

Farooq, Scott Goodwin, Lauren Hudak, Hannah Huebner, Casey Jedrzejczak, Alexis Jeter, Joseph Kasenga, Emily Lyness, Thomas Paliga, Shobba Pai, Samantha Skrobot, Tamiko Toyama, Lindsay Weiss, and Matt Westerlund. The teacher for this award winning team was Michael Gordon.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to once again extend my most heartfelt congratulations to the members of Munster High School's We the People program for their commitment to excellence, as well as to the faculty members who have instilled in their students the desire to succeed. The values exhibited by these young people and their interest in the history and fundamentals of our great Nation serve to inspire us all. I am proud to represent these fine individuals in Congress, and I am proud to have been given this opportunity to recognize these future leaders. I look forward to their future achievements as they continue to rise to the top.

TRIBUTE TO THE PFIZER PLANT
RESEARCH LABORATORY AT THE
NEW YORK BOTANICAL GARDEN

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 16, 2006

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to honor The New York Botanical Garden as it celebrates the grand opening of the Pfizer Plant Research Laboratory on May 16, 2006. The opening marks the completion of the Garden's science campus, and is the only one of its kind at any botanical garden in the country.

Founded in 1891, The New York Botanical Garden is one of the world's great collections of plants, the region's leading educational center for gardening and horticulture, and an international center for plant research.

The Botanical Garden's presence in the Bronx adds to the borough's diversity and provides a temporary oasis from the ubiquitous presence of concrete and steel in the city.

Realizing the integral role it must play in the quest to unlock the secrets of plants in order to cure diseases and protect the earth, the Garden has created the Pfizer Plant Research Laboratory at The New York Botanical Garden with leadership support from Pfizer Inc. and The Pfizer Foundation.

The Pfizer Plant Research Laboratory marks a new era of scientific research at The New York Botanical Garden's International Plant Science Center. The laboratory is the latest addition in The Botanical Garden's comprehensive 15-year renaissance and will further its urgent mission to discover, decipher, document, and defend Earth's vast biodiversity.

The two-story, 28,000-square-foot laboratory provides highly advanced scientific research facilities, including robotic workstations and a high-throughput DNA sequencer. It forms a center for collaborative research in molecular systematics and plant genomics, serving scientists and graduate students not just from The Botanical Garden, but also from the region and indeed the whole world. The Pfizer Laboratory is the largest and finest laboratory research facility in any botanical garden in the United States, enabling scientists to recon-

struct the genealogy of plants and fungi and to probe the mysteries of genes and genomes.

Mr. Speaker, it is only fitting for a structure that will house such important and groundbreaking work to be an architectural gem. Indeed, the Lab designed by Susan T. Rodriguez and Polshek Partnership Architects is nothing short of breathtaking. The free-standing building is located on a site across from the Steere Herbarium and overlooks the scenic Twin Lakes. The building's integration into its natural setting reinforces the vital importance of the natural world in the scientists' research. The exterior of the laboratory complements the design and materials of the adjacent Steere Herbarium and Library Building. Large windows in the labs and graduate study suites look out on the built and natural landscapes, and an inviting courtyard provides space for all types of gatherings.

I salute The New York Botanical Garden for its continued efforts not only to provide a beautiful museum of plants but also an environment for important research and development. I also salute Pfizer, a product of our sister borough, for its commitment to further mankind's understanding of the plant world. It is their shared hope, and indeed, mine, that one day this research will yield beneficial knowledge to curtail human suffering.

Mr. Speaker, may the collaboration of these two respected institutions provide fascinating and useful discoveries for generations to come.

11TH ANNUAL EXCELLENCE IN
BUSINESS AWARDS

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 16, 2006

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 11th Annual Excellence in Business Award honorees for making outstanding contributions to the central San Joaquin Valley.

The recipients of the 11th Annual Excellence in Business Award are as follows:

Agriculture—Kevin and Diane Herman, The Specialty Crop Co.

Charitable/Nonprofit—Peter Carey, Self-Help Enterprises.

Financial/Banking/Insurance—County Bank.

Health Care—Family Health Care Network.

Manufacturing—ADCO Manufacturing.

Professional Services—Diane Anderson, Agricultural & Priority Pollutants Laboratory Inc.

Real Estate/Construction—Dirk Poeschel, Dirk Poeschel Land Development Services.

Retail/Wholesale—The Charles McMurray Company.

Small Business—Nelson's ACE Hardware.

Hall of Fame—Jack Stone, Stone Land Co.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate each of the Excellence in Business Award honorees for their leadership and numerous contributions to the community. I urge my colleagues to join me in wishing each recipient many more years of continued success.

