

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING OUTSTANDING TEACHERS IN DISTRICT 22

HON. E. CLAY SHAW, JR.

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 11, 2005

Mr. SHAW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor several notable teachers for the American Stars of Teaching award. This award is a recognition for exemplary classroom teachers who are successful in using innovative teaching strategies and raising academic achievement from all their students. To locate such teachers, the Department of Education (DEO) relies on nominations from various members of the community who believe these teachers are truly making a difference. There are five exemplary teachers in Florida's 22nd District that deserve recognition as an American Star of Teaching.

Anne Blankenship is a resident of Palm Beach County. She has taught for twenty years and currently teaches Advanced Placement English to 11th and 12th graders at Jupiter Community High School. For the past four years, she has had a 100 percent pass rate (above national average) for her students. This year, Anne, was also nominated for Palm Beach County's Dwyer Award for Excellence in Education.

Another resident of Palm Beach County is award recipient Cleve Maloon. He teaches Music Theory to students in grades 6th through 8th at Bak Middle School for the Arts. Cleve has been teaching for fourteen years and also directs the school's concert jazz bands. This year he was nominated for Palm Beach County's Dwyer Award for Excellence in Education. Also, in 2003, he was nominated for the Disney Hand Teacher Award which honors creativity in teaching.

Shawn Roney, of Palm Beach County, teaches Physical Education to students in grades K–5th at Grassy Waters Elementary school. Shawn has been teaching for seven years, created his school's Fitness and Wellness Club and coaches intramural team sports. He also integrated reading, writing, science, math and FCAT into his daily lessons. He was nominated for Palm Beach County's Dwyer Award for Excellence in Education this year.

Jasmin Deboo is from Broward County and has been teaching 5th grade at Deerfield Beach Elementary School for 11 years. Jasmin uses a hands-on approach to teaching and embraces the challenges of personalizing education for each student. She was the winner of the Broward County Teacher of the Year Award and was nominated for Florida's Teacher of the Year Award.

Nicole Greggs, a resident of Broward County, teaches music to grades K–5th at Plantation Park Elementary School. She has been a teacher for 14 years. Nicole has developed an updated electronic curriculum planning tool for music educators that aids in meeting grade level expectations for music and in aligning in-

structional focus with other subject areas. She is the founder and Director of MusicMakers! Summer Camp, believing that prolonged study of the Arts increases student achievement. She was nominated for this year's Broward County Teacher of the Year Award.

On behalf of Florida's 22nd District, I wish to congratulate Anne Blankenship, Cleve Maloon, Shawn Roney, Jasmin Deboo and Nicole Greggs for their truly admirable work. Only with the support of enthusiastic and caring teachers can future generations of American students hope to realize their dreams. These five nominees provide a shining example to all of South Florida's teachers.

HONORING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE HON. JUDGE KMIOTEK OF THE CHEEKTOWAGA TOWN COURT

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 11, 2005

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I stand here before you and this body to recognize the Honorable Judge Ronald E. Kmiotek, a man who has dedicated 38 years of devoted service protecting the public.

Judge Kmiotek began his life of public service nearly four decades ago by taking a civil service test. He scored high enough to be offered positions with the New York State Police as well as the Border Patrol Service. However, the love he had for his home town of Cheektowaga, New York was too great to accept those positions. As a result he chose to serve with the Cheektowaga Police Department.

For 25 years Judge Kmiotek valiantly served the Town of Cheektowaga as a guardian of the peace; while doing so he ascended to the rank of detective. Following his 25th year of service, he retired from the force or 5 years he expanded his services to the entire County of Erie while working as a Confidential Criminal Investigator for the Erie County District Attorney's Office.

In 1994, Judge Kmiotek truly transcended the boundaries of political parties, when without a single party endorsement he was elected to the town Court of Cheektowaga by an overwhelming majority. The people he so caringly served displayed their gratitude toward the Judge that day. He not only won, but carried the five most prolific party lines in the area.

While on the bench, Judge Kmiotek became widely known for his tough stance on crime. He was elected in a time when the smaller town of Cheektowaga had a higher DWI caseload than did the City of Buffalo. With his work cut out for him, the Judge began the slow and sometimes painstaking process of reforming the town he loved so much. For his efforts, he and his colleagues on the town bench were named the "Toughest Judges in Erie County."

Putting away DWI offenders was not the only thing the Judge has accomplished during his tenure. In 1997, Judge Kmiotek instituted a drug court. At the time it was only the second in the entire country. His court achieved a near 60 percent success rate, as well as seeing 98 percent of the people who successfully completed the program continuing to be sober to this day.

