

Grapevine-Colleyville Independent School District.

Madam Speaker, I congratulate Mr. Mark Howe on being recognized with the 2007 Distinguished Friend Award and thank him for his service, support and guidance to the Grapevine-Colleyville ISD and Education Foundation. His numerous contributions to the GCISD have no doubt benefited many and it is an honor to represent him in the 24th District of Texas.

TRIBUTE TO COUNCILMAN JIM  
SPEHAR OF GRAND JUNCTION,  
COLORADO

**HON. JOHN T. SALAZAR**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 9, 2007*

Mr. SALAZAR. Madam Speaker, I stand today to pay tribute to Jim Spehar, an outstanding community leader from Grand Junction, Colorado. For eight years he has served the City of Grand Junction as a distinguished and valued member of the City Council. Prior to that, Mr. Spehar served as a Mesa County Commissioner from 1991 to 1995.

Leadership and candor have been a hallmark of his legacy and he has employed both of these qualities in his city and county roles, as well as having served as president of the Colorado Municipal League. In addition, he excelled as the western Colorado representative for the Colorado Water Congress Board of Directors. He currently serves as the director of the Central Rockies office of the Sonoran Institute, where he assists cities in assessing the impact of growth on their communities.

Jim Spehar has always been about the betterment of communities and his decisions have always reflected that thought. Popularity was not his concern—reaching for the good of the populace has been at the heart of his actions. Never one to back down from controversy, Jim has led by example through thoughtful decision making with integrity and fairness. His leadership will be difficult to emulate, and the bar he has set will take extraordinary efforts by those who follow him.

It is my pleasure to acknowledge his contributions to the city of Grand Junction and Mesa County, as well as the entirety of the State of Colorado.

HONORING BOB HUDEK

**HON. TAMMY BALDWIN**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 9, 2007*

Ms. BALDWIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the work of a remarkable activist from Wisconsin—Bob Hudek of Citizen Action of Wisconsin.

Bob Hudek is retiring from Citizen Action of Wisconsin after serving 12 years at the helm of an organization that has become a national model for how to engage people in progressive politics. During that time he displayed the strong leadership skills necessary to build Citizen Action of Wisconsin into an effective, statewide organization. It is known throughout the State for its fabulous issue work and

serves as one of the best organizing models in Milwaukee.

Bob Hudek's passion for fairness and compassionate public policy spans a broad range of serious issues facing the people of Wisconsin. From education to health care to consumer protection, Bob's commitment to the community and promoting the principles of social justice is truly unbounded.

Bob Hudek served to continue Wisconsin's long history of progressive politics. He worked undauntedly to elect progressive legislators who shared his commitment to the Wisconsin ideal. His leadership furthered the progressive movement at the State and national levels and will have an impact that will reverberate for years to come.

With an unmatched generosity of spirit, Bob Hudek is able to bring together people and organizations with an array of viewpoints and help them to find common ground. This dedication to the issues he holds dear fostered the development of not only Citizen Action of Wisconsin but other organizations as well.

Thank you, Bob, for the years of service you have provided Citizen Action of Wisconsin, the progressive movement, and the people of Wisconsin.

DART CELEBRATES 50,000

**HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 9, 2007*

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 50,000th passenger to use the Commuter Express. This is a remarkable milestone for the city of Denton.

On Monday, May 7, 2007, the Denton County Transportation Authority transported its 50,000th Commuter Express passenger. The Commuter Express was launched in May of 2006 and works in conjunction with Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART) to connect Denton, Lewisville, the DART North Carrollton Transit Center and the Dallas Central Business District.

The Denton County Transportation Authority (DCTA) was signed into law by the governor in 2001. On June 6, 2003, the North Central Texas Council of Governments presented the Regional Cooperation Award to the DCTA. The award is presented to local governments which promote cooperation to solve regional problems; which do not allow jurisdictional boundaries to be barriers to solutions; and which demonstrate that joint projects can provide better use of resources as well as quality service.

I would like to congratulate the Denton County Transportation Authority and the entire community of Denton County. I am proud to celebrate this occasion with them, and I look forward to working with them in the future as we make our transportation system even more efficient. The people of the 26th Congressional District of Texas are already benefiting from this service, and I know I can expect great things in the future from DART.

ON THE CINCO DE MAYO HOLIDAY

**HON. AL GREEN**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 9, 2007*

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor the historic holiday of Cinco de Mayo.

