

In his first inaugural message as Governor of California, Ronald Reagan is quoted as saying, "freedom is a fragile thing and is never more than one generation away from extinction. It is not ours by inheritance; it must be fought for and defended constantly by each generation, for it comes only once to a people. Those who have known freedom, and then lost it, have never known it again." We will continue to rely on individuals and families, like the Castros, that are willing to uphold the tradition of military service and put their nation before themselves.

Family means many things to different people. To the Castro brothers, family means military service. It is a real pleasure for me—both professionally and personally—to recognize and pay tribute to these brothers and their distinguished service records.

APPRECIATION OF ED GROVES

HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 27, 2005

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, after 15 years of devoted service to the North Tennessee Workforce Board, Edgar Ray Groves is stepping down and I wanted to take a moment to thank him for his service.

In 1990, Groves was first appointed to the position and began working to reorganize the way services were provided. Within two short years improvements were already noticeable, and in 1992 the NTWB received the Governor's cup for its outstanding accomplishment.

By 1996, the NTWB was leading the State in all Workforce Development services and had won national recognition by the U.S. Department of Labor. And that same year, NTWB began operating a Career Center on post at Fort Campbell, delivering dislocated worker services to soldiers exiting the Army.

Although Groves will no longer be serving as chair, he will continue to serve as a member of the local workforce board and the Tennessee State Workforce Board.

I join with our community in offering Ed Groves our sincere appreciation for his years of service.

MAYDAY MANUFACTURING AND PRESIDENT MIKE NELSON WIN SBA'S SUBCONTRACTOR OF THE YEAR

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 27, 2005

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Mayday Manufacturing Co., Inc., located in the 26th District of Texas, and its President Mike Nelson on being named Regional Subcontractor of the Year by the United States Small Business Association.

This recognition is awarded to ten subcontractors around the country by the U.S. SBA to companies that meet or exceed their government contracts. Subcontractors are nominated by the government and prime contractors for outstanding performance in various

areas. Mayday Manufacturing won the award for Region 6 which encompasses Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Texas. Vought Aircraft Industries, also located in North Texas, nominated Mayday Manufacturing and President Nelson.

Mayday Manufacturing Co., Inc. started in 1966 in a small Texas garage. It has grown over 39 years as a business which now serves hundreds of customers globally. The company specializes in aerospace parts to be used in commercial and military aircraft.

I am proud of Mike Nelson and his company for winning SBA's Regional Subcontractor of the Year award. Their industriousness is a fine example of how small businesses make a profound impact. Mayday Manufacturing is a wonderful example on which other companies should model themselves in order to attain this high level of achievement.

APPLAUDING THE WITHDRAWAL OF SYRIAN TROOPS FROM LEBANON

HON. CHARLES W. BOUSTANY, JR.

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 27, 2005

Mr. BOUSTANY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to applaud the withdrawal of the remaining Syrian troops from Lebanon on April 26, 2005. This withdrawal marks the end of a 29 year military presence which allowed Syria to unduly influence and manipulate Lebanon's government and people. During these years, dissenters of Syrian influence have been politically persecuted. Some have been abducted and others murdered.

Syria has played a devious role in Lebanon in the past decades. I do appreciate Syria's decision to recall its final troops in accordance with U.N. Security Council Resolution 1559. However, Syria must completely stop imposing its influence and will on Lebanon. This will clear the way for the Lebanese to exert their rights to self government and bring about a more promising era in Lebanon's history.

It is my hope that the Lebanese people will use this landmark development to institute a free and equitable government. I do not pretend that establishing such a government will not be trying for the Lebanese people. The ethnic, religious, and political segmentation which fueled Lebanon's lengthy civil war still exist within the nation's borders. Now that the Syrian troops have departed, Maronite, Sunni, and Shi'a, Opposition and Loyalists will need to work together in order to form a stable and autonomous government for Lebanon.

Overcoming these types of divisions is inevitably a challenging task. However, I have great faith in the ability of the people of Lebanon to do so. In a recent poll conducted in Lebanon, citizens revealed that they derived their primary identification not as their religious or political orientation, but rather as being Lebanese. This is a promising indication of the direction which Lebanon's politics can take. If The people of Lebanon are able to make the welfare their nation rather than their own group interests their top priority, I am confident that Lebanon's government will be able to flourish.

