

Mr. Speaker, it is with great admiration and pride that I ask my colleagues to join me today to salute an exceptional woman. Barbara Arvi has made the Southwest Museum a meaningful, lasting, and vital cultural center for Southern California and the Nation.

RECOGNIZING THE HAYS COUNTY  
SHERIFF'S OFFICE FOR THEIR  
LEADERSHIP IN THE NATIONAL  
NIGHT OUT CAMPAIGN

**HON. HENRY CUELLAR**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 29, 2005*

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Sheriff Don Montague and the Hays County Sheriff's Office for their leadership in the National Night Out campaign.

Currently celebrating its 22nd Anniversary, the National Night Out (NNO) is a unique crime and drug prevention event sponsored by the National Association of Town Watch (NATW). Last year's National Night Out campaign involved citizens, law enforcement agencies, civic groups, businesses, neighborhood organizations, and local officials from over 10,000 communities throughout the United States. In all, over 34 million people participated in 2004. This year's event will be held on August 2nd.

The key to combating crime is by getting neighbors to know their neighbors—this is one of the main reasons NNO has been so effective. NNO helps heighten awareness of the efforts in crime and drug prevention, while also increasing participation in local crime deterrence programs. NNO strengthens neighborhood spirit, and encourages law enforcement and community partnerships. Most importantly, NNO sends a message to criminals, letting them know that neighborhoods are organized and ready to fighting back.

I am honored to recognize Sheriff Don Montague and the Hays County Sheriff's Office for their leadership roles in supporting the National Night Out. I encourage all Hays County residents to join forces with the thousands of other communities across the country in promoting cooperative crime prevention; your support is vital in the fight against crime.

HONORING THE DISTINGUISHED  
SERVICE OF ALLEN CLARK

**HON. JEB HENSARLING**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 29, 2005*

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to honor Mr. Allen Clark for his distinguished military, business and public service careers, and thank him for his outstanding contributions to his community and his country.

This September will mark the end of Mr. Clark's service at the Veterans Administration North Texas Health Care System, bringing a close to his long and distinguished career as a spokesperson and representative for veterans in our community. Always keeping his fellow veterans at the heart of each of his decisions, Allen Clark has been a strong and

vocal advocate for the VA and veterans issues.

A graduate of the United States Military at West Point and decorated combat veteran, Allen Clark bravely served his country in the ranks of the U.S. Army, volunteering for service in Vietnam. As a Military Intelligence Officer assigned to the 5th Special Forces Group in South Vietnam, Allen Clark was seriously wounded. His injury required the amputation of both his legs below the knee. This life-altering experience may have taken his legs, but it did not take his spirit. For his distinguished service Clark received the Purple Heart, the Silver Star for gallantry in action, the Combat Infantryman's Badge, Army Airborne Wings, and the Vietnam Campaign Ribbon with two battle stars.

After returning from Vietnam, Allen Clark built a successful business career, earning a Masters of Business Administration degree and later working in finance, investments, oil and gas exploration, real estate, marketing, and mortgage lending in Texas. He was president of three oil companies in Midland, Texas, as well as a co-founder of a real estate investment company in Austin, Texas. His career as a public servant is equally impressive. Allen Clark served as Special Assistant for Administration to Texas Governor William Clements and Assistant Secretary for Veterans Liaison in the Administration of President George H.W. Bush. In 1991, he was confirmed as the Director of the National Cemetery System. In 2001, he was appointed Public Affairs Officer at the Veterans Administration North Texas Health Care System after serving there as Administrative Officer for Spinal Cord Injury Service and Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation Service.

President Calvin Coolidge once said, "The nation which forgets its defenders will itself be forgotten." As a combat veteran and as a public servant, Allen Clark understands that better than most Americans. Throughout his life he has done his very best to ensure that our nation never forgets the sacrifices that our soldiers, sailors, marines and airmen made to defend our freedom.

Allen Clark is a dedicated public servant, a hero, and a true patriot. But I am most proud to call him my friend. His peers, his fellow veterans, and those like me who have had the privilege to know and work with Allen Clark, will greatly miss him. As the U.S. Representative for the Fifth Congressional District of Texas, today I would like to honor the service, sacrifice and bravery of Allen Clark, and thank him for the outstanding work he has done on behalf of our nation's veterans.

TEACHERS COLLEGE AT COLUMBIA  
UNIVERSITY: PUTTING THE  
NEEDS OF OUR CHILDREN FIRST

**HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 29, 2005*

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to bring to your attention a crisis which is before many of our public schools today—the shortage of highly skilled teachers in our city's worst schools. This problem has not only affected schools in my state of New York, but is nationwide.

Excellence should be expected of every child. And the opportunity to excel must be guaranteed to every child. The right to a free, world-class public education has been the birthright of Americans for well over a century. It is a moral imperative that forms the foundation of democracy, the underpinning of the economy, and the cornerstone of America's greatness.

To provide every child the opportunity to excel, America must ensure that qualified, caring teachers educate and inspire their students in an environment that supports a love of learning. That means a vibrant classroom in a safe, modern school building equipped with the best learning technologies; supported by active, involved parents; and driven by a collective passion for educational excellence.

This opportunity must be guaranteed within the Nation's public schools and these sentiments are echoed by the outstanding staff and leadership at Teachers College at Columbia University. I commend them for not only seeing that the problem exists, but in advocating that something be done to address it.

I'd like to take this opportunity to submit to the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, an article written by Arthur Levine, President of Teachers College at Columbia University and Darlyne Bailey, Vice President for Academic Affairs and Dean of the College which speaks to this issue and what our priorities should be.

BRINGING GREAT TEACHERS TO STRUGGLING  
SCHOOLS: THE MOMENT IS NOW

(BY ARTHUR LEVINE AND DARLYNE BAILEY)

We live in a time when people rightfully have become skeptical about the political process and the possibilities for moving beyond rhetoric to action. Yet every now and then, like the inverse of a perfect storm, forces align themselves in ways that permit substantive change.

In New York City, we have just such a moment before us right now—an opportunity to dramatically improve our public school system by addressing the issue that, more than any other, has limited the hopes and prospects of vast numbers of low-income and disadvantaged children.

That issue is the dearth of highly skilled, experienced teachers where they are needed most: in the city's worst schools. Some 60 percent of our city's low-performing students are concentrated in just one-third of our schools, nearly all of them in high-poverty areas such as Bedford Stuyvesant, Harlem, Washington Heights and the South Bronx. The prospect of failure in these schools is so overwhelming that teacher turnover is constant, with even the best and most dedicated decamping for districts where the pay is higher and working conditions allow them to be more effective.

Back in April, a special commission of the New York City Council outlined highly detailed recommendations for righting these wrongs. In addition to calling for system-wide caps and reductions in class sizes, the Commission recommended that all teachers to be awarded salary incentives of 3 percent (to be added to any negotiated increases) in order to align local salaries with the regional labor market. To increase the number of qualified teachers in low-performing, high need schools, teachers in the most challenging schools would receive as much as an additional 23 percent if they teach in target schools that adopt an extended-year (11-month) calendar. Teachers whose skills qualify them for a newly-instituted designation of "Master Teacher" would receive a further 10-percent increase, and Master Teachers who chose to work in targeted high-needs