On May 5, 1862, Mexican forces led by General Ignacio Zaragoza Seguín defeated French occupying forces in the Battle of Puebla, just 100 miles from Mexico City. General Seguín led his brave troops to a spirited victory in spite of the fact that his forces had neither the manpower nor the equipment of their opponents. The Battle of Puebla was instrumental in preserving the right of the Mexican people to self-determination, as it helped prevent the French military from taking long-term control of sovereign Mexican territory.

The heroic actions of General Seguín and his courageous forces not only helped preserve the Mexican government, they also helped preserve the unity of the United States. Had France been able to extend its control over Mexican territory at the Battle of Puebla, France likely would have had sufficient resources and manpower to aid the Confederate States of America in their war against the United States. The tremendous fight put up by the Mexican troops at the Battle of Puebla ensured that such a worrisome scenario did not come to pass and provided President Lincoln with crucial support as the Civil War descended into chaos.

There can certainly be no questioning of the bravery, spirit and patriotism of the thousands of Mexican troops who fought and, all too frequently, gave their lives at the Battle of Puebla. I believe that, as we recognize the efforts and sacrifices of those troops, Cinco de Mayo provides us with a perfect opportunity to recognize the sacrifice for sovereignty, the importance of courage and, above all, the universal yearning for freedom.

The Mexican forces who won the Battle of Puebla should not and will not ever be forgotten. I commend those forces for their spirit and courage and I wish all those celebrating the holiday across Mexico and the United States a happy Cinco de Mayo.

TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK

**HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 9, 2007*

Mr. ORTIZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to America's teachers and commemorate them for the infinite number of ways they make us a better nation by inspiring our children to think beyond the bounds of home, school and community.

Today is National Teacher Day and this is Teacher Appreciation Week. National Teacher Day, sponsored by the National Education Association, is a time for honoring teachers and recognizing the lasting contributions they make to our lives and to our communities.

While this year's theme for National Teacher Day is "Great Teachers Make Great Public Schools," all of us must also remember that great teachers make a better tomorrow for all

of us. Teacher Appreciation Week is sponsored by the National PTA and is a time to strengthen support and respect for teachers.

One of the top priorities of the fiscally responsible budget recently passed by the House of Representatives was to put our children and families first by increasing investments in education and expanding access to a high-quality education for all of America's children.

Unfortunately, the President's fiscal year 2008 budget cut education funding by \$1.5 billion below this year's level—at a time of record school enrollments and the challenging academic requirements of No Child Left Behind.

In sharp contrast, the budget passed by the House reverses the administration's policy of under-investing in education for our children. It rejects the President's proposal to cut funding for the Department of Education by \$1.5 billion below the 2007 enacted level and eliminate 44 different programs, instead providing for new investments in vital programs such as Head Start, special education (IDEA), Title I and other programs under the No Child Left Behind Act.

Overall, the House budget provides for investments of nearly \$8 billion more for 2008 and 11 percent more over the next 5 years for education and training than the President deemed necessary.

To see the future, we must stand on the shoulders of giants, and giants in our local communities are our school teachers who—despite the many challenges they face in classrooms each day—get up every day to teach and inspire our children.

On this day, let us remember why the House—in our recent budget—invested in our schools to ensure that our teachers have the tools and resources they need. Only when teachers have all they need to teach, can they give our children the high-quality education necessary to succeed in this increasingly competitive global economy.

#### INTRODUCTION OF THE DIABETES TREATMENT AND PREVENTION ACT OF 2007

### HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 9, 2007*

Mr. ENGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise to introduce the Diabetes Treatment and Prevention Act of 2007 with my good friend, VITO FOSSELLA.

There is no question that diabetes is a mounting challenge for our nation's health care system. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the number of Americans with diagnosed diabetes has doubled over the past 15 years. Over 20 million Americans are currently living with this disease, but 6 million of them have not yet been diagnosed. Another 54 million are classified as "pre-diabetic," with a high-risk of developing this condition. The statistics are simply staggering.

Beyond being a public health threat, Diabetes accounts for over \$92 billion in direct medical costs every year, and these numbers are only likely to increase. The Diabetes Treatment and Prevention Act would increase our

ability to prevent new cases of diabetes and improve disease management.

Our bill would codify the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Division of Diabetes Translation and set up demonstration grants to allow for further research on how to translate effective diet and exercise interventions for us in the general populations. It would also increase the ability of state and local health departments to engage in surveillance and education activities, and set up demonstration projects to examine the best ways to treat diabetes when it occurs in conjunction with other chronic health conditions.

