

He has expanded programming and highlighted Nashville's unique history and culture. We are thankful for Steve's service and we wish him nothing but the best in his next endeavor.

TRIBUTE TO USAF LIEUTENANT
COLONEL ROBERT M. WALKER

HON. BOB BEAUPREZ

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 16, 2005

Mr. BEAUPREZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to USAF Lt Colonel Robert M. Walker, Deputy Group Commander of the 460th Operations Group, 460th Space Wing, Buckley Air Force Base. Lt Col Walker has been assigned to Buckley AFB since February 20, 2004, and has recently been selected to attend the prestigious USAF Air War College.

Lt Col Walker distinguished himself in 2004 in the performance of outstanding service to the United States as Director of the Space-Based Infrared System Mission Transfer Site Activation Task Force. He led a Total Force 25 person task force that seamlessly transferred the \$16B Space-Based Infrared System to the newly activated 460th Space Wing, Buckley AFB, Aurora CO thus realizing USAF Space Command's vision for space-based warning operations.

In undertaking this endeavor, Lt Col Walker's tireless efforts and ability to work with myriad agencies, organizations, and people allowed for the activation of the 460th Space Wing in a timely and efficient manner.

Lt Col Walker distinguished service continued into 2005 when, as Deputy Group Commander of the 460th Operations Group, 460th Space Wing, Buckley Air Force Base, Lt Col Walker was second in command of an 850 person Total Force Group where his wisdom, experience and work ethic established a foundation for excellence in operations, personnel, communications, and strategic planning.

His accomplishments have truly had a profound impact not only on Buckley AFB but on the surrounding community as well.

Mr. Speaker, it is a pleasure to offer my thanks to Lt Col Walker for his commitment and record of achievement at Buckley Air Force Base in Aurora, Colorado. Lt Col Walker is a valuable asset to the United States Air Force and our nation and I wish him well in his future endeavors.

HONORING REV. VINCENT M.
COOKE, S.J. UPON RECEIVING
THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF
ARCHITECTURE FRIENDS OF AR-
CHITECTURE AWARD

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 16, 2005

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Father Vincent M. Cooke, S.J., President of Canisius College in Buffalo, New York, who is being recognized by the American Institute of Architecture with the Friends of Architecture Award.

In 1993 Western New York was pleased to welcome Father Cooke as the new President

of Canisius, a 36-acre private Jesuit college located on Main Street in the City of Buffalo.

A man with a brilliant educational past, with certificates of degree from Fordham University, Loyola Seminary, Woodstock College, Yale University and the University of Wisconsin-Madison, Fr. Cooke's vision for Canisius' future would take the college and surrounding community to places never imagined.

Over the past 13 years, Fr. Cooke has led the way in planning and implementing \$115 million in capital projects at Canisius, converting the college from a commuter college to an institution ranked number one residential college experience among Jesuit institutions and number five nationwide.

Father Cooke has taken a hands-on approach with each and every project which has resulted in state-of-the-art living and recreation spaces and cutting edge classrooms. His success has earned him recognition by The Buffalo News as the second most influential civic leader in terms of his positive impact on the community.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure and gratitude that I stand here today to recognize Father Vincent Cooke as a Friend of Architecture. Canisius College employs the motto "Where leaders are made" and Fr. Cooke stands as a shining role model for his students and an example of how true leadership can transform a college and a community.

SCHOOL BUILDING ENHANCEMENT
ACT

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 16, 2005

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation that will help schools implement energy saving measures to reduce their energy costs.

We are all too painfully aware of the rising cost of energy. Americans across the Nation are being forced to make tough decisions in order to heat their homes or fill up their gas tanks. The recent spike in energy prices will also be felt in our schools which already spend \$6 billion on energy costs—more than the amount they spend on textbooks and computers combined. Schools across the country are already facing tight budgets; rising energy costs will only worsen their budget situation and could lead to the loss of important school programs.

However, there are ways that schools can offset the soaring price of energy. Through basic changes in the operations and maintenance of school buildings, operating costs can be reduced from 5-15 percent. To achieve even greater savings, schools can retrofit their buildings with more efficient systems and appliances.

Although these investments produce economic benefits in the long term, start up financing is often difficult for cash strapped school systems. That is why I am introducing legislation that will provide schools with federal funding to implement these structural changes. Specifically, my legislation will provide grants through the Environmental Protection Agency and the Department of Energy for schools that are seeking to make energy efficient upgrades

in their schools or build a new energy efficient building. Additionally, this legislation will allow schools to work with the Department of Energy to improve transportation systems that are available to students, employees and other members of the community.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill that will benefit our environment while assisting schools reduce their operating costs.

CONGRATULATING PAULA
DAWNING

HON. FRED UPTON

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 16, 2005

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Paula Dawning who recently was awarded the honor of State Superintendent of the Year for 2006 in the State of Michigan. Dawning has been the Superintendent of Benton Harbor Areas Schools since July of 2002 after she retired from her career as an executive at AT&T.

The Benton Harbor school system has made progress by leaps and bounds under her direction of during the past few years. Her constant commitment to academic improvement and reform—including additions like the new freshmen academy, improved reading programs, and her fiscal responsibility—have helped bring about a new sense of hope and achievement in a school system that has faced difficult challenges.

The award came as a surprise to Paula, who was not even made aware of her nomination until she had already received the award. In her usual humble demeanor she accepted the prestigious award that recognized her as an outstanding school superintendent; evidence that she stands out as the best among many highly qualified school system administrators.

I want to personally thank Paula for her service which has improved not only the education, but also the lives of the students in Benton Harbor. Paula's hard work and dedication to the children of her community make her a living example to all of people of Southwestern Michigan. I congratulate her once again for her distinguished award.

IN SUPPORT OF MALCOLM MEL-
VILLE "MAC" LAWRENCE POST
OFFICE

HON. STEVE BUYER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 16, 2005

Mr. BUYER. Mr. Speaker, some say the measure of a man is the depth of the footprint he leaves behind. Malcolm Melville Lawrence, known as "Mac," left a deep footprint on the community of Francesville as a war hero, community leader, and a teacher.

Born on a farm in Wheatfield, Indiana, Mac attended Purdue University on scholarship where he pursued a degree in Vocational Agriculture, Education, and Science. Despite being denied acceptance into the ROTC program at Purdue, Mac was drafted 5 months after graduating from college and immediately called to Fort Benjamin Harrison in Indianapolis to serve his country.