

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF PRISCILLA DIAZ, JEFFERSON ELEMENTARY TEACHER OF THE YEAR

**HON. HENRY CUELLAR**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 20, 2005*

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the many accomplishments of Priscilla Diaz, Jefferson Elementary Teacher of the Year.

Ms. Diaz did not start out in education; originally, she received her Bachelor's degree in Business Management from Texas A&M University at Kingsville. She later returned to school at Southwest Texas State University, where she received her Master's in Education.

Priscilla Diaz is one of Jefferson Elementary's newer teachers, with three years of teaching experience. Already, however, she is making an impact in her profession, and changing the lives of her fourth-grade students.

Ms. Diaz believes in the importance of helping her students develop strong character. She teaches her children to be accountable for their actions, to have pride in themselves, and to fulfill the responsibilities that are assigned to them. She feels that teaching is a unique profession: both a privilege and a challenge.

Ms. Priscilla Diaz has accomplished a great deal thus far, and she has a bright future ahead of her in education. By helping our children grow up as responsible and productive citizens, she is doing a tremendous favor to all of us. I am proud to have had the opportunity to recognize her for her dedication.

CONGRATULATIONS TO MS. PEGGY STEWART

**HON. SCOTT GARRETT**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 20, 2005*

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, today I extend congratulations and thanks to Ms. Peggy Stewart, a teacher at Vernon Township High School in Sussex County, New Jersey. Ms. Stewart, who teaches and resides in the Fifth Congressional District, was selected from nominees across the state to receive the 2004–2005 New Jersey Teacher of the Year award.

This week, Ms. Stewart and other distinguished teachers from around the country are in Washington to be recognized.

Since she began teaching at Vernon Township High School in 1991, Ms. Stewart has received numerous awards and citations for her excellence in the classroom. She's been noted in "Who's Who Among America's Teachers," and was recognized as a premier humanities instructor by the New Jersey Council for the Humanities.

In selecting Ms. Stewart for this honor, the New Jersey Board of Education cited her individualistic approach to her students and her persistence in creating well-rounded experiences to develop her students' sense of citizenship.

I want to congratulate Ms. Stewart of Vernon Township High School for being se-

lected for this prestigious honor. She is a credit to New Jersey and a credit to our many outstanding educators.

Historian Henry Adams said, "A teacher affects eternity; he can never tell where his influence stops." We know that Ms. Stewart's work to engage young adults and encourage their development as informed, involved and thoughtful citizens will benefit our community for generations to come. Today, I am honored to join in the applause for one of the Nation's great teachers—Ms. Peggy Stewart. We are grateful for your dedication to providing New Jersey children with an outstanding education.

RECOGNIZING SPENCER PRESTON HARRIS FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 20, 2005*

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Spencer Preston Harris of Platte City, Missouri, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 351, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Spencer has been a part of Troop 351 for 5 years, and during that time period he has served in a variety of leadership positions. He has served his troop as Patrol Leader, Quartermaster, Assistant Senior Patrol Leader, Librarian, and finally Senior Patrol Leader. During that time period, he earned 45 merit badges and the God and Church Medal. In addition to the numerous leadership positions and merit badges, Spencer is a Brotherhood Member in the Order of the Arrow, a Warrior in the Tribe of Mic-O-Say, and spent 5 years at the H. Roe Bartle Scout Reservation. Spencer also participated in Junior Leader Basic Training and World Conservation, has 38 total service hours, 98 nights camping, and 50 miles hiking. He is truly an exemplary Scout.

For his Eagle Scout project, Spencer folded, repaired, and boxed 47,000 American Flags that decorate graves at the Leavenworth, Kansas military cemetery.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Spencer Preston Harris for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

HONORING PROVIDENCE PEDIATRIC MEDICAL DAY CARE, INC.

**HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 20, 2005*

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Providence Pediatric Medical Day Care, Inc., for its valuable service to New Jersey's most medically challenged children. Providence provides world class medical day care with ongoing monitoring and assessment by professional nurses for a broad range of illnesses and medical conditions. Serving an overwhelmingly inner city infant population, the

company works with parents to help advise them on health conditions and care standards that can be followed at home.

On April 22nd, 2005, Providence will hold an official grand opening of its new corporate office in West Berlin, New Jersey. They currently employ 65 professional staff, and operate three pediatric medical daycare centers in Camden, Lawnside, and Pleasantville, New Jersey.

