Dartmouth High School Winter Percussion Ensemble for taking first place honors in the Winterguard International World Championships. The thirty-four member group, performing a routine with a ''Batman'' theme, scored a 98.7, topping one hundred and fifty other bands.

The Dartmouth High School Winter Percussion Ensemble is under the direction of Thomas Aungst, who is ably assisted by Darcy Aungst and Jaime Ecker. The ensemble endured a seventeen hour bus trip to Dayton, Ohio to bring home the World Championship. It is the first time in the history of the competition that a first time entrant has won the championship.

The Dartmouth High School Winter Percussion Ensemble's significant achievement has bestowed a great sense of pride and community spirit to the residents of Dartmouth, as well as the entire citizenry of Massachusetts. They are to be congratulated.

REMARKS BY FORMER SECRETARY OF STATE JAMES BAKER ON U.S. POLICY TOWARD IRAN

HON. LEE H. HAMILTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 7, 1998

Mr. HAMILTON. Mr. Speaker, the distinguished former Secretary of State, James A. Baker III, delivered a speech on America's Interest in the Middle East at a May 4, 1998, symposium in Washington sponsored by the magazine, Middle East Insight. He made many important observation about the Middle East peace process, and about U.S. policy in the Gulf. I commend him for his remarks.

I would like to bring the attention of my colleagues an excerpt of his speech, concerning U.S. policy toward Iran:

. . .Let me turn briefly to Iran. This is a country that I think most everyone who looks at it objectively would have to agree is in transition. And I think there are a number of events over the past year or so that have underscored that fact. The first, of course, and most startling was the election of a moderate or semi-moderate, President Khatami, as president last May. The second was his televised overture to the people of the United States, which we saw in January of this year. And the third and most recent was the release from arrest last month of Teheran's mayor, who had been taken prisoner by the hard-liners. And I think this is really a significant development, because it has been widely interpreted—and, I think, correctly—as a victory for Khatami and his colleagues.

So what I think we may be seeing in Iran is the beginning of a evolution toward a truly post-revolutionary Iran. I think the days of the—the heydays of the revolution are over, and I think Iran is beginning to move in a different direction. I think we're going to begin to see an Iran that is less stridently extreme, and I think we're going to begin to see one that is more open to the outside world. So the question arises: What, then, should the United States of America be doing?

First of all, I think we should be prepared to meet official Iranian representatives anywhere, anytime, to begin the formal dialogue.

Secondly, I think we ought to encourage ongoing to people-to-people contact between the two countries, such as the recent visit of a U.S. wrestling team here not long ago.

And thirdly, I think we should consider easing sanctions when and if it becomes clear that Teheran will publicly condemn state-sponsored terrorism and when it becomes clear that she is actually reducing her support for terrorist groups and her efforts to acquire weapons of mass destruction. That last point, I think, is a particularly vital one, because for us to get there and, actually, for Iran to improve its relations with the United States is going to take actions and not words. We're going to have to see the rhetoric and the reality match; the reality is going to have to match the rhetoric.

And without real, verifiable action on the part of the Iranians, I don't foresee any real thaw in U.S.-Iranian relations. As we contemplate, through, the prospect of such a thaw—and I think is a good prospect that it can occur if the requisite actions take place—as we contemplate such a thaw, I think we ought to remember two very important points. First is that any process is going to be a protracted process, very likely one of years and not months in duration.

And secondly, an opening to Teheran even if it's successful, is not going to be any substitute for an ongoing, energetic American-led effort to contain the efforts of Iraq to develop biological weapons. Horrific weapons of mass destruction. In other words, I think we ought to avoid the false promise that somehow an improved Washington-Teheran relationship is an ace in the hole when it comes to the question of containing the weapons of mass destruction goals of Iraq. . . .

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

HON. WILLIAM O. LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 7, 1998

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the National Day of Prayer, which takes place this year on Thursday, May 7th. This unique annual observance offers an opportunity for all Americans to join together in prayer.

The National Day of Prayer has been celebrated annually ever since its introduction in 1952 by Congress. In 1988, the National Day of Prayer was set on the first Thursday of each May. For over 45 years, the National Day of Prayer has been an occasion for countless Americans to give thanks for their blessings and ask for God's assistance.

The theme of this year's National Day of Prayer is ''America, Return to God.'' It is a theme that is undoubtedly shared by Americans of all faiths. One of the most important values promoted by the National Day of Prayer is unity among people of different faiths. Americans of all faiths are encouraged to take time during the day to offer their prayers before God.

The National Day of Prayer is a time to thank God for the many gifts and blessings that have been bestowed upon us, individually and as a nation. It is also a time to ask for stability and wisdom, and for God's guidance today so that we may restore moral values in our communities.

My fellow colleagues, I urge you to join me and Americans from every state in praying for America, its leaders, and its people on the National Day of Prayer.

