

IN RECOGNITION OF THE DONOHO SCHOOL

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 27, 2004

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to The Donoho School in Anniston, Alabama, on the occasion of the celebration of the school's 40th anniversary on Friday, May 7, 2004.

The Donoho School is an independent, college-preparatory day school in Anniston, Alabama, enrolling 366 students in pre-kindergarten through grade twelve. It was founded as a secondary institution in 1963 and chartered under the name of The Anniston Academy. In 1976, the name was changed to The Donoho School in recognition of Mrs. Harriet Wallis Donoho, a founder and benefactor of the school.

The Donoho School's mission is to provide a quality college-preparatory education to capable, highly motivated students. It is committed to the development of the total child by providing a challenging curriculum in an atmosphere conducive to good citizenship, personal integrity and devout religious principles. The school's academic, athletics, fine arts and other student activities are designed to fulfill this commitment.

As the Congressional representative for Anniston, Alabama, I have long been aware of the outstanding reputation The Donoho School holds in the local community and surrounding areas. I am proud to salute this fine school on its 40th anniversary.

CONGRATULATING DOROTHY NORIEA

HON. DAVID VITTER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 27, 2004

Mr. VITTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dorothy Noriea, of Mandeville, Louisiana. Dorothy has been named the Louisiana Breast Cancer Task Force's Board Member of the Year.

After being diagnosed with breast cancer in the summer of 1998, Dorothy underwent a lumpectomy, mastectomy, chemotherapy and radiation and completed treatment in 1999. Dorothy has since served as a member Louisiana Breast Cancer Task Force, an organization which puts forth an immeasurable amount of effort in working towards a cure for breast cancer.

In addition to her work with the Louisiana Breast Cancer Task Force, Dorothy also serves on the Board of the Mandeville PTA, the Greater Covington Junior League, the Beau Chene Garden Club, and the Presbyterian Women's Club. Her invaluable service to the community shows her to be selfless and full of strength and courage.

I come to the floor of the House of Representatives today to personally commend and honor Dorothy Noriea on being named the Louisiana's Breast Cancer Task Force's Board Member of the Year. I am honored that we as members of the U.S. Congress are able to recognize a woman who has been through so

much in her own personal life yet still manages to give so much to the community. She deserves tremendous acknowledgement and appreciation for all that she has contributed to the citizens of Louisiana.

Again, I would like to thank Dorothy Noriea for so honorably representing the state of Louisiana.

COMMEMORATION OF THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 27, 2004

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the victims of one of history's most terrible tragedies, the Armenian Genocide.

April 24, 1915 is remembered and solemnly commemorated each year by the Armenian community and others throughout the world. On that day, Armenian religious, political, and intellectual leaders were arrested in Constantinople, taken to the interior of Turkey and murdered. In the years that followed, Armenians living under Ottoman rule were systematically deprived of their homes, property, freedom, dignity, and ultimately their lives. By 1923, 1.5 million Armenians had been massacred and 500,000 more had been deported.

The Armenian Genocide is a historical fact, despite the efforts of some to minimize its scope and deny its occurrence. Many of the survivors of the genocide came to the United States, where they and their descendants have contributed to our society in countless ways. In my district, there is a significant population of Armenian survivors and their families that showed heroic courage and a will to survive. With faith and courage, generations of Armenians have overcome great suffering and proudly preserved their culture, traditions, and religion and have told the story of the genocide to an often indifferent world. As Members of Congress and people of conscience, we must work to overcome the indifference and distortions of history, and ensure that future generations know what happened.

Mr. Speaker, genocide is the most potent of all crimes against humanity because it is an effort to systematically wipe out a people and a culture as well as individual lives. Denying that genocide took place when there are recorded accounts of barbarity and ethnic violence is an injustice. This was a tragic event in human history, but by paying tribute to the Armenian community we ensure the lessons of the Armenian genocide are properly understood and acknowledged. I am pleased my colleagues and I have this opportunity to ensure this tragedy is remembered.

CELEBRATION OF ISRAEL INDEPENDENCE DAY

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 27, 2004

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, today we commemorate Yom Ha'Atzmaut, Israel's Independence Day. For 56 years, Israel has been

forced by its neighbors and many in the international community to fight for the right to exist. As the only country in the region with a popularly elected democracy, Israel remains our staunchest ally.

In the face of continuous terror, citizens of Israel try to lead a normal life. However, they remain haunted by acts of violence that they have witnessed. Sadly, many have felt the anguish of knowing someone who has been murdered. Many are afraid to ride buses, sit in cafes, or visit outdoor markets. The pursuit of happiness, often taken for granted in the United States, is summarily abridged by those that seek to destroy Israel.

