

at the Belmond-Klemme Community School District in Belmond, Iowa, for winning the national "Top Teacher Award" search. Mr. Dye was named the top teacher on the Live with Regis and Kelly television program.

Mr. Dye was recommended for the award by Jim and Dianna Suntken and Curt and Diane Stadlander, who wrote of Don in their nomination essay:

"Teaching is his passion! He believes in a good education for all and that school pride makes good citizens and a better world. Mr. Dye is affectionately known to his students and friends as "Mr. D". He is a compassionate, unselfish teacher who believes that all students, no matter their life styles or race, are all worthy and should always be taken seriously. All students are treated equal and special by him.

"Don Dye teaches English/literature and short stories at the Belmond/Klemme high school in our small community of Belmond, Iowa, where he has taught many different age levels for 37 years. He is respected and looked to for advice by fellow teachers not only for his teaching expertise, but for his warm and bubbly personality and incredible sense of humor. He has been on many committees and boards in the local school, area, and state.

"On the first day of school, Mr. D supplies the students with his home and cell phone number and strongly encourages them to call him night or day, no matter what the problem—whether if its to retrieve something from a locker, help writing a paper, and most importantly if they need a friend or someone to listen to them. He always says no problem is too big or small. He is always available 24-7 without fail. His family and friends tease him about not getting enough sleep, because his phone is always ringing. Just the other day a young boy needed someone to talk to about his sister lying in a hospital bed while taking chemotherapy and he knew that Mr. D always has time to listen. His closest friends know that he keeps his simple apartment, so he can have time to help people and families in need. Many years ago he lost the love of his life in a car accident; and since then he has devoted his life to helping others.

"Don Dye also takes great pride in our community. He has served on many boards, community events, and helped with many fundraisers for students or people in the community suffering from cancer, needing organ transplants, or other crises. He makes hospital visits, always surprising people with baked goods, and helping neighbors in need in some way—even if they don't think they are "in need". If someone is short on money, he will help them financially or lend a listening ear. He says he is just "doin' what his mamma and papa taught him", being raised a Pastor's kid and learning this as a child. Don is very active in church, including his second biggest passion of sharing his talent of music—playing the organ or singing in choirs. He is often found helping involve other people and youngsters to share their musical talents.

"But the "job" that Mr. Dye is the most passionate about is his teaching. You will often find him on the weekends at the school working on papers, thinking of great ways to involve the students and present his literature, helping students fill out scholarship papers, or helping former students with college work. And his cell phone still rings with college students

needing advice not only in academics, but often adapting to college life or dealing with life's struggles. You will find college students stopping by the school just to check in with Mr. D.

"All students' self worth and pride are very important to Mr. Dye. He wants them to feel good about themselves. He will often brighten their moods or spark up their energy levels with music and a "little dance" as they enter class. No student will ever go hungry around Mr. D, due to lack of time or money. There is always a tub of healthy food. He feels that if students are hungry, their minds are not as sharp. Students also know where to get a tie for speech day, socks or sweatshirts if they are cold, or many other necessities that can be found in his cupboards.

"We hope you will carefully consider Mr. Donald Dye as one of your top teachers, because he never expects any praise or to be in the spotlight. Belmond parents are very grateful to have him as a teacher for their children and role model for all. His favorite motto is "Celebrate the Day", so we want to celebrate a day for Mr. Dye!"

Madam Speaker, Mr. Dye's award also underscores the powerful sense of community in the Belmond-Klemme School District, which rallied around Mr. Dye when it was announced that he was a finalist for the award. Always a humble man, Mr. Dye is among the first to acknowledge that this award, which was determined by online voting and presented live on "Regis and Kelly," couldn't have happened without the community-wide effort and support.

The award underscores the value that Iowa has always placed on education. Every student who has gone to school in Iowa knows a great teacher like Mr. Dye, and every community in the state does everything it can to make sure students have the best possible chance to succeed in the classroom. Iowans know that the best way to invest in the future of our state is to invest in the education of our children. Mr. Dye's award is a testament to the commitment we place on education.

Mr. Dye is an incredible teacher, and his dedication to his profession and to his students should make every Iowan proud. It's an honor to represent him and the people of the Belmond-Klemme Community School District in the United States Congress, and I know that my colleagues in the House join me in congratulating "Mr. D" on this well-deserved award and thanking him for his dedicated service to his community and America's youth.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2011

SPEECH OF

HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 27, 2010

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5136) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2011 for military activities of the Department of Defense, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes:

Mr. WAXMAN. Madam Chair, I rise today in strong support of the amendment to repeal the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy of our nation's

military, a discriminatory and self-defeating policy that I have opposed from its inception.

