

as osteoporosis, heart disease, and arthritis, and is highly recommended to improve the overall quality of life at any age. On May 26, the Senior Friends Chapter at Deering Hospital will host activities such as fitness walks, exercise demonstrations, health screenings, and health information workshops to educate Miami's seniors about the many benefits of fitness and to encourage their participation in a more active lifestyle.

I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to The Senior Friends Chapter for their focus on senior's health.

DEFENSE INDUSTRIAL SUPPLY CENTER TO BE DISESTABLISHED

HON. ROBERT A. BORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 19, 1999

Mr. BORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to announce that the Defense Industrial Supply Center (DISC) in my district will be disestablished in a fitting ceremony on July 2, 1999. In accordance with the Base Realignment and Closure Commission, DISC and its hard working employees will continue their mission as a part of a new organization, the Defense Supply Center Philadelphia.

Established as a field activity of the Defense Logistics Agency on April 1, 1962, DISC has for over three decades combined professional personnel talent with modern management techniques to provide its military customers throughout the world with responsive logistic support.

DISC items were used by all the services in support of their multimillion dollar weapon systems, such as, the Trident, Patriot and Minuteman III missiles; the Black Hawk and Apache helicopters; the Abrams tank; the Eagle, Hornet and Harrier aircraft; the *Ohio* and *Los Angeles* Class submarines; the AEGIS Class cruisers; and the *Nimitz* Class aircraft carriers, as well as certain NASA space programs. In addition to supplying vital parts to our Armed Forces, DISC also provided emergency support in times of disaster.

From its headquarters in Northeast Philadelphia, DISC military and civilian personnel maintained a constant flow of critical items 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, to satisfy the supply needs of the military services. The Center was responsible for the wholesale support of industrial and commercial type items to the military services. These items included plumbing, wood products, material handling and facilities maintenance supplies, marine safety and fire fighting equipment, food service equipment, imaging and information supplies, as well as bearings, rope, cable and fittings, fasteners, hardware, packing and gasket materials, springs and rings, metal bars, sheets and shapes, electrical wire and cable, as well as certain ores, minerals and precious metals.

Active in Philadelphia community affairs, DISC employees participated in numerous civic activities in and around the Delaware Valley. Many employees have earned wide recognition for their volunteer work in personal one-to-one relationships with the young, the old, and the needy through such programs as Project Reachout and Project Give. The employees are also key members and leaders in a host of other community groups and asso-

ciations, such as Boy and Girl Scouts; Little League; United Way; and in church, veterans and civic organizations where they participate in many activities of benefit to the greater Philadelphia area.

DISC has earned the privilege to fly the Minuteman flag each year of its existence through U.S. Saving Bonds participation. This is a unique record unequaled by any other major Federal Activity.

As the Defense Industrial Supply Center Colors are lowered for the last time, I personally extend my sincere praise and appreciation to Nicholas J. Ranalli, DISC's Administrator, and to all military and civilian employees, past and present, who have been providing dedicated service to our military personnel around the world since 1962.

The people of Philadelphia and the Nation can take justifiable pride in a fine job well done and to look forward to the continuation of DISC's vital role in the defense efforts of our country when the mission of the Defense Industrial Supply Center conjoins its operation with the Defense Supply Center Philadelphia.

TRIBUTE TO BEN TOM ROBERTS

HON. SONNY CALLAHAN

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 19, 1999

Mr. CALLAHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a friend and an important constituent from the First District of Alabama who will be in my office Thursday on the occasion of his 50th birthday.

Ben Tom Roberts is the current president of the Alabama Association of Realtors (AAR). In addition, he is a principle in Roberts Brothers, Inc., a family-owned business that for more than 53 years has been serving the real estate needs of generations of south Alabamians.

Ben Tom's motivation and inherent knowledge of the real estate industry has propelled him to one of the foremost leaders in his field. Not only is he co-owner of Mobile's largest real estate firm, he has also served as president of the Mobile Area Association of Realtors as well as state president of the Real Estate Securities and Syndication Institute. Clearly, real estate is in Ben Tom's blood and the real estate industry in Alabama is truly benefitting from his leadership, as well as his considerable experiences.

In addition to Ben Tom's service to the industry, he is actively involved in the life of our community. From the American Cancer Society to the United Way, Ben Tom's philanthropy has truly spanned the alphabet. It is fair to say he has given generously of his time and talents in the service of his fellow man.

In recent years, Ben Tom has held numerous leadership posts, serving as vice chairman of the Mobile Chamber of Commerce and past president of the Country Club of Mobile, the Chandler YMCA and the Metropolitan YMCA. In addition, he serves on many boards, including Southtrust Bank, the Old Overton Club and the Alabama Golf Association.

Ben Tom, and his lovely wife Gale, are active members of St. Ignatius Catholic Church in Mobile, where he is serving as chairman of the Stephen Ministries. Mr. Speaker, as 50 candles light Ben Tom's birthday cake, I ask

you to join me in congratulating him on his outstanding achievements in the real estate arena, and his support of charitable causes and community organizations in Mobile and throughout the state of Alabama.

