

from college, fostering future generations of service-oriented, civically engaged Whittier residents.

The contributions and achievements of the Elks Lodge are far too many to count, but the enrichment and sense of community they have created have greatly benefited the city of Whittier. For that reason, I would like to recognize Whittier's Elks Lodge 1258 for a century's worth of honorable deeds and good work. I am certain the next 100 years will be as successful.

RECOGNIZING UNION COUNTY ACADEMY FOR INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY IN SCOTCH PLAINS, NEW JERSEY FOR BEING NAMED ONE OF THE "BEST HIGH SCHOOLS FOR MATH AND SCIENCE" BY U.S. NEWS AND WORLD REPORT

HON. LEONARD LANCE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 29, 2011

Mr. LANCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Union County Academy for Information Technology in Scotch Plains, New Jersey for being named one of the "Best High Schools for Math and Science" by U.S. News and World Report.

U.S. News and World Report acknowledges schools where students attain and maintain high academic goals. Union County Academy for Information Technology is a proud example of academic excellence where students have high levels of performance, stellar student achievement, and where educators facilitate a strong learning environment.

I commend the faculty, the students, the parents, and the entire community on receiving this prestigious award. Union County Academy for Information Technology is a proud example of academic excellence and is worthy of national distinction.

ACCOUNTABILITY IN SRI LANKA FOR LASTING PEACE

HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 29, 2011

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my concerns about the current reconciliation efforts in Sri Lanka and my hope for a lasting peace for all of its people. This past May marked the second anniversary of the end to the Sri Lankan civil war between the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, LTTE, and the government forces. This tragic war lasted a quarter century and undoubtedly weighed heavily on all Sri Lankans, including an entire generation of young adults that has only known war until two years ago. Peace was achieved, but for how long?

In order to help achieve a lasting peace, the burdens of the civil war must be lifted and the root causes of the conflict must be addressed. For these reasons, I commend the govern-

ment of Sri Lanka for making commitments to address the needs of all ethnic groups. It has also recognized that a political settlement and reconciliation among all ethnic groups is necessary for any chance of a peaceful and just society. The Sri Lankan government's inquiry, Lessons Learnt and Reconciliation Commission, LLRC, was created as a primary mechanism for the reconciliation process as it investigates allegations of war crimes and crimes against humanity committed by both opposing forces during the civil war. The LLRC will not succeed, however, if it fails to gain the trust of the people for which it is trying to provide justice. Both Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International have criticized the LLRC for failing to provide any accountability for atrocities that are alleged to have taken place. Further, the recently released United Nations' "Report of the Secretary-General's Panel of Experts on Accountability in Sri Lanka" determined that the allegations are credible and recommends an independent international mechanism to investigate these allegations and provide accountability.

I have faith in the government of Sri Lanka to provide for the peaceful well-being of all its people. To achieve this noble goal, however, the Sri Lankan people must also have faith in their government and fellow citizens. Too many questions remain unanswered. Too many suspicions can reseed conflict. I appeal to the government of Sri Lanka to follow its commitments to addressing the needs of all ethnic groups and embrace the recommendations of the U.N. report. Only a trusted accountability mechanism will relieve the tensions of distrust hardened by war and lay a clean foundation for sustainable peace for Sri Lanka and all its people.

RECOGNIZING HOLY TRINITY INTERPAROCHIAL SCHOOL OF WESTFIELD, NEW JERSEY AS A BLUE RIBBON SCHOOL AWARDED BY THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

HON. LEONARD LANCE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 29, 2011

Mr. LANCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Holy Trinity Interparochial School of Westfield, New Jersey for being named a Blue Ribbon School by the United States Department of Education.

The Department of Education acknowledges schools where students attain and maintain high academic goals. Holy Trinity Interparochial School is a proud example of academic excellence where students have high levels of performance, stellar student achievement, and where educators facilitate a strong learning environment.

I commend Sister Maureen Fichner, the faculty, the students, the parents, and the entire community on receiving this prestigious award. Holy Trinity Interparochial School is a proud example of academic excellence and worthy of this national distinction.

NATIONAL CHILDHOOD OBESITY AWARENESS MONTH

HON. DAVID G. REICHERT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 29, 2011

Mr. REICHERT. Mr. Speaker, in September we observe National Childhood Obesity Awareness Month. As the Co-Chair of the Congressional Task Force on Childhood Obesity, I rise to call attention to the increasing incidence of obesity among our Nation's youth and the need for comprehensive solutions to this growing epidemic.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, more than one third of children and adolescents are overweight or obese. Childhood obesity has more than tripled since 1980. Overall, nearly 25 million children in the United States are overweight or obese. At the Odessa Brown Children's Clinic in Seattle, which serves mostly low-income and minority patients, nearly 40 percent of children treated are overweight or obese.