Our restrictive policy undermines our national security. It has resulted in the discharge of more than 13,000 trained and qualified men and women from our armed forces. It has caused thousands more not to re-enlist and countless others not to serve at all.

That these brave men and women are being denied the opportunity to serve their country is a grave injustice. And, we have been so misguided in our pursuit of this discriminatory policy that we have ignored the very real harm it causes our military personnel at a time when our nation is engaged in two wars and the need for talented and dedicated service members could not be greater.

Twenty-five advanced militaries throughout the world, including our closest allies such as Israel, Canada, and Britain, allow gays and lesbians to serve and none have seen any damage to their readiness. In stark contrast, the United States military, because of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell," has undermined its readiness by discharging capable fighter pilots, infantry officers, translators, and other highly trained specialists who are in high demand.

Admiral Mullen, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, has said, "we have in place a policy which forces young men and women to lie about who they are in order to defend their fellow citizens." Today, many Americans defending our nation could be subject to a "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" dismissal. They should be able to serve without fear that their nation will punish them for being open about who they are.

"Don't Ask Don't Tell" is contrary to the values this country stands for. America was founded on the principle of human dignity and on the belief that all men are created equal—and yet this policy perpetuates the absurd notion that some are more equal than others.

Those who oppose the repeal of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" are using the same language used by those who opposed the racial integration of our Armed Forces in 1948, fought the inclusion of women, and argued against the Civil Rights Act in 1965. The arguments are just as wrong today as they were then.

I want to commend Speaker PELOSI and President Obama for their leadership on this issue, and I ask all of my colleagues to support repeal. Passage of this amendment will bring an end to this shameful inequity.

IN SUPPORT OF "LEAVE NO CHILD INSIDE MONTH"

HON. MIKE QUIGLEY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 8, 2010

Mr. QUIGLEY. Madam Speaker, June is "Leave No Child Inside Month," a time when parents and children are urged to explore, play and enjoy the outdoors in Illinois.

From Millennium Park to Lincoln Park Zoo, the Greenbelt Forest Preserve to McHenry Dam, families will be fishing, picnicking and learning beneath trees, beside beautiful lakes and amidst the natural treasures of Illinois.

This January, I passed a resolution honoring the Chicago Wilderness and the 250 organizations that make up this group of environmental enthusiasts.

They understand that children who grow up with an understanding of the land, air and water surrounding them grow into environmentally conscious adults.

These adults are actively involved in efforts to clean, restore and preserve our precious resources.

This month shows children that catching-and-releasing fish, playing with mud, and building a fort beat a video game any day.

I look forward to joining the fun.

**WESLEYAN CHRISTIAN ACADEMY
WINS IT ALL AGAIN**

HON. HOWARD COBLE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 8, 2010

Mr. COBLE. Madam Speaker, on behalf of the citizens of the Sixth District of North Carolina, we wish to extend our congratulations to the Wesleyan Christian Academy's baseball team for winning its second North Carolina Independent Schools Athletic Association 3A state championship in three seasons.

Wesleyan Christian Academy defeated Forsyth Country Day School for the title. The team at Wesleyan Christian Academy fought hard to obtain its second state title. The team exhibited exorbitant amounts of determination and teamwork in order to claim the championship title for the second time. Trojan catcher, Chris Ferrante, hit a three-run homer against Forsyth Country Day, which proved to be just enough to defeat the Furies. Ferrante along with teammates, David Anderson and Bennett Hixon, displayed excellent fieldwork that further solidified Wesleyan Christian's lead. This championship game required tremendous skill and athleticism, not to mention, great advice and wisdom from Head Coach Scott Davis and his coaching staff.

The championship team members included Donnie Caldwell, Casey Corn, Cameron Hendrix, Bennett Hixson, Nick Blackwood, Kyle Washam, David Anderson, Nathan Midkiff, Chris Ferrante, Vincent Banks, Greg Key, Cameron George, and Ethan Brown. The coaching was led by Scott Davis, and his able assistant John Pavlack.

Again, on behalf of the Sixth District of North Carolina, we would like to congratulate the Wesleyan Christian Academy baseball team, the faculty, staff, students, and fans for an outstanding season.

CONGRATULATING EL PRIMER PASO LTD.

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 8, 2010

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor El Primer Paso Ltd., a preschool located in Dover, Morris County, New Jersey, which is celebrating its fortieth anniversary.

In 1969, a group of volunteers formed El Primer Paso with the intent of preparing children from the local Hispanic community for the public school education curriculum. Realizing the unparalleled importance of a solid edu-

cational foundation, these volunteers aimed to help local children of preschool age in valuable areas such as the English language and developmental growth.