INTRODUCTION OF THE PUBLIC HEARING STANDARDIZATION ACT

HON. JAMES V. HANSEN

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 19, 1999

Mr. HANSEN. Mr. Speaker, it is with pleasure that I am introducing the Public Hearing Standardization Act of 1999. This Act is needed so that the general public can meaningfully contribute to the process used by federal agencies to obtain public input. Currently, public hearings provide a process to the general public so that their comments and input can become part of the official record. However, because many of the public's questions remain unanswered by federal agencies, this process has been disappointing for many who attend these hearings. Public hearings should also provide a forum for the public to ask questions of the federal agencies and for the public to receive from the federal agencies meaningful responses to questions as part of the official record.

Presently, public hearings conducted by federal agencies do not have any standard format nor parameters as to how they are conducted. As a result, federal agencies have total discretion in setting rules for public hearings. Unfortunately, these rules frequently do not require the federal agencies to respond to legitimate questions asked by the public. This bill intends, therefore, to standardize the procedures used by federal agencies for public hearings so that the public understands the rules in conducting such public hearings and can respond appropriately. It will also give the public a chance to ask relevant questions and also a reasonable expectation of receiving an honest answer from federal agencies.

This is a long-overdue bill which will give the public beneficial information in regard to federal agency land management. The public deserves to have questions answered by federal agencies in a public forum and this bill, among other things, will make sure that the public has this chance. I urge all my colleagues to support and co-sponsor the Public Hearing Standardization Act of 1999.

HONORING THE VICTORIA HIGH SCHOOL VICTORIADORES, VIC- TORIA, TX

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 19, 1999

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay honor to the best drill team in the nation and in the world: the Victoria High School Victoriadores from Victoria, Texas. Under the exemplary leadership of D.J. Jaynes, Victoriadore Director, assisted by Laura Klimist, Choreographer, this outstanding group of ladies and gentlemen won many national honors at the marching Auxiliaries/Seaworld

National Championship Competition. Their awards include the Choreography Award for all dances—jazz, high kick, military, lyrical and show production; Winner's Circle (all dances scored 95 or above from all judges); named Best in Class for having the highest overall scores in the competition; and the National Champion Jacket Winners for earning the highest score from all categories and all dances.

After this impressive victory, the Victoriadores aimed for the championship at the Miss Dance/Drill Team USA Pageant and Competition. They easily took first place in military, high kick and show production and second place in lyrical, and they earned the Producers Award for the best overall presentation.

The taste of victory was so sweet, the Victoriadores decided to take the International Championship, competing against Japan, Australia, New Zealand, Channel Islands, Mexico and South America. The team won first and second place in Military and High Kick, with New Zealand placing third.

This group of students deserves the honors it has earned. I commend each one of them to you:

| | |
|--------------------|-------------------|
| Brooke Adams | Hilary Koenig |
| Chelsea Akin | Emily Loeb |
| Andrea Alvarez | Amanda Lott |
| Jennifer Alvarez | Aimee Lovik |
| Pia Arifiles | Waverly Lynch |
| Iza Arifiles | Tara Marek |
| Rachel Barber | Kelly Martin |
| Samantha Bernal | Ashley Martin |
| April Blackwell | Erin Martin |
| Liz Boldt | Nina Martinez |
| Meredyth Bryant | Stacy McCants |
| Lisa Buckler | Sarah McKay |
| Monica Canchola | Taysha McKibbin |
| Misty Cavazos | Tyler Meador |
| Stephanie Cernosek | Valerie Medina |
| Krysta Chacon | Corie Meinke |
| Melissa Chavez | Garrett Middleton |
| Cody Cole | James Miller |
| Kyra Coleman | Lori Monclova |
| Cari Collett | Tammy Newbern |
| Kristin Creech | Jamie O'Quinn |
| Carrie Dahlstrom | Jennifer Padilla |
| Nichol Dally | Dusty Patek |
| Katie Dayoc | Aaron Pearson |
| D'Lisa DeLuna | Matina Pflaum |
| Joey Dominquez | Sara Quitta |
| Cash Donahoe | Melissa Ragsdale |
| Wendy Dry | Katie Reimann |
| Carly Dunnam | Natalie Ricks |
| Jamie Dybala | Brandi Roth |
| Dyann Erwin | Jennifer Salinas |
| Bianca Estrada | Brianne Schmidt |
| Nicole Garcia | Penny Schumacher |
| Michelle Garcia | Sara Schweke |
| Mandy Gaskamp | Jamie Sedlacek |
| Clarisa Gonzales | Tenille Shafer |
| Valarie Gonzales | Loren Shafer |
| Amber Grunewald | Heather Shannon |
| Lacey Hall | Justin Sheppard |
| Erin Hanzelka | Brett Shoemaker |
| Megan Hearn | Amanda Stewart |
| Theresa Hernandez | Stacey Talley |
| Brandy Hill | Julie Teeters |
| Blair Hunt | Bianca Tilley |
| Amy Innocenti | Amanda Trevino |
| Melissa Jecker | Lauren Tuso |
| Laura Jecker | Elane Urbano |
| Eric Jentsch | Pam Urbish |
| Ida Jimenez | Jessica Vaughan |
| Kelly Johnson | Whitney Wilkinson |
| Allison Jones | Lindsey Williams |
| Morgan Kallus | Laura Windwehen |
| Jill Kauffman | Melanie Winston |
| Lindsey Klein | |

D.J. Jaynes, Victoriadore Director/
Choreographer

Laura Klimist, Choreographer

I am proud to have these national and international championships in the 14th Congressional District of Texas. I am proud of the commitment to excellence and perseverance shown by each student which was necessary to reach these goals. I am proud of the support shown by the parents and guardians of these students which helped them reach their goals.

