

IN RECOGNITION OF 2010 NATIONAL BLUE RIBBON SCHOOLS FROM THE 12TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

HON. MARK S. CRITZ

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 29, 2010

Mr. CRITZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize both Conemaugh Township Area Intermediate School and Wylandville Elementary School for being selected as two of this year's 2010 National Blue Ribbon Schools. This announcement was made by U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan on September 9, 2010.

The U.S. Department of Education selected 304 schools nationwide to receive this year's honor, including 14 schools in Pennsylvania. I'm proud to announce that two of these schools were from the district that I represent.

Conemaugh Township Area Intermediate School is located in Johnstown, Pennsylvania, and is the home of over 350 elementary students. Wylandville Elementary School, a member of the Canon-McMillan School District, serves a population of approximately 200 students in North Strabane Township, near Eighty Four, Pennsylvania.

Beginning in 1982, the Blue Ribbon Schools Program has honored public and private schools that are models of both excellence and equity. The Award is granted to schools that are either high performing, or have improved student achievement to high levels, particularly among disadvantaged children.

These two schools are outstanding examples of how hard work and commitment can pay off in achieving these criteria. Both of these schools recognize the importance of achievement, and the need to ensure that students have the resources to learn and to succeed. I appreciate the efforts of Conemaugh Township Area Intermediate School and Wylandville Elementary School in teaching our children to recognize their full potential, and equally important, providing them with the tools they need to achieve success in life.

Madam Speaker, I conclude my remarks by congratulating these schools on their exceptional dedication and passion for helping our students succeed. I wish them well as they continue to inspire our young scholars.

HONORING THE VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS HARLANDALE MEMORIAL POST 4815

HON. CIRO D. RODRIGUEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 29, 2010

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of 15 years of dedicated community service by the Veterans of Foreign Wars Harlandale Memorial Post 4815 and Post Commander Edward C. Torres. This San Antonio-based non-profit organization has and continues to serve its dedicated senior citizen community.

VFW organizations have a respected reputation for not only serving their fellow community veterans but also the community as a whole. Annually, on average, the VFW and its

supporters contribute more than 13 million hours of volunteerism within their respective communities. With a history dating back to over 110 years ago, the Veterans of Foreign Wars organization and their auxiliaries live up to its mission "to honor the dead by helping the living."

The Harlandale Memorial VFW Post 4815 and Ladies Auxiliary continues to follow this noble tradition. For the past 15 years, this post hosts the areas senior citizens every third Friday of the month. They offer these respected members of their community the opportunity to engage and interact with others while at the same time providing a safe and entertaining place to gather. They prepare and serve both a continental breakfast and hot, full course lunch to those in attendance and provide free entertainment in the way of bingo games with prize-giveaways. They also host seminars regarding community and safety information which are not likely as readily available elsewhere to these residents. The particular groups in attendance are generally from two area nursing homes so this provides one of the few occasions they have to leave their residences. This one, special day allows a luxury these people may not know otherwise. It is fun, entertainment, and a chance to socialize outside of their daily set.

Under the leadership of Commander Edward C. Torres, the Harlandale Memorial VFW Post 4815 and Ladies Auxiliary are an integral part of their community. They provide a precious service to off time overlooked citizens which help to not only enrich and strengthen community bonds but to enrich and strengthen lives.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am privileged to recognize Commander Edward C. Torres and the Harlandale Memorial Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 4815 for their hard work and excellence in service to their community.

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2010

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN L. MICA

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 28, 2010

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Chairman OBERSTAR, Chairman COSTELLO and Ranking Member PETRI for their bipartisan work on this important legislation. While there are several issues that we would like to continue working on in conference, I support H.R. 4714 as amended.

U.S. commercial aviation is the safest in the world. U.S. aviation law and safety regulations are the international gold standard. The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) can join the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) in taking credit for the safety record.

The NTSB has done an excellent job with the resources and authority they currently have. In fact, the number of commercial aviation accidents has steadily dropped over the last several decades. The three-year average commercial aviation accident rate is now .018 accidents per 100,000 departures.

But there is always room for improvement—one accident is one too many, as was trag-

ically demonstrated by the February 2009 Colgan accident.

Even though it has no regulatory authority, the NTSB has a unique role in transportation safety.

The NTSB investigates accidents and makes recommendations to improve transportation safety with over 82 percent of their recommendations being adopted by the Department of Transportation. NTSB certainly shares in the credit for the safety improvements achieved.