The majority of Israeli citizens desire peace with their neighbors. They want to be free from terrorist attacks and free from the constant fear that plagues them. On this day, Yom Ha'Atzmaut, we must pledge to work to further the goal of peace in the Middle East and ensure the continued existence of the lone representative democracy in the region, our friend and ally, Israel. Let us not forget that this is a day of celebration for Israelis who commemorate the establishment of Israel with great joy. Against all odds, the fledgling Jewish State has survived and grown into a stable, economically strong country.

TRIBUTE TO NATIONAL ETHNIC COALITION OF ORGANIZATIONS

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 27, 2004

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased today to pay tribute to an outstanding humanitarian organization, the National Ethnic Coalition of Organizations. NECO, as it is better known, celebrates its 20th anniversary this year.

NECO's mandate is simple but powerful, universal in scope and humanitarian in purpose. It seeks to preserve ethnic diversity, promote equality and tolerance, combat injustice and bring about harmony and unity among all peoples.

Since its founding in 1984 this multi-ethnic coalition has taken leadership in the promotion of diversity and has sponsored programs, activities and educational initiatives designed to break through the walls of ethnic misunderstanding and ignorance.

I am especially pleased and proud in this tribute to acknowledge the inspirational leadership and tireless work of NECO's Chairman and a good friend, William Denis Fugazy. Bill has been the leader of NECO throughout these 20 years and in that role has become one of our nation's most respected humanitarian leaders and a dedicated visionary, who constantly works to promote brotherhood and respect between all citizens.

NECO's most distinct program is familiar to many of you and to the general public. Each year since 1986, NECO has awarded the Ellis Island Medal of Honor. It honors Americans of various ethnic origins for their outstanding contributions to this country. It is an award that has been bestowed on all American Presidents since 1986 as well as Nobel Prize winners, leaders in entertainment, business and science and a number of members of Congress on a bi-partisan basis. I was proud

in 2001 to cosponsor a resolution which passed the House and Senate to recognize the Ellis Island Medal of Honor.

Beyond the Ellis Island Medals, NECO has provided leadership in a wide range of humanitarian and national civic work. This includes raising more than \$1 million to renovate and refurbish the Immigrant Wall of Honor on Ellis Island, a wall which contains the names of more than 200,000 immigrants to the United States who first aimed to begin the American dream on Ellis Island.

One of the best-known of NECO's programs is the Forum Children's Foundation. This project involves sponsoring children from various third world nations who are in need of urgent medical assistance to come to the United States and receive this care. To date more than 30 children have been provided with surgeries and related care that could be characterized as either life saving or life changing in nature. The Foundation assumes the responsibility for the costs associated with the care and the transportation necessary to receive it. In this endeavor they have made a genuine difference in the lives of not only the children but their families as well.

NECO in its history has been deeply involved as an advocate to combat the rising local, state, and national problem of hate crimes. It began in response to one of the most heinous of all hate crimes that was committed against James Byrd in Texas. NECO in addition to helping the Byrd family with the funeral costs, also established two scholarships a year in conjunction with the James Byrd Jr. Foundation for Racial Healing. NECO has worked closely with the sponsors of comprehensive hate crime prevention legislation in both the House and the Senate working to educate and inform the Congress about the need to prevent hate crimes by providing law enforcement with adequate resources and responsibility. Today in our nation we average nearly 25 hate crimes a day and it is obvious that we must do more to combat the problem.

NECO is constant in its efforts to combat negative ethnic and racial stereotyping. This has included work with the Family Exchange Peace Program. This program brings thousands of school children and their families together to raise awareness about the diverse racial and ethnic heritage of New York City as well as to encourage racial, ethnic and cultural harmony.

NECO also is responsible for one of the most important Italian American organizations, the Coalition of Italo-American Associations. The Coalition representing 143 organizations around the nation with a membership of some 1.5 million works in conjunction with NECO on the key mission to fight discrimination including negative media stereotyping, and to spotlight the contributions which Italian Americans make and continue to make to America.

NECO also is responsible for the Forum Club, a leading business organization in New York City, which sponsors monthly high-level programs with prominent speakers from government, media and business.

Over the past 20 years NECO has distinguished itself in many humanitarian programs and initiatives. It has stayed true to its mission to promote the strength of diversity and to promote understanding and harmony. Its positive mission and message is challenged so often by some harsh realities of modern society such as hate crimes and discrimination, yet

NECO's strength of character and sense of commitment has been unwavering.

