

joint declaration with the Appeal of Conscience Foundation have reaffirmed their commitment to building a multi-ethnic, multi-religious and multi-cultural society in Bosnia and Herzegovina. We in turn pledge them our support in strengthening their courageous stand for peace and tolerance in their country.

It remains our challenge to help disseminate to the widest possible audience their message of 'live and let live'. The Dayton Peace Accord signed by political leaders requires implementation by the people. To this effect the top religious leaders in Bosnia and Herzegovina, united in the newly created Inter-Religious Council of Sarajevo can make an invaluable contribution.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TODD TIAHRT

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 17, 1998

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, yesterday I was unavoidably detained and missed two votes. The first, agreeing to the Senate amendments on H.R. 1847, the Telemarketing Fraud Prevention Act; and the second, passage of House Resolution 401, the Sense of the House that Social Promotion Should Be Ended. I support both measures and had I been present I would have voted "yes" on roll-call No. 232 and No. 233.

A SPECIAL SALUTE TO EAST TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL FIRST PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS

HON. LOUIS STOKES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 17, 1998

Mr. STOKES. Mr. Speaker, I would like to call the attention of my colleagues to a very special event taking place on Capitol Hill this week. On Thursday, June 18, 1988, Capitol Hill will host a staged robotic competition, the "Capitol Hill Robotics Invitational". This invitational will involve eleven high school robotics teams from across the nation. This even underscores an innovative program known as FIRST. FIRST, (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology), is a national nonprofit group founded to promote interest in math, science, and technology. It partners engineers from major corporations and small businesses, scientists from the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, the military, and mentors from universities, with high school students around the country.

Regarding the "Robotics Invitational," I would also like to take this opportunity to share a story with my colleagues. a story of a school that five years ago implemented this new program dedicated to improving students proficiency in science and math. Five years later this high school has an attendance rate of 82 percent. The enrollment has increased to 1400. Seventy-one percent of the students pass the State Proficiency Tests. When the Robotics Invitational is held on Capitol Hill I plan to be on hand to cheer on a very special team from this school. The name of this school is East Technical High School, and I am proud to say that this school is located within my Congressional District.

Mr. Speaker, permit me to tell you more about the success story that is East Tech High School. Today, students run to their math and science classes, and many work hard to obtain the 3.00 Grade Point Average necessary to become involved with the FIRST program. All twelve members of the initial FIRST team have graduated and are now enrolled in four year engineering programs at university levels. East Tech High School is the epitome of a phoenix rising from the ashes, considering it was scheduled for closing those short five years ago.

The East Tech Student Engineering/FIRST Team currently has 40 members. It was this team that recently finished 9th out of 150 teams at the National Science and Math Competition in Orlando, Florida. And it is this team, selected from 200 other teams, to have their Robotics team along with eleven other teams from across the country, participate in the robotics competition this week on Capitol Hill.

East Technical High School, along with the aid of the NASA/Lewis Research Center who introduced FIRST to the School, has sparked the intelligence in these students that came so close to being extinguished with the slated closing of their high school. This team is indicative of the talents that lie beneath the surface of many young people in urban environments who never receive a chance or get the impact of a program like FIRST.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to share stories of programs like FIRST that exist and get our young people involved in the fields of math and science. In fact, I am now told that more students try out for East Tech's FIRST team than they do for basketball and football combined. This program was the spark, but I feel that the students in East Technical High School had it in them all along. These students need to be commended today for the perseverance and hard work they have shown. I am sure these students have even more success awaiting them in the future.

Thank you Mr. Speaker for allowing me the opportunity to share this special success story with my colleagues. Once again, I would like to congratulate the students of East Technical High School for their achievements and for a job well done.

EAST TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL MEMBERS

Orlando Antongiorgi, Michael Bors, Kaishaelia Brown, Jaria Chatmon, Rita Greeham, Sha'Lawnda Griffe, Breasha James, Jesse Mathis, Aja Maxwell, Mario Mendes, Drew Odum, Kanita Parra, Khadijah Qadaar, Shakina Shields, Sierra Smith, Christi Sutton, Sophia Syed, Bobby Vannoy, Sharonda Whatley, and Tiffany Neal.

EAST TECHNICAL FACULTY TEAM MEMBERS

Jan Berlin, Sarah Broadnax, Terry Butler, Mary Carter, and Jerome Seppelt.

NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION EMPLOYEES

Donald Campbell, Director, Joann Charleston, Alicia González, Larry Greer, John Hairston, Dan Kocka, and Mary Palumbo.

CORPORATE SPONSORS

Lora Johnson/TRW and Julie Rehm/Battelle.

