

TRIBUTE TO DR. GAIL  
ROMBERGER NONNECKE

### HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 12, 2007*

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Gail Romberger Nonnecke for her receipt of the 2007 Council for Advancement and Support of Education, CASE, Iowa Professor of the Year Award.

Recipients of the U.S. Professors of the Year Awards are acknowledged for their commitment to the betterment of education for future generations.

Dr. Nonnecke is a professor of horticulture at Iowa State University, in Ames, Iowa, where she instructs introductory and advanced level courses, including principles of horticulture, sustainable and environmental horticulture, temperate fruit crop production and management, and integrated management of tropical crops. She conducts extensive research to develop new approaches in sustainable fruit systems that benefit producers, consumers, and the environment. In addition, Dr. Nonnecke has developed service-learning projects for her study abroad courses in order to enhance global cultural awareness. She also mentors other school faculty by facilitating seminars, workshops, and forums that allow participants to share knowledge and experiences.

Dr. Nonnecke has also received the USDA Excellence in Teaching Award and was selected as a senior faculty member in the Center for Excellence in Learning and Teaching, Teaching Partners Program. Dr. Nonnecke's goal while teaching is "to allow students to develop as life-long learners with the enthusiasm and skills to learn new things." She demonstrates a special passion in empowering her students to go above and beyond where her own research has taken her.

I know that my colleagues in the United States Congress will join me in commending and congratulating Dr. Gail Romberger Nonnecke. It is an honor to represent Dr. Nonnecke in Congress, and I wish her the best as she continues to conduct important research and make a positive impact in the lives of her students and faculty peers.

CONGRATULATING SOUTH TEXAS  
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT  
ON HAVING THREE SCHOOLS  
LISTED IN THE TOP 100 AMERICAN  
HIGH SCHOOLS IN U.S.  
NEWS AND WORLD REPORT

### HON. RUBÉN HINOJOSA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 12, 2007*

Mr. HINOJOSA. Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in congratulating the South Texas Independent School District for having 3 of its high schools listed among the 100 in the nation according to U.S. News and World Report.

The South Texas Independent School District shatters the myth that low income and minority students cannot achieve academic excellence. Eighty percent of the school district's students are of Hispanic heritage. Over 50

percent are eligible for free or reduced priced lunches. These outstanding high schools are open enrollment—they do not pick and choose among the best and brightest, rather they foster excellence in any student willing to make the commitment to a rigorous program of study.

Of the more than 18,000 public schools in the United States, the South Texas Independent School District placed 3 high schools: The Science Academy, the Business Education and Technology Academy, and the High School for Health Professions in the gold medal category for excellence in school performance on state tests and for success in providing college level coursework to all of their students. They demonstrate that high achievement is possible system-wide when you bring together the right leadership and community support.

I would like to commend the superintendent of South Texas Independent School, Dr. Marla Guerra and the president of the school board, Mr. Ernesto Alvarado for their leadership and stewardship of the school system. They have maintained and deepened the tradition of high achievement that has been the hallmark of the school district since the first magnet high school opened its doors in 1984.

I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the achievement of the Science Academy, led by Principal Michael Aranda and ranked number 23 in the nation.

Please join me in celebrating the national recognition of the Business Education and Technology Academy led by Principal Magdalena Gutierrez and ranked number 54 in the nation.

Let us cheer the accomplishment of the High School for Health Professions, led by Principal Barbara Heater and ranked number 64 in the nation.

The national recognition of the talent and potential of our young people in South Texas is long overdue. I commend South Texas Independent School District for nurturing tomorrow's leaders. I applaud our community of students, parents, and educators for demanding the best and exceeding expectations.

In closing I would like to share with you the secret of South Texas Independent School district's astounding success. They set high standards for academic and personal development and shared values. Their goal is that each graduate of South Texas Independent School district: is a compassionate, caring individual; has a passion for life-long learning; is an effective communicator; is a producer of quality work; is creative and curious; appreciates the differences in people; is a competent problem-solver; is a responsible and ethical citizen; strives for a balanced professional and home life; contributes to the community well-being through service; and is academically and occupationally skilled.

