

Preparatory Country Day School has immersed its students in outstanding academic programs and provided a strong, supportive community. Like New York City, the school has opened its doors to students from all over the world, representing an array of cultures, languages and traditions. That commitment to diversity speaks volumes about Poly Prep's illustrious history.

The school's 150th anniversary provides a hallmark for reflection on Poly Prep's tireless efforts to provide a diverse and educationally sound environment which has led its students to academic success. Therefore, on behalf of the U.S. House of Representatives, I congratulate the Polytechnic Preparatory Country Day School on the occasion of its 150th anniversary—its Sesquicentennial—for its efforts toward educational excellence and providing an environment that is as diverse and rich in experience and tradition as New York City itself.

TRIBUTE TO DARA FELDMAN

**HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 9, 2005*

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise to congratulate my constituent, Dara Feldman, on receiving the 2005 Disney Teacher Award. The award was given in recognition of her creativity, innovative teaching methods, and ability to inspire her students.

Ms. Feldman, a kindergarten teacher at Garrett Park Elementary School, is being recognized for her efforts in the areas of Early Childhood Education. Her commitment to teaching results in a creative, high-tech kindergarten where children learn about the wonder of the world in which they live. Ms. Feldman hosts internet exchanges between her kindergarten students and kindergartners in other parts of the world. This year, her students corresponded with students in Southeast Asia who were victims of last December's tsunami.

Ms. Feldman's creativity and dedication to teaching have made her one of only 45 honorees selected from more than 50,000 nominations worldwide. Teachers like Dara Feldman are making profound contributions to the future of our country and provide a beautiful example of how America's teachers can excel.

I applaud Dara Feldman and wish her continued success in the years ahead.

INTRODUCTION OF THE HIGHER  
EDUCATION FOR FREEDOM ACT  
OF 2005

**HON. THOMAS E. PETRI**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 9, 2005*

Mr. PETRI. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the Higher Education for Freedom Act. This legislation establishes a competitive grant program making available funds to institutions of higher education, centers within such institutions, and associated nonprofit foundations. These grants would promote programs focused on the teaching and study of traditional Amer-

ican history, free institutions, and the history and achievements of Western Civilization at both the graduate and undergraduate level, including those that serve students enrolled in K-12 teacher education programs.

Several years ago I was involved in a congressional effort to highlight the decline in historical and civic literacy among American college students. This effort led to the unanimous, bicameral passage of S. Con. Res. 129 which stated, in part, that "the historical illiteracy of America's college and university graduates is a serious problem that should be addressed by the Nation's higher education community."

Given the increased threat to American ideals in the trying times in which we live, it is easy to see how the lack of historical and civic literacy among today's college students has become a more pressing issue. Nevertheless, most of the Nation's colleges and universities no longer require United States history or systematic study of Western civilization and free institutions as a general prerequisite to graduation, or for completing a teacher education program.

I believe it is time for Congress to take a more active role in addressing this matter. Our country's higher education system must do a better job of providing the basic knowledge that is essential to full and informed participation in civic life and to the larger vibrancy of the American experiment in self-government, binding together a diverse people into a single Nation with common purposes.

A TRIBUTE TO DR. JOON BANG

**HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 9, 2005*

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to acknowledge Dr. Joon Bang. Dr. Bang is President of the Korean American Youth Foundation, a non-profit organization dedicated to improving the lives of Korean American youth. He has been involved since 1993 with Foundation.

The Foundation's mission is to help Korean American youth develop a positive, healthy identity through self-awareness, career planning, and mentoring. Every year, the Foundation sponsors an essay contest titled "What America Means to Me" for Korean American youth that awards college scholarships to the winners. In 2001 the Foundation collaborated with WNET Channel 13 to expand the contest to include young people of all backgrounds.

The Foundation raises money to create an annual career forum for Asian American youth presented by the Flushing branch of the YWCA and the Korean American Network. It also sponsors Korean cultural events and performances for the community that attracts performers from across the country. Dr. Bang is also a member of the Advisory Board for Youth Affairs for the Institute of Korean-American Studies, Inc. (ICAS in Philadelphia).

Dr. Bang has devoted his time to introducing positive images of the Korean American community to the metropolitan area through public television. In 1994, he founded "Korean Friends of Channel 13" and served as president until 1999. In this capacity, he helped WNET Channel 13 develop a number of fundraising events to assist the March 1999

production of "Korean American Spirits," a documentary featuring the lives of Korean Americans in the tri-state area. The program raised more than \$140,000 for public broadcasting. For his contributions, Dr. Bang was named the 1997 recipient of the National Friends of Public Broadcasting and Elaine Peterson Distinguished Service Award.

