

Unfortunately, we are continuing to see disturbing trends in American student performance on basic math and science tests. The recent Program for International Student Assessment (PISA) and Trends in International Math and Science Study (TIMSS) highlight the shortcomings of current K–12 science and math students in the United States when compared to other developed countries.

We have also seen that fewer students are pursuing degrees in math and science. This should be of particular concern when we consider the large educational and workforce development investments made by emerging economies with huge populations, such as China, India and Russia.

We must encourage girls in grades K–12 to become interested in math and science and urge young women to pursue degrees in math and science. While the percentages of women holding baccalaureate degrees in biological and physical sciences closely mirrors that of their male counterparts, recent statistics from the National Center for Education Statistics show that women are underrepresented in engineering and computer science baccalaureate degrees.

The Math and Science Incentive Act of 2005 is a direct response to the needs I have outlined. The bill will help recruit and retain direly needed science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) teachers and workforce professionals. It allows the Secretary of Education to pay up to \$10,000 in interest on undergraduate loans for those who qualify and agree to enter into a five-year service agreement with the Secretary.

Clearly, we must recommit ourselves to leadership in science, technology, mathematics and engineering. This legislation puts us on the path toward ensuring that we will have STEM teachers and workforce professionals in place.

CONGRATULATIONS TO MRS.  
BELVA TEAFORD

HON. JOHN A. BOEHRNER  
OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
*Tuesday, April 12, 2005*

Mr. BOEHRNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate, thank, and recognize my constituent Mrs. Belva Teaford. Belva is a testament to the innate goodness of human nature and the overwhelming positive effect one individual may have on the community.

As a wife, mother, and tireless volunteer in Ohio's Eighth Congressional District Mrs. Teaford has quietly given much more than she has taken. Her work, throughout Darke County over so many decades is a constant source of pride and unconditional praise. As a volunteer for the Darke County Republican Party Belva's friendship and reassuring demeanor have helped guide countless candidates, myself included, to success. Yet, Belva's efforts stretch far beyond politics. She is, in the truest sense of the word, a humanitarian whose unyielding belief in the goodness of her neighbors has helped make Darke County a truly remarkable community.

Belva's attitude, fierce determination, and community spirit are a constant source of energy for all those around her. So much of Belva's work is done quietly and without re-

ward and it is my honor to take this moment and say thank you and it is with a great deal of personal joy that I congratulate Belva and wish her a very happy 90th birthday.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS  
OF JUDGE DANNY VALDEZ

HON. HENRY CUELLAR  
OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
*Tuesday, April 12, 2005*

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the important contribution of Judge Danny Valdez of Laredo, TX.

In May 1982, Danny Valdez was elected as Justice of the Peace, and is currently serving his sixth four-year term.

Judge Valdez has also received numerous awards. Some include: the 2000 Martin High School Tiger Legend, the Liberty Bell Award from the Laredo Bar Association, and the Community Service Award from Lulac Council #12.

Aside from presiding over one of the state's busiest courts, he makes time for many community activities. He has worked with at-risk students for the past 23 years, addressing issues such as truancy, gang violence, drug abuse, teen pregnancy and juvenile delinquency. He has been working with the Texas Department of Criminal Justice Education Program to bring male and female inmates to our local middle and high schools to tell their life stories in an effort to educate, warn, and inform students about the dangers and consequences involved in making the wrong choices.

Judge Valdez has worked with the Lamar Bruni Vergara Trust in the development of the Lamar Bruni Vergara Boy Scout Camp Huisahche and was also instrumental in the development of the Lamar Bruni Vergara Inner City Recreation Center.

Judge Valdez chairs the Annual Toys for Tejanitos Drive and the Angel Wish Program that benefits needy families in our community. He also chairs the Annual Fishing Derby for physically challenged students. This event has received Texas state wide recognition. He has also awarded over \$60,000.00 in scholarships to deserving students from L.I.S.D. in Laredo, TX.

Judge Valdez is married to Isabel Valdez and has a son, Danny, Jr. and daughter, Maribel.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to have had this opportunity to recognize the contributions of Judge Danny Valdez.

CONGRATULATING MARTIN  
FLAHERTY ON THE OCCASION OF  
HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE  
WILKES-BARRE VETERANS AF-  
FAIRS MEDICAL CENTER

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI  
OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
*Tuesday, April 12, 2005*

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Martin Flaherty on the occasion of his retirement from the Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Wilkes-

Barre, Pennsylvania after more than 30 years of dedicated service. Martin, or "Marty," as he is known by friends, co-workers, veterans, and volunteers at the VA, will be greatly missed and I wish him luck in the next phase of his life.

