

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who have dedicated not only their time, but also their resources, to the recovery effort along the gulf coast. I am proud to recognize and commend the tremendous commitment, kindness and generosity of southeastern Pennsylvanians whose invaluable dedication to helping our Nation deserves our special recognition.

RECOGNIZING DAVID CRISSEY AS
SANTA ROSA DISTRICT TEACHER
OF THE YEAR

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 8, 2006

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the U.S. Congress, it is an honor for me to rise today to recognize David Crissey as Teacher of the Year for the 2005–2006 school year.

On January 30, 2006, David Crissey was announced Teacher of the Year in the Santa Rosa County School District, a district he has proudly served since 1995. Mr. Crissey is an alternative education teacher with the Exceptional Student Education Department's Students Achieving Independent Learning, SAIL, Program at the Berryhill Administrative Complex in Milton, FL.

The SAIL program serves students who have been removed from their home schools due to a zero tolerance offense or for a long pattern of chronic disruptive behaviors. It takes a special person with an abundance of patience to teach these students not only academics, but also how to succeed socially in society. Stemming from his love for helping children to become successful, over the past 10 years David Crissey has developed an innovative resiliency training program, which teaches students to bounce back from the life stressors they have faced in their lives. Not only an educator for his students, he has presented his resiliency training program as well as other innovative alternative education programming at several international, national, regional and State level conferences to help prepare his colleagues for the behavioral challenges that will face them in the classroom.

The Teacher of the Year recognition highlights 1 year of teaching, but the proof of greatness lies beyond the title; it lies in the hearts and minds of the students who have been deeply affected. Undeniably, each day walking into the classroom, David Crissey positively shapes the lives of his students.

Through his hard work and dedication in the field of academia, the impact he has had on his students and the difference he has made in their lives has proven him to be among the great teachers in Northwest Florida, and Santa Rosa School District is honored to have him as one of their own.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the U.S. Congress, I am proud to recognize David Crissey on this outstanding achievement for his exemplary service in the Santa Rosa County School District.

H.R. 3380, GUARDIANSHIP ASSISTANCE PROMOTION AND KINSHIP SUPPORT ACT: TO PROMOTE SAFE AND STABLE HOMES FOR ALL CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 8, 2006

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, across the country, there are more than 6 million children living with their grandparents, aunts, uncles or other relatives. In my State of Illinois, 9 percent of the children live with nonparent relatives. Children enter relative care for many reasons: death of a parent, neglect, abuse, military deployment, or poverty. But regardless of the reason, every child deserves a safe home and an opportunity for a good life. I commend grandparents and other relatives who step forward to care for children, keeping them out of foster care while providing safe, stable homes, often at great personal sacrifice. Supportive programs like subsidized guardianship help children exit foster care into the permanent care of nurturing relatives.

Recently, the Pew Commission on Children and Foster Care noted that permanent guardians offer the best hope and future for many of these children. After extensive study, the Pew Commission recommended permanent guardians receive financial assistance in the form of subsidized guardianship. A 2004 study by the University of Illinois showed that States with federally funded subsidized guardianship through IV–E waivers are much more effective in both reducing their foster care rolls and achieving permanence. Subsidized guardianship provides the financial support to make it possible for relative caregivers to provide a permanent and loving home for children, while giving guardianship to the relative instead of the State.

The Guardianship Assistance Promotion, GAP, Act, H.R. 3380, introduced by my colleague Representative DANNY K. DAVIS, is designed to support children living with legal guardians by allowing subsidized guardianship and expanding eligibility to children who are eligible for foster care payments. I urge my colleagues to join this important effort to encourage safe and permanent homes for children in foster care.

Grandparents and other relative caregivers are often the best chance for a loving and stable childhood for the children in their care, but their hard work and dedication often go unnoticed. Today, I offer my deep appreciation for the ongoing service of these caregivers to our children.

HONORING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF DENNIS WIESE

HON. STEPHANIE HERSETH

OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 8, 2006

Ms. HERSETH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and pay tribute to an individual who has earned a reputation as one of the most important and influential agricultural leaders in my home state of South Dakota. Very recently, the longtime president of the South Da-

kota Farmers Union, Dennis Wiese, retired from that position and passed the torch to the next generation of farm leaders. It is on this occasion that I would like to recognize and honor the valuable contributions that he has made to the South Dakota Farmers Union and to South Dakota agriculture.