HONORING ANGEL RUIZ

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 17, 1998

Mr. BOB SCHAFFER of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Angel Ruiz, a ninth-grader at Thompson Valley High School, who has recently been named Youth of the Year by the Boys & Girls Club of Loveland. The winner of this prestigious award is selected among those who won the Youth of the Month award for 1997. Ruiz was honored with the monthly award in September.

As an active member of the Boys & Girls Club of Loveland for a little over a year, Ruiz participates in a variety of service oriented projects. He regularly spends his time after school quizzing younger children on spelling works and math tables and enjoys the opportunity to serve as a role model for those he tutors. He also serves as a staff member where his duties include cleaning the club, managing membership renewals and orienting new members.

Mr. Speaker, it is important to note that over the past year Angel Ruiz's Grade Point Average has soared from 1.5 to 3.8 on a 4 point scale. As a Member of Congress representing Colorado's Fourth Congressional District where Angel Ruiz lives and devotes his time to serve his community, I am proud to honor this youth for his great contribution to the town of Loveland and to our entire state.

HONORING ALAN R. WALDEN

HON. BENJAMIN L. CARDIN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 17, 1998

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Alan R. Walden, who is retiring in July from his broadcasting career of 44 years. Throughout his distinguished journalism career, Mr. Walden has covered almost every major national and international event and he has set a standard of excellence in journalism that is hard to match.

Every weekday morning, thousands of Baltimoreans wake up to Alan Walden's thorough, in-depth news reports as the anchor of WBAL-AM's morning show. He uses his insight and knowledge to give listeners an important perspective on regional, national and international events. On weekday evenings, listeners also can hear his insightful commentary on "Walden Ponderings."

Born in New York City, Mr. Walden has won virtually every major broadcast journalism award. His career has included jobs as news director of radio stations in New York, Boston and Cleveland, and vice president of Radio News for Metromedia Inc. In addition, he helped bring broadcast journalism into a new age as one of the principal architects of NBC News and Information Service, the first 24-hour-a-day news network in the United States.

As senior correspondent for NBC Radio News specializing in international affairs and domestic politics, Mr. Walden has covered the Camp David Peace Accords, SALT II, the Falkland Islands War, the invasion of Grenada, the civil war in El Salvador and the Panama Crisis.

But Alan Walden is more than a fine journalist. He also is a great American. As president of Patriots of Fort McHenry, Mr. Walden has done more than any single individual to help restore and preserve this national treasure. We in Baltimore owe him an enormous debt of gratitude for his tireless efforts on behalf of this historic shrine.

I invite my colleagues to join me in honoring Alan R. Walden for his dedication and commitment to quality journalism. His reporting has touched all of our lives, and his dedication to Fort McHenry has enriched the lives of all Americans.

TRIBUTE TO CECIL LEBERKNIGHT

HON. JOHN P. MURTHA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 17, 1998

Mr. MURTHA. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity before my Colleagues in the House of Representatives to honor a great America, Mr. Cecil Leberknight.

We've heard many people praised for being "great Americans" in this Chamber, and in most cases, you think of some nationally known figure. Cecil is not nationally famous for his achievements, but he still fits the description as well as anyone.

Mr. Cecil Leberknight is a native of Cambria County, Pennsylvania who has devoted his life to public service where it most directly impacts people and communities, at the local level. For fifty years he has served, in numerous capacities, as the champion of Pennsylvania's boroughs. He began his incredible career of service in the winter of 1948, when he became Dale Borough councilman in Cambria County, Pennsylvania, which is still his and his wife Dorothy's home. Since then, he has served with over 100 council members. The list of career accomplishments of this one man is amazing. Just reading the list is exhausting.

In the 1950's he was elected and reelected to serve as President of the 33 member Cambria County Borough Association and has represented that county at the state borough association level since 1957. In 1962, he was elected to the Pennsylvania Assembly, where he continued to champion the cause of public service, working tirelessly to obtain better working conditions and pay for police, firemen, school teachers and administrators, and nurses.

Mr. Leberknight also chaired the Governor's Justice Commission in the last 1960's, served on the Johnstown Flood Museum and Heritage Association as both president and board member. Additionally, he has also been: vice chairman of the Johnstown Area Regional Planning Commission, president of Dale Borough Historical Association, board member and treasurer of the Johnstown Symphony Orchestra, president of the Historic Sandyvale Cemetery Association, charter member of the Cambria County Chapter of Pennsylvania Clean Ways, organizer, charter member and treasurer of the Pennsylvania 12th District Equipment Center, and member of the Greater Johnstown Watershed Association.

He hasn't stopped. Currently, Mr. Leberknight serves as president of the Cambria County Housing Corporation, where he's been for the last seven years. Additionally

he holds numerous citations from, and honorary lifetime memberships in, local volunteer and civic organizations.