Martin's service to the government began on April 4, 1966 when he joined the Army. He spent two years on a tour of duty in Germany and was honorably discharged on March 17, 1968 at the rank of Spec 5. After the Army, Marty worked for the Domestic Intelligence Division in Washington, D.C., and in September of 1970 he joined the Metropolitan Police Force in Washington.

In the evenings, he attended Georgetown University. Marty was off to a promising start in life. His career in Washington was cut short when he left in 1973 to move back home to the Wyoming Valley to care of his father, who had taken ill.

In that same year, Marty started to work for the VA Medical Center as a housekeeping aide. Marty worked his way up through the ranks with hard work and landed a job in the warehouse. From there, Marty's career took off.

Now Marty is the supervisor of the Inventory Management Department, where he oversees the warehouse, inventory personnel, and SPD. He possesses great motivational skills to rally staff to accomplish tasks where others would say: "it can't be done." And at the start of each day, you'll hear Marty coming down the hallway, thanking his employees for coming to work that day. In return, he receives a "thank you" back.

Marty has received superior performance awards over his career at the VA and possesses the respect of managers above him. G. Michael Miller, the VISN 4 Chief Logistics Officer, states that: "Marty is one of the people that makes the VA Wilkes-Barre a special place to work." Jackie Malhoyt, the former Facilities Management Director, stated that: "Marty looks at change as a challenge and opportunity, never as a threat or bother. He is an example of the heart of this medical center."

But this is not the whole story of Marty. Walk around the VA and you will hear other stories of Marty's selflessness and dedication, whether it's assisting patients to their next appointment or being a sounding board for a co-worker in need. You may find him purchasing the balance of chances for a drawing from veteran volunteers in order to help them meet their goal. Still, what you will probably hear most about Marty is how people were moved by his singing voice.

You see, Marty has been blessed with a beautiful voice and has been singing since he was nine years old, when he received his first lessons from Mrs. Helen Schivell of Wilkes-Barre. Over and over again, Marty is asked to share his singing voice at various hospital events, whether it's a Veterans Day ceremony or an employee awards program. You may also find him belting out songs in patient rooms or in the VA's nursing home on other occasions.

George Bath, the VA's Network Contracting Manager and Marty's former supervisor, notes one instance where there was an unusually large turnout at an employees' recognition program. George recalls: "I walked into Liberty Hall and nearly every seat was taken. I turned and there at the head of the room, with a mike

in hand, was Marty, getting ready to open the program. Then I heard someone whisper, 'I hope he sings Wind Beneath My Wings.' Folks were there to hear Marty!"

Beyond the walls of the VAMC, you will hear Marty's voice as a soloist at his church, at local nursing homes, or at other community-based activities. And he takes nothing in return except the cheer of the crowd.

In addition to singing, you will find Marty creating floral arrangements that he donates to his church to help raise money. Roland E. Moore, the Wilkes-Barre VA's Medical Center Director, sums it up: "Marty's work ethic and dedication to serving veterans and VA staff is second-to-none. Whether it's being ranked as a well-respected supervisor in our medical center/network or boosting the spirits of veterans with a song, he has truly served this institution with professionalism and gusto."

Marty will be missed for his dedication and compassion to the veterans he has served over the years and also by the employees who have had the opportunity to work alongside him. I am pleased to join my friends at the VA in congratulating Marty on this milestone. I wish him a fruitful and enjoyable retirement and, Marty, thank you for coming to work for the Wilkes-Barre VA.

RECOGNITION AND REMEMBRANCE  
OF THE LIFE AND CAREER OF  
POPE JOHN PAUL II

**HON. BETTY McCOLLUM**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 12, 2005*

Ms. McCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I thank you for the opportunity to recognize and remember the life of Pope John Paul II.

The world mourns the passing of Pope John Paul II and the great void he leaves behind as a force for good in the world. Pope John Paul inspired peoples of all faiths in every corner of the globe by his living example of faith, justice, peace and love. His twenty-six years as the Holy Father transformed the Roman Catholic Church and revitalized the more than one billion Roman Catholics around the world.

Pope John Paul worked tirelessly to advance human dignity, social justice and peace. His powerful presence helped to defeat communism in his home country of Poland and contributed to the fall of the Soviet Union. The Pope urged his fellow Catholics in Poland to support Lech Walesa and the Solidarity movement in a peaceful and non-violent campaign that eventually led to Solidarity's successful victory in Poland's first post-communist election.

Pope John Paul was a great champion and advocate for the poor, the sick and the forgotten, particularly in the developing world. He loved children, and often appeared to take great joy from speaking to and meeting with young people. Pope John Paul traveled the globe inviting and mobilizing young people to a life of faith and to stand in support of the rights of those less fortunate than themselves.

