

Arie Halachmi, who has earned a global reputation for his work at Tennessee State University's Institute of Government.

Over the last three decades, Dr. Halachmi has become one of the world's leading experts on public sector performance and productivity—an expertise that I know here in Congress cannot be valued too highly. During his distinguished career, Dr. Halachmi has served as a consultant to government agencies in more than a dozen countries around the world. Among the many nations that the worldwide demand for his services has taken him to are the Netherlands, China, Korea, Israel, Germany and Greece. He has received numerous national and international awards, including the Don Stone, Donato Pugliese, and Harold Lasswell awards, and is on the editorial board of nine different academic journals.

Dr. Halachmi was recently honored by his colleagues when he received a Faculty Showcase Award from TSU for his outstanding service to his institution and community. He has also received a "Goodwill Ambassador Award" from the governor of my State, Tennessee. I am proud to add my voice to the many others who have recognized the importance of Dr. Halachmi's work.

The worldwide reputation of scholars such as Dr. Halachmi is testament to the strength of Tennessee State University and to the strength of our Nation's academic institutions. We in Congress have an obligation to ensure that universities such as TSU remain adequately funded, and that our country's colleges and universities continue to lead the world in scholarship and expertise. My State is fortunate to have a wealth of leading academic institutions, including TSU, and I am proud to say that I am committed to maintaining their excellence.

On behalf of the citizens of the Fifth District of Tennessee, I congratulate Dr. Halachmi on his many contributions to American scholarship.

CELEBRATING CONSTITUTION WEEK AND CIVIC EDUCATION

HON. MICHAEL R. McNULTY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 22, 2004

Mr. McNULTY. Mr. Speaker, this November millions of young people will take part in one of our most cherished American traditions, a cornerstone of citizenship, when they exercise their right to vote. As we celebrate Constitution Week, I'd like to encourage the members of this body, and teachers and parents everywhere to promote quality civic education. I am particularly encouraged by one national effort that seeks to promote that very goal in our schools.

Around this time last year, the first annual Congressional Conference on Civic Education was launched, sponsored by the Alliance for Representative Democracy and co-hosted by the four leaders of this and the other body.

The conference established delegations that returned to their states to enact specific policies to restore the oft-overlooked civic mission of our schools. I commend Russell Sage College Professor Stephen Schechter, and the other members of the New York State delegation, for their leadership to improve civic education in our state.

Our state delegation has joined with the New York State Education Department to convene a series of Civics Summits to identify our most pressing needs in civic education. They have brought together a consortium of over 25 governmental and nongovernmental organizations to determine how best to meet these needs, designed an action plan focusing on the importance of teacher training, and sought out funding from the private sector to begin their important work.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud of the New York State civic education delegation and wish them continued success when they participate in the Second Annual Congressional Conference on Civic Education in December.

HONORING JOAN LYNCH ON HER 80TH BIRTHDAY

HON. MARILYN N. MUSGRAVE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 22, 2004

Mrs. MUSGRAVE. Mr. Speaker, when I was in fourth grade, my family moved back to Galeton, Colorado. Soon after starting school, I met a little girl named Cynthia Lynch. We quickly became best friends, and I grew to love her family as my own. I have always had a special place in my heart for her dear mother, Joan. Today, with love and gratitude, I honor Joan on the occasion of her 80th birthday.

Joan Lynch was born on October 12, 1924 in Greeley, Colorado, and is the third of five children. There was some confusion about her name. She was raised on the Colorado prairie by William and Kathryn Nelson who farmed northeast of Ault. In the depression and dust-bowl days of the 1930s, her family temporarily left the prairie to find work but did eventually return to the homestead her father had settled in 1915. She has always considered the prairie her home.

She has always had a passion for books and learning, especially history. She speaks of her education in the one-room school at "North Victor" as her favorite school experience. Her sisters and she walked a mile and a half to and from school each day, across an open prairie. She later graduated from Central City Colorado High School in 1942, and attended the Teacher's College in Greeley.

Joan and "Corky" Lynch, were married in 1946 and lived on the East Coast while he was stationed there in the Navy. I've seen pictures of them in those early days. What a goodlooking couple!

They returned to Colorado in 1947 and farmed in the Milliken area before moving in 1956 to the ranch where Joan continues to live today, northeast of Ault, and only a few miles from the homestead where she grew up. As teenagers, Cindy and I would always giggle and be slightly embarrassed when Corky would leave for work and give Joan a big kiss on his way out of the house. Really, though, we loved it.