Dennis first began his involvement in agriculture as a young boy on his family's farm near Flandreau, South Dakota. After graduating from high school he began farming. As he immersed himself in the operation of his farm, Dennis became increasingly interested in agricultural and rural issues that he saw affecting family agriculture. This led to active participation in farm policy debates. In 1993, this interest culminated in his election as the president of the South Dakota Farmers Union, one of the most influential farm organizations in our state. In that role, Dennis served as a staunch and effective advocate for public policy on behalf of the state's farmers and ranchers. He earned a reputation as an honest and valuable source of information, and a fountain of new ideas for positive policy change. He also simultaneously served as a member of the board of directors of the National Farmers Union Property and Casualty Insurance Companies.

During his time as president of the South Dakota Farmers Union he met with national leaders, including President Bill Clinton on several occasions, to discuss issues affecting rural America. Dennis counseled many members of Congress on agricultural matters, including Senators TIM JOHNSON, Tom Daschle, Larry Pressler and JOHN THUNE, and Congressman Bill Janklow and myself, among others. He also has served on national agricultural panels with other prominent rural leaders and he has testified before the Senate and House agriculture committees on numerous occasions.

I had the great good fortune to work with Dennis in another of his important endeavors; one that I think will be one of his finest legacies. In 2003, he was the driving force behind the creation and success of the South Dakota Farmers Union Foundation, a nonprofit charitable organization that conducts education programs that teach youth, young adults, farm families, and others about cooperatives and other issues important to family farm agriculture and our rural communities. I was fortunate enough to be the first executive director of that worthy organization and was able to see first hand the talent and dedication that Dennis brings to all of his efforts to assist South Dakota and rural America.

Dennis announced in January of 2005 that he would not seek re-election after serving 12 years as president of the 14,000-member South Dakota Farmers Union. He was replaced in an election in November of last year by another impressive agriculture leader in my state, Doug Sombke. Since Dennis' retirement, he has started a government affairs and economic development consulting firm in his home town of Flandreau, South Dakota. He is now putting his full energies into expanding that business. He is working on many significant and important projects, including the expansion of South Dakota processing company that produces and markets locally grown premium Hereford beef.

It is because of the leadership of bright and dedicated men and women like Dennis Wiese that the challenges facing farmers and ranchers across the country receive the attention

they deserve and the unique needs of rural America are heard. It was my pleasure to work with Dennis during my time leading the South Dakota Farmers Union Foundation, and also to benefit from his experience, wisdom, and counsel during my first year in Congress and on the House Agriculture Committee.

Dennis' family, including his wife, Julie, and his children Dayton, Kyle, Owen, Austin and Elissa are justifiably proud of their father and husband for his work on behalf of family farmers and ranchers. I look forward to continuing our close and valuable relationship with Dennis as he continues to serve South Dakota and American agriculture.

TRIBUTE TO ETHEL SEIDERMAN

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 8, 2006

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise with pleasure to honor my friend Ethel Seiderman who is receiving the Beryl H. Buck Award for Achievement on March 9, 2006, for her embodiment of "community giving in action." This award affirms what the Marin community already knows about her . . . Ethel Seiderman has given tirelessly her entire life.

Ethel's life and work reflect her passion for children and families. She has created innovative programs which have become national models for meeting a broad range of needs. From her early efforts in low-income communities in Boston and New York in the 1950s to the nationwide reach of the Parent Services Project she currently directs, Ethel has demonstrated that caring for vulnerable populations with respect and compassion reflects how we are as a people.

In 1973 Ethel founded the Fairfax-San Anselmo Children's Center (FSACC) and was the director until 1999. FSACC provides childcare for 150 low- to moderate-income families each year with ground-breaking programs such as the Get Well Room for mildly ill children, extended hours, extensive family support, mainstreaming, and transportation for school-age children. With the efforts of her late husband and partner Stan, the family support program increased fathers' involvement through the Men's Group and its various projects.

The Parent Services Project (PSP) was founded in 1980 as Ethel realized that, in order to promote the well-being of children, we must promote and incorporate their families. Working in partnership, parents and staff develop support groups, respite and family fun events, workshops and trainings, and other activities requested by the families. With Ethel leading dissemination and advocacy efforts, the PSP approach has now been integrated into over 800 programs across the country. These services vary widely, as they are developed by the needs of the particular parent group; organic development at each site is the norm rather than a one-size-fits-all approach.

As a consultant to many of these programs and a stirring and sought-after conference speaker, Ethel continues to travel the Nation promoting the family support principles that guide PSP. She has also published numerous articles and received awards including Marin Citizen of the Year, Marin Women's Hall of

Fame, and Woman of the Year from the California legislature.

