

TRIBUTE TO CYNTHIA SCHNEIDER

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 14, 2008

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to an individual whose dedication and contributions to the community of Corona, California are exceptional. Corona has been fortunate to have dynamic and dedicated community leaders who willingly and unselfishly give their time and talent and make their communities a better place to live and work. Cynthia Schneider is one of these individuals. On May 17, 2008, Cynthia will be recognized at the Corona-Norco Family YMCA's 13th Anniversary Distinguished Service Awards Dinner and will receive the YMCA Distinguished Service Award.

Cynthia is senior vice president, director of marketing for American Security Bank, headquartered in Santa Ana, California. She was instrumental in the business case that convinced the bank to open its loan and marketing administration offices and build a new branch office in Corona. For more than 30 years, Cynthia has managed the marketing functions of various Southern California financial institutions, as an officer and as a private consultant. She specializes in improving financial performance through consultative sales training and gaining corporate visibility through strategic marketing and public relations programs.

Cynthia has worked in Corona for 10 years and has been a resident for 8. During that time she has become an active community volunteer. She is a longstanding member of the Corona Chamber of Commerce; has served on their board for 7 years and was chairman of the board in 2006. She currently chairs and is a contributing writer for the Chamber's Corona Business Monthly magazine and heads their legislative action committee. She is the founder and organizer of the Chamber Missions to China and has run the program for 3 consecutive years. Cynthia was recognized by Soroptimist International in 2006 as a Woman of Distinction for her international contributions.

Cynthia was also instrumental in the grassroots campaign by the Corona Chamber of Commerce to help the homeless. The campaign inspired community members to contribute \$100,000 during a 6-week period in 2006 to keep the doors of the homeless shelter open over the holidays. Cynthia has also served for 6 years on the board of directors for the Foundation for Community and Family Healthy, is currently president of the Circle City Rotary, and proudly serves on the board of the Corona-Norco YMCA.

Cynthia's tireless passion for community service has contributed immensely to the betterment of the community of Corona, California. I am proud to call Cynthia a fellow community member, American and friend. I salute her and thank her for her service as she receives the prestigious YMCA Distinguished Service Award.

TRIBUTE TO MR. L. ROBERT KIMBALL

HON. JOHN P. MURTHA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 14, 2008

Mr. MURTHA. Madam Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity on the occasion of the 55th anniversary of L. Robert Kimball & Associates to recognize the service and work of L. Robert Kimball, founder and chairman of the board. As a military veteran and respected businessman, Mr. Kimball is the epitome of the American entrepreneur. His original two-person civil engineering company, founded in 1953, has grown to a full-service architecture, engineering, technology, and consulting firm of over 600 staff serving a wide variety of clients, including the Federal Government.

Mr. Kimball served as a U.S. Army Air Corps Captain in World War II and as a Major in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in the Korean conflict. Among his World War II military decorations are the Distinguished Flying Cross and Air Medal with three Oak Leaf Clusters, and the French Croix de Guerre. He is also a recipient of the Chapel of the Four Chaplains Legion of Honor Award.

Following his military service, Mr. Kimball returned to his hometown of Ebensburg, Pennsylvania, and established the company known as "L. Robert Kimball, Civil Engineer." In the 1960s, the firm began providing service to branches of the United States military. Today, Kimball provides professional services to, among others, the Department of Homeland Security, the Department of Defense, the Department of Justice, the Environmental Protection Agency, and the United States Army Corps of Engineers. Those services include cutting-edge building, innovative modeling, laser terrain scanning, and telecommunication system modernization.

The firm's reputation for consistent delivery of high-caliber services is a direct result of the discipline and integrity that L. Robert Kimball instilled throughout the company. The example he sets of leadership and teamwork can be traced back to his military service to the United States of America as a lead navigator for the 100th Bomb Group, where he set the flight course. It was a matter of life and death to make the right decisions and to work as a team to look out for the others in the squadron. Those principles apply to the course he sets for staff. He encourages every employee to be a good professional and a good citizen.

With that, Madam Speaker, I recognize and congratulate Mr. L. Robert Kimball.

IN HONOR OF AMERICA'S SECOND HARVEST

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 14, 2008

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor America's Second Harvest, which is being presented with this year's Ernest P. Bicknell Disaster Response Excellence Award from the American Red Cross.

America's Second Harvest, based in Chicago, is the Nation's largest charitable hunger-

relief organization. I have long been an admirer of its work in Illinois, where 8 America's Second Harvest food banks help provide food to 900,000 people who are struggling with rising fuel, health care, and food costs. Nationwide, America's Second Harvest has a network of more than 200 member food banks and food-rescue organizations that serves all 50 States, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico.