Corky passed away in 1999 from cancer. He and Joan celebrated 53 years together. I am so thankful I was able to go and see him before he passed away. I told him how much I appreciated all he and Joan had done for me growing up. We both cried. The older he got, the more tender-hearted he became. He was 75 years old when he passed away.

I love Joan and I will never forget what she has done for me. As a young girl, she gave me lunch money when I needed it, and she put up with my frequent visits to spend the night. That love and support helped me get through the tough times and I will always hold that love in my heart. The way she has lived life has been a constant inspiration to me and her Christian example has always been present for all of us to see. May God bless her today as her family and friends celebrate her birthday. I love her dearly and cherish her as a second mother to me. I am pleased to honor a precious lady on this occasion of her 80th birthday.

PROCLAMATION THANKING LIEUTENANT CHARLES L. WILKINS III FOR HIS SERVICE TO OUR COUNTRY

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 22, 2004

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker:

We hereby offer our heartfelt condolences to the family, friends, and community of Lieutenant Charles L. Wilkins III upon the death of this outstanding soldier; and

Whereas, Lieutenant Charles L. Wilkins III was a member of the 216th Engineering Battalion of the Ohio National Guard serving his great nation in the country of Iraq. He was a leader in his unit and is to be commended for the honor and bravery that he displayed while serving our nation in this time of war; and

Whereas, Lieutenant Charles L. Wilkins III will be remembered for his unsurpassed sacrifice of self while protecting others. His example of strength and fortitude will be remembered by all those who knew him.

Therefore, we join with the family, friends and the citizens of our great nation in thanking Lieutenant Charles L. Wilkins III of the United States Army for his service to our country. Your service has made us proud.

COMMENDING CARL G. STOECKLIN

HON. MICHAEL G. OXLEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 22, 2004

Mr. OXLEY. Mr. Speaker, I would like to commend the attention of the U.S. House of Representatives to Carl G. Stoecklin upon the completion of his term as President of the National Association of Professional Insurance Agents (PIA).

Carl Stoecklin is a pillar of the insurance community in the State of Ohio. As President of the Broze Insurance Agency of Cincinnati, he has spent his entire professional career advising consumers about obtaining the best insurance coverage for their needs.

He has been honored as Professional Agent of the year by PIA of Ohio in 1995, and was the recipient of the prestigious Dow Reichley Award from PIA of Ohio in 1985.

Carl has served in many positions of responsibility in PIA for the past quarter century, including as President of the Ohio affiliate of the PIA and for the last year as the President of the national association.

His dedication to the highest standards of professionalism as an insurance agent has earned Carl the respect of his friends, associates, and business colleagues, and of the insurance industry as a whole.

As Chairman of the House Financial Services Committee, I recognize the essential and irreplaceable function that insurance provides in our economy.

Carl G. Stoecklin deserves our commendations for his dedicated service to his consumers, profession, and community.

IN RECOGNITION OF JUDITH
BERSTEIN-BAKER, A 2004 RECIPIENT
OF THE MARY PHILBROOK
PUBLIC INTEREST AWARD

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 22, 2004

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Judith Bernstein-Baker as a 2004 recipient of the Mary Philbrook Public Interest Award. This award is given annually by the Women's Law Caucus and the Association for Public Interest Law, in cooperation with the Rutgers University Law School and its Alumni Association, to acknowledge gifted, dedicated individuals who contribute outstanding work on behalf of social justice and equality.

Ms. Bernstein-Baker currently serves as the Executive Director at the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society and Council Migration Service of Philadelphia, which works to ensure the protection and fair treatment of immigrants and refugees, to assist such persons in their efforts to become productive members of society, and to educate the larger community about the positive ways in which new Americans contribute to society. She brings to this position a lifelong commitment to fighting poverty and prejudice. Born to a Jewish immigrant who had fled Poland to avoid persecution, she worked first as a social worker helping to organize communities and improve neighborhoods. Ms. Bernstein-Baker went on to graduate from Temple University Law School, as well as to serve as Counsel to the Support Center for Child Advocates and to found the nationally-known Public Service Program at the University of Pennsylvania Law School. She continues to contribute valuable leadership in the field and has done notable federal appellate work as well.

Mary Philbrook, for whom the award is named, was the first woman admitted to the New Jersey Bar and a founder of the state's first statewide legal aid society, as well as an eminent leader in the efforts for women's suffrage and the passage of the Equal Rights Amendment. It is in this tradition that the award is given each year, and it is clear that Ms. Bernstein-Baker's work has made her more than worthy of this recognition. She truly has demonstrated the difference that one person can make in the lives of others, and I offer her my congratulations and best wishes in her future endeavors.