Throughout these endeavors, Ethel's husband Stan, who passed away last year, and her two children and four grandchildren, have provided her a loving support network. And Ethel's extended family—the many people whose lives she has touched—have also returned her warmth over the years. In the words of one director of a children's program that she helped, "Ethel opened our eyes to a whole new approach in life as well as work, a mode that united families and staff to support each other and to promote the success of our children."

Mr. Speaker, Ethel Seiderman understands that through honoring and sustaining each other we can truly build a better future. And I honor her on the occasion of her well-deserved receipt of the Beryl H. Buck Award. I know that she will continue to embody community giving while inspiring others to do the same.

TRIBUTE TO MILTON B. LEE

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 8, 2006

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Milton B. Lee for his impeccable record of service to the citizens of San Antonio, and whose achievements were recognized by the San Antonio-based Lighthouse Group on January 25, 2006.

Mr. Lee, a lifelong Texan, is a native of Austin, where he accomplished a Bachelor of Science degree in Mechanical Engineering in 1971. After graduating, he quickly launched his career at General Electric, where he oversaw nuclear steam supply systems, nuclear fuel, gas turbine generators and steam turbine generators.

He was one of the formative members of the Texas Public Utilities Commission, and having testified as an expert witness in certification and rate proceedings, he has left his stamp on many of the regulations that govern my home state's electric utilities.

Over the years, Mr. Lee also served as a member on a variety of boards and commissions, including his service in a leadership capacity within the Texas Public Power and American Public Power Associations, university boards, including the Huston-Tillotson University Board of Trustees and the University of Texas at Austin Engineering Foundation Advisory Board, and professional organizations, including the National Society of Black Engineers.

Mr. Speaker, Milton Lee has risen to lead CPS Energy, formerly City Public Service and now the largest municipally owned energy company providing both natural gas and electric service. Serving as General Manager and CEO, Mr. Lee also serves as a much needed positive role model and an inspiration to the youth within our shared communities. Given his remarkable résumé and his impressive accomplishments, today I rise to honor Milton B. Lee for his ongoing commitment to service, to scientific research within and outside of his particular field of expertise, and to excellence in everything that he executes.

HONORING DANA REEVE

HON. MICHAEL BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 8, 2006

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and celebrate the life of Dana Reeve, an extraordinary woman whose kindness and generosity touched so many, including me.

Dana Reeve was many things to many people. She was a daughter, a sister, a wife, and a mother. She was an accomplished singer, actress, author, and motivational speaker. She was a determined advocate and a passionate fighter for causes in which she believed. She was, above all, a woman whose grace and courage inspired and comforted those in need.

I met Dana several years ago when I began working with her late husband, Christopher, on legislation I have introduced to intensify and coordinate federal research into paralysis. My bill, the Christopher Reeve Paralysis Act, bears her late husband's name because they both so impressed me with their positive spirit and tireless determination to overcome challenges that would seem insurmountable to most. Dana and Christopher both accomplished much in their all too brief time here. While many are probably more familiar with Christopher's life and his courageous fight to improve the lives of people with paralysis than they are with Dana's life and legacy, she was quite remarkable in her own right.

Dana was a founding board member of the Christopher Reeve Foundation and became its chair after her husband's death. She also established the Foundation's Quality of Life grants program, which has awarded more than \$8 million to support efforts to improve the lives of people with paralysis, and the Christopher and Dana Reeve Paralysis Resource Center, which promotes the health and well-being of people living with paralysis and their families by providing comprehensive information resources and referral services. The Foundation itself has helped raise more than \$46 million for neuroscience research.

Mr. Speaker, it is always tragic when a loved one leaves this earthly life, especially when they had so much life yet to lead. I hope everyone grieving Dana's loss will remember that she accomplished much and touched the lives of millions whose lives are better for her work here. I am certain that she and Christopher are looking down on us urging us all to go forward, as their Foundation's motto proclaims, and carry on the wonderful work they started. May God bless Christopher and Dana Reeve and may He continue to watch over those here who so loved them.

CONGRATULATING SAN DIEGO BASED GEN-PROBE ON RECEIVING THE NATIONAL MEDAL OF TECHNOLOGY LAUREATE

HON. DARRELL E. ISSA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 8, 2006

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor Gen-Probe Incorporated in recognition of their recent receipt of a 2004 National Medal of Technology Laureate.