TRIBUTE TO FORT BEND, ISD FOR WINNING THE AWARD FOR BEST DISTRICT-WIDE MOCK STUDENT ELECTION PROGRAM

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 27, 2005

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to congratulate the Fort Bend Independent School District (ISD) for winning the award for having the best district-wide mock student election program in the nation from the American Association of School Administrators and the National Student/Parent Mock Election. Fort Bend ISD's program is an innovative educational project combining resources from the social studies, math, and education technology departments to create an interactive website containing election resources, an online voting location, and a database of election results.

Fort Bend students can use the database to study election results, create spreadsheets, and draw conclusions about the election process. The website also includes information for parents, including a link to the county registrar's office for voter registration. Another part of the program involved the county election board deputizing teachers so the teachers could register adults, including eligible high school students, to vote in the 2004 election.

Each school within the Fort Bend ISD individualized its mock election by having candidates debate and the students decorate the polling places. Students also studied potential campaign strategies for the candidates they supported. Student participation were very strong, with over 40,000 votes cast.

The curricula developed to analyze mock election results were made available to elementary, middle and high school students. According to the National Student/Parent Mock Election, which evaluates similar curricula nationwide, Fort Bend ISD's curricula was very strong. Particularly impressive was Fort Bend ISD's utilization of Microsoft Excel to analyze and generate summaries of the election results.

Fort Bend ISD's mock student election project was an innovative use of technology and community support to educate children about the electoral process and thus prepare them to be active, and informed, citizens. I am proud to pay tribute to the teachers, administrators, parents, and especially the students of Fort Bend ISD for winning the award for the best mock student election project in the nation from the American Association of School Administrators and the National Student/Parent Mock Election.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF IKE AND DORIS EPSTEIN

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 27, 2005

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the many accomplishments of Ike and Doris Epstein, Junior Achievement of Laredo Business Hall of Fame Laureates.

Ike and Doris Epstein are a true American success story. When Ike started his business,

Dr. Ike's, it had one location and an inventory of only \$10,000. Today, his business has grown to three locations, with a value of almost \$8 million.

Ike and Doris met at the University of Texas in 1951, when they were both attending undergraduate school. They were married in 1955. Ike went into business for himself in 1958, after serving in the U.S. Army in Okinawa, and Doris opened her own business, Globetrotter of Laredo Travel Agency, in 1979.

Both of the Epsteins believe in treating their customers and employees like family. It is their own family, however, that they are proudest of. They have two children, Clayton and Karen, and four grandchildren. In spite of both work and family obligations, the Epsteins have also found the time to be enthusiastic community volunteers. The Women's City Club, Pennies for Tennies, Crimestoppers, the Salvation Army, and the United Way are only a few of the organizations that they have supported over the years.

Ike and Doris Epstein are a great success story, and a great team. They are an example for the rest of us of the power of hard work and dedication, and of the importance of treating other people like members of your own family. They are an important part of what makes Laredo such a great city, and I am proud to have had the chance to honor them here today.

MEDAL OF HONOR WINNER LOUIS
CAPET SHEPARD

HON. STEVEN C. LATOURETTE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 27, 2005

Mr. LATOURETTE. Mr. Speaker, today I had a flag flown over the United States Capitol in honor of Louis Capet Shepard, the only Medal of Honor winner from Ashtabula County, Ohio, which is in my congressional district. Shepard served in the U.S. Navy during the Civil War.

Louis C. Shepard was born in Ashtabula on September 2, 1841, and served in the Navy as an ordinary seaman. Shepard was awarded the Medal of Honor for his valor during the assault on Fort Fisher in North Carolina. The Medal of Honor is the country's highest award for valor.

Each time a Medal of Honor is awarded, the following words are spoken: "For Conspicuous Gallantry and Intrepidity in Action at the Risk of Life, Above and Beyond the Call of Duty." These words certainly exemplify Shepard's actions during the assault on Fort Fisher on January 15, 1865.

According to records, Shepard was honored for advancing gallantly through severe enemy fire while armed only with a revolver and cutlass which made it impossible to return the fire at that range. Shepard succeeded in not only reaching the angle of the fort, but in being one of the few to enter it. When the rest of the men to his rear were forced to retreat due to devastating fire, Shepard was forced to withdraw and seek the shelter of one of the mounds near the stockade. Shepard then succeeded in regaining the safety of his ship. Shepard was just 23 years old at the time.

After the fall of Fort Fisher on January 15, 1865, the Confederate army evacuated its re-

maining forts in the Cape Fear area, and Union forces soon overtook Wilmington. Once Wilmington fell, the supply line of the Confederacy was severed, and the war soon ended.

