

House Fellows Program will impact thousands of high school teachers and their students and will energize thousands of students to become informed and active citizens.

As a former U.S. history teacher, I believe strongly in the importance of civic education. We must continue our efforts to get our youth involved in the political process in districts across the country. Educating teachers about the "People's House" is one of the best ways to do that. I congratulate the following educators who are participating in the 7th session of the House Fellows Program:

Ms. Rachel Snell (CAMP, MI-4); Mr. Ronald Hailey (MCDERMOTT, WA-7); Ms. Rosemary Quirk (NEAL, MA-2); Ms. Jennifer S. Venable (BARTON, TX-6); Ms. Cheryl Anderson and Mr. David Martin (LEWIS, GA-5); Ms. La-Shanda West (ROS-LEHTINEN, FL-18); Ms. Rhonda Rush and Ms. Jessica Newman (BACHUS, AL-6); Mr. Michael Feldman (CASTLE, DE-AL); Mr. Don Woods (HALL, TX-4); Mr. George Blackledge (TAYLOR, MS-4).

Madam Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to join me in thanking the Office of the Historian for sponsoring this program. Thanks to Dr. Robert Remini and Dr. Fred Beuttler for their outstanding leadership, and Dr. Thomas Rushford, Dr. Charles Flanagan, Mr. Dave Veenstra, Mr. Anthony Wallis and Mr. Benjamin Hayes for providing the crucial staff support. Thank you also to the Office of the Historian interns: Mr. Maurice Robinson, Mr. Parker Williams, Ms. Kaitlin Utz and Ms. Debbie Kobrin.

HONORING JOHN AND GINNY  
MCELENEY

**HON. BRUCE L. BRALEY**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 30, 2009*

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Madam Speaker, I rise to commend John and Ginny McEleney for their dedication to the City of Clinton and the State of Iowa, and for their leadership in the U.S. auto industry.

John and Ginny McEleney are third generation automobile dealers and their children are continuing this tradition. John became a dealer-operator when he was only 24 years old. Today, he is President of McEleney Autocenter Inc., in Clinton, Iowa, and McEleney Autoplex, Inc., in Iowa City, Iowa.

John is a past chairman of the Iowa Automobile Dealers Association and has served on multiple national dealer councils. In 2003, he was elected to the National Automobile Dealers Association (NADA) Board of Directors and he is currently chairman of the NADA. Over the past months the international auto industry has experienced unprecedented change. Throughout this period John McEleney has been a tireless and effective advocate for his colleagues and the thousands of Americans who work in auto dealerships. He has fought to protect jobs and chart a profitable course for the industry in the future.

The McEleney family and their businesses have made Clinton and communities across Iowa better places to live and work. Madam Speaker, I join the Iowa Automobile Dealers Association, the National Automobile Dealers Association, and the entire Clinton community in thanking John and Ginny McEleney for their generosity and leadership.

NATIONAL FLOOD INSURANCE  
PROGRAM EXTENSION ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

**HON. LYNN JENKINS**

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 29, 2009*

Ms. JENKINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1525, whose language has been incorporated into H.R. 3139.

Agriculture is the lifeblood of the economy in Kansas' 2nd District. Doniphan County, Kansas is home to some of the most fertile farm land in the United States.

The levees along the Missouri River in Doniphan County protect three vital communities, White Cloud, Elwood and Wathena, as well as thousands of acres of farmland.

The 1993 floods devastated these communities and the surrounding farmland. And they should serve as a reminder of the importance of sound floodplain management. H.R. 1525, which I cosponsored with my colleague Representative MATSUI from California, will allow communities, like the ones that I represent in Northeast Kansas, the flexibility to find sources to quickly and efficiently repair levee systems.

I thank my colleague for her leadership on this important legislation. And I encourage the House support its passage.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF  
CLARENCE "CAL" W. MARSELLA

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 30, 2009*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I am submitting this statement to express congratulations and gratitude to Clarence "Cal" W. Marsella on the occasion of his retirement as General Manager of the Regional Transportation District (RTD).

Under Mr. Marsella's leadership, RTD built partnerships with local, state and federal officials to realize a vision of an innovative public transit system that meets the unique needs of our region.

During his tenure with RTD, Mr. Marsella oversaw the successful completion of three new light rail lines, including the T-REX light rail project that opened November 17, 2006. In 2004 metro area voters overwhelmingly approved the FasTracks transit expansion program for the eight-county metro area. This represents the largest transit-only voter approved program in the United States. With Mr. Marsella's determination, progress on the FasTracks program has moved ahead swiftly, and construction is currently underway on the West Corridor which runs from downtown Denver to Golden, Colorado.