Mr. Speaker, Providence Pediatric provides essential services to some of the neediest people in our community. I applaud them for their hard work, and I wish everyone at Providence the best of luck in their new office.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF CAROL HARWOOD PATLAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL TEACHER OF THE YEAR

**HON. HENRY CUELLAR**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 20, 2005*

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the many accomplishments of Carol Harwood, the Patlan Elementary School Teacher of the Year.

Carol Harwood is a highly qualified bilingual first grade teacher at Patlan Elementary. She received her Associate Degree from Sullins College in Virginia, and later earned both a Bachelor's Degree from SMU, and a Masters Degree from Texas Woman's University.

She has spent the last 28 years gaining valuable experience in education, serving both our youth and our community. Carol Harwood worked as an assistant elementary school principal in both Dallas and Port Isabel before returning to teaching at Patlan Elementary.

As a bilingual first grade teacher, Ms. Harwood understands the unique needs of our students. Her passion for teaching is complemented by both her years of experience, and her unique perspective as a former school administrator. Carol Harwood is currently being honored as the Patlan Elementary School Teacher of the Year.

It is an honor to recognize the accomplishments of Carol Harwood of Patlan Elementary School. Her dedication and love of teaching has helped to ensure that our children are the real winners.

REGARDING THE DIABETIC FOOT COMPLICATION AND LOWER EXTREMITY AMPUTATION REDUCTION ACT OF 2005

**HON. RICHARD H. BAKER**

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 20, 2005*

Mr. BAKER. Mr. Speaker, as the Federal Government seeks to provide better healthcare to more Americans while reducing healthcare expenses, we must look at the benefits of preventive care programs. Education, screening and preventive treatments can save patients and government significant heartache and expense. One area where preventive care shows tremendous promise is the treatment of diabetic foot complications.

Approximately 18 million Americans have diabetes, an increase of 61 percent since 1990. As diabetes rates continue to rise, the cost of treating diabetes, already estimated at \$132 billion, will certainly rise. One of the most serious complications diabetes patients face is poor circulation and infections in their lower extremities. In fact, diabetic foot infections are the most common reason for hospital admissions among persons with diabetes, accounting for 25 percent of all diabetic admissions in the United States. Loss of circulation and feeling present real challenges to people with diabetes and 15 percent of people with diabetes will experience a foot ulcer, and between 14 and 24 percent of those with a foot ulcer will require amputation. Each year approximately 86,000 non-traumatic lower-limb amputations are performed each year among people with diabetes.

Lower extremity amputations cost Americans \$2 billion a year, with each procedure totaling approximately \$60,000. Although private insurance bears some of this expense, Medicare is saddled with many of these costs since these complications disproportionately affect the elderly. For example, analysis of the 1995 Medicare claims revealed that lower-extremity ulcer care accounted for \$1.45 billion in Medicare costs and contributed substantially to the high cost of care for diabetics, compared with Medicare costs for the general population. In fact, the Medicare costs for diabetes patients with foot ulcers is 3 times higher than for diabetes patients in general, and inpatient care accounts for 74 percent of diabetic ulcer-related costs.

Fortunately, cost effective ulcer prevention and treatment interventions have proven effective at reducing foot complications and lower extremity amputations at only a fraction of the cost. Studies show that a multidisciplinary approach, including preventive strategies, patient and staff education, and treatment of foot ulcers, can reduce amputation rates up to 85 percent. Nationwide reductions of this size would save Americans as much as \$1.7 billion a year. The American Diabetes Association estimates that comprehensive foot care programs can reduce amputation rates up to 85 percent. Furthermore, the LSU Health Sciences Center Diabetes Foot Program in Baton Rouge, Louisiana enrolled over 2,300 diabetes patients with published research demonstrating their prevention and treatment program resulted in an 89 percent reduction in foot related hospitalizations, an 81 percent reduction in emergency room visits, and a 79 percent reduction in foot amputations at a cost of about 50 percent of standard care. Unfortunately, a 2002 National Institutes of Health (NIH) study shows that less than 2 percent of adult diabetics receive the level of care recommended by the American Diabetes Association.

