

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING OUTSTANDING TEACHERS IN DISTRICT 22

HON. E. CLAY SHAW, JR.

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 11, 2005

Mr. SHAW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor several notable teachers for the American Stars of Teaching award. This award is a recognition for exemplary classroom teachers who are successful in using innovative teaching strategies and raising academic achievement from all their students. To locate such teachers, the Department of Education (DEO) relies on nominations from various members of the community who believe these teachers are truly making a difference. There are five exemplary teachers in Florida's 22nd District that deserve recognition as an American Star of Teaching.

Anne Blankenship is a resident of Palm Beach County. She has taught for twenty years and currently teaches Advanced Placement English to 11th and 12th graders at Jupiter Community High School. For the past four years, she has had a 100 percent pass rate (above national average) for her students. This year, Anne, was also nominated for Palm Beach County's Dwyer Award for Excellence in Education.

Another resident of Palm Beach County is award recipient Cleve Maloon. He teaches Music Theory to students in grades 6th through 8th at Bak Middle School for the Arts. Cleve has been teaching for fourteen years and also directs the school's concert jazz bands. This year he was nominated for Palm Beach County's Dwyer Award for Excellence in Education. Also, in 2003, he was nominated for the Disney Hand Teacher Award which honors creativity in teaching.

Shawn Roney, of Palm Beach County, teaches Physical Education to students in grades K–5th at Grassy Waters Elementary school. Shawn has been teaching for seven years, created his school's Fitness and Wellness Club and coaches intramural team sports. He also integrated reading, writing, science, math and FCAT into his daily lessons. He was nominated for Palm Beach County's Dwyer Award for Excellence in Education this year.

Jasmin Deboo is from Broward County and has been teaching 5th grade at Deerfield Beach Elementary School for 11 years. Jasmin uses a hands-on approach to teaching and embraces the challenges of personalizing education for each student. She was the winner of the Broward County Teacher of the Year Award and was nominated for Florida's Teacher of the Year Award.

Nicole Greggs, a resident of Broward County, teaches music to grades K–5th at Plantation Park Elementary School. She has been a teacher for 14 years. Nicole has developed an updated electronic curriculum planning tool for music educators that aids in meeting grade level expectations for music and in aligning in-

structional focus with other subject areas. She is the founder and Director of MusicMakers! Summer Camp, believing that prolonged study of the Arts increases student achievement. She was nominated for this year's Broward County Teacher of the Year Award.

On behalf of Florida's 22nd District, I wish to congratulate Anne Blankenship, Cleve Maloon, Shawn Roney, Jasmin Deboo and Nicole Greggs for their truly admirable work. Only with the support of enthusiastic and caring teachers can future generations of American students hope to realize their dreams. These five nominees provide a shining example to all of South Florida's teachers.

HONORING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE HON. JUDGE KMIOTEK OF THE CHEEKTOWAGA TOWN COURT

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 11, 2005

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I stand here before you and this body to recognize the Honorable Judge Ronald E. Kmiotek, a man who has dedicated 38 years of devoted service protecting the public.

Judge Kmiotek began his life of public service nearly four decades ago by taking a civil service test. He scored high enough to be offered positions with the New York State Police as well as the Border Patrol Service. However, the love he had for his home town of Cheektowaga, New York was too great to accept those positions. As a result he chose to serve with the Cheektowaga Police Department.

For 25 years Judge Kmiotek valiantly served the Town of Cheektowaga as a guardian of the peace; while doing so he ascended to the rank of detective. Following his 25th year of service, he retired from the force or 5 years he expanded his services to the entire County of Erie while working as a Confidential Criminal Investigator for the Erie County District Attorney's Office.

In 1994, Judge Kmiotek truly transcended the boundaries of political parties, when without a single party endorsement he was elected to the town Court of Cheektowaga by an overwhelming majority. The people he so caringly served displayed their gratitude toward the Judge that day. He not only won, but carried the five most prolific party lines in the area.

While on the bench, Judge Kmiotek became widely known for his tough stance on crime. He was elected in a time when the smaller town of Cheektowaga had a higher DWI caseload than did the City of Buffalo. With his work cut out for him, the Judge began the slow and sometimes painstaking process of reforming the town he loved so much. For his efforts, he and his colleagues on the town bench were named the "Toughest Judges in Erie County."

Putting away DWI offenders was not the only thing the Judge has accomplished during his tenure. In 1997, Judge Kmiotek instituted a drug court. At the time it was only the second in the entire country. His court achieved a near 60 percent success rate, as well as seeing 98 percent of the people who successfully completed the program continuing to be sober to this day.

The Drug Court not only helped rehabilitate the narcotics offenders to reemerge into society as productive citizens, but also saved the County nearly \$3 million a year in healthcare costs.

When the Judge wasn't taking time out of his day to meet with the participants in the Drug Court program, or making the streets of Cheektowaga safer to drive on, he was spending time with his adoring family. He and his wife Irene have raised three wonderful children who have given them five equally remarkable grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the residents of the Town of Cheektowaga and all of New York's 27th Congressional District, I extend my sincerest gratitude to the Honorable Ronald Kmiotek for his enduring commitment to making Western New York a safer place to live.

IN RECOGNITION OF AMERICA'S ORCHESTRAS

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 11, 2005

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the important artistic contributions and community value of America's 1,800 orchestras.

This country's symphony, chamber, youth, and collegiate orchestras are among our Nation's most important cultural resources, which provide inspiration and enjoyment to more than 30 million individuals annually in cities, towns, and rural areas throughout the United States. They have shown a commitment to reaching all segments of their communities through education and community engagement programs.

In particular, I would like to honor and recognize the Cleveland Youth Orchestra. This orchestra, comprised of musically gifted middle and high school students, provides young people with a rare opportunity to work directly with musicians of the Cleveland Orchestra and conductors to further develop their musical skills. Each year, members of the orchestra perform various concerts throughout the northern Ohio region, helping to enrich our community's artistic experiences. The youth and diversity of the musicians in these programs provide a compelling model of what young musicians of all backgrounds can achieve when they are given such a wonderful opportunity. I can personally attest to the amazing talents of these gifted young musicians. I have

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