Obesity places our children at greater risk of developing heart disease, cardiovascular disease, diabetes, high blood pressure and high levels of cholesterol, sleep apnea, joint problems, as well as social and psychological conditions such as depression and low self-esteem. Unless this trend is reversed, for the first time in history the current generation of children could have a shorter life expectancy than their parents.

In addition to the many public health implications of childhood obesity, the financial consequences are just as alarming. The indirect costs of obesity have been estimated at \$56 billion per year and climbing. Children treated for obesity cost our health care system three times more than the care for children of healthy weight. There is also growing concern among our military leaders about the potential effects of rising childhood obesity rates on our Nation's military readiness and defense. Many young adults who wish to serve their country are unable to join the armed services because they cannot pass the minimum physical fitness standards required for entry.

Mr. Speaker, while the statistics are painful and the outlook appears dim, the good news is obesity is preventable and we can reverse the trends and defeat childhood obesity in America. During this month and throughout the year, I encourage all Americans to speak up about this problem, educate themselves, and explore ways they can make a difference in their own communities. It can be as simple as grabbing a friend or family member and going for a walk, hike, or bike ride; or working with local educators to introduce fresh, healthy meal options in our classrooms. Treatment alone isn't the answer and the task before us is not easy—there is no "quick fix" or magic diet pill—but if parents, schools, communities, health care providers, and government officials work together we can and will succeed in creating healthy environments and healthy lifestyles for our children.

RECOGNIZING ST. JOHN THE APOSTLE SCHOOL OF CLARK, NEW JERSEY AS A BLUE RIBBON SCHOOL AWARDED BY THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

HON. LEONARD LANCE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 29, 2011

Mr. LANCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize St. John the Apostle School of Clark, New Jersey for being named a Blue Ribbon School by the United States Department of Education.

The Department of Education acknowledges schools where students attain and maintain high academic goals. St. John the Apostle School is a proud example of academic excellence where students have high levels of performance, stellar student achievement, and where educators facilitate a strong learning environment.

I commend Sister Donna Marie O'Brien, the faculty, the students, the parents, and the entire community on receiving this prestigious award. St. John the Apostle School is a proud example of academic excellence and worthy of this national distinction.

HONORING THE AMERICAN ACADEMY OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

HON. MICHAEL E. CAPUANO

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 29, 2011

Mr. CAPUANO. Mr. Speaker, today I introduced a resolution commending the American Academy of Arts and Sciences on its centuries of work as an independent, non-partisan research institution and on the induction of its newest class of members. The resolution and the list of new inductees to the Academy from Massachusetts follow.

RESOLUTION

Commending the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and its 231st Class of members on the occasion of the institution's October 1, 2011, Induction ceremony in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

Whereas these 211 new members earned election to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences for extraordinary individual achievement;

Whereas they are among the world's most influential artists, scientists, scholars, authors, and institutional leaders;

Whereas in accepting membership into the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, these individuals agreed to contribute their talents, experience and knowledge to help the Academy advance the Nation's social welfare;

Whereas the American Academy of Arts and Sciences is an august, quintessentially American institution founded by John Adams and other scholar-patriots during our Nation's brave struggle for Independence;

Whereas the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, chaired by Louis W. Cabot and led by President Leslie C. Berlowitz, is a vital center of knowledge focused on the great challenges and concerns of the day, from science and technology policy to global security; social policy to the humanities; and culture and education;

Whereas members of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences include more than

250 Nobel laureates, some 100 Pulitzer Prize winners, and the world's most celebrated artists and performers; and

Whereas the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, as an independent, nonpartisan research institution, exhibits a standard for civil discourse to which organizations everywhere can aspire: Now therefore be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) extends heartfelt congratulations to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and its newest members;

(2) salutes the American Academy of Arts and Sciences for its continuing service and intellectual leadership around the country and across the world; and

(3) wishes the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and its 231st Class of members good luck and Godspeed with future Academy endeavors.