H.R. 4714 as amended, would authorize the NTSB for four years—2011 through 2014.

While we are very supportive of the NTSB and its mission, given the current state of the U.S. economy and the Federal budget, we remain concerned with the authorization levels included in both the introduced bill and the amended bill being considered today.

It has been pointed out that during the 107th and 108th Congresses—when Republicans were in the Majority—we supported NTSB funding for 479 full-time equivalent employees.

It is important to note that these bills were considered well before the recession and the current Federal budget deficit in excess of \$1.3 trillion. According to the Congressional Budget Office, "Relative to the size of the economy, this year's deficit is expected to be the second largest shortfall in the past 65 years: At 9.1 percent of gross domestic product (GDP), it is exceeded only by last year's deficit of 9.9 percent of GDP."

At a time of high Federal deficits, budget constraints, and belt tightening by American tax payers, we are concerned with the overall 27% increase in NTSB funding over 4 years and the 10% increase in NTSB authorization levels from 2010 to 2011.

The President's budget request for the NTSB in FY2011 was \$100.4 million, a level the NTSB itself supports. We believe that this level is the proper starting point.

The NTSB has been very successful in carrying out its mission with staffing levels at the 380 FTE level.

We look forward to continuing to work with our colleagues to reach agreement on the appropriate authorization levels as consideration of the bill moves forward.

H.R. 4714 expands the workload of the Board and would duplicate reviews of other agencies with respect to transportation "incidents".

The FAA and other DOT modal agencies conduct accident investigations and have numerous programs in place to collect information and address safety concerns. The NTSB and these agencies need to better coordinate to avoid duplicative investigations and to ensure the best and most efficient use of scarce resources.

The inclusion of "incidents" in NTSB's investigative authority will require close Congressional oversight to ensure that the regulatory authority of the Department of Transportation is not negatively impacted.

So, we do have some remaining concerns and we will work with our colleague to address these concerns as we move forward. But given the importance of the NTSB's mission, I support this bill and urge Members to vote for its passage.

HONORING THE WALL THAT
HEALS

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 29, 2010

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Madam Speaker, it is with great pride that I recognize the legacy of the Vietnam War veterans from the state of Missouri through The Wall That Heals which will be displayed in the City of Blue Springs from September 30th to October 3rd.

The Wall That Heals is a mobile, half-scale replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial located here in Washington, D.C. and has been seen by millions of people in more than 300 cities and towns throughout the U.S. The exhibit was first inaugurated on Veterans Day, 1996 by the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund and offers the opportunity for those who lost their lives in the Vietnam War to be honored by family and friends in their respective communities.

I would like to thank Mayor Carson Ross, the Blue Spring City Council, local business leaders, and all the volunteers who dedicated great effort to bringing this distinct honor to Missouri. The traveling exhibition will allow veterans, families and friends in our community to honor our local heroes who served and made the ultimate sacrifice.

Madam Speaker, the dedication and service these men and women gave in the name of freedom in Vietnam is humbling, and it is an honor to represent them in Congress. I ask my colleagues to join me in saying thank you to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial fund for commissioning this monument and to encourage more cities and towns to sponsor this exhibit honoring our veterans.

CONGRATULATING THE DESERT
BOTANICAL GARDEN

HON. HARRY E. MITCHELL

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 29, 2010

Mr. MITCHELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Desert Botanical Garden on being awarded accreditation by the American Association of Museums, which is the highest recognition of a museum's commitment to public service, professional standards, and excellence in education.

A small group of passionate, local citizens started the Desert Botanical Garden in the 1930s when they saw the need to conserve their unique desert environment. The Garden, which is now located on 145 acres in Phoenix, has emerged as an Arizona treasure. The Garden boasts more than 50,000 plants, 1,100 volunteers, and 640,529 attendees every year.

Since the Garden's beginning, it has been steadfast in its commitment to advance excellence in education, research, exhibition and conservation of desert plants of the world, with emphasis on the southwestern United States. For more than 70 years, it has been teaching and inspiring visitors from around the world to help them understand, appreciate and preserve the desert's natural beauty.

The Garden now joins an impressive group of 778 institutions currently accredited by the

American Association of Museums, which includes only those museums that have demonstrated a firm commitment to providing outstanding programming and experiences to the public while also meeting the highest standards of collections care. In fact, it is 1 of only 44 botanical gardens accredited by the association.

Madam Speaker, please join me in recognizing and congratulating the Desert Botanical Garden for its impressive and unique contribution to Arizona.

