

God has richly blessed America, and America has given much to each of us. So what will I give back? What is my commitment to America's future? I will wake up each morning with a renewed determination to serve my God and my country. I will appreciate those who were and are committed to America, and I will endeavor to be counted among them.

HONORING LEINKAUF ELEMENTARY SCHOOL OF MOBILE, ALABAMA, ON THE OCCASION OF ITS 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 20, 2004

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the staff, students, and friends of Leinkauf Elementary School of Mobile, Alabama, as they celebrate 100 years of providing quality education to the students of that area.

The school was named for William H. Leinkauf, a member of the Mobile County Board of School Commissioners from 1871 to 1894. When it opened its doors in November 1903, the school had an enrollment of just 51 students. In the century that has passed since that time, the school has witnessed a tremendous growth in its student body that has increased to a present level of more than 600 boys and girls. At present, it is believed Leinkauf Elementary is the oldest continually operated public elementary school in Mobile County, and, perhaps, in the entire state of Alabama.

Leinkauf Elementary has a long and proud tradition of providing one of the finest educational settings anywhere in the country. The teachers and administrators have, from the school's opening, demonstrated a clear understanding of the needs of the students and have met these needs with compassion, care, and a personal interest in every boy and girl. The admirable traits displayed on a daily basis by the school staff resulted in producing countless successful students, a list which includes such distinguished individuals as Winston Groom, the award-winning author of *Forrest Gump*, and former Alabama Governor Don Siegelman.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Leinkauf Elementary School on its 100th anniversary. In a time when Americans are placing more emphasis and more effort into providing quality educational opportunities for their children, Leinkauf continues to set the standard for success in this area. I congratulate the faculty, staff, and students currently at the school, and I also congratulate the generations of students who have used their education and their experiences there as a springboard to success later in life.

It is my hope Leinkauf Elementary School continues its story of success for another one hundred years.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO LOLA SPRADLEY

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 20, 2004

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege to rise today to pay tribute to Lola Spradley and thank her for her leadership and contributions to Colorado as the Speaker of the Colorado House of Representatives. She has brought an outstanding level of energy and commitment to the Colorado General Assembly throughout her years of public service. As Lola celebrates her retirement, let it be known that the citizens of Colorado and I are eternally grateful for the guidance she has provided in making Colorado a leader of American democracy.

Lola was appointed to the House of Representatives to fill a term in 1997, and was subsequently elected in 1998, 2000, and 2002. Serving Chaffee, Custer, Fremont, Park, Pueblo and Saguache counties, Lola has fought for the issues that are important to her constituency, including renewable energy, affordable health care, and water conservation. Before serving as Speaker of the House, Lola was the House Majority Leader, and currently chairs the Executive Committee of Legislative Council and the Legislative Council Committee. Her outstanding record of public service has garnered Lola numerous legislator of the year awards, the Fremont Economic Development Corporation Citizen of the Year award in 2000, and the NFIB's Small Business Guardian of the Year award in 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, and 2002.

Lola's commitment to community participation exemplifies her belief that it is the duty of every citizen to do what they can to make their community stronger. She is an active member of the Canon City Lions Club, the Pueblo Community College Foundation Board of Directors, the Sangre De Cristo Arts Center Board of Directors, and the Colorado State Fair Ladies.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to pay tribute to State Representative Lola Spradley before this body of Congress and this nation for her selfless dedication to public service. It is clear that she has been an invaluable resource for the State of Colorado, and her efforts have helped ensure a promising future for our great country. I would like to extend my congratulations to Lola on her retirement and wish her and her husband Dale all the best in their future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING JOAN KELSCH

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 20, 2004

Mr. GERLACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Joan Kelsch for being honored by the Boyertown Area Times and the Boyertown Jaycees as the Educator of the Year for 29 years of dedicated service as a teacher at the Saint Francis Academy in Bally, Pennsylvania.

Joan Kelsch, a graduate of West Chester University in Pennsylvania, has been teaching at Saint Francis Academy for 29 years. She

began her career teaching fourth graders and has consistently demonstrated her dedication to education. While on maternity leave after the birth of each of her two children, she continued her teaching efforts as a substitute.

In 1982, recognizing her dedication and passion, Joan was asked by Father Joseph Fricker to create a kindergarten program for St. Francis Academy. Joan eagerly took on this task and created the first kindergarten class for the school consisting of thirty students.