It's a tremendous honor for Ashtabula County to be the home of a Medal of Honor winner. Fewer than 3,500 Medals of Honor have been awarded since the decoration was created in 1861. There were 1,522 awards for the Civil War, and 307 of the medals were awarded to men in the Navy. Of those, 195 medals went to Ohioans, including Shepard, who died at the age of 77 and is buried in Lakeview Cemetery in Port Clinton.

Mr. Speaker, the flag that was flown over the United States Capitol today will be unveiled on Memorial Day during the dedication ceremony for the new Ashtabula County Veterans Memorial. I applaud VFW Post 3334 in Jefferson for their efforts on behalf of the new memorial, and for choosing to honor the valor of Louis C. Shepard, the only Medal of Honor winner from Ashtabula County.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. KEVIN BRADY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 27, 2005

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I regret that I missed rollcall votes No. 133 and No. 134 on April 26, 2005, and rollcall vote No. 140 on April 27, 2005. On April 26, 2005, I was returning from Texas after attending a Social Security workshop in Galveston with President Bush and on April 27, 2005, I was at the White House meeting with President Bush.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on rollcall vote No. 133, a Motion to Instruct Conferees on H.R. 1268, a bill making emergency supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2005, and for other purposes; I would have voted "no" on rollcall vote No. 134, a Motion to Instruct Conferees on H. Con. Res. 95, the Congressional Budget Resolution for Fiscal Year 2006; and I would have voted "no" on rollcall vote No. 140, a Motion to Recommit H. Res. 22, expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that American small businesses are entitled to a Small Business Bill of Rights.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS
OF JULIAN MONCEAUX, HOFF-
MANN LANE ELEMENTARY
SCHOOL TEACHER OF THE YEAR

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 27, 2005

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the many accomplishments of Julian Monceaux, Hoffmann Lane Elementary School Teacher of the Year.

Mr. Monceaux earned his Bachelor's Degree at the University of Texas at San Antonio. He is a veteran educator, with more than 20 years of teaching experience.

Currently, Mr. Monceaux is the Physical Education Teacher for children of all grade

levels at Hoffman Lane Elementary School in the Comal Independent School District.

Mr. Monceaux believes strongly in the power of physical education to improve the lives of his students. He believes that physical education should provide "opportunities for students to develop physically, mentally, and socially." The program he teaches includes information and training to promote physical fitness, wellness, nutrition, sportsmanship, motor and manipulative development, specific skills development, coordination, and good lifetime habits.

Julian Monceaux has distinguished himself through his tireless service to the children of Hoffmann Lane Elementary School and the people of Comal. His work as a physical educator is critical to the health and well-being of his students, and I am happy to have the opportunity to honor him here today.

CONGRATULATING HOWARD UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW'S
MOOT COURT TEAM FOR WIN-
NING THE AMERICAN BAR ASSO-
CIATION MOCK TRIAL COMPETI-
TION

HON. ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 27, 2005

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor excellence in education as I congratulate the Howard University School of Law's Mock Trial Team for their outstanding performance in the American Bar Association Mock Trial Competition—besting Harvard Law School and 6 other highly-regarded law schools in this venerable contest.

This competition is designed to showcase the dedication and talent of law school students from across the country. Without question, the Howard University students displayed a great deal of both in their victorious efforts.

The Huver I. Brown Trial Advocacy Team made history on April 2, 2005, becoming the first team representing a historically black college or university to take overall first place in the competition.

The team of 20 students sent four bright young scholars to the competition: team captain, Derrick Simmons, along with Adonna Bannister, Nisha Brooks and Chris Stewart. Mr. Stewart also won the title of "Best Advocate" during this year's competition.

Mock Trial Court Competitions are an opportunity for law school students to demonstrate their skills as advocates in a court setting.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to say that the team from my Alma Mater took on the challenge of an esteemed national competition and used it as an opportunity to excel.

I was a member of the Mock Trial Team when I was in law school at the University of Maryland, so I know first-hand of the serious dedication, hard work and countless hours of preparation that is required to effectively demonstrate a command of the law, rules of evidence, and procedure.

Howard University's victory represents the very best in effort and education. I commend Kurt Schmoke, the Dean of the Howard University School of Law, and Patrick Swygert, the President of Howard University, for fostering an atmosphere of excellence in which students can succeed.