

I hope all Members of Congress will join me in welcoming President Chen as he transits through the United States.

IN HONOR AND RECOGNITION OF
DENNIS MORTON

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH
OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, September 15, 2005

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of Dennis Morton, committed public servant, Vietnam War Veteran, and friend and mentor to many, upon the occasion of his retirement, following 32 years of dedicated service within the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. Mr. Morton's tenure at HUD reflects vision, ingenuity, endless energy and strong leadership, all focused on ensuring the availability of quality housing for the most vulnerable individuals of our society—our struggling and our poor.

Mr. Morton's service at HUD began in 1977, when he was hired as a Realty Specialist in the Housing Management Division. Mr. Morton concentrated his efforts on all phases of acquisition, purchase and restoration of multi-family properties. As they have for decades, these properties exist as a basic yet vital need for thousands of residents in Cleveland and beyond—a dignified and safe place to call home.

Even though HUD has reorganized several times since its inception, Mr. Morton's unwavering focus on transforming bankrupt multi-family properties into vibrant structures, has provided quality housing for thousands of citizens of all ages, from young families to the elderly. From Realty Specialist, to Public Trust Officer, to Director of the Federal Housing Authority Multifamily Program Center Office in Cleveland, Mr. Morton directed the acquisition and rehabilitation of numerous public and senior housing units, including Longwood Apartments, Reserve Square and the award-winning Arbor Park Village.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honor and recognition of Dennis Morton, whose dedicated work as a HUD administrator has provided a safe home for the most vulnerable residents of our community. Mr. Morton's legacy at HUD will continue to serve as a brilliant example for all those who will follow in his path. His vital contribution continues to offer shelter, dignity, and for many, the necessary support for their journey toward personal independence.

CONGRATULATING PHILLIP'S FLOWERS AND GIFTS ON BEING NAMED 2005 "RETAILER OF THE YEAR" BY THE ILLINOIS RETAIL MERCHANTS ASSOCIATION (IRMA)

HON. JUDY BIGGERT

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, September 15, 2005

Mrs. BIGGERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate my friends at Phillip's Flowers in Westmont, Illinois. On September 21, the Illinois Retail Merchants Association, IRMA will

honor Phillip's Flowers as the 2005 "Retailer of the Year" for its commitment to quality, customer service, and floral industry improvement.

Phillip's Flowers deserves to be recognized and honored in this way for its many accomplishments. In the 82 years since James and Helen Phillip started Phillip's Flowers, it has grown to become a Chicago area institution. Since 1923, the founders and their offspring have grown and improved the business to the point where it now ranks among the top 20 florists in the country in terms of delivery volume. In the 1980's, Phillip's helped launch a cooperative delivery program to expand the business's service reach throughout the region and nation. And its service on the American Floral Endowment Board and the Society of American Florists has helped shape the floral industry as a whole. These accomplishments alone are worthy of this high honor.

Mr. Speaker, when the late Pope John Paul II visited Chicago in 1979, Phillip's Flowers was selected to supply more than 17,000 chrysanthemums for the occasion. When Chicago Magazine ran its 2002 Readers Choice Awards, Phillip's Flowers was chosen as "Chicago's favorite florist." And when IRMA in 2001 selected the top Retailers of the 20th Century, Phillip's was honored among them. These honors and superlatives are reserved for only the finest businesses, and Phillip's Flowers has clearly deserved them.

But perhaps most important of all, Phillip's has provided beautiful flowers for many of my constituents' most important moments in life—weddings, bar and bat mitzvahs, and special birthdays and anniversaries.

I congratulate Phillip's Flowers on receiving the "Retailer of the Year" award, and I wish the people of Phillip's the very best wishes for continued success in the years to come.

IN RECOGNITION OF 100 YEARS OF CATHOLIC SECONDARY SCHOOLS IN GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN

HON. VERNON J. EHLERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, September 15, 2005

Mr. EHLERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the 100th anniversary of the Catholic Secondary Schools (CSS) of Greater Grand Rapids, Michigan, which are located in the Third Congressional District of Michigan, which I proudly represent.

The Catholic schools have a long and illustrious history in our area, serving thousands of children and their families for the past century. The Catholic Secondary Schools of Greater Grand Rapids are pioneering coeducational high schools whose conception, growth, and evolution were driven largely by the desire to offer students a quality, Catholic education. Catholic Central High School opened its doors in September 1906, as Catholic Central for boys and Sacred Heart Academy for girls. Established by Bishop Joseph Richter, with the support of Father Robert W. Brown of St. James and Father John Schmitt of St. Andrew, the first graduating classes consisted of 7 boys and 20 girls. The decision to open a central Catholic high school, let alone a co-educational one, was unprecedented in the Nation at that time. Later growth led to the opening of West Catholic High School in 1962.