PATARA: THE ORIGINS OF AMERICAN DEMOCRACY, 1800 YEARS AND 7,000 MILES AWAY

HON. CLIFF STEARNS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 16, 2006

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, the city of Patara in Turkey sports a fantastic beach that sprawls for more than 11 miles. It recently rated number one on the London Sunday Times' list of the world's best beaches. But Patara is worth our attention for more than sand and surf. An archeological team led by Akdeniz University Professors Fahri Isik and Havva Iskan Isik recently unearthed an ancient parliament building in Patara—the meeting place of the first federal republic in recorded human history. The building, called the Bouleuterion, housed at least twenty-three city-states of the Lycian League, which existed along the Mediterranean coast of Turkey from about 167 BC until 400 AD.

The Lycian League's republican governing system, utilizing proportional representation, was unparalleled in the ancient world, and fascinated the pioneering philosophers of the Enlightenment, particularly Montesquieu. Depending on the size of the member cities, each elected one, two or three representatives to the Lycian parliament. When cities were too small, two or three banded together to share one representative vote. The six largest cities in the League had the right to three votes. The parliament elected a president, called the "Lyciarch," which at various times served as the League's religious, military, and political leader. Although it is contested, there is evidence to suggest that women could be, and in fact were, Lyciarch.

In Book IX of Montesquieu's *Spirit of the Laws*, after charting the highs and lows of the earliest republics, he stresses the utility of a confederacy. He cites the Lycian League as an example: "It is unlikely that states that associate will be of the same size and have equal power. . . . If one had to propose a model of a fine federal republic, I would choose the republic of Lycia."

Montesquieu's interest in the Lycian way of government would prove central to our founding. Thanks to his writings, in the debates about our own Constitution, Alexander Hamilton and James Madison cited the Lycian League as a model for our own system of government.

As well, in literal linkage, the semi-circular configuration of seats in this House of Representatives is exactly the same seating arrangement as in the Bouleuterion in Patara. The Bouleuterion's throne-like perch, where the elected Lyciarch sat, is much the same as the seat of the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

On June 30, 1787, at the Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia, James Madison appealed to the delegates' understanding of the Lycian League. The Convention had just rejected the "New Jersey Plan", which called for a rather modest revision of our Nation's first constitutional framework, the failed Articles of Confederation. The delegates resolved to come up with a new constitution, but had few notions in common of how it should proceed.

A delegate from Connecticut, Oliver Ellsworth, had just finished arguing for the Articles

of Confederation's principle that every State should be equal in the national arena. He specifically asked, "Where is or was a confederation ever formed, where equality of voices was not a fundamental principle?"

James Madison replied that the Lycian League was different, according representation in reflection of actual size. His Virginia plan provided for a bicameral legislature, with both houses' representation based on States' population. He eventually had to accept a compromise, with a people's house of proportional representation, our House of Representatives, in tandem with a Senate of equal State representation.

Hamilton and Madison also cited the Lycian League in defense of representative democracy. While direct rule usually resulted in either tyranny or anarchy, the two founders felt that delegation of authority to elected representatives would allow the government to function properly.

The ideas and debates of our founding fathers may seem archaic to our modern times, but we face questions of federalism every day in this Congress. A federalist system of government divides power between a central authority (the Federal Government) and constituent political units (the States and localities). The delineation of that power comes into question particularly often on the Energy & Commerce Committee, of which I am a Subcommittee Chairman, whether we are debating the proper authority over electricity transmission across State lines, the regulation of hazardous waste, or the transmission of information through our telecommunications infrastructure.

Meanwhile, whether we are helping Iraq and other Middle Eastern countries develop representative democratic systems, or providing advice to the burgeoning democracies of post-Soviet Eastern Europe, we effectively reenact the Constitutional Convention's debates about the Lycian League and the nature of democracy around the world. We are doing what we can to help spread freedom and democracy, in our own image. Unfortunately, while it is relatively easy to conceive of the best model of government—as our founding fathers did, and Montesquieu did before them—the diversity of the real world, in geography, ethnicity, religion, and history, makes applying that best model quite difficult in practice.

The British archeologist George Bean highlighted some of the unique features of the Lycian League—features not dissimilar to our own country's: "Among the various races of Anatolia, the Lycians always held a distinctive place. Locked away in their mountainous country, they had a fierce love of freedom and independence, and resisted strongly all attempts at outside domination; they were the last in Asia Minor to be incorporated as a province into the Roman Empire."

Our experience so far in guiding the nascent democracy in Iraq should certainly illustrate that representative democracy may not be perfectly replicable, at least overnight.

Fifteen years ago, all a visitor to Patara would have noticed were the tops of a few old stones. Today, the excavations at Patara have unearthed the remains of an entire city. The archeological team has rescued numerous buildings and items from the sand and scrub brush, besides the Bouleuterion parliament building, including: a large necropolis; a Roman bath; a sizeable semicircular theater; a

sprawling main avenue leading to the market square; a Byzantine basilica (one of 22 churches once packed into Patara); one of the world's oldest lighthouses; and a fortified wall.