HONORING JOHN R. OLIVAS, JR.

HON. MARILYN N. MUSGRAVE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 22, 2004

Mrs. MUSGRAVE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the memory of John R. Olivas, Jr., an outstanding young man from Johnstown, Colorado, who tragically lost his life at a young age.

John was born Aug. 23, 1985, in Loveland to his loving parents, John R. Olivas, Sr., and Christine T. "Tina" (Quintana) Olivas.

John graduated from Roosevelt High School, where he was on the student council and he was a four-year letterman on the varsity wrestling team, and won the State Championship in 2003. He was currently attending the University of Northern Colorado in Greeley, and he was also a member of the UNC wrestling team. He was also currently working for Affordable Painting in Fort Collins.

John loved being with his family and they loved being with him. John lived a full life and he enjoyed fishing, spending time with his friends, clubs, watching movies, snowboarding, and wrestling. He had one sister, Danielle, 16, who is currently attending Roosevelt High School. She is very active in volleyball.

He was known as a "good kid" who did a lot of favors for people and he asked for no recognition. He loved to play with kids, including his cousins and young wrestlers. The younger kids that wrestled looked up to John, and saw him as a hero. It was nothing for him to stop by their house to make them feel special. John was a very selfless person and would do anything for anybody.

Wrestling was one of John's passions, and he had dreams of becoming a wrestling coach some day. Many shared that dream with him and knew he would be able to inspire many wrestlers and help them excel. John began wrestling at the young age of five. His dad used to wrestle and was a volunteer coach. His dad got him involved, taking him to wrestling matches, and he began to really like it. From that time on, wrestling was a big part of his life. John's parents were supportive of this and attended match after match and basked in their son's extraordinary talent and discipline.

Survivors are his parents, John R. and Tina Olivas of Johnstown; a sister, Danielle Olivas of Johnstown; his grandparents, Felix and Viola Quintana of Johnstown and Mary Martinez of Loveland, step-grandfather Joe Martinez of Loveland; and numerous aunts, uncles and cousins. The loss his friends and family feel is tremendous and he will be sorely missed. John will always be present in their hearts.

It is my honor to pay tribute to John Olivas, Jr.'s life on the floor of the United States House of Representatives. May God bless all those who mourn his passing. May God comfort them in the days and years to come.

PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING
DANIEL W. SWONGER

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 22, 2004

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker:

Whereas, Daniel W. Swonger has devoted himself to serving others through his membership in the Boy Scouts of America; and

Whereas, Daniel W. Swonger has shared his time and talent with the community in which he resides; and

Whereas, Daniel W. Swonger has demonstrated a commitment to meet challenges with enthusiasm, confidence and outstanding service; and

Whereas, Daniel W. Swonger must be commended for the hard work and dedication he put forth in earning the Eagle Scout Award;

Therefore, I join with Troop 86 and Daniel's family and friends in congratulating Daniel W. Swonger as he receives the Eagle Scout Award.

RECOGNIZING THE PHI DELTA
KAPPA INTERNATIONAL OREGON
STATE TEACHER OF THE YEAR

HON. DARLENE HOOLEY

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 22, 2004

Ms. HOOLEY of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor and privilege today to honor an outstanding educator from my district who was recently selected as Oregon's State Teacher of the Year by Phi Delta Kappa International.

Meg Greiner is a physical education teacher at Independence Elementary School in Independence, Oregon. Ms. Greiner has been a pioneer in innovative physical education programs that get students interested in physical activity by making them fun. Every morning, all students and staff members at Independence Elementary go to the gym to participate in Together Everyone Achieves More Time, or TEAM. Greiner leads a variety of movement exercises and dances that feature team-building activities and music. Through these daily sessions that involve exciting and novel activities, students have learned more than 50 dances and five sign language songs.

Greiner's innovative approach during TEAM Time as well as during regular PE classes creates an inviting environment in which students feel safe enough to participate and take risks, which fosters interest in a lifetime of physical activity. But these classes do much more than teaching children about being physically active. In addition to learning new physical skills and activities, students learn positive behavior and character traits such as teamwork, responsibility, respect, and problem-solving.

Ms. Greiner's excellent work and the support she has received from school officials and the community has shown that physical education can be a vital part of the educational curriculum that helps students in their physical as well as their social, mental, and academic development. Schools across the country could benefit by modeling the approach Independence Elementary has implemented with Ms. Greiner's leadership. As a former teacher, I am excited to see Ms. Greiner receive the recognition she deserves.