The Science Academy, the Business Education and Technology Academy, and the Health Professions High School in the South Texas Independent School District are among the best of the best high schools in the nation. They produce graduates who are ready, willing, and able to contribute to their communities. I congratulate them on winning national recognition and encourage them to keep up the good work.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO JUDGE  
CHERYL B. MOSS

### HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 12, 2007*

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor my good friend, Judge Cheryl B. Moss, who is being honored as a Bench Trailblazer by the Bicolanos of Nevada and Filipino American California Expatriates Society of Las Vegas.

Judge Moss was admitted to the Nevada State Bar in 1997 and by 1999, while still in private practice, was awarded the Shining Star Award from the Clark County Pro Bono Project for her representation of low-income clients. This was just the beginning of the accomplishments she has had in her years in Las Vegas, Nevada. In 2000, Judge Moss was elected to the District Court, Family Division. As a Judge, she has had the opportunity to work on issues of importance to her. One such issue is gambling addiction, and she has been intimately involved with the Nevada Council on Problem Gambling. Her passion to assist those with gambling addiction drove her to begin the pilot program on gambling assessments for parents involved with child custody cases. Judge Moss is also a member of many professional associations, including: The Nevada District Judges Association, the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges, and the Civil Order Enforcement Task Committee.

In addition to her professional successes, Judge Moss has greatly enriched the community. She is actively involved in promoting education programs and volunteers her expertise as a judge in moot court and mock trial competitions at the high school and collegiate levels. Judge Moss also serves on the Board of Trustees for the Clark County Library.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor Judge Cheryl B. Moss. She has served on the bench with honor and distinction and enriched the lives of countless people in the community through her activism and volunteer efforts. I congratulate her on this much deserved honor and wish her the best in her future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO RESEARCHER AND  
UNM VICE PRESIDENT TERRY  
YATES

### HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 12, 2007*

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Madam Speaker, when Terry Yates began hunting the "Sin Nombre" virus, it was a vague and threatening disease that public health professionals could neither understand nor control. Yates and his collaborators traced the virus to its sources, revealed how it works, and saved lives. Because of his resolve to demystify the deadly illness, today we know how to prevent and treat what is now commonly known as hantavirus.

Yates's accomplishment won him awards, but for him it was just the job he wanted to do. From his perch at the University of New Mexico, he devoted his remarkable intellect and

passion to saving lives and helping students live their dreams.

He loved the thrill of intellectual pursuit. Colleagues noticed that he preferred being out in the field, in hot pursuit of a new discovery. Back on campus, he helped build UNM and connect the university to its community, and he helped a new generation of scientists to get into the field.

As we honor his life and contributions today, our thoughts are with Terry's wife Patsy and their sons. He will be missed by the UNM community and all of us who benefited from his intellect and commitment to helping others.

#### HONORING CHARLES G. WIMSATT

### HON. RON LEWIS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 12, 2007*

Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Charles Wimsatt, an outstanding man with a long history of service to our country and to Kentucky. Mr. Wimsatt has been an active member of American Legion Post 121 in Bardstown, KY, for 24 years.

Mr. Wimsatt joined the Army in 1953, serving as a medic. He retired from the Army with the rank of corporal.

Mr. Wimsatt has made it a personal priority to serve his fellow veterans through his work with American Legion Post 121. He is currently in his fourth term as post commander. Under his command the post reached its 100 percent membership goal for the first time in 15 years. Mr. Wimsatt also directed recent facility renovations.

Beyond his service to the American Legion, Charles Wimsatt has found time to be active in many other worthy causes. He has played an integral part in fundraising for his local National Guard unit and is currently raising money for a VA medical facility in Germany. Mr. Wimsatt also served on the Black Mud Volunteer Fire Department for 46 years.

It is my privilege to honor Charles G. Wimsatt today for his service to our country and his tireless efforts on behalf of American Legion Post 121. Mr. Wimsatt has made a significant difference to his Old Kentucky Home.

#### PAYING TRIBUTE TO IRENE PORTER

### HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 12, 2007*

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor my dear friend Irene Porter, Executive Director of the Southern Nevada Home Builders Association, for her 30 years of dedicated service to a prominent Nevadan trade organization that represents home building industry in Nevada.

