

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF MELANIE TAYLOR, DEDICATED SPANISH TEACHER OF COMAL ISD

### HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 28, 2005

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Melanie Taylor for her outstanding contributions to education in the Comal Independent School District of Texas.

Ms. Taylor earned her Bachelor's degree in music from Texas State University in San Marcos. But having fallen in love with the Spanish language and culture at an early age, Melanie Taylor began teaching elementary Spanish in Mexico. Ever since then, Melanie has passed on her passion for Spanish and her appreciation of the Hispanic culture to every student she teaches.

Melanie Taylor has been teaching for 18 years and is now a Spanish teacher for seventh and eighth-graders at the Spring Branch Middle School in Comal ISD. She loves the "middle school attitude," and understands how to connect with her students during their crucial preteen years.

Melanie Taylor summarizes her teaching philosophy this way: "I work hard to teach them [students] not to settle for mediocrity and I try to lead them to become caring and kind individuals who will treat each other with respect and dignity. I try to be a good listener and to help them look for the best solutions to their problems using strong moral values." She has also been dedicated to helping Hispanic students gain a greater sense of pride in their heritage, and their roots. In her efforts, she has helped students understand the advantage and necessity of being multilingual in an increasingly competitive world.

Besides teaching Spanish, Taylor also is the sponsor of Spring Branch Middle School's Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA). Through FCA, she and more than 100 student leaders plan socials and conduct community service projects. For her many achievements as an educator, Taylor received the Comal ISD's 2004 KENS5 TV Station ExCEL Teacher of the Year Award.

I am honored to have had the opportunity to recognize such a dedicated teacher and community leader in Comal ISD.

EXPRESSING CONDOLENCES TO THE FAMILY AND FRIENDS OF MERLIN ROSEMEIER

### HON. MARK R. KENNEDY

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 28, 2005

Mr. KENNEDY of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer condolences to the family and friends of Merlin Rosemeier, who passed away April 10, 2005. Merlin was a close family friend and served as best man in my father's wedding. He is survived by his wife, Ramona, nine children, 26 grandchildren, three great-grandchildren and one sister.

Merlin was born in Dublin Township in 1928. He attended school in Murdock and at the University of Minnesota. He married Ramona

Traxler on August 29, 1953, and settled into the family farm. He was a hard working dairy farmer and in 2002, his family celebrated owning a century farm.

He was also a very faithful man. As a member of Sacred Heart Catholic Church, he served as the choir director and I fondly remember him using his deep, rich voice to sing "Ave Maria," at church services. He said Grace before every meal and always added a Hail Mary for the crops.

Mr. Speaker, Merlin was a family man whose positive, friendly spirit resonated to those around him. Nothing ever broke his kind and gentle soul. He will be dearly missed by all those that knew and loved him and his memory will live on in their hearts.

IN HONOR OF LAUREL MIDDLE SCHOOL

### HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 28, 2005

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to pay tribute to the Laurel Middle School located in Laurel, Delaware. Founded in 1683, Laurel is a small town in southwestern Delaware that is home to over 800 buildings listed on the National Historic Record. Named for the trees that run along the town's Broad Creek, Laurel is now home to over 3,800 Delawareans. In addition to many historic buildings and beautiful recreation areas, the town is also home to a public school that has proven itself as one of the best in the United States: Laurel Middle School.

I would like to personally thank Dawn Williams, a 7th grade science teacher at Laurel Middle School. Ms. Williams has made me aware of the strides taken by the school. As a benchmark for public education in Delaware, Laurel Middle School has been recognized with a Delaware State Testing Program rating of "superior." This recognition was made possible through the hard work of students, teachers and school officials. While it was the students who scored exceptionally on the test, it is the support system, led by Principal Julie Bradley along with parents, teachers, and administrators, who make it possible to achieve a superior rating.

Most notably, this achievement occurred in a poverty area school, showing that hard work and strong community support can yield outstanding results, regardless of income level. I am grateful for the work of everyone involved and am excited to see the youth of Laurel grow up to become the leaders of tomorrow. Once again Mr. Speaker, I commend the efforts of Laurel Middle School and look forward to following their future achievements.

RECOGNIZING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE INGHAM COUNTY COURTHOUSE

### HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 28, 2005

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 100th anniversary

of the dedication of the Ingham County Courthouse. Construction of the courthouse began in April 1902 and the cornerstone was laid May 5, 1903. The original structure was finally completed in late 1904 at a cost of \$96,678.00 and was dedicated on May 9, 1905. In 1971, the courthouse was placed on the National Register of Historic Places.

