

Madam Speaker, I am delighted to acknowledge SUNY's leadership, the Office of International Programs, SUNY and Turkish partnership institutions, and all those who have worked to ensure that New York State's system of higher education provides the international components that are critical to higher education, our nation's competitiveness, and our image abroad. Furthermore, I am deeply honored to represent two of SUNY's host institutions, SUNY Binghamton and my alma mater, SUNY New Paltz. Each of these universities' contributions in education and efforts at globalizing their campuses benefit their communities in many broad and profound ways and it is my pleasure to recognize them during International Education Week 2007.

RECOGNIZING LAMAR UNIVERSITY'S DISHMAN DEPARTMENT OF NURSING

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2007

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, Florence Nightingale, the pioneer of modern nursing, once stated that "Unless we are making progress in our nursing every year, every month, every week, take my word for it we are going back." Lamar University's JoAnne Gay Dishman Department of Nursing has taken this philosophy and ran with it. Their continued excellence has turned the nursing program into one of the most successful in the country.

Nursing education began at Lamar University in 1974. Since then, it has become the second most popular in the university, trailing only General Studies. From 2001 through 2005, the program saw a 30 percent increase in the number of students admitted to the program. Over the same period, the number of pre-nursing majors increased by 195 percent. The popularity stems from the success of both the program and the students. The faculty is staffed by a number of experts with many years of experience. Recently Department Chair Eileen Curl was elected president of the Texas Association of Deans and Directors of Professional Nursing Programs. May 2007 graduates of the Department's associate of applied science program achieved a 100 percent passing rate on the National Council Licensing Examination for Registered Nurses. The national passing rate is 87 percent. Success in the classroom has led to success after graduation. The University states that 98 percent of senior nursing students have job offers before graduation, and a full 100 percent are employed within six months after graduation. The knowledge learned in the classroom benefits all Southeast Texans, as the University estimates that between 60 to 80 percent of Lamar's graduating classes are employed in local health care agencies. Southeast Texans can feel safe, knowing that they have qualified, competent, and professional nurses to assist them.

Lamar University's Dishman Department of Nursing had humble beginnings but quickly grew to become one of the most popular and distinguished majors. The faculty provides quality education relevant to today's ever-changing world. The students strive to be the best and showcase their values, work ethic

and integrity. With an enrollment that grows by the year, the Dishman Department of Nursing will be turning out prominent medical professionals for years to come.

And that's just the way it is.

IN RECOGNITION OF COLORADO PROFESSOR OF THE YEAR AWARD WINNER THOMAS C. MCGUIRE

HON. DOUG LAMBORN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2007

Mr. LAMBORN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Thomas C. McGuire, an associate professor of English and Fine Arts at the United States Air Force Academy, who has been named the Colorado winner of the 2007 U.S. Professors of the Year Award. Since 1981, this program has saluted outstanding undergraduate instructors throughout the country.

This award is recognized as one of the most prestigious honors bestowed upon a professor. To be nominated for this award requires dedication to the art of education and excellence in every aspect of the profession. Mr. McGuire is personally committed to each student and has helped to shape the leaders of tomorrow's Air Force. We are all proud of his accomplishment.

I commend Mr. McGuire for his leadership and dedication. Mr. McGuire's passion has no doubt inspired an untold number of students. It is excellent professors like Mr. McGuire that have enabled the United States Air Force Academy to become one of the very best institutions of higher learning in the nation. I wish today to congratulate Mr. McGuire and the Academy on this tremendous honor.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING HAZEL FARMER ON HER 106TH BIRTHDAY

HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2007

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker:

Whereas, Ms. Farmer has demonstrated values of hard work and service throughout her life, always maintaining a positive outlook; and

Whereas, Ms. Farmer loves helping people through volunteering and taking care of them; and

Whereas, Ms. Farmer has dedicated her life to teaching our youth; and

Whereas, Ms. Farmer's character has been praised by the staff at Walnut Hills Retirement Community, as "a sweetheart and a joy to be around;" now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that along with her friends, family, and the residents of the 18th Congressional District, I wish Hazel Farmer a happy and healthy 106th birthday. We recognize the tremendous impact she has had in her community and in the lives of all those people she has touched.

HONORING THE FOSTERVILLE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2007

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor the members of the Fosterville Volunteer Fire Department for their selfless dedication and bravery in protecting our families, day and night.

The Fosterville Volunteer Fire Department was established in 1989 with 10 firefighters and an old handed-down U.S. Army truck. The department has 14 volunteers on its roster and has already responded to over 30 calls in 2007.