SPECIAL TRIBUTE HONORING HOLLY SPRUNGER, LEGRAND SMITH SCHOLARSHIP WINNER

HON. NICK SMITH

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 7, 1998

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect for the outstanding record of excellence she has compiled in academics, leadership and community service, that I am proud to salute Holly Sprunger, winner of the 1998 LeGrand Smith Scholarship. This award is made to young adults who have demonstrated that they are truly committed to playing important roles in our Nation's future.

As a winner of the LeGrand Smith Scholarship, Holly is being honored for demonstrating that same generosity of spirit, intelligence, responsible citizenship, and capacity for human service that distinguished the late LeGrand Smith of Somerset, Michigan.

Holly is an exceptional student at Lenawee Christian High School and possesses an impressive high school record. Holly is the President of the National Honor Society and is Co-Valedictorian of her senior class. Holly is also involved with varsity basketball, volleyball and softball. Outside of school, Holly is involved with various community activities.

In special tribute, Therefore, I am proud to join with her many admirers in extending my highest praise and congratulations to Holly Sprunger for her selection as a winner of a LeGrand Smith Scholarship. This honor is also a testament to the parents, teachers, and others whose personal interest, strong support and active participation contributed to her success. To this remarkable young woman, I extend my most heartfelt good wishes for all her future endeavors.

HONORING GEORGE KING RADANOVICH

HON. ROBERT L. EHRLICH, JR.

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 7, 1998

Mr. EHRLICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise to inform you and the members of this body of an important and exciting event that happened today. At 3:15 a.m. here in Washington, D.C. George King Radanovich entered the world.

George King is the son and first child of my friend and colleague, Representative GEORGE RADANOVICH and his wife Ethie. Named after his grandfather, George King is twenty two and one quarter inches long and weighs in at eight pounds, two ounces.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to express my most hearty congratulations to George and Ethie on the birth of their son. The joys of parenthood and the awesome responsibility involved in bringing up children can only be truly understood by parents. I'm happy that George and Ethie now have the chance to fully understand the unique importance of families in our society.

I also want to honor George King. He enters the world in an exciting time. Change is all around us. We can only guess at what advances, what progress he will see in his lifetime. As we change and as we progress we

must remember that we owe all children, including George King, a strong society so that they can grow up in loving families, with faith and reliance in God, in safe and secure neighborhoods, and with hope and opportunity for the future.

Mr. Speaker, I know that George King Radanovich will grow up in a strong and loving family. I honor his parents George and Ethie for that and I ask that all my colleagues do the same.

HONORING THE VISIT OF PRESIDENT ALPHA OUMAR KONARE OF MALI TO MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

HON. DEBBIE STABENOW

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 7, 1998

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. Speaker, as part of the Michigan State University community, the people I represent have had the great pleasure of welcoming to Michigan many world leaders who have opened the world to us and introduced us to new cultures. This is why I am so pleased to have his excellency Mr. Alpha Oumar Konare, President of the Republic of Mali, to receive an honorary degree at Michigan State University's May 8th Advanced Degree Commencement Ceremony.

The honorary degree recognizes President Konare's contributions to establishing democracy and peace in Mali, to peacemaking efforts in Africa, and to preserving Mali's cultural heritage through his professional activities as an archaeologist.

In recent years, Mali has moved from a repressive dictatorship to an open parliamentary democracy, a transition which can be largely credited to the leadership and activism of President Konare.

President Konare won the first multiparty presidential election in his country's history and was sworn in as President of the Republic of Mali on June 8, 1992. Prior to his election he was president of the West African Archaeologist Association as well as the first African President of the International Council of Museums.

President Konare's visit celebrates the new and developing partnership the MSU community has had with the people of Mali. In recent years, more than 20 Malians have pursued undergraduate and graduate programs at MSU, while an almost equal amount of American MSU graduate students have conducted their thesis or dissertation research on Mali. The strong research and educational links the MSU community and the people of Mali have forged in recent years can be credited to both President Konare and MSU's great commitment to education and diversity.

But most importantly, President Konare's visit reaffirms the friendship between the MSU community and the people of Mali, and it is my hope that we continue developing new initiatives that will, together, take us well into the 21st Century.

Through President Konare's leadership, the MSU community views the Republic of Mali as more than just a friend of the United States; Mali is our partner in education. I thank President Konare for his contribution to democracy, his worldwide leadership, and his commitment to Michigan State University.

HONORING THE QUEENS BOROUGH PUBLIC LIBRARY SYSTEM

HON. THOMAS J. MANTON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 7, 1998

Mr. MANTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and praise the enormous success of the Queens Borough Public Library system, which was cited in last Tuesday's Washington Post as ''far and away the busiest in the United States.'' Queens has the largest public library system in the country in terms of circulation, and the second largest in terms of holdings.

