PAYING TRIBUTE TO HINKLEY HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

HON. THOMAS G. TANCREDO

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 20, 2004

Mr. TANCREDO. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to highlight the accomplishments of a special group of students from Hinkley High School in Aurora, Colorado.

After learning about the devastating effects of land mines from African History teacher Chris Sundberg, students in the International Baccalaureate program worked to raise $6,000 for Colorado Adopt-A-Minefield. The Adopt-A-Minefield program is part of the United Nations Association. It works to save lives by raising funds for mine clearance and survivor assistance, and to raise awareness about the landmine problems. This donation was the single largest donation ever received by the Colorado branch of the organization. The money will be used to help clear landmines from a field in Mozambique.

Minefields are often left abandoned or improperly cleared after a regional conflict. These land mines devastate thousands of lives every year by leaving civilians, particularly children, maimed for life. The students of Hinkley High School decided to reach out across the divide of culture and distance to children from another continent and help make our world a safer place.

Mr. Speaker, these students worked tirelessly to both raise money for landmine removal efforts and to increase awareness of the devastating effects of abandoned landmines. Their commitment to helping others in this way should serve as an example to us all.

TRIBUTE TO THE PROBLEM SOLVING TEAM OF THE QUEST PROGRAM AT JOHN HOWARD, JR. SCHOOL IN EAST ORANGE, NEW JERSEY

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 20, 2004

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, it is with a great deal of pleasure that I rise to acknowledge the accomplishments of the Problem Solving Team of the Quest Program at the John Howard, Jr. School in East Orange. This team was concerned about gangs in their neighborhood and decided to take action. They established themselves as PEGASUS PUSH, meaning Peers Educating Gang Awareness Stopping Unnecessary Suffering Providing Useful Strategies for Home. The Problem Solving Team has volunteered over 1000 hours towards this project by publishing a monthly Gang Awareness Newsletter, organizing a Family Fest Night, a Fun Day Fair, creating a Pegasus Website, establishing an after school PEP PICK Program, a Day at the Ball Park, a Saturday Delight Program, a Mother-Son, Father-Daughter Night, Holiday Celebrations and Puppet Shows. All of these activities were designed to engage their peers and others in constructive projects and out of gangs.These students, namely, Khalil Banner, Jordan Clarke, Estefani Ubri, Felix Torres, Markia Hutchinson, Shanice Thomas, Monique McDonald, Melina Reyes, Cameron Glover, Shaenice McKenzie, Safa Muhammad, Zasha Martinez and their coach, Ms. Christine McAdams are to be commended for their unselfish actions in trying to eliminate gangs where they live.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues here in the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing this outstanding group of fourth and fifth grade students along with their coach for placing first in New Jersey in the junior division of the Community Problem Solving Component of the International Future Problem Solving Program. As a result of this achievement, these members of PEGASUS PUSH and students at Dr. John Howard, Jr. School will represent New Jersey at the International Competition in Lexington, Kentucky on June 2–6, 2004. The contributions made and the leadership shown by the members of PEGASUS PUSH have already made them winners in the 10th Congressional District. I wish them continued success in this very worthwhile effort.

RECOGNIZING GUNNERY SERGEANT VINCENT C. SANTIAGO FOR HIS PROMOTION TO FIRST SERGEANT IN THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 20, 2004

Ms. BORDALLO. This citation is presented to Gunnery Sergeant Vincent C. Santiago, a native of Merizo, Guam, for his promotion to the rank of First Sergeant in the United States Marine Corps.

Gunnery Sergeant Santiago is the son of Joseph and Mary Santiago of Merizo, Guam. He is married to the former Selma D. Reyes, daughter of Peter and Josephine Reyes, also from Merizo. Vincent and Selma have three children, Vincent Jr., PeterJoe, and Serresa.

Sergeant Santiago entered the United States Marine Corps in September 1989, graduating from boot camp in San Diego, California, with a meritorious promotion to the rank of Private First Class. After completing his Military Occupational Specialty (MOS) training at the School of Infantry as a 0341 Mortar man, he was assigned to Marine Barracks Guam as a Marine Security Guard where he was promoted to the rank of Lance Corporal in August 1990. Seven months later, in March 1991, he was meritoriously promoted to Corporal, eventually receiving orders to 3rd Battalion 5th Marines at Camp Pendleton, California.

In 1993, Gunnery Sergeant Santiago moved to Maintenance Management, where he became the Battalion's Maintenance Management Chief and was promoted to the rank of Sergeant. After completing Drill Instructor School at the Marine Corps Recruit Depot in San Diego, California, he was assigned to Company ''A'', 1st Recruit Training Battalion.

Among his many accomplishments, Gunnery Sergeant Santiago has received the Navy/Marine Corps Commendation Medal, the Navy/Marine Corps Achievement Medal in lieu of third award and the Marine Corps Good Conduct Medal in lieu of fourth award. In addition, Gunnery Sergeant Santiago was also Marine of the Quarter in March 1991 while stationed at Marine Barracks, Guam, and selected as Drill Instructor of the Quarter for the 1st Recruit Training Battalion in March 1996. He is also certified in the Marine Corp Martial Arts Program as an Instructor Trainer, 1st Degree Black Belt.

Gunnery Sergeant Santiago is the Drill Master at the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland. He will receive his promotion to First Sergeant on June 1, 2004, upon completion of his current tour of duty. He will then report to the 3rd Marine Regiment, 3rd Marine Division at Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii, for duty as Company First Sergeant where I am confident he will continue to serve with honor and distinction.

Gunnery Sergeant Santiago's career reflects the courage and determination of the Chamorro people. We are very proud of our native son. On behalf of the people of Guam, I want to congratulate Gunnery Sergeant Santiago and his family on his accomplishments, and extend our gratitude for his service to our island and our country.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON S. CON. RES. 95, CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 19, 2004

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, budgets should be plans for the future. They should reflect our values and provide a roadmap to the kind of country we want to be.

But this budget provides virtually no plan whatsoever. In an unprecedented sleight-of-hand, this budget only applies any semblance of fiscal responsibility—the so-called ''PAYGO'' rules—to the other body's budget, not this one—exempting, of course, $55 billion in tax cuts for the wealthy. It covers only a single year of budget policy, demonstrating the Republicans' utter lack of commitment to providing the critical resources for defense, homeland security, education, veterans, and other priorities. And, for all intents and purposes, it increases the debt limit for the third time in 3 years. If budgets are roadmaps, this one puts us on a road to nowhere.

Deficits do matter, Mr. Speaker. At a time when rising health care costs, and declining wages are squeezing our middle class, deficits do not make our country stronger. They lead to rising interest rates, less business investment and declining homeownership, and make it harder for families to achieve financial security. Deficits are a problem for our children and our children's children.

At a time when manufacturing employment, once the foundation of our economy, is at a 53-year low, with many of those jobs having been sent overseas, when hundreds of thousands of Americans are giving up hope looking for work every month, it is time we choose a different course for this country—a responsible course. It is time we act with a shared sense of purpose and responsibility to address the tasks before our country. That is what this budget process should be about, and that is what this budget should do.