children's learning. His persistent consecration to this agenda is personified by his goal that ''* * * a new modern building will be constructed with three big classrooms for the teaching of children, where they can go to school from kindergarten to the 6th grade * * * so that children can stay away from drugs and delinquency—and where they can get quality education in hopes of becoming good citizens of the future.''

Ever since he begun this project in 1992, he has been immensely gratified in helping these inner-city children. ''They too are entitled to a good education, just like the rest of America's children, because they truly represent our future,'' he is wont to say.

Mr. Carricarte has truly become the consummate community activist who abides by the dictum that children who have less in life, through no fault of their own, should have more from those of us who are more fortunate, regardless of race, creed, gender, or political affiliation. The collective testimony from parents and community leaders represents an unequivocal testimony of the utmost respect he enjoys from our community.

To date his undaunted efforts on behalf of the schoolchildren of St. Francis Xavier are succinctly shaping and forming the consolidation of efforts on the part of countless supporters and organizations. His word is his bond to those who have dealt with him—not only in moments of triumphal exuberance in helping our wayward youth turn the corners around, but also in his quest to transform this inner-city school into a veritable oasis where children's academic achievement and mastery of the basic schools are fully assured.

Michael Carricarte, Jr., truly exemplifies a fresh and unique leadership whose courageous vision and utmost caring for less fortunate children genuinely appeal to the noblest character of our humanity. I truly salute him on behalf of our grateful community.

IN HONOR OF ELINOR BOURJAILY

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 13, 1997

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Elinor Bourjaily, whose life of service in Cleveland and North Royalton, OH, has been an inspiration to all who know her.

Elinor is a dedicated woman. She has worked hard for her church community. From 1950 to 1991, she worked in a number of capacities lending crucial help to St. George Antiochian Church in Cleveland. She taught in the church school and served as its superintendent. She was a member of the Ladies Guild, then became an officer and later president. She chaired numerous committees and functions, organized dinners and served Mercy Meals. From 1991 to the present, she has served St. Matthew Antiochian Church in North Royalton. She has served as Ladies Guild president, an officer and president of the Midwest Antiochian Orthodox Christian Women of North America and the governing council of The Order of St. Ignatius of Antioch.

She has been a devoted mother, grandmother, and wife. Elinor and Fred were married for 43 years until Fred's passing in 1993. Elinor's children, son, Fred Nick Bourjaily, and daughters, Anne Katherine Bourjaily Thomas and Beth Marie Bourjaily Goff, are accomplished, upstanding citizens. Elinor also has four wonderful grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, on Sunday, May 18, family, friends, and admirers will join together to celebrate the gift that Elinor Bourjaily bestows upon everyone who knows her. We are lucky to have her in our midst.

TAIWAN'S GROWING DEMOCRACY

HON. ROBERT A. UNDERWOOD

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 13, 1997

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, March 20, 1997, is a significant date for Taiwanese citizens. It marks the first year anniversary of direct presidential elections, an unprecedented event for the people of Taiwan. Taiwan's stellar rise from an agricultural, authoritarian regime to an increasingly democratic economic powerhouse is testimony to its reform-minded policies.

Significant events which led to the 1996 presidential elections include the termination of martial law in July, 1987, by President Chiang Ching-kuo. In 1990, the National Assembly chose Mr. Lee Teng-hui for the presidency and he proceeded with various reforms, such as legalizing opposition parties and restructuring the parliamentary groups. As a result, not only has there been a trend toward decentralizing political power, greater personal freedom, and less restrictions on the press are also other beneficial results of these reforms.

Taiwan is an emerging democracy, one which is a major political and economic player in the Asia-Pacific region. As our Asian neighbors, the people of Guam appreciate Taiwan's contributions to the economic transactions in the region. March 20 is certainly an important date, not only for the people of Taiwan, but for democratically minded citizens everywhere. It is further affirmation that democratic principles are not confined to certain groups, it is a universal conviction.

I offer my congratulations to President Lee Teng-hui for the immense progress he and the Government of Taiwan have achieved. His victory in last year's popular presidential elections confirm Taiwanese commitment to Mr. Lee's capable leadership and vision for the future.

RECOGNITION OF NATIONAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE NAACP—QUARTERLY MEETING IN ARLINGTON/FORT WORTH, TX—MAY 13, 1997

HON. MARTIN FROST

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 13, 1997

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the national board of directors of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, on the occasion of their quarterly board meeting in Arlington/Fort Worth, TX. The meeting is being held from May 14 through May 17, 1997.

The national board meetings of the NAACP have traditionally been held on the east coast throughout the history of the organization. Bringing this meeting to Arlington/Fort Worth, TX, signals a new era in which the national board of the NAACP can have a presence throughout the United States.

Additionally, the location of this quarterly meeting is not only convenient for board members and other interested parties from Texas and the southwestern region, but is also expected to boost the economy in our area and save individual board members and the NAACP organization tens of thousands of dollars in travel and lodging expenses.

I especially want to congratulate the Arlington and Fort Worth NAACP branches on their hard work and persistence in attracting this meeting to Tarrant County, TX, and for their diligent preparations to make the board members' stay a productive, exciting and comfortable one.

The Nation's oldest civil rights organization continues to evolve and adapt to the challenges it faces in working toward equal justice and opportunities for all Americans, and especially African-Americans who have struggled as a race of people for more than 200 years to enjoy basic civil liberties.

Mr. Speaker, I would again like to congratulate and welcome the national board of directors of the NAACP to Arlington/Fort Worth, Texas.

TRIBUTE TO THE INDUSTRY ADVISORY BOARD OF THE SMITHTOWN CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

HON. MICHAEL P. FORBES

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 13, 1997

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Industry Advisory Board of the Smithtown Central School District, a group of more than 140 area businesses, that is celebrating 20 productive years of partnership between local industry and the Smithtown schools.

In today's fast-paced, technology-driven society, it is imperative that our schools prepare students with the skills they will need to excel in the modern workplace, and in the future. Preparing our students for a competitive and rapidly evolving global marketplace requires innovative new partnerships between school, businesses, government, communities, and families. Since 1977, the industry advisory board has forged that creative partnership with Smithtown schools, helping its teachers and administrators prepare our students for the demands of the 21st century workplace.

The first on Long Island to create such a partnership with its business and community leaders, an alliance that has enhanced school curriculum and markedly improved student achievement, Smithtown schools and local businesses have both benefited from this synergistic association. It all started with the practical goal of providing training and job opportunities to cooperative education students. Today, under the visionary guidance of Director Susan Gubing, more than 140 member organizations work to integrate the resources of industry and the skills of educators to develop strategies that will best prepare Smithtown students.