mr. Speaker, I said that Williams Township is a warm community, and I can personally attest to that. The Township was part of the area added to my district after the 2000 census, and I have visited several times in order to get to know my new constituents. I held a town hall meeting in Auburn in February of 2003. I was impressed by their thoughtful questions and touched by their welcome to me as their new Representative.

Later, in October, I went back to Bay City Western High School to speak to an American Government class and to have lunch at the Williams Township Senior Center. Again I was impressed by the residents of the Township, young and old. I was and continue to be very proud to represent this fine community in Congress.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the United States House of Representatives to join me in congratulating Williams Township and its residents on their first 150 years as a community and in wishing them well in their next 150 years.

HONORING THE CONGREGATION OF EASTERN AVENUE CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH

HON. VERNON J. EHLERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 2004

Mr. EHLERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the congregation of Eastern Avenue Christian Reformed Church in Grand Rapids, Michigan, which celebrates the 125th anniversary of its formation this week.

Eastern Avenue Christian Reformed Church began on September 15, 1879, with a membership of about 80 families. The church building was located on the corner of East Street and Logan Street, and it has remained there for 125 years. The original structure of the church is still a part of the present day church building. Over the years, the church has undergone renovations and additions on four separate occasions, the most recent addition coming in 2000 with a major expansion of meeting room space, a large fellowship hall, a computer lab, and an industrial kitchen and pantry for a food service program for the neighborhood. Every addition has been undertaken with a view towards continuing the church's commitment to serve the surrounding community.

It is this history and emphasis on community service and fellowship that make me proud to