The Trinity Lutheran Church of Dover loaned El Primer Paso meeting space for its first year, but in 1970 it moved to a house on Richards Avenue, owned by the Holy Rosary Church. Seven years later, the organization received a Comprehensive Employment and Training Act grant, its first government assistance. This grant allowed El Primer Paso to pay the salaries of two teachers, paving the way for the establishment of a formal program, complete with two half-day sessions, five days a week.

In 1980, El Primer Paso added adult language courses in response to numerous requests from parents of the preschoolers. These courses have since flourished into a thriving English as a Second Language Program, teaching local adults valuable communication skills for both work and social environments.

In 1984, El Primer Paso further expanded to include a preschool program for three year-olds. Four years later, the organization also began sponsorship of a Family Childcare Program, which provides training to those who desire to open Family Childcare homes. It also became a sponsor in the New Jersey Department of Agriculture's Family Child Care Food Program, ensuring that children receiving childcare from registered providers would receive nutritionally balanced meals and snacks at no cost to their parents.

Finally, in November 2000, after many years of borrowing space from the Holy Rosary Church, El Primer Paso opened the doors to its brand new facility at 29 Segur Street in Dover. Then, in 2009, the organization received accreditation from the National Association for the Education of Young Children, a standard met by fewer than ten percent of preschools across the nation.

El Primer Paso continues to look toward tomorrow as it prepares to expand its facilities. As they have the most devoted staff and trustees, the future of their school, as well as their students, is sure to be bright.

Madam Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in congratulating El Primer Paso Ltd., for its 40 years of admirable service to the community.

A SPECIAL TRIBUTE TO THE OHIO ARMY NATIONAL GUARD'S 1483RD TRANSPORTATION COMPANY UPON ITS RETURN FROM DEPLOYMENT

HON. ROBERT E. LATTA

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 8, 2010

Mr. LATTA. Madam Speaker, it is with a great deal of pride that I rise to pay a very special tribute to a brave group of individuals from Ohio. The 1483rd Transportation Company is celebrating its return from service in the theater of Operation Iraqi Freedom and the broader conflict of America's Global War on Terror.

There is no question the Ohio National Guard is one of the fundamental military components of our country. Over its brief but ac-

tive course of service to our great nation, the Ohio Army National Guard's 1483rd Transportation Company has demonstrated its commitment to the cause of freedom. These soldiers have contributed to the long history of the U.S. Army Transportation Corps, dating back to 1942.

This Walbridge, Ohio-based Guard unit travelled over 325,000 miles, carrying with it almost 33,000 tons of equipment in support of America's efforts in Iraq. These soldiers conducted nearly 150 combat patrols, five vehicle recovery operations and a humanitarian mission where educational materials were shipped abroad. The 1483rd Transportation Company also moved over 400 Mine Resistant Ambush Protected vehicles, nearly 150 Bradley Fighting Vehicles and M1 Abrams tanks, and also helped in the U.S. military drawdown initiative in Iraq.

The 1483rd Transportation Company is deserving of the greatest respect and our highest honor. These individuals have not only ably and faithfully served our great nation in the theater of war, but have selflessly supported humanitarian efforts in the wake of Hurricanes Katrina and Gustav. Surely, America's safety and wellbeing have been strengthened by its steadfast service.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying special tribute to the Ohio Army National Guard's 1483rd Transportation Company. America is well served by dedicated service men and women who have gone above and beyond the call of duty to protect our beloved nation. On behalf of the people of the Fifth Congressional District of Ohio, I am proud to recognize these citizen soldiers upon their return from serving America's interests in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

REID JOHNSON AND PAL

HON. DAVID G. REICHERT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 8, 2010

Mr. REICHERT. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of an enthusiastic public servant, someone who works tirelessly in our community, and who has a big heart for young people and a dedication to law enforcement. Reid Johnson, a King County Sheriff's Office Sergeant and the Executive Director of the Greater King County Police Activities League (GKCPAL), continues to make a remarkable difference in the lives of thousands of young people throughout King County.

Madam Speaker, the GKCPAL is not an extension of the King County Sheriff's office. It is a chapter of the nationwide PAL program; in other words, everyone working on behalf of the GKCPAL is a volunteer. No one, Madam Speaker, gives more time than Reid. His name is now synonymous with law enforcement and public service in King County. He spends time at schools, gymnasiums, and local hangouts—anywhere young people may need guidance and direction. Reid is doing so much to make our community a better place, Madam Speaker, and I thank him for his service.

The national PAL program is recognized by the Department of Justice as a juvenile delinquency reduction program. In King County, PAL gives young people a productive outlet