For the past three decades, Irene has been committed to overseeing the SNHBA's programs and efforts. Most notably, Irene has lobbied on behalf of the association and home building industry at the Nevada State Legislature. She was recognized by the Legislature in 1991 as the "Lobbyist of the Year" and was later inducted into the Nevada Lobbyist Hall of

Fame in 1997. She has also built and maintained invaluable relationships with Federal, State, and local governments. In her post, she has managed two successful programs: The Housing Quality Trade Contractor Certification Program and the Southern Nevada Green Building Partnership programs. In a period of exponential growth, Irene has been steadfast in leading the industry and sustaining the stability and viability of the housing markets in Southern Nevada.

During her distinguished career as the Executive Director, Irene has championed numerous worthy causes. She has advocated for fair housing accommodation for persons with disabilities, which provide a valuable community service and contributes to the economic viability of the region. Irene has also been a leader on important community issues such as public schools and infrastructure building; and environmental issues such as dust control, and water and energy efficiency and conservation. Through her tireless service to her association and her community, she has been awarded with four National Association Excellence awards from the National Association of Home Builders and a Civic Hero Award from the Clark County School District.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor my good friend Irene Porter. Her commitment to the community and professional successes are truly admirable and should serve as an example to us all. I am extremely fortunate to have been able to call Irene a friend for many years and I wish her all the best in her future endeavors.

#### A PROCLAMATION HONORING THE PRO MUSKINGUM FAMILY AND CHILDREN FIRST

### HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 12, 2007*

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker:

Whereas, Pro Muskingum Family and Children First has been selected to receive the Ohio Department of Education's 2007 Asset Builder Award for Exemplary Practices to a Community Organization; and

Whereas, Pro Muskingum Family and Children First is enhancing the quality of life in Muskingum County and are attracting families and businesses to the region; and

Whereas, areas such as family strengthening, promoting education, developing leaders within the community are being addressed by the organization; be it

Resolved, that along with his friends, family, and the residents of the 18th Congressional District, I congratulate you on receiving the Ohio Department of Education's 2007 Asset Builder Award. With great appreciation and respect, we recognize the tremendous impact the Pro Muskingum Family and Children First has had on the community.

#### TRIBUTE TO RHONDA BAKER

### HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 12, 2007*

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Rhonda Baker as the recipient of

the Stephen Tsai Award for Excellence in Autism Education and for her commitment and enthusiasm as a teacher in the Jefferson-Scranton School District in Iowa.

The Stephen Tsai Award recipient is selected by the Autism Society of Iowa and is presented at its annual fall conference. Sonya Wills, who has three sons with autism, nominated Rhonda for her exceptional work that positively touched each of their lives.

Rhonda's success in working with autistic children is attributed to her ability to build upon her students' strengths in order to increase their confidence. The confidence she instills in her students opens doors to endless growth and learning opportunities. Rhonda is gifted with the immense patience and determination required to give autistic students the individual attention they need and she diligently undertakes research to find the right teaching techniques for each unique case.

I congratulate Rhonda Baker on her well-deserved award, and I'm certain that she will continue to touch the lives of many children in her community. It is a great honor to represent Rhonda in Congress, and I wish her continued success.

#### RECOGNIZING ELLIANA KAYE WOODWARD

### HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 12, 2007*

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to celebrate the birth of Elliana Kaye Woodward. Elliana was born on Monday, November 12, 2007, Veterans Day, to her proud parents, Ryan and Kristin Woodward of Stafford, Virginia. I find it very appropriate that Elliana was born on Veterans Day since her father is a patriot in the United States Marine Corps. Elliana entered the world at 2:21 p.m. at Mary Washington Hospital, Fredericksburg, Virginia, weighing a healthy 7 lbs. 11 oz. and 19½ inches long.

Elliana also has proud grandparents, Darrell and Susan Hall, of Sidney, Nebraska, and Cheryl and Duane Farmer of Sidney, Nebraska, as well as Bruce Woodward of Maryville, Missouri, to spoil her. Elliana is also the niece of Travis and Sarah Woodward of Bowie, Maryland; Nathan Woodward of Maryville, Missouri; Sarah Hall, Zach Hall and Zane Hall of Sidney, Nebraska.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in celebrating the birth of Elliana Kaye Woodward. I see great things in Elliana's future considering her parents' great emphasis on family values, faith and patriotism. I wish Elliana the best life has to offer.

#### PAYING TRIBUTE TO JUDGE ROBERT J. JOHNSTON

### HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 12, 2007*

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Honorable Judge Robert J. Johnston of Nevada for his 20 years of honorable service as a United States Magistrate Judge.