The Ingham County Courthouse is a monument to the mechanical and architectural knowhow of the people of Michigan. Designed by a Lansing architect and constructed by Michigan contractors, the century-old Ingham County Courthouse stands tall as a testament to quality of Michigan workmanship.

Mr. Speaker, our Nation's historic places are a vital link to our past and mark the progress of our Nation. I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the importance of these historic buildings and to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Ingham County Courthouse.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO MARY LOU FRENCH, INGHAM COUNTY COMMUNITY NEWS 2005 VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

### HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 28, 2005

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the accomplishments of Mary Lou French, the Ingham County, Michigan Community News 2005 Volunteer of the Year. Mary Lou French retired as a teacher, but still teaches about 700 school children every year about life on a farm. Mary Lou, who has maintained her active community involvement even into retirement, is best described in an article in the Ingham County Community News, written by Editor Rachel S. Greco:

MASON, MI—She isn't at the head of a classroom anymore but Mary Lou French, retired after 28 years with Mason schools, still finds solace when teaching.

At her 40-acre farm, French plays hostess to nearly 700 school children from Ingham County every fall. They take a trip there to learn a first-hand lesson in farm life. The pre-school through second grade groups are introduced to pumpkins, animals and hayrides.

"I had a hard time leaving teaching," said French, of her decision to invite students to her property. "It's just another way I get back to teaching."

In truth, French has been just as active in the community in retirement as she was before it. Her volunteer efforts are evident at the First Presbyterian Church of Mason—where she serves as a Women's Association leader and helps to organize various events and dinners.

But those efforts also extend out into the community, where French has served on the Mason Relay for Life committee since the event's local start, and in the schools where she volunteers to tutor young students in reading and writing.

All this activity is the sum of French's retirement, and she wouldn't have it any other way.

"I've been gone from home all my life," she explained. "I don't like staying at home so this fills the time."

This year, French will become the sixth recipient of the Agnes Comer Volunteer of the Year award, given annually by the staff of the Ingham County Community News.

Residents of Mason flooded the newspaper office with letters about French's good works, after the staff solicited nominations from the community this spring.

"All of Mary Lou's work in this community bears out her legacy," wrote Rex Hauser.

Others cited her willingness to reach out and help whenever it's needed.

"She is well known in the community and a person who people look to when no one else would take on a job," stated Cherie Mitchell. "Someone could say, 'Oh, let Mary Lou do it!' and it would get done."

Rachel Tear, office manager at the Presbyterian Church wrote that French's volunteer work within the congregation propels many activities forward. "Our church activities would come to a grinding halt if Mary Lou ever quit, so we would like your help in showing her how much we appreciate all that she does."

Among French's work with the church is her involvement in Sunday School, Vacation Bible School, and Thanksgiving and spring pie sales aimed at raising money for the annual Relay for Life efforts.

French is also a member of the unofficial 'Flower Power Group' that maintains flower beds at the Ingham County Fairgrounds. When the fair is open, French is often in charge of exhibits.

Mary Lou extends herself to the limit," wrote Marie Wingo. "If you ever needed anything she would be the first to step up and help."

But French said volunteering as been as good to her as it has to the community.

"It's just personally very satisfying and I've gained a lot of good friends and people I've learned to love because of it," she said.

On Tuesday, May 10, newspaper staff and community members will honor French with a luncheon at Mason City Hall.

Still, those who know her understand that French isn't accustomed to or comfortable with the spotlight.

"The only 'down side' to this nomination may be Mary Lou's humble acceptance that she has not been honored before," wrote Hauser. "Her reward has been precisely only in the 'doing for others,' I am sure, from her point of view."

French said she is grateful for the recognition but would rather not accept it.

"There are so many other people who do so much work," she said. "I feel very honored that I am getting it but that's not why I volunteer."

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in congratulating Mary Lou French for her commitment to serving the community. We are honored to support her efforts and extend appreciation for her tireless community volunteer outreach. Mary Lou French is truly deserving of our respect and admiration.

#### HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF SUSAN DAWSON

#### HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 28, 2005*

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the accomplishments of Susan Dawson, who teaches at Specht Elementary School in the Comal Independent School District.

Today's teachers not only serve as educators but also as friends and sometimes even role-models to their students. Susan Dawson

is one of those teachers. Not only does she present the mere "textbook" information but she treats her students as if they were family. Ms. Dawson realizes that students are unique and because of this they require different approaches to being taught. This methodology of universal teaching has made Ms. Dawson the successful teacher she is today.

Receiving her Bachelor's and Master's degrees from Texas State University in San Marcos, Ms. Dawson has accompanied her degrees with 9 years of experience in the classroom to establish a greater understanding of what students need from their teachers.