Mr. Marsella began his transportation career in the highway engineering division of the State of Connecticut Department of Transportation in 1974. He now serves on the National Academy of Sciences Transportation Research Board and regularly lectures at the University of Denver and the University of Colorado masters degree programs in Transportation and Public Administration. He also speaks to numerous groups on the benefits

and nuances of public-private partnerships. He was selected by the American Public Transportation Association as the Outstanding Public Transportation Manager in 2006 and, under his leadership, RID was selected as the Outstanding Transportation Agency in North America in 2003 and 2008.

I congratulate and extend my sincere gratitude to Cal Marsella for his service to the Denver region. I wish him continued success and all good fortune in his work ahead.

INTRODUCTION OF THE FAIR  
HOUSING COMMEMORATION BILL  
OF 2009

**HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON**

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 30, 2009*

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, today I rise to introduce The Fair Housing Commemoration Act of 2009 to commemorate The Fair Housing Act (FHA), enacted in April 1968, the last of the three great civil rights acts of the 1960's, with a monument in the Nation's Capitol. The Fair Housing Commemorative Foundation is raising funds and is working with the National Capital Memorial Advisory Commission (NCMAC) to adhere to the requirements and process established by the Commemorative Works Act of 1986. This may be the first time that a sector of our economy has decided to raise a monument commemorating a statute that regulates some of its practices. The Foundation's precedent is commendable.

Fair housing and the movement to bring equal opportunity in the real estate markets are intertwined with our nation's history. The federal government has both been a part of the problem and an integral part of its solution. Every branch of the federal government has played a key role in our national progress towards fair housing. It is fitting that we commemorate not only the passage of the Fair Housing Act, but also the history of our nation's path towards equal opportunity in housing.

THE NATION'S BEGINNING

The Fifth Amendment to the Constitution establishes a right to own private property that the government cannot take without just compensation. Early immigrants sought a place where they could own and transfer real estate without the arbitrary interference of the government. That right was not universal. Slavery denied basic rights to a whole class of Americans based on race, and reduced some of our people to the subhuman status of property. Among the effects of slavery was the denial of the right to own and use real property.

POST CIVIL WAR

The Civil War and the constitutional amendments ending slavery were accompanied by laws that gave all citizens the same rights as white citizens to own and use real property. The Civil Rights Act of 1866 was our nation's first "fair housing" law. Subsequent years saw that law ignored and severely limited by court decisions, culminating with the philosophy of "separate but equal" in the Plessey v Ferguson case. In addition, Congress and some states passed laws that restricted access to private property ownership and use by Latinos and Asian Americans.

In the early 20th century, social scientists and leaders within the real estate community

established guides for neighborhood desirability based on racial composition. Homogeneous communities for white, northern European background residents were seen as best investment for homeowners and others. Some early zoning laws sought to limit, by race, people who could live in certain communities, as did some practices of the real estate sector. Although the Supreme Court, in its 1917 decision in *Buchanan v. Worley*, struck down these racial restrictions, these racial biases were incorporated into FHA rules and formed the basis for many private agreements to segregate and form racially restrictive covenants.

WW II

Following the Second World War, returning GIs, through the GI bill, were offered a path to homeownership. African Americans and other minority group members were excluded from these GI bill benefits in many communities. The great migration of the middle class to suburbs was largely a white phenomenon, creating segregated white suburbs and large isolated urban minority communities. There was little response by the government or the courts. Most notable, was the Supreme Court in 1948 ended judicial enforcement of racially restrictive covenants in the case *Shelley v. Kraemer*.

THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT

The Civil Rights movement, including Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s work in Chicago, brought renewed attention to housing discrimination. The federal government, first through executive order then through the Civil Rights Act of 1964, banned discrimination in federally funded housing. By 1961, seventeen states had passed fair housing or open housing laws. It was not until April 1968, following the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., that Congress passed the Fair Housing Act.

Also in April 1968, the Supreme Court ruling in *Jones v. Mayer* held that the Civil Rights Act of 1866 prohibited discrimination in private real estate transactions. That law lacked an effective government enforcement mechanism, and covered racial and religious discrimination. Gender discrimination was prohibited in 1974. In 1988, in response to growing awareness of the housing issues faced by families with children and persons with disabilities, the adoption of the Fair Housing Act Amendments established effective government enforcement and extended protections to families with children and persons with disabilities.

Madam Speaker, in light of this long battle for fair housing, I ask that the House pass this bill.

RECOGNIZING BILLIE RAY  
HUDDLESTON

HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 30, 2009*

Mr. HALL of Texas. Billie Ray Huddleston was born in Celina on August 23, 1929. His love for church, family, school and community continues even as he celebrates his 80th birthday.

