EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING DAN CHRISTIE, CHRISTIE CONSTRUCTION, CHARLOTTE, MI

HON. NICK SMITH

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 18, 1998

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I wanted to take a moment today to recognize Mr. Dan Christie, owner of Christie Construction, for his work on the ''House That Congress Built'' project in Charlotte, Michigan.

Dan has enthusiastically served as volunteer construction manager and building consultant for several weeks at the construction site and future home located at 521 Monroe. I am proud to say we will dedicate the home this Sunday, December 20, 1998, at 3 p.m.

Mr. Christie generously volunteered his construction expertise to patiently and expertly guide volunteers with varying degrees of experience to construct the home. Not only did Dan donate his vast knowledge, but his time and tools too.

Families selected to receive a Habitat for Humanity home are required to contribute many hours of their ''sweat equity'' to the construction of their future home. Mr. Christie's sweat equity, his dedication, hard work and long hours, many times getting to the site after working for his own company all day, is what I recognize and honor today. His investment in this home, neighborhood, Charlotte community, Eaton Area Habitat for Humanity, and perhaps most importantly, the lives of the new homeowners, Julie, Hailey and Skyler Hartig, is to be commended.

Many of my colleagues have been involved in the construction of a Habitat for Humanity home. This year, I was privileged enough to lend my support to three houses in my district. I could not have attempted to help build these homes without the drive, support and assistance of good people like Mr. Dan Christie.

The Honorable Speaker of the House, NEWT GINGRICH, perhaps summed it up best when we kicked off the ''House that Congress Built'' project last year, ''When you help a family grow, as well as build a house . . . when you watch the sense of ownership . . . you understand why this is a great program.''

The Theology of the Hammer, a guiding principle of Habitat, is an appropriate way to describe Dan's efforts. This theology emphasizes partnerships, bringing people together from all different social, racial, religious, political and education backgrounds, to work together for a common goal. This was never more apparent than working at the Charlotte home site. People were brought together in the spirit of friendship and teamwork, and personal differences didn't matter. Mr. Christie embodies the spirit of volunteerism and caring and Christian values that drive so many organizations like Habitat for Humanity and allows them to do all the good things they do for others in need in our communities and around the world.

Habitat is founded on the conviction that every man, woman and child should have a simple, decent, affordable place to live, grow and raise their families. Because of Dan Christie, the Julie Hartig family now has such a place to call home.

My wife Bonnie and I would like to offer Dan our most sincere thanks for his dedicated volunteerism and assistance in helping build the Eaton Area Habitat for Humanity's the ''House That Congress Built,'' at 521 Monroe, Charlotte.

TRIBUTE TO STUDENTS OF CLAUDE PEPPER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 18, 1998

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to honor my predecessor, Congressman Claude Pepper, who faithfully and honestly served this House for 27 years. A school in my district bears his name which celebrates his memory of unselfish service and sacrifice. During a recent visit to this school, I enjoyed the lyrics of Claude Pepper Elementary's school song written by Jerry Little which is here reprinted:

Claude Pepper Elementary, the best school of this century. Look at our great family, I'm as happy as can be. Claude Pepper Elementary, I am an honoree. School now is fun for me, it's a wonderful place to be. Our family includes parents, teachers, and me. There is a dream we will work as a team, we'll share what we think, give a smile and a wink, believe in ourselves as we grow. The future's locked in a chest and we hold the key, I know we'll all do our best. In our families, the future's locked in a chest and we hold the key. The world is waiting for me.

Claude Pepper Elementary is great! Claude Pepper Elementary, the best school of this century. School now is fun for me, it's a wonderful place to be. Look and you will see we are family.

TRIBUTE TO ELLEN DELANEY

HON. BRUCE F. VENTO

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 18, 1998

Mr. VENTO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an extraordinary person, Ms. Ellen Delaney. Ms. Delaney, a math teacher at North Senior High School in the district I represent, has been named the Minnesota Teacher of the Year.

The Teacher of the Year program is the oldest and most prestigious recognition program in Minnesota which honors excellence in education. The Minnesota Teacher of the Year represents the profession as an advocate for education and spokesperson for teachers. The recipient makes numerous public appearances, meets policy makers, attends meetings and gives presentations.

Ms. Delaney has taught both middle and high school math, algebra and calculus in her 20-year career. She places great importance not only on quality curriculum and lesson plans, but on recognizing the individuality of her students. ''You may think that mathematics teachers are absent minded, far-sighted and require a front pocket for all their equipment,'' she says, but adds, ''I'm fortunate that the students recognize the difference between what I teach and who I really am. In the same way, it's important for me to recognize the difference between how well they do in my class and who they really are.''

As a former educator, I appreciate the amount of time, dedication and enthusiasm that it takes to be successful in the classroom. Ms. Delaney serves as an inspirational example of how much can be accomplished when we make an investment in our youth. It is with thanks and gratitude that I extend my congratulations to Ms. Delaney for being honored with this prestigious award.

TRIBUTE TO INTER-MILAN

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

HON. JULIAN C. DIXON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 18, 1998

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, my colleague, Mr. DIXON, and I rise today to congratulate the AYSO, Culver City, Region 19, Boys U12 Division team, INTER-MILAN. Headed by the superb leadership of coach, Ernesto Martin and assistant coach, Chris Labra, INTER-MILAN finished a proud second in entire Boys, Region 19, U12 Division. Coach Martin and Assistant Coach Labra knew how to get things done. Their utter commitment, boundless energy, no nonsense coaching and clear sense of direction are responsible in a large measure for Inter-Milan's success.

Team members Charles Hicks, Persy Trejo, Michael Case, Cristian Dascalu, Gustavo Sanchez, Steven Bressler, Kenny Perez, Daniel Willis, Dorian Bey, Ernesto Martin Jr., Christopher Labra, Jerry Lara, and Henry Bergmans played hard, tough, competitive soccer. They gave their best efforts at every practice. Each player displayed a passion to improving their individual skills equal only to their determination to improve as a team. Every game played exceeded the skill of the game before. Inter-Milan always demonstrated good sportsmanship.

The enthusiasm and zest for soccer expressed by the team was matched by the commitment and support of the parents. The parents in Inter-Milan dedicated time and energy and kept the team spirit high.

We ask our colleagues to join us today in saluting Inter-Milan, for their outstanding