A TRIBUTE IN RECOGNITION OF
THE 125 YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF
GOOD SAMARITAN HOSPITAL,
LOS ANGELES

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 29, 2010

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 125th anniversary of Good Samaritan Hospital located in Downtown Los Angeles in my congressional district.

Since 1885, when the hospital was founded as a 9-bed infirmary by Sister Mary Wood, the hospital has been fulfilling its mission to provide accessible, quality, cost-effective and compassionate health services to the community.

A year after its founding, the facility adopted its current-day name in tribute to a Good Samaritan—Mrs. Mark Severance—who donated \$4,000 for the purchase of land for the construction of its first hospital building.

Today, Good Samaritan Hospital located at 616 South Witmer Street in Downtown Los Angeles is much more than a community hospital. With 408 licensed beds, the hospital has earned a reputation as a world-class academic medical center that is affiliated with the USC Keck School of Medicine.

For 4 years in a row, Good Samaritan has been recognized as "One of America's 50 Best Hospitals" by HealthGrades, Inc., the nation's leading independent health care ratings company. U.S. News & World Report also recognized Good Samaritan as one of "America's Best Hospitals for Top Medical Care in 16 Specialties" in 1998.

In addition to providing outstanding diagnostic, surgical and therapeutic care in a state-of-the-art setting, Good Samaritan supports eight Centers of Excellence that focus on advancing the science of medicine while providing outstanding patient care. The hospital's acclaimed oncology program, for example, offers the widest range of options for gynecological, breast, brain and prostate cancers.

Under the leadership of Charles T. Munger, head of the hospital's Board of Trustees, and Andrew B. Leeka, the hospital's president and chief executive officer, Good Samaritan admits approximately 17,000 patients annually (excluding births, which would add approximately 3,600 more to the total) and handles more than 93,500 outpatient visits. More than 7,500 surgeries are performed annually in 18 surgical suites.

Good Samaritan is also a sizeable employer in the community. The hospital employs more than 1,500 employees, including approximately 650 physicians and 550 nurses on its medical staff. Together, the medical staff and

employees speak more than 54 languages and dialects, a direct reflection of the hospital's international reputation and diverse patient base.

The broad range of renowned medical services and programs at Good Samaritan include the Heart Institute, which offers a complete heart care program including invasive and non-invasive cardiology, electrophysiology and cardiothoracic surgery. The Neurosciences program features Gamma Knife Radiosurgery for brain tumors. The Orthopedic Institute combines many subspecialties together in one centralized location designed to take care of any orthopedic problem including serious injuries to the pelvis, hip and knees.

The hospital also offers specialized medical services that include a state-of-the-art Gastroenterology Program, Women's Health Services (obstetrics, gynecology, gynecologic-oncology, perinatology, neonatal intensive care, breast care and assisted reproductive services), Ophthalmologic care (including retinal surgery), Ear, Nose and Throat (ENT) treatment, comprehensive Oncology Services (including High-Dose Rate and IMRT treatment), the busiest Kidney Stone Service in the western U.S., and a Transfusion-Free Medicine & Surgery Center.

Other special services include housing accommodations for patients and families at the Weingart Guest House located on the hospital campus and specialized ground and air transport programs for critically ill cardiac and maternity patients. Plans are also underway for the completion of the hospital's new Medical Plaza & Outpatient Pavilion in 2012.

Good Samaritan also provides significant community outreach. In the last Community Benefit Plan update, the quantifiable costs to Good Samaritan Hospital for its community benefits activities totaled more than \$21.4 million, including unreimbursed medical care, services to vulnerable populations, and funding for health research, education and training.

Madam Speaker, I have had the privilege of working closely with Good Samaritan Hospital over the years. I have seen firsthand the important role the hospital plays in improving the health of our communities and I am very proud to have a top-notch hospital such as Good Samaritan in my district.

I ask my colleagues to please join me in congratulating Good Samaritan on its 125th anniversary of serving the health care needs of families in our community and I extend to this world class medical facility, and all of the individuals who make it the success that it is today, many more years of healing, growth and innovation.

HONORING MR. JOHN N. WALSH,
JR.

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 29, 2010

Mr. HIGGINS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of John N. Walsh, Jr., who passed away recently at the age of 89.

As a child, Mr. Walsh was a student at Buffalo's School 64 and Nichols school. He later graduated from Phillips Academy in Andover, Mass., and continued on to Yale where he majored in history and played center field for the baseball team.