Billie Ray has lived his entire life in Celina, where he attended Celina High School and graduated in 1946. He then attended North Texas State College, now known as the Uni-

versity of North Texas, and graduated in 1950 with a Bachelor of Science. He taught math for 10 years until deciding to farm full time, first with his father and then with his son, and continues to help his son and grandson as needed.

During his farming years, Billie Ray served on the Celina Cooperative Gin Board for 37 years. He has been a longtime director of the Collin County Farm Bureau and for six years served as a director of the Texas Farm Bureau. During part of this time he served on the Southern Farm Bureau Insurance Boards and continues to be involved in federal and state legislative affairs. He also served on the Project 2000 Committee for long-range planning to carry Texas Farm Bureau into the next century. He has been the recipient of many awards, including the Collin County Conservation Farmer of the Year, Denton Wise County Conservation Farmer of the Year, Collin County Farmer of the Year and the Collin County Farm Bureau Pioneer Award.

In 1955, Billie Ray married Jane Merritt and they have four children: Charles and his wife Sherry of Celina, Janet and her husband Randy of Celina, Laurie and her husband Russell of Waco, and Mike and his wife Ingrid of Keller. They are the grandparents of 11 beautiful grandchildren.

During the time his children were in the Celina schools he served for 13 years as a trustee of the Celina Independent School District. He was also a member of the Quarterback Club for many years, serving as captain in 1973.

His civic involvement includes serving on the Celina City Council for 2 terms during which the first Comprehensive Plan was formed, and recently he served on the committee for the current comprehensive plan which is in its final stages. Seeing the need for a public park, he was instrumental in securing the land and negotiating the purchase of more than 40 acres, where a wonderful park was dedicated in 2006 to the City of Celina. In 2002 he and his wife, Jane, were awarded the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Chamber of Commerce "in recognition of their continuous service and support." In July of 1976 he was recognized by The American Revolution Bicentennial Commission of Texas for his participation in celebrating the Bicentennial.

Billie Ray has been a member of the First Baptist Church in Celina since 1951 and has served as a deacon for 53 years. He has been such an important and influential member of the Celina community, and his many friends today join his family in wishing a wonderful 80th birthday to this great citizen, Billie Ray Huddleston.

CONGRATULATING THE PLANO  
EAST AND PLANO WEST JROTC  
ACADEMIC TEAMS

HON. SAM JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 30, 2009*

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, congratulations are in order. This June, the Plano East JROTC Academic team placed fifth in a competition from schools around the globe in Washington, D.C. Out of 1,645 Army JROTC programs, 72 teams (24

academic/48 leadership) from around the globe competed in Level III of the 2009 U.S. Army JROTC Academic and Leadership Bowl competition, the final level of the Army JROTC Academic and Leadership Championship. Plano East JROTC deserves special recognition for their achievement.

In addition, on March 5th, the Plano East and Plano West Senior High School JROTC Academic Teams earned 1st and 3rd place honors, respectively, out of 198 teams/schools, in the U.S. Army JROTC 5th Brigade portion of the 2009 U.S. Army JROTC Academic and Leadership Bowl competition.

The Panther JROTC Academic Team is comprised of: Team Commander c/1LT Zen Ren upcoming Senior, c/CSM James Untiedt upcoming Senior, c/1SG Amber VanHecke upcoming Junior, c/SSG Sabrina Gibson upcoming Junior. The two alternates were Plano East Senior cadets Mary Walker and Harrison Stone.

Competition questions are based on the SAT, ACT, JROTC curriculum and current events. The test is administered jeopardy-style, via the Internet, with a 30 second time limit for each question. The team members are able to quickly read, discuss, and exchange information before finalizing an answer.

According to Major (Ret) John Napoli, Jr., who serves as the Director of Army Instruction for the Plano Independent School District, "we are proud of the academic accomplishments of all our students. This bowl is one of many ways we challenge our students on a daily, weekly, and monthly basis. Our foremost priority in JROTC is to the academic and professional development of all our students. In the last two years alone our graduating seniors have earned over \$4.5 million in college scholarship monies."

The cadets and the Plano East Senior Army Instructor LTC (R) Bernard Aikens are shining examples of the future leadership and military excellence that you can only find in America.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. EDWARD J. MARKEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 30, 2009*

Mr. MARKEY of Massachusetts. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 460, I inadvertently did not vote, but intended to vote "yes."

SEVERELY INJURED VETERANS'  
BENEFITS IMPROVEMENT ACT  
OF 2009

HON. STEVE BUYER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 30, 2009*

Mr. BUYER. Madam Speaker, today I join my good friends and colleagues, MIKE MICHAUD of Maine and HENRY BROWN of South Carolina, in introducing the Severely Injured Veterans' Benefits Improvement Act of 2009. This bill will provide increased benefits to our most severely injured veterans.

Madam Speaker, as servicemembers are returning from the Global War on Terror with