It is a special honor for me to recognize NECO and its great work these past twenty years. I salute NECO's leadership including its Board of Directors, staff and volunteers and most especially their Chairman, Bill Fugazy. NECO is an outstanding model of an organization which does so well by doing such good.

THE LOSS OF MASTER SERGEANT RICHARD L. FERGUSON

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 27, 2004

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, it is with profound sorrow that I rise to recognize the death of Master Sergeant Richard L. Ferguson, United States Army—a brave soldier who served with dignity and honor in Iraq. I join his family and the people of Rhode Island in mourning this great loss.

On Tuesday, March 30, Master Sergeant Ferguson was killed in Samarra, Iraq, when the vehicle in which he was riding overturned in a non-hostile incident. He served with 2nd Battalion, 10th Special Forces Group out of Fort Carson, Colorado. Raised in Coventry, Rhode Island, Master Sergeant Ferguson joined the Army at the age of 17 and served his nation honorably as a member of the elite Special Forces. His assignments sent him around the globe on important and challenging missions, and it was while stationed in Germany that he met his wife, Marianne. Marianne now lives in Colorado with their children, Jonathan, Jordan, and Jason.

Master Sergeant Ferguson's many years in the Army demonstrate his dedication to our nation's freedom, a belief shared by others in his family that were also called to service; his father, Lee F. Ferguson, Sr., served in Korea, his brother, Lee Jr., was a member of the 82nd Airborne, and his brother Eric is in the Air National Guard. Richard Ferguson also leaves a sister, JoAnn Phillips of Coventry, and a daughter, Audrey. Those who knew him well spoke highly of his love of his family, and his patriotism. He was described as a leader who demonstrated humility, commitment and courage.

His loss causes us to reflect on the bravery demonstrated by our men and women in uniform as they carry out their obligations in the face of danger. When their nation called them to duty to preserve freedom, liberty and the security of their neighbors, they answered without hesitation. We remember those who have fallen not only as soldiers, but also as patriots who made the ultimate sacrifice for their country. May we keep their loved ones in our thoughts and prayers as they struggle to endure this difficult period and mourn the heroes America has lost.

We will continue to hope for the safe and speedy return of all of our troops serving throughout the world.

IN RECOGNITION OF PIEDMONT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL'S STUDENT COUNCIL

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 27, 2004

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Piedmont Elementary School of Piedmont, Alabama. This fine elementary school has established a Student Council in order to teach its students the importance of government and the democratic principles. As I read the letters of some of its young officers, I know that this experiment has been successful. These young people, under the leadership of student council sponsors Miss Leslie Gary and Mrs. Melinda Whaley, are indeed a credit to their school, their community and their state.

As a reward for their service on the Piedmont Elementary School Student Council and to further their education about our American government, these students will be traveling to Washington, D.C., on April 27 to May 1, 2004. The Alabama Legislature has designated them as "Ambassadors of Goodwill."

I welcome these Alabama Ambassadors of Goodwill and their principal, John H. McGill, as the Piedmont Elementary School Student Council visits our Nation's Capital. I salute these young people for their accomplishments.

THANKING SISTER IMELDA FOR THIRTY-FIVE YEARS OF GUID- ANCE, SERVICE, AND LEADER- SHIP

HON. DAVID VITTER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 27, 2004

Mr. VITTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Sister Imelda Moriarty, Principal of St. Catherine of Siena School in Metairie, Louisiana. Sister Imelda is retiring after thirty-five years of teaching at St. Catherine. She is a pillar of the Louisiana educational community and will be sorely missed.

Sister Imelda began teaching at St. Catherine of Siena School in 1969 with a class of forty-one students. She became principal in 1974, and she will retire as principal in May of 2004. Since the arrival of Sister Imelda, St. Catherine has become the largest nonpublic school in Louisiana.

Generation after generation of children from the New Orleans area have attended and will attend St. Catherine. Under the guidance of Sister Imelda, thousands of students have received excellent educations and have become positive contributors to their communities. More importantly, these students have developed a moral, ethical and spiritual foundation to help guide them through life. It is through Sister Imelda's faith that she has become such a positive and powerful source in the lives of so many children.

My wife and I are both personally affected by the retirement of Sister Imelda. Three of our four children attend St. Catherine, and Sister Imelda's departure will be a very emotional event for students and parents alike. Younger students will miss her open arms and candy