Mr. Speaker, the Queens Borough Public Library has enjoyed its overwhelming popularity due to the very trait that makes Queens, and indeed all of New York, so very special, namely the diversity of its inhabitants. One in three Queens residents hails from another country and nearly half of the Borough's residents speak a language other than English at home. Queens Borough Public Library's New Americans Program was established in 1977 to provide special services to the area's many new immigrants. The library's collections include, at the Central Library, 101,000 items in Spanish and 93,000 items in Chinese, the country's largest collections in those languages. In addition, the system has thousands of items in Korean, Russian, and South Asian languages.

Mr. Speaker, aside from its impressive collection of books, the Queens Borough Public Library offers a wide array of services designed to ease and facilitate immigrants' assimilation into American society. Queens has the largest library-managed English-as-a-Second-Language program in the country, annually serving nearly 3,000 students, representing 88 countries and 50 languages. It also publishes the ''Queens Directory of Immigrant-Serving Agencies,'' a compilation which includes over 150 agencies that provide free or low-cost social services to immigrants in Queens in 50 different languages. There are many other free lectures and programs available to the library's users.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to read the article from the Washington Post. The Queens Borough Public Library deserves this recognition, and I would once more like to offer my heartfelt congratulations for their fine work.

[From the Washington Post, Apr. 27, 1998]

A BOROUGHFUL OF BOOKWORMS

MOTIVATED IMMIGRANTS MAKE QUEENS LIBRARY BUSIEST IN U.S.

(By Blaine Harden)

NEW YORK, April 27—Pin-Pin Lin treks twice a week with her two sons and a big shopping bag to a crowded library in the borough of Queens. The Taiwanese immigrant herds her boys as they plunder books from library shelves and toss them in the bag.

Sitting between her sons at a library table while they rifle through the books, she looks up words in an English-Cantonese dictionary and frets about any ''no-good'' English words they might read, speak or think.

''I no want to miss anything,'' explains Lin, who every Thursday morning, when her boys are in school, attends English language class at the Queens library. ''If I don't learn about American culture and speak English, I could lose them. If they think I not understand, they not do what I say.''

Book-obsessed, worrywart immigrants like Pin-Pin Lin are the driving reason why the Queens Public Library is far and away the busiest in the United States. Most library books in Queens do not go out of date. They wear out from overuse and fall to pieces.

The library circulates the nation's highest number of books, tapes and videos—15.3 million a year.

In the sprawling borough that lies across the East River from Manhattan, library card holders check out more books per capita than users of any big city library system in the country. The 1.95 million residents of Queens use the public library five times more frequently than residents of the District of Columbia, twice as often as residents of Prince George's County and a third more frequently than people in Montgomery County.

The Los Angeles library serves about 1.4 million more people than the Queens library, but last year people in Queens checked out 4 million more books.

''We have complaints all the time from our older clientele, who want quiet and who want space. Well, our libraries aren't quiet and, for the most part, they aren't spacious,'' says Gary Strong, director of the Queens Public Library, one of three public library networks in the city. There is also a library system in Brooklyn and the New York Public Library serves Manhattan, the Bronx and Staten Island.

''The people who use our library are highly motivated,'' Strong adds. ''They want jobs. They want to learn how to live in America.''

Queens has the highest percentage of foreign-born residents of any borough in New York, a city that at the end of the 20th century is sponging up one of the great waves of immigration in its history. Nearly half the residents of Queens speak a language other than English at home. More than a third were born in a foreign country.

The extraordinary love affair between immigrants and libraries is a century-old story in New York, as it is in other American cities that have been immigrant gateways. The most crowded libraries in New York have always been in neighborhoods with the largest population of recent immigrants.

That love affair continues at the end of the century, but with complications, especially in Queens. The book lovers who elbow each other for space in the library's 62 branches are more than ever before a mixed bunch—racially, linguistically and culturally.

The busiest branch in the nation's busiest library system is in Flushing, which has been inundated in the past decade with Chinese, Korean, Indian, Russian, Colombian and Afghan immigrants. Until a handsome new library building opens this summer, the Flushing branch is crammed into a former furniture store.

Inside, there are not nearly enough little chairs for all the little kids who wiggle and squeal and devour picture book after picture book. Stacks of blue plastic-coated foam pads are available so kids and parents can sit on the tile floor.

Queues form behind computer terminals that allow immigrants to search home country periodicals using Chinese, Korean and Roman writing systems. ''Watch Your Belongings!'' signs are in English, Spanish and Chinese.

There are no public bathrooms—space being too precious to waste on nonessentials. But there are librarians who speak Russian, Hindi, Chinese, Korean, Gujarati and Spanish.

''Have you ever wondered where the new South Asian materials are?'' asks a sign taped to a pillar in the Flushing branch library. ''Well, wonder no more. They're here! You can find materials in: Bengali, Gujarati, Hindi, Malayalam and Urdu.''