

TRIBUTE TO MRS. AMANDA G.
RASH

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 3, 2007

Mr. CUELLAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mrs. Amanda G. Rash on her reaching the milestone of her 95th birthday. She is one of the most inspiring members of the community in the City of Laredo and in the State of Texas.

Mrs. Amanda G. Rash was born on July 26, 1912, to her parents Carlos and Ana Chapa de Gutierrez in Old Guerrero in the State of Tamaulipas in Mexico. She grew up in the town of Zapata, Texas, where her father was a rancher. Amanda became a certified beautician after high school and opened her own beauty salon in Zapata. In 1937, she met Roy Clifford Rash from Granbury, Texas, and together they raised 3 daughters, Eva Linda, Rose Lee, an Arlene Myra.

As a mother, Mrs. Rash is wholly devoted to her children. She also helped her husband to succeed with his highway construction business, Border Road Construction and Border Materials, in the late 1950s. After her husband's death in 1970, the business continued to thrive under Mrs. Rash's leadership and was sold to their employees in 1973. Her Christian faith has sustained her, and that strength is felt through the kindness and caring she has given to others. Her remarkable mind and wit have served her well in her 95 years. She has been an inspiration to all who know her.

Madam Speaker, I am honored to have had the opportunity to recognize the dedication of Mrs. Amanda G. Rash to her community, and ask you to join me in honoring her on her birthday.

HONORING THE TRUMBULL HIGH SCHOOL GOLDEN EAGLE MARCHING BAND

HON. CHRISTOPHER SHAYS

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 3, 2007

Mr. SHAYS. Madam Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to congratulate the Trumbull High School Golden Eagle Marching Band on hosting their 25th Annual Fall Classic Bank Competition.

On this silver anniversary, we commemorate the legacy of the band promoting music education through competition. For almost 40 years now, the Golden Eagle Marching Band has been known as one of the premiere marching bands in the country.

The band has represented the State of Connecticut at the 2004 Hollywood Christmas Parade in California and the 54th Presidential Inauguration Parade in 2001. It has also been at the top of the Musical Arts Conference since its inception in 2001 and has won countless awards along the way. In 2006, the band was champion of its division for the third year.

These young musicians benefited from hundreds of hours of practice, competitions, and most importantly memories that last a lifetime. Even after the fall sports season ends, come

December, the music does not stop. Band members continue to bring credit to Trumbull High School by competing in Winter Guard International competitions. In 2007, both groups were finalists in the scholastic world class and in 2005, the winter guard placed third in the country in the scholastic open class.

None of this would be possible without the hard work and dedication of staff members and band parents over many years. These unsung heroes keep this organization on the field day in and day out. Without their tremendous support, the Eagles could not have soared to the heights we see today.

The Trumbull High School Golden Eagle Marching Band has raised the bar for future generations to proudly represent Trumbull High School and the State of Connecticut. These individuals on the field have embodied hard work, a positive attitude, and concentration. The State of Connecticut is proud of their hard work.

CONGRATULATING THE 2007 WEST VIRGINIA LITTLE LEAGUE STATE CHAMPIONS

HON. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 3, 2007

Mrs. CAPITO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the 2007 West Virginia Little League State Champions, the South Berkeley Little League team, who hail from West Virginia's Second Congressional District.

The 2007 Little League State Tournament took place in Hedgesville, July 21 through July 26. Fifteen teams from around the State participated in the tournament. The Little Leaguers played in a series of games the first 4 days of the tournament and the finalist advanced to the single elimination series. The championship came down to Berkeley County's own, Martinsburg and South Berkeley Little League teams.

After Martinsburg put up a good fight, South Berkeley finally came out on top in an 8-2 victory, winning their first Little League State Championship in 27 years. The South Berkeley Little League team is managed by Larry Custer and Coaches Chris Cochran and Jess Dusing. The South Berkeley Little League team is made up of thirteen players ages, 11-12, from Bunker Hill and Inwood who all attend Musselman Middle School. The players include: Chance Allen, Tyler Baker, Markie Custer, Caleb Dembeck, Nikki Dusing, Maverick Keller, Denver Luttrell, Alan Mocahbee, Andy Mocahbee, Austin Owens, Jacob Whitmore, Evan Woolum, and Darrin Zombro.

The South Berkeley team will progress to the Southeast Regional Playoffs this month in St. Petersburg, FL. I wish them the best of luck as they will represent West Virginia very well. I hope to see them advance to the Little League World Series in Williamsport, PA.

Madam Speaker, it gives me great pride to acknowledge these young men who participate in America's greatest pastime, the game of baseball. Again, congratulations South Berkeley Little League team.

TRIBUTE TO PORTABLE PRACTICAL EDUCATIONAL PREPARATION INC.

HON. RAÚL M. GRIJALVA

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 3, 2007

Mr. GRIJALVA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend Portable Practical Educational Preparation Inc., PPEP.

For the past 40 years, PPEP has been working diligently for rural communities, improving the lives and futures of the people it serves. PPEP has been steadfast in its service to the rural poor, the disenfranchised, the developmentally disabled, at-risk youth, and the migrant and seasonal farm workers and their families.

The founding philosophy of Project PPEP is to involve those who are less fortunate in carrying out meaningful programs to eliminate rural poverty—to help overcome the problems faced by rural people by mobilizing public and private resources in support of these programs. Armed with their first grant of \$19,000 from the Office of Economic Opportunity, Project PPEP and La Tortuga became a reality.

On August 24, 1967 John David Arnold, founder and current chief administrative officer, embarked on PPEP's first outreach trip to provide training by touring in a converted 1957 Chevrolet school bus named "La Tortuga"—the Tortoise. This portable classroom allowed PPEP to teach English to migrant workers and taught many people the value of learning vocational and technical skills like driving a car, and improving sanitation and nutrition. La Tortuga was driven all over southern Arizona, taking PPEP's resources to the cotton and vegetable fields and providing educational preparation to African Americans and "Braceros" and their families.

In November 1967, the Arizona Daily Star summarized PPEP as, "a practical education which is brought almost to the doorstep of unskilled and poverty-stricken people in Southern Arizona." As Project PPEP celebrates 40 years of success, these words still ring true.

In the past 40 years, PPEP has touched over 4 million people, developed numerous programs that have become national self-help models, has established 42 field offices operating with 17 group homes servicing over 167 developmentally disabled adults, and has created 13 charter high school campuses throughout Arizona, having graduated over 2,400 students in the past 11 years.

The staff of PPEP has encouraged and enabled many disadvantaged citizens to develop technical skills and computer literacy which has allowed many of them to move from welfare to more productive lives in the job market. PPEP provides a bridge for farm workers, the rural poor and many other disadvantaged individuals.

Due to the support of PPEP, many migrant workers, low income families and the rural poor are building homes, building businesses and building communities of opportunity.

I offer my thanks to the dedicated and committed staff of Project PPEP.