

In his first inaugural message as Governor of California, Ronald Reagan is quoted as saying, "freedom is a fragile thing and is never more than one generation away from extinction. It is not ours by inheritance; it must be fought for and defended constantly by each generation, for it comes only once to a people. Those who have known freedom, and then lost it, have never known it again." We will continue to rely on individuals and families, like the Castros, that are willing to uphold the tradition of military service and put their nation before themselves.

Family means many things to different people. To the Castro brothers, family means military service. It is a real pleasure for me—both professionally and personally—to recognize and pay tribute to these brothers and their distinguished service records.

APPRECIATION OF ED GROVES

**HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 27, 2005*

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, after 15 years of devoted service to the North Tennessee Workforce Board, Edgar Ray Groves is stepping down and I wanted to take a moment to thank him for his service.

In 1990, Groves was first appointed to the position and began working to reorganize the way services were provided. Within two short years improvements were already noticeable, and in 1992 the NTWB received the Governor's cup for its outstanding accomplishment.

By 1996, the NTWB was leading the State in all Workforce Development services and had won national recognition by the U.S. Department of Labor. And that same year, NTWB began operating a Career Center on post at Fort Campbell, delivering dislocated worker services to soldiers exiting the Army.

Although Groves will no longer be serving as chair, he will continue to serve as a member of the local workforce board and the Tennessee State Workforce Board.

I join with our community in offering Ed Groves our sincere appreciation for his years of service.

MAYDAY MANUFACTURING AND PRESIDENT MIKE NELSON WIN SBA'S SUBCONTRACTOR OF THE YEAR

**HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 27, 2005*

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Mayday Manufacturing Co., Inc., located in the 26th District of Texas, and its President Mike Nelson on being named Regional Subcontractor of the Year by the United States Small Business Association.

This recognition is awarded to ten subcontractors around the country by the U.S. SBA to companies that meet or exceed their government contracts. Subcontractors are nominated by the government and prime contractors for outstanding performance in various

areas. Mayday Manufacturing won the award for Region 6 which encompasses Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Texas. Vought Aircraft Industries, also located in North Texas, nominated Mayday Manufacturing and President Nelson.

Mayday Manufacturing Co., Inc. started in 1966 in a small Texas garage. It has grown over 39 years as a business which now serves hundreds of customers globally. The company specializes in aerospace parts to be used in commercial and military aircraft.

I am proud of Mike Nelson and his company for winning SBA's Regional Subcontractor of the Year award. Their industriousness is a fine example of how small businesses make a profound impact. Mayday Manufacturing is a wonderful example on which other companies should model themselves in order to attain this high level of achievement.

APPLAUDING THE WITHDRAWAL OF SYRIAN TROOPS FROM LEBANON

**HON. CHARLES W. BOUSTANY, JR.**

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 27, 2005*

Mr. BOUSTANY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to applaud the withdrawal of the remaining Syrian troops from Lebanon on April 26, 2005. This withdrawal marks the end of a 29 year military presence which allowed Syria to unduly influence and manipulate Lebanon's government and people. During these years, dissenters of Syrian influence have been politically persecuted. Some have been abducted and others murdered.

Syria has played a devious role in Lebanon in the past decades. I do appreciate Syria's decision to recall its final troops in accordance with U.N. Security Council Resolution 1559. However, Syria must completely stop imposing its influence and will on Lebanon. This will clear the way for the Lebanese to exert their rights to self government and bring about a more promising era in Lebanon's history.

It is my hope that the Lebanese people will use this landmark development to institute a free and equitable government. I do not pretend that establishing such a government will not be trying for the Lebanese people. The ethnic, religious, and political segmentation which fueled Lebanon's lengthy civil war still exist within the nation's borders. Now that the Syrian troops have departed, Maronite, Sunni, and Shi'a, Opposition and Loyalists will need to work together in order to form a stable and autonomous government for Lebanon.

Overcoming these types of divisions is inevitably a challenging task. However, I have great faith in the ability of the people of Lebanon to do so. In a recent poll conducted in Lebanon, citizens revealed that they derived their primary identification not as their religious or political orientation, but rather as being Lebanese. This is a promising indication of the direction which Lebanon's politics can take. If The people of Lebanon are able to make the welfare their nation rather than their own group interests their top priority, I am confident that Lebanon's government will be able to flourish.

TRIBUTE TO FORT BEND, ISD FOR WINNING THE AWARD FOR BEST DISTRICT-WIDE MOCK STUDENT ELECTION PROGRAM

**HON. RON PAUL**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 27, 2005*

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to congratulate the Fort Bend Independent School District (ISD) for winning the award for having the best district-wide mock student election program in the nation from the American Association of School Administrators and the National Student/Parent Mock Election. Fort Bend ISD's program is an innovative educational project combining resources from the social studies, math, and education technology departments to create an interactive website containing election resources, an online voting location, and a database of election results.

Fort Bend students can use the database to study election results, create spreadsheets, and draw conclusions about the election process. The website also includes information for parents, including a link to the county registrar's office for voter registration. Another part of the program involved the county election board deputizing teachers so the teachers could register adults, including eligible high school students, to vote in the 2004 election.

Each school within the Fort Bend ISD individualized its mock election by having candidates debate and the students decorate the polling places. Students also studied potential campaign strategies for the candidates they supported. Student participation were very strong, with over 40,000 votes cast.

The curricula developed to analyze mock election results were made available to elementary, middle and high school students. According to the National Student/Parent Mock Election, which evaluates similar curricula nationwide, Fort Bend ISD's curricula was very strong. Particularly impressive was Fort Bend ISD's utilization of Microsoft Excel to analyze and generate summaries of the election results.

Fort Bend ISD's mock student election project was an innovative use of technology and community support to educate children about the electoral process and thus prepare them to be active, and informed, citizens. I am proud to pay tribute to the teachers, administrators, parents, and especially the students of Fort Bend ISD for winning the award for the best mock student election project in the nation from the American Association of School Administrators and the National Student/Parent Mock Election.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF IKE AND DORIS EPSTEIN

**HON. HENRY CUELLAR**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 27, 2005*

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the many accomplishments of Ike and Doris Epstein, Junior Achievement of Laredo Business Hall of Fame Laureates.

Ike and Doris Epstein are a true American success story. When Ike started his business,