Joan has been credited with creating an exciting and enriching learning environment for her students, while also enhancing the curriculum of several programs throughout the school. Her students have art work decorating the rooms and, not only does this artwork display the abilities of the children, but it also highlights the talent that Joan possesses as a teacher. Joan has created several learning devices for children, such as literature tea parties, where the students learn etiquette while also challenging their reading skills and vocabulary with students from the fifth grade. In this challenge, the students are also encouraged to use their imagination by creating new words and new definitions.

As a teacher in a Roman Catholic school, Joan also has the responsibility for aiding the spiritual guidance of her students. She prepares the students for the sacraments of Reconciliation and the Holy Communion. In addition, Joan is also a religion coordinator for St. Francis Academy. She attends yearly meetings to help update textbooks and curriculum for Catholic school students.

Outside of the classroom, Joan acts as a Staff Liaison to the Home and School Association where she attends monthly meetings. Joan also spends her time volunteering in her community. Each summer, Joan and her husband, William, volunteer at the annual church carnival and, every fall, Joan works at the Santa Secret Shop at the annual bazaar for the school.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me today in recognizing Joan Kelsch for her many years of exemplary service to St. Francis Academy's community.

IN HONOR OF TED FEHRING

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 20, 2004

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Ted Fehring, who turned 90 on April 8th. Born to buggy manufacturers in Columbus, Indiana, Ted has lived a full and truly exceptional life. A man of the highest moral integrity, Ted has proven to be a devoted family man, dedicated member of the community, faithful Christian and successful businessman.

Ted married Marie Theresa Grote on June 29, 1938, and the rest is history—with five daughters, Janet, Jean, Joy, Julie and JoAnn, thirteen grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren, Ted has led a rich family life.

As for his professional career, Ted has embarked successfully upon several different career paths: he was a teacher, a coach, an escrow officer, Vice-President of a Savings and Loan, and President of a Mortgage and Investment company. Ted has been a Carmel resident since June of 1945 and his active participation in our community has been invaluable.

He has been a member of the Lions Club, the Governing Board of the Church of the Wayfarer, the Red Cross, and has officiated many college football games—and this is only a fraction of his achievements!

I have known Ted Fehring to always be an honest and good man. Ted's ability to balance work, community involvement and his family serves as a model to all of us in the central coast community. At 90, Ted continues to live his life to the fullest and it is truly an honor to be able to recognize him today.

PURSUING DEMOCRACY ONE VOTE
AT A TIME

HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 20, 2004

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to inform my colleagues on Indonesia's recent strides towards democratization. Indonesia should be hailed as the poster child for emerging democracies throughout the world. A major secular state with a Muslim majority, Indonesia is the world's third largest democracy and is gaining International recognition for its strides towards complete democratization. Indonesia's democratization matters precisely because the country is making progressive political and constitutional reforms while also demonstrating that Islam and democracy are not mutually exclusive and can successfully work in tandem for one nation.

When so many positive stories in the Muslim world are obscured by violent uprisings in areas of historic conflict, it is high time to take notice of the truly impressive strides Indonesia is making. On Monday, April 5th, nearly 148 million voters in Indonesia took to the polls in a critical test for their young democracy. Indonesians selected national, provincial, and regional Parliamentary Representatives. Unlike other international elections, campaigning there has not been marred by violence—and by most media reports—the balloting was conducted in an efficient, clean, transparent, and purely democratic manner. And on July 5th, in one of the largest electoral undertakings in the world and for the first time in Indonesia's history, the President and Vice President will be directly elected.

Indonesia's economy was battered in the financial crisis of 1997, and governing this sprawling archipelago has not been easy in the wake of the economic meltdown and dramatic political change that we have witnessed in the seven short years of post-Soeharto Reformasi. In fact, much remains to be done there, particularly in the critical areas of judicial reform, corruption, human rights, and social welfare.

With close to half of the world's shipping fleet passing through Indonesian waters, the geopolitical importance of the country cannot be overstated. In addition, the threat of terrorism in Southeast Asia is real and Indonesia has been the unfortunate victim of several major attacks in recent years. In order to quell terrorist threats, Indonesia's government is discovering new ways of working with regional law enforcement and intelligence communities in hopes of rooting out homegrown radicalism. But Indonesia should not fight this battle alone: solid U.S. support is needed in the

struggle to keep Indonesia safe against the devastation and destruction of terrorism.

With more than 300 major American firms doing business in Indonesia—and as massive decentralization takes place—near term U.S. investment in the country will exceed \$25 Billion. As a result, the United States should continue providing support to help Indonesia stabilize and consolidate these economic, political, and social gains. By combining strategic development initiatives and more effective public diplomacy, we can successfully engage Indonesia in this election year and beyond.