The America's Second Harvest Network secures and distributes more than 2 billion pounds of donated food and grocery products annually. The Network supports approximately 63,000 local charitable agencies operating more than 70,000 programs including food pantries, soup kitchens, emergency shelters, afterschool programs, and community kitchens. Each year, the America's Second Harvest Network provides food assistance to more than 25 million low-income hungry people in the United States, including more than 9 million children and nearly 3 million seniors.

America's Second Harvest is being honored by the Red Cross because it continues to be instrumental in improving preparedness and the critical delivery of disaster relief to individuals and communities across the country. America's Second Harvest has partnered with the American Red Cross in disaster response through its leadership with the National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD) Mass Care Committee. It has also worked to establish standards of care for victims of disaster, utilizing its proven expertise in providing 2 billion pounds of food and grocery products to our Nation's hungry each year. Unfortunately, the news of the devastating cyclone in Myanmar, and the catastrophic earthquakes that stole thousands of lives in China this week, highlight just how critical disaster relief plans are.

The Red Cross's Disaster Response Excellence Award is named in honor of Ernest P. Bicknell, who was the Red Cross National Director from 1909 to 1917 after having served as, fittingly, the General Superintendent of the Chicago Bureau of Charities. Today, America's Second Harvest is at the forefront of charitable work, both in Chicago and nationwide. As a proud representative of the City of Chicago, I am honored to recognize their incredible work.

CONGRATULATING RICCARDO MUTI AS NEW MUSIC DIRECTOR OF CHICAGO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

HON. RAHM EMANUEL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 14, 2008

Mr. EMANUEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Maestro Riccardo Muti on being named the next music director of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra (CSO). Maestro Muti will become the 10th music director to take the baton in that capacity for the CSO.

Maestro Muti will succeed Daniel Barenboim, who held the position of music director at the CSO for fifteen years when he left in 2006.

I am proud that Chicago will have a world-class maestro to follow in the footsteps of legends like Sir Georg Solti as music director.

Maestro Muti's background is impressive and commands immense respect in the musical community. He has conducted many important orchestras around the world, including the New York Philharmonic, the Orchestre National de France, the Berlin Philharmonic, the Bavarian Radio Symphony Orchestra, the Vienna Philharmonic, and more.

Maestro Muti already has some familiarity with our City's outstanding orchestra, having conducted the CSO at Ravinia in 1973 and returning to Symphony Center in 1975 as well as three decades later in 2007. When he begins his tenure as music director in 2010, I know that he and the CSO will continue to excel in the years to come.

Madam Speaker, I congratulate Riccardo Muti in his new position as music director at the Chicago Symphony Orchestra and wish him the best of luck as Chicago's new maestro.

IN RECOGNITION OF EDDIE HARRISON

HON. MIKE ROSS

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 14, 2008

Mr. ROSS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Eddie Harrison of Waldron, Arkansas, and to recognize his 45 years of dedication and commitment in the classroom at Waldron High School as he embarks on his retirement from teaching.

I commend Mr. Eddie Harrison for his efforts and accomplishments over the years and applaud his hard work and devotion to improving the quality of education for countless students at Waldron High School. As a son of public school educators, I believe the most important component of a child's education is having a quality teacher like Mr. Harrison in the classroom.

Mr. Harrison's school day did not start and end with a bell, instead it began with early morning meetings and concluded when the last buzzer sounded at a sporting event. He dedicated his time to multiple organizations and was always the first to volunteer for projects at hand.

When Mr. Harrison is not in the classroom or on the campus of Waldron High School, he can be found at the Waldron First Baptist Church where he serves as Deacon and is actively involved in his church's ministry. He is also a proud uncle, whose devotion to his family is second to none.

Eddie Harrison's presence in the classroom will be greatly missed by the students, faculty and staff of Waldron High School, where his legacy of excellence will forever be remembered. I know that his heart will never drift far from Waldron, and that he will continue to be a fixture in the community and a role model for all that have the opportunity to know him.

I have always believed that there is no greater form of public service than that performed by those who teach our children. I congratulate Eddie Harrison on a job well done for 45 years of teaching at Waldron High School. I wish him a successful future of happiness and fulfillment in his next endeavor, and am proud to commend his selfless work to help shape a new generation of innovators.