Without volunteer fire halls, like Fosterville, many places in the Sixth District would lack effective fire protection. In the state of Tennessee, over 70 percent of fire service is provided by volunteers. Among these volunteers, almost 75 percent work other daily jobs.

Ensuring our families' safety is not without risk. Sadly, an average of two firefighters die each year in Tennessee in the line of duty. In 2005, the Tennessee Fire Services and Code Academy dedicated a memorial on their main campus in Bell Buckle to honor those Tennessee firefighters who have died in the line of duty.

For their willingness to serve, the following members of the Fosterville Volunteer Fire Department deserve recognition: Chief Bob DeCarlo, Deputy Chief Billy Wallace, Capt. Chuck Lloyd, Lt. Andy Kimbrell, Lt. Issac Keith, Administrative Firefighter Emily Bradley, Training Officer Kevin Kimberlin, Chaplain and Firefighter Clark Sneed, J.D. Iddings, James Bass, Jason Zimmerman, Mark Bonifant and Woman Auxiliaries Emily Bradley, Mary Bass, Candice Lloyd and Jennifer Chapman; Explorer Junior Firefighters: Andrew Redd, Tiffany Kimberlin and Brandi Kimbrell.

WAITING ON JUSTICE TO BE SERVED

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2007

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, thirteen years ago in Humble, Texas, 33-year-old Farah Fratta was murdered by a hit man, allegedly hired by her own husband, Robert Fratta. In 1994 Robert Fratta was sentenced to death row for his part in this murder-for-hire plan. Since their daughter's murder, Farah's parents, Lex and Betty Baquer have raised Farah's children. The Baquers recently learned that Robert Fratta was granted a new trial.

This second chance frustrates and shocks the Baquers. In the second district of Texas, the community of Humble is troubled to learn that the Baquers and their grandchildren will have to relive another trial. The murder of a loved one is an exceptionally difficult experience yet too often, the victim's families are left alone to fight the criminal justice system. The Baquers have found support and strength through God and in their grandchildren. I want the Baquers to know they are not alone in

their fight, we will continue to remember the legacy that Farah left behind.

So, I stand here today to pay tribute to Betty and Lex Baquer. As a parent of 4 children and 5 grandchildren, I can think of nothing worse than to lose a child. I commend the Baquers for their determination and commitment to justice. As a former judge and prosecutor, I have witnessed how victims as well as their families are treated in the justice system. It's shameful! The first duty of government must be to make sure criminals who commit crimes pay for their acts of violence.

Justice must be served.

And that's just the way it is.

A TRIBUTE TO JEFFERSON AWARD
WINNER LISA CHAN OF DALY CITY

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2007

Mr. LANTOS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to share news of an extraordinary young woman from my home district. Lisa Chan, a 17-year-old senior at St. Ignatius College Preparatory School, and a Daly City resident, has been recognized with a Jefferson Award. It is a fitting honor, but let me say it is but one more accolade for this extremely accomplished young lady.

Some might refer to Lisa as an "over-achiever," but that would hardly do justice to the list of accomplishments she has already achieved. At her school, she is editor-in-chief of the yearbook, President of the California Scholarship Federation, President/Founder of the Leo's Club, and Academic Representative of the Student Council. Lisa is also able to maintain a 4.2 grade point average.

She won this year's Miss San Francisco Outstanding Teen pageant, which is part of the Miss America organization. Her winning theme of "Empowering the Youth Toward an Educational Revolution" highlights her extracurricular activity of creating a non-profit agency to do exactly that. Her "Bay Area Strive" group puts high school students to work helping elementary school students. It is a stunning success in its own right, empowering young adults to become active in the effort to upgrade the California public school system. In fact, Lisa has the goal of publishing a book about the effort by her 18th birthday. I am confident that she will succeed in that goal, as she has succeeded in so much already.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to say that Lisa Chan also was one of just eight teenage girls to win the national Target House Volunteer Contest, which focuses on volunteerism. Few teenagers show the drive and determination evidenced by Lisa Chan at such an early age. She is truly a role model for her peers and I am proud to introduce her to my colleagues in the House of Representatives.

Madam Speaker, I have little doubt that Lisa Chan will fulfill her goal of attending college and eventually studying law. Her commitment to the community, matched by her intelligence and perseverance, will hold her in good stead as she pursues her ultimate goal of political activity.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING
RUBY GILLIAM ON HER 85TH
BIRTHDAY

HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2007

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker:

Whereas, Mrs. Gilliam has been a devoted mother and wife, mentor, confidant, and friend to many; and

Whereas, Mrs. Gilliam has demonstrated values of hard work and dedication throughout her life, always maintaining a positive outlook; and

Whereas, she has an unwavering commitment to her community and has been actively involved; and

Whereas, Mrs. Gilliam character and faith has been appreciated for enhancing all of those she has come into contact with; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that along with her friends, family, and the residents of the 18th Congressional District, I wish Ruby Gilliam a happy and healthy 85th birthday. We recognize the tremendous impact she has had in her community and in the lives of all those people she has touched.