I trust all my colleagues join me in congratulating the Victoria High School Victoriadores on these impressive achievements.

HONORING THE "BLUE RIBBON SCHOOLS" OF CALIFORNIA'S 51ST DISTRICT

HON. RANDY "DUKE" CUNNINGHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 19, 1999

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to rise today to recognize that three schools in my 51st Congressional District of California are now being honored as National Blue Ribbon Schools for 1999.

In alphabetical order, these schools are:

La Costa Heights Elementary School, Carlsbad, California. The principal is Deborah Blow, and the superintendent of the Encinitas Union School District is Douglas DeVore.

Magnolia Elementary School, Carlsbad, California. The principal is James Boone, and the superintendent of the Carlsbad School District is Cheryl Ernst.

Solana Vista School, Solana Beach, California. The principal is Stephen Ludwiczak, and the superintendent of the Solana Beach School District is Ellie Topolovac.

Just this morning, I was honored to call each of these superintendents myself, to give them the good news and send my warmest congratulations.

The National Blue Ribbon Schools program evaluates schools based upon their effectiveness in meeting local, state and national educational goals. In 1999, 266 elementary schools are recognized as National Blue Ribbon Schools, including the three above in California's 51st District, five in San Diego County, and 41 in the State of California. Blue Ribbon status is awarded to schools that have strong leadership, clear vision and mission, excellent teaching and curriculum, policies and practices that keep the schools safe for learning, expanded involvement of families, evidence that the school helps all students achieve high standards, and a commitment to share best practices with other schools.

I am immensely proud of the men and women whose outstanding and tireless work in the interest of better education has now been recognized through the National Blue Ribbon Schools program. This is particularly close to my heart, because, as a former teacher and coach, and as a father, one of my passions is improving education so that every American can have a fighting chance to achieve the American Dream.

And while these three schools in my district have now been recognized as National Blue Ribbon Schools, the real winners are all of the children, parents, teachers and citizens who

have all been challenged through this recognition to successfully improve education in all of their local communities.

As part of the National Blue Ribbon Schools honor, representatives from each of these schools will be invited to awards events in Washington, D.C., this October.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that the permanent RECORD of the Congress of the United States note the excellence of these three Blue Ribbon Schools in California's 51st District, by including summaries of these three schools' superior work for my colleagues and all of America to read and review.

LA COSTA HEIGHTS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

La Costa Heights Elementary School located in Carlsbad, California, is a school community committed to our motto, "La Costa Heights Where Learning Reaches New Heights." Our mission is to foster confident students who celebrate learning as a lifelong experience. Through the collaborative efforts of our many parents, community members, and teachers we prepare successful decision makers for a diverse, every-changing world. The students at La Costa Heights are educated in a positive and caring environment that promotes the achievement of their personal best, both academically and socially.

Our primary goal for the students of La Costa Heights is to prepare them to be life-long learners and productive members of society. They are provided a curriculum, which encourages collaboration, problem solving, and responsibility for individual learning. The entire staff and parent community are involved and committed to providing a learning environment that will allow each student to achieve these goals.

It is the vision of our school community that we be a school the puts children first. As a school community of teacher leaders, we are well on our way to achieving this vision. All staff members take responsibility for meeting the needs to every child. We focus on enhancing each student's learning and giving them the skills to problem solve and make choices. Our students learn to appreciate diversity in people through the instruction of life skills incorporating honesty, teamwork, perservance, and self-reliance.

Our school staff is composed of teachers with expertise in a variety of areas. These professional willingly share their knowledge and experiences with all members of our staff creating a challenging, yet nurturing environment for our students. As leaders, the staff has worked together over the past several years as strong grade level teams, drawing upon each other's strengths to create programs that challenge yet nurture all students. Teachers at La Costa Heights are very helping and welcoming. They are eager to share ideas, materials, and endearing moments, because they believe that our strength comes from our collaboration.

Located in Carlsbad, California, La Costa Heights School is part of the Encinitas Union School District which serves students kindergarten through 6th grade. Opened in April 1987, it currently supports approximately 720 students. The school's strong reputation for providing a nurturing yet challenging learning environment draws new families into the community. Due to this reputation, the school draws several families from outside our immediate attendance area on inter and intra district transfers. The school serves a commuter community of middle to upper class families in the northern coastal region of San Diego County. Families from several ethnic backgrounds make up a portion of our community although only 2% of our population represents English Language Learners. La Costa Heights is also home to a regional special day class for severely handicapped students. Due to the stability of the