

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.

It may be insufficient to say Mac simply did his duty. Landing on the beaches of Normandy on June 6, 1944, with so many other young men from the greatest generation, Mac served as a Medic alongside the 1st Battalion, 18th Regiment of the 1st Infantry Division. Mac was awarded the Silver Star for valor, two Purple Hearts, and two Bronze Stars during five campaigns in World War II.

After the war, Mac and his wife Phyllis moved to Francesville where he began teaching at Francesville High School in 1946. Mac was beloved by his students for his patience and dedication to his craft, teaching everything from vocational agriculture to industrial arts. He finished as an administrator after more than 30 years in education.

Mac was the kind of person every community needs. Whether it was his service to his country or community, Mac asked nothing in return. He served on the library board, was active in Future Farmers of America, and participated in 4-H for 25 years: He was a pillar of the Francesville community and deserved every honor bestowed to him. Though he left this world on July 8, 2004, his legacy lives on.

I welcome the opportunity to further honor Mac Lawrence with the naming of the Francesville Post Office, the Malcolm Melville "Mac" Lawrence Post Office. Leading by quiet example while he was living, Mac deserves resounding recognition after death.

#### TRIBUTE TO JESSIE, GEORGE AND KYLE HETHERINGTON

#### HON. RAÚL M. GRIJALVA

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 16, 2005*

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Jessie, George, and Kyle Hetherington. Jessie and George Hetherington, two grandparents, have faced many obstacles in the process of adopting their grandson, Kyle. This family is to be commended for they have persisted through personal and legal struggles to ensure Kyle's adoption.

Kyle entered Jessie and George's home in October of 2000. This family joins the growing trend of 6 million children being raised by "Grand Families" keeping children in loving homes. The Hetherington family is exemplary proof that often the best chance a child has at leading a normal life filled with affection is with a family of their own.

It is Grand Families such as the Hetherington's that provide a safe and stable home for children who would otherwise fall into foster care systems. But the commitment to a happy family has many obstacles and requires perseverance. The determination of this family defines unconditional love.

When Jessie and George first brought Kyle home, they lived in an age-restricted community. To keep Kyle, the family moved. Finding a new home was the first obstacle. Then, 15 months later, Kyle's mother regained custody. Kyle later returned to the Hetherington home, but his health, physically and emotionally, was worse than before. Since then, the family has been through several legal battles to keep Kyle from being returned to his mother, an absent father fighting Jessie and George's adoption rights, and accessing services for Kyle's health needs.

The family has undergone an intense legal pursuit but has been guided with love, patience, and support from Kinship, Adoption, Resource, Education (K.A.R.E.) program. The K.A.R.E. program works with Grandparents raising Grandchildren, and helped the Hetherington family navigate a system that does not understand the strength and needs of Grand Families.

The Hetherington family will soon celebrate a legal victory and adopt Kyle on December 6 of this year. Their emotional and legal struggle represents the battle of will over circumstance. This day is an early birthday gift for Kyle and a life long family gift. Kyle is a second grader at Miller Elementary School in Tucson, AZ and turns 8 on November 23.

Jessie and George Hetherington's love, hard work, and dedication, and that of all Grand Families, should be acknowledged today.

As Jessie states "Love can work wonders done in the right way".

#### WINTER OUTDOORS MONTH RESOLUTION

#### HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 16, 2005*

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, as obesity and the associated health risks continue to increase it is important to encourage Americans of all ages to participate in physical activity all year long.

To help spread this message, today I am introducing with my colleague from New York Representative JOHN SWEENEY, a resolution urging the President to declare a Winter Sports Month.

This resolution notes the increase in adult and childhood obesity along with the negative consequences of extremely overweight and obese people including a decrease in the average life span and rising health care costs stemming from obesity related illness. It also includes the role winter sport activities can play in addressing obesity and the positive effects of participating in physical activity. It resolves that the House of Representatives urge the President to declare January 2006 Winter Sports Month.

Alpine skiing, snowboarding, snowshoeing and cross country skiing, not only offer excellent aerobic and anaerobic exercise but they also are activities that allow an entire family to play together in a natural environment. Colder temperatures and snow should not deter outdoor activities.

"Winter Outdoors Month" would remind citizens of the importance to maintain a consistent exercise program and healthy lifestyle all year 12 months out of the year. Winter sports offer unique opportunities to allow all Americans a chance to be together outside, enjoy the season.

#### A TRIBUTE TO RETIRING ASSO- CIATE PARLIAMENTARIAN MUFTIAH MCCARTIN

#### HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 16, 2005*

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Associate Parliamentarian Muftiah McCartin, who has served in the Office of the Parliamentarian with distinction for nearly 30 years.

Muftiah began her career in the Office of the Clerk in 1976 and earned her bachelor's degree and juris doctorate by studying at night. She became the first woman appointed a Parliamentarian in 1991.

When I came to Congress in 1993, Muftiah was like a navigator on a ship. I was unfamiliar with the trappings of the House of Representatives and it was overwhelming. To find the Parliamentarian had lived in Carmel Valley, California and knew my District helped me adjust.

I commend Muftiah as a role model to everyone. A lawyer and working mother, she was here at all hours, as long as the House was in session, sometimes at the expense of her family. Yet she has raised beautiful children: Marissa, Elaine, Sandra and Luke with her loving husband, Terry.

It's always sad to lose longtime professional staff; you lose that irreplaceable, institutional memory. But I wish her well in her new endeavors, including spending more time with her family and training for her next marathon or triathlon.

H.R. 1101

#### HON. DUNCAN HUNTER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 16, 2005*

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, legislation which I have introduced, H.R. 1101, revoking a Public Land Order for certain lands erroneously included in the Cibola National Wildlife Refuge in California, was passed by this body on May 23, 2005. Additionally, this legislation was recently reported out of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee on September 28, 2005, and referred to the full Senate for consideration.

It is my understanding that the Committee included report language with this bill expressing its intent that the 140 acres H.R. 1101 transfers from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to the U.S. Bureau of Land Management not be viewed as an endorsement for development and that any management changes proposed by the Bureau be made through the appropriate planning process and include the continued protection of natural, cultural, and historical resources located on this land. I rise today to state my concurrence with this report language and encourage the Senate to act quickly on passage of this important legislation.