Dr. Bang was born in Korea and graduated from the Medical College, Seoul National University, in Seoul, Korea in 1970. He came to the United States in 1973 and became a board-certified internist in 1978. He is an internist at the New York Methodist Hospital in Brooklyn.

Dr. Bang is the recipient of the 2001 Caring for Children Award. Mr. Speaker, Dr. Joon Bang has continuously demonstrated through his humanitarian efforts to improve the lives of the people in his community that he is more than worthy of our recognition today.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE FOURTH  
ANNUAL CELEBRATION OF  
WOMEN IN THE LAW

**HON. BRIAN HIGGINS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 9, 2005*

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the state of New York's fourth annual Celebration of Women in the Law. On May 25th, 10 Western New York women were honored for their outstanding contributions to the bench and the bar. The event, hosted by the state's Gender and Racial Fairness Committee, is both inspiring and heartening. I would humbly like to submit brief descriptions of the careers of some of these remarkable women to the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. I hope all of the honorees are proud of their achievements; I know that I am proud to serve as their representative in Congress.

Genevieve Capizzi has come a long way since starting out as a clerical assistant in the Buffalo City court 27 years ago. Due to her perseverance and strong work ethic, she is currently the principal administrative assistant for the 8th Judicial district. In 2003 Ms. Capizzi was awarded the Office of Court Administration's Quality Service Award for her leadership and service.

Chautauqua county Family Court Judge Judith Claire graduated from SUNY at Buffalo Law School and has become a pioneer for women in the legal profession in Western New York. Not only was Judge Claire the only practicing female attorney in the Chautauqua county when she first arrived in 1978, but in 1999 Judge Claire became the first and only woman to be elected to a countywide judgeship. In 2004 she was appointed to New York State Family Court Advisory and Rules committee that helps formulate policy and recommends amendments to state laws.

Helen Ferraro-Zaffram is concentrated in the practice of elder-law. Ms. Ferraro-Zaffram previously held a position as a staff attorney for legal services for the elderly, disabled and disadvantaged of New York. Helen was nominated for this award by Supreme Court justices who recognized her tireless efforts on behalf of the elderly.

Ilene Fleischmann leads a busy life serving as the associate dean of the University of Buffalo Law School. She is the editor of the UB

Law forum magazine and the editor of the University of Buffalo Law Links, the Law School's quarterly email newsletter. Prior to her work at the law school, she was a staff reporter and features columnist for the Buffalo Courier Express as well as a freelance writer.

Retired Supreme Court Judge Rose Lamendola is another extremely distinguished award recipient. Judge Lamendola served in the state attorney general's office to go on to be the first woman Erie county court judge. On June 13th, in 1995 she was appointed by governor Pataki a State Supreme Court justice and served until her retirement in 1999.

Janic Rosa was honored for her outstanding career in family law. Prior to her election to the Supreme Court in 2002, Rosa served as an Erie county family court judge. Under her direction, the court has appointed social workers to assess the needs of families and children. She even allows parents to put parenting plans together instead of litigation. Judge Rosa's creativity and compassion are both greatly admired.

Anna Scott is a Buffalo Attorney who was an educator for over 20 years before becoming an attorney. She taught in the Buffalo city school and attended University at Buffalo Law school. She was honored for her pro bono work for members in the community who can not afford attorneys.

Carolyn Van Schaik, Esq., passed away two years ago, but her memory will be immortalized at a residence for homeless women. Ms. Van Schaik graduated from the University of Dayton School of Law in 1990 before moving to Western New York to practice law. She was a former executive director of the not-for-profit organization, center city neighborhood development corp. She teamed up with the YWCA of Niagara in Lockport on a project to renovate an abandoned historic building in Niagara falls and turned it into transitional housing for homeless women and their families. Her husband, Niagara county assistant district attorney Robert Zucco, accepted the award on her behalf.

Also awarded were State Civil Service Commissioner Margaret Dadd and Chief Clerk Joann Wahl of the Fourth department appellate court in Rochester.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I want to reiterate my appreciation for these women and the exemplary standards that they have set for members of their profession, male or female. As a strong supporter of gender equality, I hope that this celebration encourages other women to be involved in the legal system and to seek positions of leadership in all fields, regardless of profession. I congratulate all of the honorees.

#### A TRIBUTE TO MEL YOST

### HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 9, 2005*

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mel Yost, one of our community's most compassionate advocates, who passed away on June 1, 2005. I had the privilege of knowing this remarkable man personally and working with him the past 8 years on numerous issues to help improve the lives of those oppressed by poverty, disease, and hopelessness throughout the world.