If that weren't enough, Cecil is also a champion of education. His interest in improving and promoting education has led him to hold positions such as the State Legislative Chairman of the Pennsylvania Congress of Parents and Teachers, president of the Cambria County Council of Parents and Teachers, Adult Scouter with the Robert E. Peary Council of the Boy Scouts of America, and a charter and current board member of the Cambria County Ethnic Arts and Cultural Center.

I think that is an extraordinary resume. I am so proud and honored to have known Cecil for most of my life and feel fortunate to live in a town that has a person like him working for it. In addition to being a person who is so civically motivated and cares so much about his community, he is also a great friend and a great family man. He is truly an outstanding person and I am very pleased to be able to congratulate him as he celebrates fifty years of public service.

Congratulations, Cecil, and thank you.

TIME TO RECONSIDER DESTRUCTIVE EMBARGO POLICIES

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 17, 1998

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I have long held that the real victims of U.S. trade policy, and specifically of our various trade embargoes, are American citizens who hope to sell goods abroad, most especially our agricultural producers. The intended victims of sanctions are corrupt foreign rulers but they always find a way to get goods from our competitors and when they fail to do so they simply pass along any suffering to their internal political opponents.

But, as I said, somebody is negatively affected. A recent issue of the American Farm Bureau Federation's "Farm Bureau News" contains a headline story which does a fabulous job of explaining how these embargoes adversely affect our American Farmers and Ranchers. In this front page story the Farm Bureau News masterfully details the true impact of trade embargoes.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to represent a very rural, agriculturally-based district. My constituents are well aware of the importance of opening export markets for America's agricultural producers. Mr. Speaker, at this time I would like to place in the RECORD this story from the Farm Bureau News in hopes that people in the Administration, as well as in this Congress will begin to reconsider destructive embargo policies which only harm our nation's farmers and other producers including my constituents.

AG TAKES BIGGEST HIT FROM EMBARGOES

Trade sanctions and embargoes for the purpose of social reform or other reasons hurt American farmers and ranchers more than any other sector of the economy, Farm Bureau told a House Agriculture subcommittee last week.

"Farm Bureau strongly opposes all artificial trade constraints such as embargoes or sanctions except in the case of armed conflicts," said Ron Warfield, president of the Illinois Farm Bureau. "We believe that open-

ing trading systems around the world and engagement through trade are the most effective means of reaching international economic stability."

President Clinton imposed sanctions against India and Pakistan after those countries detonated nuclear devices. House Agriculture Committee Chairman Bob Smith (R-Ore.) and ranking minority member Charlie Stenholm (D-Texas) have urged Clinton to exempt food and agricultural commodities from those sanctions. Pakistan is an important market for U.S. agricultural products, ranking third in purchases of U.S. wheat.

Sens. Dick Lugar (R-Ind.), Pat Roberts (R-Kan.), Larry Craig (R-Idaho) and Max Baucus (D-Mont.) have also asked Clinton to exclude agricultural exports from the sanctions.

Warfield, a member of the American Farm Bureau Federation board of directors, told the panel that when sanctions are imposed, agriculture typically bears the brunt through lost sales and gains a reputation as an unreliable supplier. While American agriculture loses through sanctions and embargoes, its toughest competitors win by picking up those markets.

Warfield noted that when the United States placed a grain embargo against the Soviet Union in the 1980s, American farmers lost \$2.3 billion in farm exports. He said the effects continue to be felt.

"When the United States cut off sales of wheat to protest the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, other suppliers—France, Canada, Australia and Argentina—stepped in," Warfield said. "They expanded their sales to the Soviet Union, ensuring that U.S. sanctions had virtually no economic impact. Russia still appears to restrict purchases of American wheat, fearing the United States may again use food exports as a foreign policy weapon."

Just the threat of sanctions can provoke trading partners into a retaliatory stance and threaten U.S. agricultural exports, the farm leader pointed out.

Warfield said Farm Bureau supports a bill (H.R. 3654) by Re. Tom Ewing (R-Ill.) that would prevent selective agricultural embargoes. The legislation, he said, would prevent useless embargoes that destroy American export markets while creating opportunities for other countries. Warfield said engagement with other nations, not sanctions and embargoes, should be the preferred option.

"The United States, as the leader in world trade, has an unprecedented opportunity to promote its values throughout the world by peaceful engagement through trade," Warfield said. "Reaching out through engagement and trade, not withdrawing behind embargoes, is the best way to achieve positive change—not by denying ourselves access to the markets and creating opportunities for our competitors."

TRIBUTE FOR MR. JOHN M. MELLA

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 17, 1998

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, this past April I had the pleasure to speak at a testimonial dinner in a small area of my district a few miles north of the Wisconsin border in a town called Iron Mountain. Iron Mountain is an old, ethnically diverse iron mining town which is surrounded by beautiful plush forests, roving wolves and soaring eagles. It is such a delight for me to have the opportunity to visit this