The life of Pope John Paul II has been a blessing for Catholics and people of all faiths. His moral and spiritual leadership of the Roman Catholic Church and for all mankind make his life an example for all of us. Let us honor the life of John Paul and express our

humble gratitude for the service, sacrifice and prayers he shared with all of us until the hour of his death.

HONORING PRESIDENT VIKTOR  
YUSHCHENKO

**HON. RAHM EMANUEL**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 12, 2005*

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to rise today on behalf of the more than 4,000 of my constituents of Ukrainian descent in the Fifth Congressional District of Illinois on Chicago's northwest side. I am also pleased to join with my colleagues in the House to receive the recently inaugurated President of the Republic of Ukraine, His Excellency Viktor Yushchenko during his first official visit to the United States, in a joint session of Congress.

I applaud President Yushchenko for his courage and vision and for his leadership in the "Orange Revolution" that peacefully brought freedom and democratic reforms to Ukraine late last year. The people of the Ukraine, and indeed all across the globe, were relieved when the President survived an assassination attempt that nearly claimed his life and subsequently persevered among tremendous resistance to the dramatic reforms he championed.

My hometown of Chicago is home to more than 100,000 Ukrainian Americans who have been instrumental in helping advance the increasingly important alliance between our nations. The Ukraine's prosperity, independence and openness to the West are of vital economic, cultural and strategic importance to the global community.

Mr. Speaker, I join with my colleagues and all Americans in congratulating President Yushchenko for his triumph. I wish him and the Ukraine continued prosperity and success in advancing the ideals of democracy and freedom in that nation.

HONORING ROTARY INTER-  
NATIONAL'S 100TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. NICK J. RAHALL, II**

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 12, 2005*

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Rotary International for reaching its' 100th Anniversary, and for the monumental amount of achievements it has accomplished within its' time.

Rotary Club was first founded in 1905 by Paul Harris, an attorney, in Chicago Illinois with the interest of organizing a booster club, which then expanded to Rotary International in 1922, and has grown to include over 1.2 million members in more than 31,000 clubs that span the globe in 166 countries. The Rotary District in my own Congressional District has 32 clubs within it that include some 1509 members.

In my home district, Anthony K. Blankenship, the District Governor Elect of District 7550, has set a superb example for all business leaders in the area by serving on his local chamber of commerce and as the Ohio

Valley Automotive Aftermarket Association's vice chair. He has also served in many capacities for the Matewan Rotary Club, including President.

Each year the local Rotary District sponsors a Group Study Exchange to foster peace and understanding between nations that sends four Non-Rotarian business people and one Rotarian to a paired foreign nation to experience a different culture and way of life. This past year the 7550 District sent a member and four business professionals to Great Britain and has plans to send another entourage to Australia this year.

Rotary International has encouraged and fostered the ideal of service as a basis of worthy enterprise, and thus adopted the 4-Way Test, formulated by its' own Herbert Taylor, who developed a standard code of ethics for businesses.

The Rotary Foundation has been instrumental in funding many worthwhile service projects that have improved the lives of people across the globe by promoting world understanding and peace through humanitarian, educational, and cultural programs. The Rotary clubs in my district, led by the Beckley Rotary club, recently secured a \$300,000 grant to build a clinic in India.

Rotary International has enacted the Polio-Plus program that has collected over \$500 million, contributed tens of thousands of volunteer man-hours, inoculated over 2 billion children since 1985 with the polio vaccine, and is slated to eradicate polio globally by December, 2005.

Rotary has been actively involved in creating a peaceful world by fostering peace initiatives that have created Rotary Centers for International Studies at world-renowned universities in an effort to educate and train Rotary World Peace Scholars in conflict resolution, peace studies, and international relations. In fact, a West Virginia native of St. Albans was one of the first graduates of this program.

Many students have excelled and benefited under the Rotary Youth Exchange, which funded by the Ambassadorial Scholarships, has become the international community's largest privately funded international scholarships program. The Matewan Rotary Club ensures each year that two local high school students will receive a scholarship to further their higher education goals.

I wish to honor today and hope that my colleagues will join me in honoring Rotary International for continually striving to promote the ideal of service as an integral part of enterprise, and a sustained effort to maintain high ethical standards while promoting peaceful initiatives around the globe.

HONORING DR. EDWARD L. KELLY

**HON. TOM DAVIS**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 12, 2005*

Mr. DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Edward L. Kelly for his exceptional work and service to the Prince William County School system.

Since July of 1987 Dr. Kelly has been the Superintendent of Schools for Prince William County, Virginia. During his tenure he has been responsible for the supervision of over 66,000 students at 80 different schools.