Mel Yost was one of three key founders of the first Colorado RESULTS chapter in 1983. He believed implicitly in the purpose of RESULTS "to create the political will to end hunger and the worst aspects of poverty and to empower individuals to have breakthroughs in exercising their personal and political power." Mel was active with RESULTS for 22 years and attended the first RESULTS Regional Conference in San Diego in 1986. In September 1990 in Denver's City Park at the World Summit of Children's Candlelight Vigil, Mel read Ina J. Hughes' "Prayer for Children" before 3,000 people, including the Governor and most of Colorado's national and local politicians. Often accompanied by his wife, Jan, Mel attended every RESULTS International Conference from 1985 through 2004.

He worked as a truck driver for Safeway for 30 years and frequently regaled his friends with stories of driving trucks in the mountains of New Mexico, Colorado, and Utah. He happily used expressions like "hammer on down, blue whiskey," his radio handle, and "put the pedal to the medal, baby."

In recent years, Mel hosted many meetings of the Denver and Boulder RESULTS groups because his retirement community was located halfway between the cities. He was a founding member in 1997 of the "Experiment in Democracy and Citizenship" group begun by my predecessor Representative David Skaggs. He continued to serve on this task force for me, sharing consensus decisions and creative solutions about federal legislation.

Mel always urged people to have fun. If a project wasn't fun, he didn't want to do it. He frequently read poetry, sometimes his own, at RESULTS meetings. Friends always looked forward to receiving his letters because they were poetic, compassionate, and showed clearly his positive approach to life, along with his kindness, his love of family, his love for all children, and his caring for the poor and oppressed of the world.

In what was to be his final presentation to the Colorado RESULTS group, Mel recalled founding the organization in 1983 to work on ending hunger and poverty in the world and to provide hope to the hopeless. His final words of advice were to "hook your mind up to your heart and let 'er rip, because that's the only way to get anything done."

I ask my colleagues to join me today in honoring the life of Mel Yost. Our world is better because of him.

#### PRIVATE FIRST CLASS STEVEN C. TUCKER

### HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 9, 2005*

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my condolences and heartfelt sympathy to the family and friends of United States Army Private First Class Steven C. Tucker of Grapevine, Texas.

Private First Class Tucker was killed in action on Saturday, May 21, 2005, at the age of 19, in Kandahar, Afghanistan, in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. He graduated from Colleyville Heritage High School in May of 2004, and completed boot camp in December of the same year. Private First Class

Tucker was assigned to A Company, 2nd Battalion, 503rd Infantry, 173rd Airborne Brigade, in Vincenza, Italy.

I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to Private First Class Tucker. This brave young man made the ultimate sacrifice for the security of his country and for the defense of democracy worldwide. He was an outstanding young man; and we should all be grateful for his noble contributions to this nation and the advancement of freedom.

I am proud to call Private First Class Tucker one of our own, and again deeply sorry for his family and friends who have suffered this loss. His legacy will remain, as the men and women of our armed services continue to fight for liberty—both abroad and on our home soil.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. RUBÉN HINOJOSA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 9, 2005*

Mr. HINOJOSA. Mr. Speaker, I regret that I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "no" on rollcall No. 234.

#### IN HONOR OF COLORADO TRAIL FOR MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS

### HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 9, 2005*

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize seven men, George Bishop, Matt Celesta, Joe McConaty, Matthew McConaty, John-Paul Maxfield, Dan Murray, and Chad Spurway, all Colorado natives, who have embarked on an incredible journey for Multiple Sclerosis.

Multiple Sclerosis is the number one disabling neurological disease among young adults, and the most commonly diagnosed neurological disease among those aged 20 to 50. Some 400,000 Americans, including 7,000 Coloradans, have MS. The incident rate in Colorado is much higher, 1 in 625, than the rate of southern states such as Texas, which has a rate of 1 in 10,000. These men recognize the severity of the disease and are giving themselves in an exemplary way to combat the disease.

On July 2, 2005, seven life-long friends will begin a five-week hike along the famous Colorado Trail. The trail covers eight mountain ranges, seven national forests, six wilderness areas, and five major river systems in the 471 mile path from Durango to Denver. The purpose of this special journey is to raise awareness of Multiple Sclerosis and raise money to help find the cure to a disease that has the potential to become the polio of this generation.

These seven men are the definition of community service, giving their time and energy towards such an extraordinary cause. They have started an organization, Colorado Trail For Multiple Sclerosis, "CT4MS," and are raising money to donate to The Rocky Mountain Multiple Sclerosis Center. To date, CT4MS has raised \$132,192 of \$250,000 they hope to