I would encourage everyone to visit Patara, for its beauty and for its archeological significance. The excavation site is 10–15 minutes from the glorious beach, and will be opened to the public in 2007. While we wait, one of Turkey's largest museums, the Antalya Archaeological Museum, displays many of the finds from Patara and the surrounding area.

We owe a great debt to Turkey's Ministry of Culture and the Akdeniz University in Antalya for their dedication of time and money to bringing the ancient ruins of Patara out of the dust and back into our lives.

In closing, I would like to thank: Dr. Gul Isin, Associate Professor of Archeology at Akdeniz Antalya in Turkey, who has been diligently working with Dr. Fahri Isik and Dr. Havva Iskan Isik to uncover the mysteries of the Patara site; Professor James W. Muller of the University of Alaska, Anchorage, who dissected how the Lycian League affected the founding fathers; and the American Friends of Turkey, the Friends of Patara, and former Representatives Stephen Solarz and Robert Livingston, who graciously introduced me to the archeological findings at Patara, and the important work of Professors Isin and Muller.

BAY AREA RIDGE TRAIL TRIBUTE

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 16, 2006

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to invite my colleagues to join me in recognizing the completion of the 300th mile of the San Francisco Bay Area Ridge Trail on June 3, 2006.

The Bay Area Ridge Trail was the vision of William Penn Mott Jr., who served as the head of the East Bay Regional Park District, California State Parks and as the Director of the National Park Service.

Through a lifetime of service, Mr. Mott saw the importance of preserving ridge top lands for scenic, watershed, and habitat values. A key strategy for gaining public support for a significant program of land conservation, in his view, was to create responsible, appropriate and managed ways for the public to access and enjoy these lands through trails.

A "Bay Area ridge trail," in the grand tradition of the Appalachian and Pacific Crest trails, could connect people to places around them and build support for land preservation and protection.

To bring this vision into reality, a group of public land managing agencies, nonprofit organizations, and local trails and community advocates began meeting in 1987 to plan the route of a ridgeline trail to connect protected land areas and promote additional land preservation. These initial meetings were led by the National Park Service and the People for Open Space (now, the Greenbelt Alliance).

In 1988, this planning process led to the birthing of a new nonprofit organization known as the Bay Area Ridge Trail Council to coordinate the efforts of these public and private partners and promote the concept of the trail to the public.

I am proud to have played a role in the success of the trail by helping to win congressional support for it.

The first trail was dedicated on May 13, 1989, in San Mateo County in the Wunderlich and Huddart County Parks and Purissima Creek Redwoods Open Space Preserve. Since 1989, a series of trails have been dedicated as part of the growing Ridge Trail system.

On June 3, 2006, the 300th mile will be dedicated in my district at the Crockett Hills Regional Park, in Contra Costa County. The total trail is expected to be over 500 miles in length; therefore this dedication brings the trail to more than halfway toward its completion.

The Council today is an independent nonprofit organization with a staff of six, a board of directors of 32, seven active County Committees organizing efforts locally, volunteers numbering in the hundreds, and over 3,500 members working together to complete the trail. As an organization, the Council has many strengths: a diverse and active Board of Directors; a skilled and committed staff; strong public name recognition; a compelling vision and clear mission; numerous strong partnerships with public agencies; strong political support from federal, state, county, and local governments; and committed local volunteer support.

No other organization in the Bay Area fills the important niche of providing public access to a regional network of ridgeline trails and open spaces and connecting local trails and communities to one another.

Beyond the Council, many public partners and nonprofit organizations work to make the Ridge Trail a reality. Our public agency partners also bring many strengths. The Bay Area enjoys a multitude of public agencies, local governments, and special districts committed to the preservation and protection of land and to providing public recreational access. These organizations have extremely capable and committed boards, directors, and staffs. Many of these organizations also enjoy dedicated public funding from parcel tax assessments, sales tax or general fund support that allows them to pursue a capital program of land acquisition and trail development.

As many of these partners helped to give birth to the Bay Area Ridge Trail Council, they have remained committed to helping complete the vision. The region also enjoys some of the most respected, skilled and well-funded land trusts in the nation that partner with the Council where our land acquisition needs overlap.

Collectively, these public and private agencies have already acquired much of the land needed for the next 100 miles of the Ridge Trail.

Some of the partners involved in the Bay Area Ridge Trail include The Golden Gate National Recreation Area, the John Muir National Historic Site, the Presidio Trust, the California Coastal Conservancy, California State Parks, the California Department of Fish and Game, the East Bay Regional Park District, the Mid Peninsula Regional Open Space District, Santa Clara County Parks Department, Santa Clara County Open Space Authority, San Mateo County Parks, the City of San Francisco, Marin County Open Space District, Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District, Sonoma County Regional Parks, Napa County, Solano County, the Sonoma Land Trust, Solano Land Trust,