As a new generation of democratic participation arises out of Indonesia's turbulent past, the United States and Indonesia's neighbors can only benefit as Indonesia embraces the model of a modern democratic state. With Indonesia's current level of economic and social development, the International Community now has the unique opportunity to assist with the country's continual progress towards complete democratization. We should do all we can to help Indonesia become a positive Muslim and democratic influence in that vital region of the world community.

CONGRATULATIONS TO SISTER
MARY EILEEN WILHELM, R.S.M.,
ON THE OCCASION OF HER RETIREMENT

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 20, 2004

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride and pleasure that I rise to pay tribute to Sister Mary Eileen Wilhelm, R.S.M., on the occasion of her retirement as President and Chief Executive Officer of Mercy Medical in Daphne, Alabama.

For the past 36 years, Sister Mary Eileen has served the families of south Alabama with compassion, dedication, commitment and a tremendous amount of love.

As a member of the Order of the Religious Sisters of Mercy, Sister Mary Eileen has spent her career finding and implementing the most effective, up-to-date methods of meeting the healthcare requirements of some of the neediest patients in the Gulf Coast region.

She received her Nursing Diploma from the Providence Hospital School of Nursing in Mobile, her Bachelor's Degree from Mount Saint Agnes College in Baltimore, Maryland, and her Master's Degree in Health Care Administration from George Washington University in Washington, D.C. At the conclusion of her academic studies, Sister Mary Eileen served her hospital administrative residency at the Veterans Administration Hospital in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

From 1959 to 1966, she served as a staff nurse, first at Saint Martin dePorres Hospital in Mobile, and then at Stella Maris Hospital in Baltimore, Maryland. She then accepted a position as Director of Nursing Services at Villa Mercy in Daphne, Alabama, an organization which over the years has developed into the modern day facility known as Mercy Medical.

Along with her active involvement in the life and growth of Mercy Medical, Sister Mary Eileen has played a large role in the activities of numerous organizations in Alabama and throughout the United States. These include,

but are certainly not limited to, membership on the Catholic Health Association, the St. Joseph's Health System Board of Trustees in Atlanta, Georgia, the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas (Baltimore Regional Community), the Southwest Alabama Hospital Council of the Alabama Hospital Association, and the Mercy Medical Board of Trustees.

Additionally, Sister Mary Eileen has been named to "Who's Who of American Women," "Who's Who in Religion," and "Who's Who in Health Care." She was a 1994 graduate of "Leadership ALABAMA" and currently serves as a member of "Envision Mobile-Baldwin."

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in recognizing Sister Mary Eileen Wilhelm for her tremendous contributions to the citizens of the First Congressional District of Alabama. The experience and enthusiasm she has brought to her job and the concern and compassion she has displayed throughout the years to everyone with whom she has had contact are unquestioned and unparalleled.

She has indeed been a genuine asset both to her order and to the thousands of men, women and children she has assisted for over four decades. I am proud and honored to call her my friend, and I offer my heartfelt thanks and congratulations as she enters this new phase of her life.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO ROB
FAIRBANK

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 20, 2004

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity and pay tribute to Rob Fairbank and thank him for his commitment to serving the people of Colorado as a three-term member of the Colorado House of Representatives. Rob will always be remembered for the leadership and guidance he has provided for his district, and as he celebrates his retirement, let it be known that he leaves behind an outstanding legacy of commitment to the people of Colorado and the Colorado General Assembly.

Rob was elected to serve the people of Jefferson County in 1998 based on his common sense approach to government and his previous political experience. From 1995 through 1997, he served as Political Director for the Colorado Republican Committee; he served as campaign manager for Bill Owens for Treasurer in 1993 and 1994; served as Program Director for the Independence Institute from 1991 to 1993; and was the Deputy Political Director of the Colorado Republican Committee from 1989 to 1991.

Rob's current service in the State House includes serving as Majority Caucus Chair and Vice Chair for the Finance Committee. He is also a member of the Appropriations Committee; Legislative Council Committee; and State, Veterans, and Military Affairs Committee. Some of the honors he has received for his significant accomplishments while serving in the House include the Jeffco Coalition of Chambers 1999 Champion of Enterprise award; the CACI Friend of Business award in 1999 and 2000; and the National Federation of Independent Businesses Guardian of Small Business award in 2000.