It is for this commitment that she has proved herself to be an invaluable asset to the students of Comal County, and it is with great honor that I recognize her here today.

#### TRIBUTE TO JAMES BORTHWICK AND EDWARD BOYLE

#### HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 28, 2005*

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join with the Kansas City Metropolitan Bar Association in paying tribute to two of the Kansas City metropolitan area attorneys of distinction, James Borthwick and Edward Boyle. Today the Bar Association is presenting them with its Deans of the Trial Bar Award at their Bench-Bar & Boardroom Conference at the Lake of the Ozarks. Both of these gentlemen are longtime leaders of both the Kansas City metropolitan area's bar and of their home communities.

James (Jim) Borthwick is a partner with the firm of Blackwell Sanders Peper Martin LLP, of Kansas City, Missouri. A magna cum laude graduate of Central College with a J.D. from the University of Michigan, he joined the Blackwell firm as an associate in 1964. With a practice focused on litigation in the areas of business and commercial activity, insurance and intellectual property, Jim defended accounting firms against claims of professional liability and manufacturers against products liability claims. He has handled more than 75 accountant and lawyer malpractice cases to conclusion over the last 20 years and was lead trial counsel in defense of a suit by the Resolution Trust Corporation/Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation against the former directors of Franklin Savings Association; the jury verdict for the defendant was described as one of the biggest defense wins of 1996 by the National Law Journal.

Just as importantly, Jim Borthwick has been active in a wide variety of community and charitable organizations, including: the Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce, the Friends of Art, the Friends of the Zoo, the Johnson County Democratic Party, the State Committee of the Kansas Democratic Party, Kansas City Consensus, United Community Services of Johnson County, and the Village Presbyterian Church. Professionally, he is affiliated with: the American Bar Association and its Tort and Insurance Practice Section, the Defense Research Institute, the Kansas City Metropolitan Bar Association, the Missouri Bar Association, and the Lawyers Association of Kansas City, where he has served on the Board of Directors and as President.

Edward Boyle is of counsel with the firm of McCormick, Adam & Long, of Overland Park, Kansas. A magna cum laude graduate of the University of Notre Dame and an Order of the Coif graduate of the University of Kansas School of Law, where he was editor in chief of the University of Kansas Law Review, Edward Boyle also served as LTJG in the United States Navy from 1960–62. His practice areas include: complex litigation, land use and zoning, medical malpractice, medical products and devices, wrongful death and motor vehicle accidents. Prior to entering private practice, he served as Special Assistant Attorney General of Kansas for Antitrust from 1971–74.

Edward Boyle also has been actively involved in professional activities, serving as secretary of the Kansas State Board of Discipline for Attorneys from 1978–80, member of the Johnson County, Kansas and American Bar Associations (including as secretary of the Johnson County Bar in 1967), the Kansas Trial Lawyers Association and the Kansas Inns of Court.

Mr. Speaker, both of these distinguished gentlemen reflect creditably upon their profession and their communities. I am pleased to take note of the honors they are being awarded by the Kansas City Metropolitan Bar Association and I commend them to you and to our colleagues in the House of Representatives.

#### HONORING THE SESQUICENTENNIAL OF THE CITY OF MALAKOFF

#### HON. JEB HENSARLING

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 28, 2005*

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, today, I would like to congratulate the citizens of Malakoff, Texas, on their Sesquicentennial celebration on April 30, 2005. For the last 150 years, Malakoff has been home to fine families and a wonderful community rich in the traditions of East Texas.

According to the Handbook of Texas, the area we now know as Malakoff was first settled by Jane Irvine, a widow from Alabama, who immigrated with her family to the area before 1835. Once settled in Texas, they built a gristmill on Caney Creek, and a small community grew up around the mill. In 1852 the name was changed to Mitcham Chapel after a Methodist church of the same name organized by the Rev. Hezekiah Mitcham.

Around 1855 the city fathers applied for a post office under the suggested names of Mitcham or Purdon. Both names had already been used. The Postmaster, who had been reading about the Crimean War, suggested the name Malakoff, after a Russian town that had gained prominence during the war.

Since that time, Malakoff has grown, but it has always maintained its small town East Texas roots. Lying at the gateway of East Texas, Malakoff boasts award-winning schools and plays host to the annual Malakoff Cornbread Festival.

During their Sesquicentennial celebration this year, the citizens of Malakoff can be proud of their past and optimistic about their future. As Congressman for the Fifth District of Texas, it is a privilege to represent them in the United States House of Representatives. On