THE DAILY 45: PACOIMA SHOOTINGS

HON. BOBBY L. RUSH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 14, 2008

Mr. RUSH. Madam Speaker, the Department of Justice tells us that, every day, 45 people, on average, are fatally shot in the United States. From coast to coast, the stories ring familiar.

In Los Angeles, police said this morning that they are investigating two separate shootings in Pacoima that left two men dead. One man, whose name has not been released, suffered gunshot wounds to his head and body. He was taken to a local hospital where he later died. In a separate incident, in the same area, another man was fatally wounded in an apparent drive-by shooting around 3 p.m. Tuesday. These daily shootings must end.

Americans of conscience must come together to stop the senseless death of "The Daily 45." When will Americans say "Enough is enough, stop the killing!"

RECOGNIZING REALTORS AND THEIR ROLE IN THE AMERICAN DREAM

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 14, 2008

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize America's realtors. I would like to specifically recognize fifteen realtors, who are in Washington, D.C. today, for their commitment to the neighborhoods and communities across North Texas, the place I am proud to call home. I would also like to welcome these fellow Texans to our Nation's capital city.

Realtors are a vital part of the American way of life. They help to provide the citizens of the United States with one of the most basic American Dreams: the joy of home ownership. I remember when I was looking to buy my first home, I was unsure about what I could expect or what processes I needed to take. Realtors helped me through the process and I am very grateful for the kindness and generosity they demonstrated.

I would like to recognize the fifteen realtors from my district who are in Washington, D.C. right now: with the Greater Lewisville Association of REALTORS, Inc., Connie Niedzwiecki, Cathy Smith, and Lynda Bennett; with the North Texas Real Estate Information Services, Inc., Mikie Doyle; with the Greater Denton/Wise County Association of REALTORS, Inc., Chris Rosprim, Myra Oliver, Mary O'Conner, Kaki Lybbert, and Kara Phelps; with the Greater Fort Worth Association of REALTORS, Inc., Ken Jones, Dan Odom and Colleen Odom; and with the MetroTex Association of REALTORS, Inc., Eloise Eriksson, Judy Jones and Barbara Alsworth.

Madam Speaker, I am very grateful for the hard work of these aforementioned professionals and the great service they provide to their local communities. Their energy, skills and commitment have made North Texas a better place to live and I am proud to have them here today.

HONORING DR. ODETE AMARELO ON THE OCCASION OF HER RETIREMENT

HON. JAMES P. MCGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 14, 2008

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a wonderful Massachusetts resident, Dr. Odete Amarelo, on the occasion of her retirement.

Maria Odete Cordeiro Morgado Amarelo was born in Arrifes, Rua da Saude, in the Azores. After a visit from Cardinal Humberto de Sousa Medeiros that served as a great inspiration, her family made the decision to make a new life in the United States.

Dr. Odete used her great energy, drive and passion to help others. She enrolled in a night program at Bristol Community College, eventually transferring to the University of Massachusetts. Two years later, she was hired by the Fall River School Department as a Teacher Assistant in the bilingual program. She later earned a BA from the University of Boston, a Master's Degree from Lesley College and a Doctorate Degree in Literacy from the Union Institute.

Madam Speaker, that final degree I mentioned, a Doctorate in Literacy, says it all. Dr. Odete believes that education based upon literacy is a fundamental right. This has been her life's work, and her life's passion. As Dr. Odete has said, "literacy can't exist in an isolated form, it's a process that is a part of our continued development."

Currently, Dr. Odete serves as the School/Parent coordinator for the Magnet Program in the Fall River Schools.

I am proud to rise today in honoring Dr. Odete Amarelo and to thank her for her extraordinary work on behalf of the people of Fall River. Dr. Odete once said, "it's not sufficient to say that we care, but to act and identify what is not right." Dr. Odete has been acting and identifying—and fixing—what is not right for many, many years. I know that my colleagues in the House join me in paying tribute to this remarkable woman.

HONORING WOODCLIFF LAKE D.A.R.E. PROGRAM

HON. SCOTT GARRETT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 14, 2008

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, today, the Woodcliff Lake Police Department will hold its D.A.R.E. graduation ceremony with the students of Dorchester School. The young people participating in this important program have made a commitment to say no to drugs, underage drinking, and gang violence. They have done this with the support of their principal, John Fierro, Chief of Police Anthony Jannicelli and D.A.R.E. officers Chad Malloy and James Foley.

Drug Abuse Resistance Education, or D.A.R.E., began as a small program in Los Angeles in 1983. Today, it is implemented in more than 75 percent of our Nation's school districts and in more than 43 other nations. This program allows children to defeat the