I am proud that we have taken a multi-pronged approach in this legislation to attack our mounting diabetes epidemic on two fronts; it will promote research at the Centers for Disease Control so that we may better understand this disease while also funding innovative treatment and education efforts at the state and local level.

This legislation, combined with the Engel/Fossella Gestational Diabetes (GED) Act (H.R. 1544), which combats growing rates of Diabetes in pregnant women across the nation will go a long way towards managing and preventing the onset of Diabetes.

I urge my colleagues to co-sponsor this legislation today.

#### TRIBUTE TO PARTICIPANTS IN 2007 WE THE PEOPLE NATIONAL FINALS MARCH 8, 2007

### HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 9, 2007*

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. Madam Speaker, from April 28–30, 2007, more than 1,200 students from across the country visited Washington, D.C., to take part in the national finals of We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution, the most extensive educational program in the country developed to educate young people about the U.S. Constitution and Bill of Rights. Administered by the Center for Civic Education, the We the People program is funded by the U.S. Department of Education by act of Congress.

I am proud to announce that a class from St. Thomas Aquinas High School of Overland Park, Kansas won the Unit Three: Constitution Shapes Institutions Award at this prestigious national event. Six unit awards were presented to the schools achieving the highest scores, based on the first two days of competition in each of the six units of the We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution text. These outstanding students, through their knowledge of the U.S. Constitution, won their statewide competition and earned the chance to come to our Nation's Capital and compete at the national level.

While in Washington, the students participated in a three-day academic competition that simulates a congressional hearing in which they "testify" before a panel of judges. Students demonstrate their knowledge and understanding of constitutional principles as they evaluate, take, and defend positions on relevant historical and contemporary issues. It is important to note that independent studies of the We the People program indicate that alumni of this nationally acclaimed program

display a greater political tolerance and commitment to the principles and values of the Constitution and Bill of Rights than do students using traditional textbooks and approaches. With various reports and surveys that reveal the lack of civic knowledge and engagement, I am pleased to support such an outstanding program that continues to produce an enlightened and responsible citizenry.

Madam Speaker, the names of these outstanding students from St. Thomas Aquinas High School are:

Elizabeth Berra, Andrew Billam, Hannah Cisper, John Clark, Greg Correia, Lindsey Drilling, John Drouhard, Shanna Gast, Whitney Gremillion, Kyle Hauesser, Brigid Halling, Michael Hare, Thomas Hartung, Jordan Herbert, Kaitlyn Hirt, Kelly Jefferson, Ryan Johnson, Andrea Lickteig, Joseph McGroder, Mason Miller, Helen Mubarak, Andrew Peck, Derek Peterson, Erin Peterson, Andrew Robison, Christopher Sevedge, Dylan Slaven, and Melissa Smith.

I also wish to commend the teacher of the class, Spencer Clark, who is responsible for preparing these young constitutional experts for the national finals. Also worthy of special recognition is Lynn Stanley, the State coordinator, and Ken Thomas, the district coordinator, who are among those responsible for implementing the We the People program in my State.

I congratulate these students on their exceptional achievement at the We the People national finals.

#### CELEBRATING THE FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF LA LUZ

### HON. MARK STEVEN KIRK

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 9, 2007*

Mr. KIRK. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor La Luz, a weekly bilingual newspaper that serves the English- and Spanish-speaking communities of Lake County, Illinois. This Wednesday, May 9, La Luz will celebrate its fifth anniversary.

The newspaper and its editor, Mr. Ryan Pagelow, provide an invaluable public service to the Latino community of northern Illinois. I have had the pleasure of working with Mr. Pagelow and La Luz since the newspaper's inception on a variety of issues, and I know firsthand the professionalism that the staff displays on a daily basis.

One issue in particular that deserves special recognition is La Luz's coverage of my office's Abuelitas program. Through this initiative, we work with local community members and our embassy in Mexico to bring grandparents of 10th Congressional District residents to the United States. Many of these families have not seen each other for more than 20 years. The Mexican visitors spend 1 month with their loved ones, reconnecting and catching up on years of missed memories.

I credit La Luz with spreading the word about this heart-warming program. By publicizing the issue, we have expanded the Abuelitas program to multiple visits each year. In groups of 20 to 30 people at a time, we are bringing families together.

It is focusing on this and many other issues of importance to Lake County that makes La Luz an indispensable part of the 10th Congressional District. I ask that my colleagues