With sound research showing the benefits of preventive care for people with diabetes, now is the time to commission a large, authoritative study on the issue. The results of this study will serve as solid evidence to public and private organizations of the need for preventive care to aid in the reduction of diabetes foot complications and will help foster technical and policy changes to healthcare programs. In addition, thousands of Americans who participate in this study will benefit from the education and treatment provided by this grant program.

Mr. Speaker, I hope members will consider these facts and cosponsor the "Diabetic Foot Complication and Lower Extremity Amputation Reduction Act of 2005."

RECOGNIZING SAWYER DANIEL  
BRESLOW FOR ACHIEVING THE  
RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 20, 2005*

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Sawyer Daniel Breslow of Platte City, Missouri, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 351, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Sawyer has been a part of Troop 351 for 5 years, and during that time period he has served in a variety of leadership positions. He has served his troop as Assistant Patrol Leader, Patrol Leader, Scribe, Librarian, and Quartermaster. During that time period, he earned 50 merit badges and the God and Church Medal. In addition to the numerous leadership positions and merit badges, Sawyer is a Brotherhood Member in the Order of the Arrow, a Warrior in the Tribe of Mic-O-Say, and spent 5 years at the H. Roe Bartle Scout Reservation. Sawyer also participated in Den Chief Training, Junior Leader Basic Training, Snorkeling, Mile Swim, and National Camping. Sawyer also has 68 service hours, 93 nights camping, and 53 miles hiking. He is truly an exemplary Scout.

For his Eagle Scout project, Sawyer planned and built a large board game table with playing pieces for the Ronald McDonald House in Kansas City, Missouri.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Sawyer Daniel Breslow for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

HONORING CHIEF WARRANT  
OFFICER TWO CLINT J. PRATHER

**HON. CATHY McMORRIS**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 20, 2005*

Miss McMORRIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to posthumously recognize Chief Warrant Officer Two Clint J. Prather for paying the ultimate sacrifice in service to his country. Prather died when the CH-47 Chinook helicopter he was riding crashed during a sandstorm. The accident took place near Ghazni, Afghanistan on April 6, 2005.

Prather, 32 years old, was stationed in Afghanistan since February as a part of Operation Enduring Freedom. Serving as a helicopter pilot, Prather was assigned to F Company, 5th Battalion, 159th Aviation Regiment, Giebelstadt, Germany.

Prather has served his country in the Army since 1992, joining just after graduating from Cheney High School. He previously had served as a medic before becoming a heli-

copter pilot. Prather leaves behind a wife and two children.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Clint J. Prather for his spirit and his sacrifice that led him to the danger of the Afghan battlefield. I invite my colleagues to join me in remembering and honoring Chief Warrant Officer Prather for his service to our country, the Iraqi people, and Afghanistan.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS  
OF MELANIE HUCKABY,  
MCQUEENEY ELEMENTARY  
TEACHER OF THE YEAR

**HON. HENRY CUELLAR**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 20, 2005*

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the many accomplishments of Melanie Huckaby, McQueeney Elementary School Teacher of the Year.

Ms. Huckaby is a graduate of Southwest Texas State University, from which she received her Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education. She has seventeen years of teaching experience, in several diverse environments.

After graduating college, Ms. Huckaby taught first grade for the Seguin ISD for a number of years, before moving to Los Angeles to pursue her teaching career further. She moved back to Seguin to take up the position of Library Media Specialist, which she holds today.

Melanie Huckaby is a believer in the power of reading to help transform the lives of her students. She loves to read aloud to the children, and enjoys answering students' questions and helping them to learn how to find information on their own.

Her passion for reading and learning serves as a wonderful example for her students. The people of Seguin are lucky to have a dedicated teacher and librarian like Melanie Huckaby looking after her students, and I am proud to have the chance to recognize her here today.

RUBELLA ELIMINATION  
ANNOUNCEMENT

**HON. DAVID E. PRICE**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 20, 2005*

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, on March 21, 2005, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) announced that rubella, or German measles, "is no longer a health threat in the United States." This great accomplishment is worthy of note, and indeed celebration.

Just 40 years ago, the United States had come out of what we now believe will be the last epidemic of rubella in this country. The 1964-1965 epidemic was estimated to have caused 12.5 million cases of rubella—including 20,000 cases of congenital rubella syndrome (CRS), where children were born with birth defects such as cataracts, heart defects, hearing impairment, and developmental delay. As a result, this epidemic was responsible for more than 2,000 fetal deaths.