THE 231ST CLASS OF MEMBERS, AMERICAN ACADEMY OF ARTS AND SCIENCES, FROM MASSACHUSETTS

Name	Affiliation
Dr. Victor Ambros	University of Massachusetts Medical School
Dr. James Ireland Cash, Jr.	Harvard Business School
Professor Timothy J. Colton	Harvard University
Professor David Paul Corey	Harvard Medical School/HHMI
Dr. George Q. Daley	Children's Hosp. Cancer Inst./HMS/HHMI
Professor Philip Fisher	Harvard University
Dr. Julio Frenk	Harvard School of Public Health
Professor Annette Gordon-Reed	Harvard University/HLS/Radcliffe Institute
Dr. Daniel Arie Haber	Harvard Medical School/Massachusetts General Hospital/HHMI
Reverend Ray A. Hammond	Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church
Professor Jeffrey Henderson	Boston University
Mr. Robert F. Higgins	Highland Capital Partners/Harvard Business School
Professor Jay H. Jasanooff	Harvard University
Professor Farish Alston Jenkins, Jr.	Harvard University
Mr. Alex S. Jones	Harvard Kennedy School
Professor Frances Myrna Kamm	Harvard University/Harvard Kennedy School
Professor Thomas Forrest Kelly	Harvard University
Dr. Robert E. Kingston	Harvard Medical School/Massachusetts General Hospital
Mr. Robert Kraft	The Kraft Group
Professor David I. Laibson	Harvard University
Professor Chester Charles Langway, Jr.	State University of New York at Buffalo
Professor Louis Menand	The New Yorker/Harvard University
Dr. W. Jason Morgan	Harvard University/Princeton University
Dr. David Conrad Page	Massachusetts Institute of Technology/HHMI
Dr. Malcolm Austin Rogers	Museum of Fine Arts, Boston
Professor Peter Williston Shor	Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Professor Charles Haines Stewart III.	Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Professor Daniel Merton Wegner	Harvard University

RECOGNIZING NEW PROVIDENCE HIGH SCHOOL OF NEW PROVIDENCE, NEW JERSEY AS A BLUE RIBBON SCHOOL AWARDED BY THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

HON. LEONARD LANCE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 29, 2011

Mr. LANCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize New Providence High School of New Providence, New Jersey for being named a Blue Ribbon School by the United States Department of Education.

The Department of Education acknowledges schools where students attain and maintain high academic goals. New Providence High School is proud example of academic excellence where students have high levels of performance, stellar student achievement, and where educators facilitate a strong learning environment.

I commend Mr. Paul Casarico, the faculty, the students, the parents, and the entire com-

munity on receiving this prestigious award. New Providence High School is proud example of academic excellence and worthy of this national distinction.

UNITED STATES ARMY CORPORAL EDUARDO PEDREGON

HON. SILVESTRE REYES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 29, 2011

Mr. REYES. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor United States Army Corporal Eduardo Pedregon, who tragically went missing during the Korean War.

In 1947, Eduardo Pedregon left his hometown of San Elizario, Texas, when he was only 17 years old. He wanted to serve his country, but, because he was not yet old enough to enlist, he convinced his mother to sign his enlistment papers granting him parental permission to join the Army. In 1950, he was deployed to fight the spread of communism on the Korean peninsula.

Corporal Pedregon's unit moved across the 38th Parallel into what is now North Korea where they fought in the Battle of Chosin Reservoir. In the harsh, mountainous terrain, it was a brutal fight in the freezing cold—as low as 35 degrees below zero as the winds swept in from Siberia. Weapons malfunctioned, and the roads were often impassable, as they were encircled by 60,000 Chinese troops.

The U.S. forces were eventually able to retreat, but not before suffering massive casualties—including Corporal Eduardo Pedregon, who was last seen on November 30, 1950.

Corporal Pedregon's family hoped and prayed that he would be found. This spring—over sixty years later—Corporal Pedregon's family learned that the remains of their lost family member were finally identified using the latest technology and DNA provided by his late mother.

Today as the House of Representatives convenes, Corporal Pedregon's remains are returning home. Our community will join his family to honor him at the San Elizario Chapel on Saturday, and he will be interred in this nation's most hallowed ground on October 6, 2011. He will be laid to rest at Arlington National Cemetery with his brothers and sisters in arms who, like him, made the ultimate sacrifice. I can think of no greater honor to give to an American hero.

As a fellow combat veteran, I have seen firsthand the sacrifices that soldiers like Corporal Pedregon and his family make in defense of our great nation. The Pedregon family sacrificed more than most; of the 11 children in the family, 5 served in the armed forces, including Eduardo and his brother, Roberto, who fought in the Korean War.

These brave men and women deserve the honor and respect they have earned by risking, and even giving, their lives to defend our freedom. We will continue to keep faith with the families of all soldiers, sailors, airmen, and marines and never leave a service member behind.