The Drug Court not only helped rehabilitate the narcotics offenders to reemerge into society as productive citizens, but also saved the County nearly \$3 million a year in healthcare costs.

When the Judge wasn't taking time out of his day to meet with the participants in the Drug Court program, or making the streets of Cheektowaga safer to drive on, he was spending time with his adoring family. He and his wife Irene have raised three wonderful children who have given them five equally remarkable grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the residents of the Town of Cheektowaga and all of New York's 27th Congressional District, I extend my sincerest gratitude to the Honorable Ronald Kmiotek for his enduring commitment to making Western New York a safer place to live.

IN RECOGNITION OF AMERICA'S ORCHESTRAS

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 11, 2005

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the important artistic contributions and community value of America's 1,800 orchestras.

This country's symphony, chamber, youth, and collegiate orchestras are among our Nation's most important cultural resources, which provide inspiration and enjoyment to more than 30 million individuals annually in cities, towns, and rural areas throughout the United States. They have shown a commitment to reaching all segments of their communities through education and community engagement programs.

In particular, I would like to honor and recognize the Cleveland Youth Orchestra. This orchestra, comprised of musically gifted middle and high school students, provides young people with a rare opportunity to work directly with musicians of the Cleveland Orchestra and conductors to further develop their musical skills. Each year, members of the orchestra perform various concerts throughout the northern Ohio region, helping to enrich our community's artistic experiences. The youth and diversity of the musicians in these programs provide a compelling model of what young musicians of all backgrounds can achieve when they are given such a wonderful opportunity. I can personally attest to the amazing talents of these gifted young musicians. I have

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

several CDs of the orchestras music, which I enjoy very much.

I am pleased to join with a bipartisan coalition of members in co-sponsoring House Concurrent Resolution 157, which recognizes the invaluable contributions orchestras have made to our Nation.

I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing the wonderful talents brought forth by this country's orchestras, including the amazing young musicians of the Cleveland Youth Orchestra.

DIANA FAIRCHILD AWARDED THE SILENT HERO AWARD

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 11, 2005

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Diana Fairchild, an emergency response communicator in Lewisville, Texas. Ms. Fairchild was recently awarded the Silent Hero Award.

The award, presented by the Commission on State Emergency Communications, CSEC, is presented to an individual who employs exceptional professionalism in the field of emergency communications. Winners of the award must be "solid" dispatchers whom are "always reliable and professional." Diana's supervisors say she "always goes the extra mile." On her own time, Ms. Fairchild has been known to visit a number of individuals in the hospital or rehabilitation, and she has even made gifts for those whom she has helped in emergencies.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I stand here today to recognize this individual for her professionalism and dependency and big heart she brings to her job. Her prestigious Silent Hero Award echoes her commitment and dedication as an emergency dispatcher. I am honored to represent her in Congress.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN BOOZMAN

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 11, 2005

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. Speaker, due to important constituent casework meetings, I was absent from the House of Representatives for portions of Thursday, June 30, 2005. Should I have been in attendance, I would have voted in the following manner: Rollcall 346, "no"; rollcall 356, "no."

HONORING THE 2005 CONGRESSIONAL GOLD AWARD MEDAL WINNERS

HON. E. CLAY SHAW, JR.

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 11, 2005

Mr. SHAW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 13 winners of the Congressional Gold Award from the 22nd District of Florida. Each award winner has spent at least 2 years completing over 400 hours of community serv-

ice, half of which is spent in personal development and physical fitness activities, including a four-night expedition.

Ms. Alexandra Brady of Palm Beach Gardens has dedicated her time fundraising for two different cancer groups. One is her local Cancer Society, while the other is the "Comfort Bag Project," a program that brings goody bags to young victims of cancer at St. Mary's Children's Hospital. In addition to these notable achievements, Alexandra has spent the last 4 years teaching in a local children's camp.

Ms. Carolyn Cox of Palm Beach Gardens volunteers at the Jupiter Medical Center where she assists the hospital staff. Additionally, Carolyn has dedicated her free time to working on fundraisers to provide medical services for less privileged individuals. Her quest for personal development led her to Costa Rica for a 10-day trip in which she learned about the history and culture of the Pacific Coast area.