HONORING THE BELL BUCKLE
VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2007

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor the members of the Bell Buckle Volunteer Fire Department for their selfless dedication and bravery in protecting our families, day and night.

The Bell Buckle Volunteer Fire Department was established in 1950 with 15 firefighters, a chief and a truck. Currently, the fire department has 20 volunteers on its training roster and is building an addition to the Fire Hall that will house six trucks.

Without volunteer fire halls, like Bell Buckle, many places in the Sixth District would lack effective fire protection. In the state of Tennessee, over 70 percent of fire service is provided by volunteers. Among these volunteers, almost 75 percent work other daily jobs.

Ensuring our families' safety is not without risk. Sadly, an average of two firefighters die each year in Tennessee in the line of duty. In 2005, the Tennessee Fire Services and Code Academy dedicated a memorial on their main campus in Bell Buckle to honor those Tennessee firefighters who have died in the line of duty.

For their willingness to serve, the following members of the Bell Buckle Volunteer Fire Department deserve recognition: Chief Mary Lokey, Deputy Chief Ronnie Lokey, Deputy Chief Dave Fisher, Richard Miller, Brian Wafford, Brian Lokey, John Crosslin, Jenna Gragg, Matthew Joseph, Nathan Gragg, Jason Rieben, Matthew Gragg, Travis Miller, Robert Gown, Leo Wilcox, Whitt Ross, Ken Del Villar, Adam Prince, Cain Owens and Daniel Gragg. Also listed on the training roster are retired Chief James Elkin and Phillip Daniel, Gone But Not Forgotten.

THE SPIRIT OF AGGIELAND LIVES
ON

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2007

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, College Station, Texas is the home of Texas A & M University, also known as Aggieland. Texas A & M was founded in 1876, and was the first public institution of higher learning in the state of Texas. Although the education received at Texas A & M is of the highest caliber, it is not the only element that attracts prospective students to College Station for their college careers. It is the sense of belonging that is created at Texas A & M—the Spirit of Aggieland, that unique school spirit that sets Texas A & M apart from the rest.

The spirit of Aggieland, besides being the alma mater of Texas A & M University, refers to the "spirit that can ne'er be told." Many people have described Texas A & M as having a unique school spirit that "From the outside looking in, you can't understand it. And from the inside looking out you can't explain it." What has helped develop this sentiment is the time honored traditions that Aggies everywhere hold dear. Such traditions include Midnight Yell Practice, 12th Man, Yell Leaders, Reveille, Muster, Silver Taps, and Gig'Em. And one of the most notable traditions is Aggie Bonfire.

Bonfire is built every year and lit before the big football game against the University of Texas Longhorns, or "t.u." as the Aggies call them. Bonfire is meant to symbolize the burning desire to beat the University of Texas in the annual football game. The first Bonfire built in 1909 was a heap of trash and debris. By 1969 the stack of logs set a record for the height of a bonfire at 109 feet, 10 inches. There have only been 2 years when bonfire did not burn as scheduled. The first was 1963, the year President Kennedy was assassinated. As a sign of respect, the students dismantled the stack. Head Yell Leader, Mike Marlow explained, "It is the most we have and the least we can give." The other year was 1999, when at 2:42 am on November 18th the 40 ft high stack consisting of 5,000 logs collapsed killing 12 people and injuring 27 others.

It was in dealing with this tragedy that the true strength of Texas A & M emerged. Rescue workers were on the scene within minutes of the collapse. The entire Texas A & M football team and many members of the Corps of Cadets rushed to the site to assist in manually removing the logs. An official memorial service was held in Reed Arena less than 17 hours after the collapse. Over 16,000 mourners gathered to pay tribute to those who had died and those who spent all day trying to rescue the injured. At the end of the ceremony, the crowd spontaneously stood, linked arms, and started singing Amazing Grace.

Eric Opiela, Vice President of the Student Government of The University of Texas at Austin, attended the memorial service, and described the scene saying, "Aggieland is a very special place, with special people. It is infinitely better equipped than us at dealing with a tragedy such as this for one simple reason. It is a family. It is a family that cares for its own, a family that reaches out, a family that is unified in the face of adversity; a family that moved this Longhorn to tears."