This innovative diocesan co-educational school would survive both world wars, the Great Depression, fire, financial stress and clergy shortage. Along the way it inspired hundreds of other schools nationwide and grew into two schools with multiple facilities. The 2 high schools have produced more than 27,000 graduates and thousands of community leaders.

The 2005–06 school year marks the centennial anniversary of Catholic high school education in Grand Rapids, Michigan. Catholic Central and West Catholic's success represents the united effort of the bishop, parish clergy, teaching Sisters and parents. Together they were the foundation that helped realize the dream of having a Catholic high school education in Grand Rapids. This centennial is a true celebration and testament to the enduring resilience of Catholic high school education in Grand Rapids.

Graduates of the CSS have entered into religious life; careers in medicine, dentistry, pharmacy, law, education and coaching, accounting, banking, engineering and retailing and many other walks of life, contributing in a positive, moral, generous and caring fashion to the communities in which their homes and businesses are located, particularly West Michigan.

For nearly a century, the mission of the CSS of Greater Grand Rapids has been to empower students to define their vision and pursue their goals with confidence, competence and Christian generosity. In an environment deeply rooted in faith formation, student achievement and appreciation of God-given talents, Catholic Central and West Catholic students are challenged to become fully integrated persons who lead through service. CSS, in dynamic partnerships with families, alumni and the community, promote learning for everyone, encourage understanding and embracing of diversity, and establish a foundation for life-long learning.

Please join me in honoring the 100th anniversary of the Catholic Secondary Schools of Greater Grand Rapids.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE ROYAL FAMILY AND PEOPLE OF THAILAND

HON. DANA ROHRABACHER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, September 15, 2005

Mr. ROHRABACHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge and thank the people, especially the royal family, of Thailand.

In my lifetime, the people of Thailand, guided by a benevolent and wise royal family, have been among America's best friends. Throughout the ups and downs of the Vietnam era, the Thai's have stood with us steadfastly, even when it was uncomfortable for them to do so. They have also played a tremendous humanitarian role by taking in refugees from tyranny from all directions.

Their generosity and friendship is recognized, respected and appreciated. In a time when millions of Americans are suffering the disastrous affects of Hurricane Katrina, they have stepped forward to offer a helping hand. They have donated thirty tons of humanitarian goods such as food and blankets. It is inspiring to see that there are countries who appreciate our help in their times of need and are

expressing it by helping our distressed people now.

To the people and royal family of Thailand—thank you. Your compassion and friendship is much appreciated.

INTRODUCING A BILL TO MAKE FEMA AN INDEPENDENT AGENCY HEADED BY A QUALIFIED DIRECTOR

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 15, 2005

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I am today introducing a bill to reestablish the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) as an independent agency, and to require that its Director be someone with appropriate training and experience.

The undeniable shortcomings of the federal response to the tragic effects of Hurricane Katrina have shown that FEMA's most recent director, Michael Brown, was not qualified for the job—in fact, he really was in over his head. Now that he has resigned, Congress should begin the process of strengthening FEMA and assuring Americans that Federal emergency management efforts will be handled by a capable and effective leader.

As a first step, I think we should revisit and reverse our decision to fold FEMA—formerly an independent agency—into the Department of Homeland Security (DHS).

I was never completely comfortable with that decision. When the House considered the legislation to establish the new Department, I voted for an amendment (offered by the gentleman from Minnesota, Mr. OBERSTAR) to keep FEMA independent. I did so because, as I said at the time, I feared FEMA's core mission and focus would be lost in the new bureaucracy.

It was argued that FEMA—as the central agency in charge of disaster response and emergency management—should constitute the heart of the new DHS. But FEMA had been primarily engaged in and especially effective at responding to natural hazards, not terrorism. We should have left FEMA outside the new department, or at a minimum transferred its Office of National Preparedness to the new department, while leaving FEMA's Disaster Response and Recovery and Mitigation Directorates intact.

Although the independent-FEMA amendment failed, I voted for the overall bill while expressing the hope that “the President will continue to work with the Congress to make sure the agencies moved to the new Department will be supported in their many other important duties even as they focus anew on their security roles.”

Unfortunately, recent events have given horrific proof that I hoped in vain and that my fears were well-founded.

