

rights of America's newest residents as they make the transition to citizens. America's immigrants become many of its most active participants in civic life and contributors to our vibrant culture.

Over the last decade, I have been privileged to work with the Latino community, particularly on immigration issues and voter registration with Isabel Melendez. Her hard work organizing the Latino community to register and to get out and vote exemplifies the political activism thriving in the community.

I am proud to say that Latinos in Lawrence are continually achieving a higher socioeconomic status and improving the quality of life for their families. As a natural result, more and more Latino candidates are running for, and being elected to, public office. In my own district, I am proud to honor Julia Silverio who became the first Dominican woman to win public office in New England when she was elected to the Lawrence City Council. She is a member of the Dominican American National Roundtable will receive its Leadership Award tomorrow on October 8th.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in celebrating National Hispanic Heritage Month. It honors a powerful and patriotic heritage that has made our nation stronger through its inclusion. Hispanic Americans have profoundly changed and improved this nation in every facet, from the international to the national to the local level. All Americans owe this group their gratitude and honor.

HONORING MERCER COUNTY

HON. NICK J. RAHALL, II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 18, 2005

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, today, I honor Mercer County, West Virginia, for being recognized by the America's Promise Organization as one of the best communities in the Nation for our youth. This is because of their successful efforts to provide a healthy, safe and caring environment. As Mercer County was the only county in West Virginia to be named in the report, their efforts set the benchmark very high for all of WV and beyond. Mercer County is also taking great strides to become an even better community with its innovative Mercer Drug Treatment Program. This innovative program provides services to nonviolent offenders with a history of drug use and minor possession.

The Mercer County Drug Treatment Program was recently awarded a grant of \$27,282 from the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program; I have seen the program in action first hand and my visit easily convinced me of the meritorious value inherent in this exemplary program. Treatment Programs such as the one in Mercer County play an important role in our community and their financial support certainly has merit, especially with the ongoing problems of methamphetamines throughout our state and nation. This funding is crucial in helping people get back on their feet and helping them to rectify past mistakes they have made. By providing cost-effective, pro-active, community-inclusive and community building solutions such as this, we show the compassion of our Nation, and live up to our West Virginia heritage

of brotherhood and dedication to our fellow man. I am proud to have a county in my State and specifically my district that is taking such positive steps to actively engage all of its citizens, young and old, in working for a greater community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JIM RYUN

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 18, 2005

Mr. RYUN of Kansas. On Monday, October 17, 2005, I was unable to be present for the following rollcall votes: Journal vote (rollcall 521), H. Res. 457 (rollcall 522), H. Res. 491 (rollcall 523).

Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall 521.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall 522.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall 523.

TRIBUTE TO ROY FRIEDERSDORF

HON. MIKE PENCE

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 18, 2005

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask that the members of the House of Representatives allow me to bring to their attention the good works of a man who has long been active in the rural electrification program in Indiana, and who is now approaching his well-deserved opportunity to step down from the pinnacle of his field. The end of his term will leave a void for rural electricians in Indiana that will not be easy to replace. Today's comments are meant to remind us all of the many people around our Nation whose unceasing efforts contribute to the betterment of our quality of life.

Indiana's rural electric cooperatives have been enhanced over the past two years by the leadership and commitment of Mr. Roy Friedersdorf. In December, Mr. Friedersdorf will complete his term as president of Indiana Statewide Association of Rural Electric Cooperatives, Inc., the service association for 37 of the State's electric cooperatives.

His dedication to the betterment of rural Indiana, and his efforts to make a difference in the lives of those in his community and throughout the State, make him an example of the American virtues that we should extol in this august body.

Mr. Friedersdorf, a Westport, Indiana native, is a second-generation electric cooperative leader. His father, Robert, was a member of the Decatur County REMC board of directors for 35 years, and he also served as board chairman from 1975 to 1981 and as the REMC's representative on the Hoosier Energy REC board.

In 1994, Mr. Friedersdorf was elected by REMC members in a six-county area to join the Decatur County REMC board. Just a few years later, his fellow REMC board members elected him to the Indiana Statewide REC board. From 2002 to 2004, he served as vice president of Indiana Statewide. Mr.

Friedersdorf juggles his administrative duties on the statewide level with his responsibilities as president of the Decatur County REMC board.

Not only has Mr. Friedersdorf made his mark in the electric cooperative industry with his integrity and sense of purpose, he has been a leader in his community as well. A corn, soybean and wheat farmer and Pioneer sales representative, Mr. Friedersdorf is a former president of the county grain growers association. He supports the Westport Kiwanis and previously was a county fair board member.

As active as he is in setting policies that impact thousands in rural and suburban Indiana, Mr. Friedersdorf maintains a down-to-earth and altruistic attitude. "I don't have a desire just to build up my resume," he has said. "I'm here to do the job . . . I like giving back and helping others."

Mr. Friedersdorf keeps his perspective on the values that are important, as he devotes much of his time to his family roles. He and his wife Denise have been married for 24 years, and they keep busy actively raising their 3 sons, Anthony, Wyatt, and Jared, who are in college, middle school, and elementary school.

Roy Friedersdorf is the type of person who works hard every day at improving the basic foundations of American life: family, business, and civic. His term of office as president of Indiana Statewide has been evidence of that, and for his devotion, I salute him today.

ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

HON. C. L. "BUTCH" OTTER

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 18, 2005

Mr. OTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to draw the attention of the House to a school from my district that has received the No Child Left Behind-Blue Ribbon Schools award from the United States Department of Education.

St. Mary's Catholic Elementary School, in Moscow, Idaho, stands as the only school in the State of Idaho to receive this prestigious and important educational award. This award honors public and private K-12 schools that are either academically superior in their states or that demonstrate dramatic gains in student achievement.

St. Mary's School strives to encourage its students to grow spiritually; to develop a lifelong love of learning and to achieve their highest personal and academic potential. This mission represents and promotes the State of Idaho and the enormous potential of its people.

The children of America are our most valuable asset. St. Mary's school provides a successful K-6 academic program and exemplifies the high quality of education and emphasis on learning in my great State. I hope the House will join me in acknowledging St. Mary's Catholic Elementary School's achievement.