Mr. Patrick Eucalitto of Palm Beach Gardens has volunteered with several national health organizations. Most notably, Patrick co-founded the Relay for Life Youth Council for the local American Cancer Society. In a pursuit to understand different cultures, Patrick has developed a fluent understanding of both Spanish and French. Additionally, Patrick has logged over 850 hours of training and racing time in competitive swimming.

Ms. Regen Foley of Palm Beach Gardens has proven herself as a born leader through her efforts as the founder and coordinator of the "Comfort Bag Project" at St. Mary's Children's Hospital. Furthermore, Regen spent time abroad in the Czech Republic, gaining an appreciation for the Czech culture while at the same time receiving a new understanding of her own national identity. Regen has also put in over 300 hours as a starter for her school's JV basketball team.

Ms. Elizabeth Folmar of Palm Beach Gardens has been involved with the Safe Harbor Rescue League, a shelter for mistreated dogs and cats, for the last 5 years. Additionally, Elizabeth volunteers at her local youth court serving as a lawyer. During her free time, Elizabeth has developed her nautical skills, navigating and skipping sailboats. This personal development activity has led her to plan a trip to the Outer Abaco islands of the Bahamas on her family sailboat.

Ms. Courtney Kneip of Palm Beach Gardens spends her time after school volunteering for a local kindergarten teacher. Courtney has participated in several community fundraisers for medical research. Pursuing her love of music, Courtney achieved a superior rating at Solo and Ensemble for her flute performance of Sonata Number 5. Courtney has spent time in French Canada where she immersed herself in the language and culture.

Mr. Kyle Lambrecht of Jupiter volunteers at his local Center for Information and Crisis Services and participates in a program that performs community outreach to the elderly. In addition, Kyle has auditioned for the All-State and Jazz Bands, performing both percussion and piano. Kyle is on both the varsity golf and tennis teams at his high school and he hopes to improve his skills in order to become one of the highest rated players.

Ms. Robin Lucas of Palm Beach Gardens serves as a mentor for the Big Brother/Big Sister Program. Robin has spent her free time

organizing and participating on a fundraising committee benefiting the Headstart Preschool. Robin has studied piano and taken weekly tennis lessons in order to advance to the upper intermediate level. Furthermore, Robin spent part of her time abroad, living with a local family in Mexico, learning Spanish and gaining an understanding of Mexican history and culture.

Ms. Kerry O'Neil of Jupiter volunteered for her high school's Academy of Finance, tutoring her fellow students in mathematics and finance. Kerry also spends her time working in the school yearbook office. Additionally, she competes in both lacrosse and swimming, earning Junior Olympic-level times in the 50- and 100-meter freestyle event. Kerry also planned a 10-day exploration to Italy where she learned about Italian culture.

Mr. Matthew Puchferran of Boca Raton coordinated the Nation's largest youth-led National Day of Prayer Teen Freedom Rally in 2004. Matthew organized over 1,600 teens and their families in order to hold prayer for the Nation's soldiers and leaders. In his spare time, Matthew has mastered the keyboard, leading his youth group worship band. He has competed on his high school soccer team for the past 4 years, and attended weekend campouts with the Boy Scouts of America. Additionally, Matthew spent time in Juarez, Mexico serving children, and helped a Boys and Girls Club on a North Carolina Cherokee Indian Reservation.

Mr. Sean Smith of Palm Beach Gardens volunteered for Better Health, a health awareness group. Sean also served as chairperson for the Health Action Council, which is designed to promote youth volunteering. Sean spends his free time mastering the guitar as well as competing on his school's basketball team. Additionally, he has explored the Western United States, viewing several of our Nation's natural treasures such as the Grand Canyon and Lake Mead.

Ms. Alexandra Trimper of Jupiter has volunteered for Jupiter Head Start where she organized a Christmas project for young children. Alexandra also plays the flute and competes on her high school tennis team where she advanced to the Florida State Championships.

Ms. Christine Vartan of Jupiter volunteered her time teaching the elderly how to use computers. Christine took ballroom dancing lessons, and is a self-taught member of her school's golf team. In an expedition to enhance her understanding of our Nation's history, she visited St. Augustine, Florida and Savannah, GA, learning about the famous River Street and its historical significance.

REMEMBERING THE LIFE OF GERALD R. PIGEON

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 11, 2005

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the life and memory of Mr. Gerald R. Pigeon, a resident of Western New York who dedicated his life to his country, his community and his family—a life cut short by a tragic accident on July 9, 2005.

A Buffalo, New York native, Mr. Pigeon was born on July 18, 1936 and as a young man attended South Park High School, where he graduated in 1954.