Therefore, the bill I am introducing today will reestablish FEMA as a separate agency. It also will require that its Director be a person with appropriate formal training and at least two years of experience as the head of a disaster-management agency of either a State or a political entity—a city, county, or other area—smaller than a state but with a population of at least one million people.

To provide continuity and insulation against politics, a director, once nominated by the President and confirmed by the Senate, would serve a 6-year term—although of course, as an Executive Branch official he or she would be subject to the direction and control of the President and thus could be removed by the President.

Reorganizing FEMA is only part of the necessary actions to respond to the tragedy and devastation on the Gulf Coast. But I think it is a necessary part, and I think this bill would help us be better prepared for the next emergency.

TEXAS DISTRICT AND COUNTY ATTORNEYS ASSOCIATION

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 15, 2005

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 100th meeting of the Texas District and County Attorneys Association. The men and women who serve the state of Texas as prosecutors are the foundation of the criminal justice system. As a prosecutor for 8 years and a district judge for 22 years, I witnessed firsthand the remarkable dedication to the law that is exhibited by county and district attorneys and their staffs. Texans are truly privileged to have such an extraordinary group of legal minds who have answered the call to public service.

On November 2, 1905, less than 50 prosecutors met in Dallas, Texas at the first meeting of the Texas District and County Attorneys Association. In 1970, the TDCAA re-organized for the purpose of offering training and technical assistance to prosecutors. The TDCAA has made great strides since that time, currently providing training to two-thirds of the prosecutors and staff in Texas. The 2005 meeting will take place in Corpus Christi, with more than 1100 prosecutors and staff members in attendance.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to be a lifetime member of the Texas District and County Attorneys Association. Our district and county attorneys make communities safer while holding criminals accountable for their actions, and I commend the TDCAA for setting the bar with regards to training prosecutors. I wish the Texas District and County Attorneys Association all the best as they look forward to another 100 years of success.

TRIBUTE TO WERNER SCOTT

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 15, 2005

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, there are few things I enjoy more in this job than getting the opportunity to shine the spotlight on truly deserving people who serve as a source of inspiration to the rest of us. Werner Scott of Irving, Texas, is one of those people, and I would like to pay tribute to him today.

Werner Scott is the founder and President of Advantage Marketing Group (AMG), and is

recognized as a visionary in the world of enterprise and sports marketing responsible for initiating many groundbreaking concepts.

Werner's credits include the brand positioning of Dallas Cowboys superstar Emmitt Smith, yielding “Brand Emmitt”, “Emmitt Zone” and “Emmitt Zone For Kids” franchises. He has also worked with several corporations like American Airlines, Frito-Lay, and Bank One Texas, providing strategic market development expertise.

Under his guidance, AMG was the key architect in staging the NFL Run To Daylight and the NFL Fast Man competitions, and working with NBC Sports to produce the ongoing Bayou Classic, the Super Bowl of Black College Football.

Prior to finding AMG, Werner started his career in 1979 in brand marketing and sales holding a number of posts with Xerox and never looked back. He climbed through the ranks at Xerox becoming an invaluable executive within the organization from 1979–1985.

A distinguished military and honor graduate from New Mexico State University, Werner majored in human resources management, with a minor in marketing sales.

Werner Scott has not only overcome tremendous challenges in this competitive industry, but he is a brave person who stands by the courage of his convictions. He has a strong passion for civic and charitable organizations including, The Open Doors Foundation, Academies of Excellence, and the Center for the Study of Sports in Society.

He is a truly extraordinary human being, and it is my hope that others will be inspired by his determination to succeed and the strength of his spirit.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 3132, CHILDREN'S SAFETY ACT OF 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 14, 2005

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Chairman, as an OB-GYN who has had the privilege of bringing over 3,000 children into the world, I share the desire to punish severely those who sexually abuse children. In fact, it is hard to imagine someone more deserving of life in prison than one who preys on children. This is why I have supported legislation that increases penalties for sexual assaults on children occurring on Federal land.

However, Mr. Chairman, I cannot support this bill because it infringes on the States' constitutional authority over the prevention and punishment of sex crimes. The late Chief Justice William H. Rehnquist and former United States Attorney General Ed Meese, two men who no one has ever accused of being “soft on crime,” have both warned that, although creating more Federal crimes may make politicians feel good, it is neither constitutionally sound nor prudent. Rehnquist has stated that, “[t]he trend to federalize crimes that traditionally have been handled in state courts . . . threatens to change entirely the nature of our federal system.” Meese stated that Congress's tendency in recent decades to make Federal crimes out of offenses that have historically