

organization that has helped those affected by this debilitating disease for over 30 years and is the Nation's only organization solely dedicated to advocating on behalf of the Spina Bifida community. With almost 57 chapters in more than 125 communities, the SBA brings families together to answer questions, voice concerns, and lend support to one another.

Together the SBA and various local SBA California chapters work tirelessly to help families living with Spina Bifida meet the challenges and enjoy the rewards of raising their children. I thank the local chapters of SBA, especially those in my State of California for all they have done and all that they will continue to do to advance the needs of the Spina Bifida community.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, we have come a long way in the prevention of new incidences of spina bifida, as well as in the treatment and care of those individuals impacted by this serious birth defect. But there is still much to do. During this month of National Spina Bifida Awareness, we must commit ourselves to the goals of increased prevention, expanded health education, more thorough research, and improved quality of life for all those living with Spina Bifida.

HONORING CREATIVE BEGINNINGS

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to honor Creative Beginnings, a South Florida organization dedicated to assisting women and children transition out of homelessness. Since its inception in 2000, Creative Beginnings has provided case management services on a one-to-one basis to provide homeless women with the support they need to foster growth, discipline, and self-commitment as they break the cycle of homelessness.

Every woman helped by Creative Beginnings undergoes an intensive personalized process aimed at helping them to assess, and care for, their own needs. The successful conclusion of this process entails reintegration into society. Counseling is offered throughout the process to develop and enhance independent basic life skills. These include work adjustment, job readiness training, and vocational rehabilitation to ensure that the transition out of homelessness is permanent. In addition to their own personal network, organizations such as the Salvation Army and local places of worship have offered their support in helping Creative Beginnings fulfill its goals. Through the tireless dedication of Creative Beginning's professional and caring staff, numerous homeless women and children have begun the path to happy, meaningful, and productive lifestyles.

My heart goes out to all the employees and volunteers at Creative Beginnings, but I would like to personally congratulate and thank Executive Director Teresita R. Terrón, Secretary Isabel Gonzalez-Jettinghoff, Treasurer Rose Marie Rojas Marty, and Rev. Fr. Jorge Bello for their supreme efforts at making Creative Beginnings what it is today.

The Village of Key Biscayne and the City of Coral Gables have already recognized Cre-

ative Beginnings for its commitment to homeless women and children. Creative Beginnings provides an integral service to our community, and plays an invaluable role in the lives of all who those who have been aided by their efforts.

The hard work and individual attention given to every woman is truly extraordinary and the entire South Florida community is truly grateful for their noble efforts. I congratulate Creative Beginnings for their work, and wish them continued success in helping individuals regain their rightful places in society.

HONORING CLINT BOLTE

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Clint Bolte of Chambersburg, Pennsylvania, who has been named "2006 Citizen of the Year" by the Borough Council and the Waters Award Committee. This distinguished award is given annually, in memory of the late Donald "Mike" Waters, to the person who most exemplifies the efforts and achievements in community service once performed by Waters throughout his lifetime.

The "Citizen of the Year" award was presented to Clint, a local businessman and principal of C. Clint Bolte and Associates, by Mr. Waters' widow, Jenny, and son, Don. They remarked that Clint has "carried on Waters' tradition of community service," just as Clint and Mr. Waters did while co-chairing a community spring cleanup campaign together some years ago.

While accepting the honor on September 18, 2006, Clint said that the award was "very much a surprise," and that he was incredibly grateful for the recognition. Clint also remarked that the late "Mike" Waters was "very much an individual of extraordinary faith who loved his family and was passionate about his community."

Clint Bolte, himself, has contributed endlessly to the betterment of the Chambersburg community, and Franklin County as a whole. Clint has worked through organizations such as the Chambersburg Club, the Rotary Foundation, the United Way, and the YMCA. To cite each individual accomplishment and contribution that Clint has been a part of would be nearly impossible. His involvement in the community over the years has been immeasurable. Jenny Waters may have put it best, speaking about Clint Bolte, saying that he has selflessly dedicated himself to the Chambersburg community "just like 'Mike' did."

RECOGNIZING FRANCES WILLARD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL AND GARFIELD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL IN THE FOURTH DISTRICT

HON. TODD TIAHRT

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize the excellent efforts and achievement of two schools in the fourth district of Kansas.

Last Friday, I was notified that Frances Willard Elementary School in Ark City and Garfield Elementary School in Augusta have been named 2006 No Child Left Behind—Blue Ribbon Schools. Schools that receive this honor are academically superior or show dramatic gains in student achievement.

The students, teachers, and administrators at Frances Willard and Garfield Elementary Schools are to be commended. Their dedication and hard work is evident and I am proud of their accomplishment. These two schools are excellent examples of how all students can exceed and achieve higher standards.

This is an incredible honor and truly shows the commitment to education in the Augusta and Ark City communities. I would also like to recognize the parents for the support of their children. Parental involvement in a child's education is crucial to his or her success.

As we begin another school year, I encourage students, teachers, administrators and parents in Kansas and around the nation to continue their efforts to close the achievement gap so all children can learn and succeed. We, as a nation, have to do more now to prepare these young people for their futures. I am confident that we will continue to see improvements each year and I hope to be honoring more schools next year.

Congratulations to Frances Willard Elementary School in Ark City and to Garfield Elementary School in Augusta for their outstanding achievement in earning the 2006 No Child Left Behind—Blue Ribbon Schools.

THE PEOPLE OF NORTH KOREA

HON. JOSEPH R. PITTS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, I stand up today on behalf of the people of North Korea.

A number of reports have detailed the horrific suffering of the people there—a suffering that makes China look like paradise. Those held in the prison camps in North Korea endure torture, forced abortions, and brutal deaths.

In early October, the Yoduk story musical will be performed in our area—this musical tells the story of the suffering in a North Korean prison camp, Director Jung, Sung-San is a North Korean defector himself, whose father died in one of the political prison camps.

Interestingly, the South Korean government did not want this musical produced in South Korea, but the director thought it was so important for the world to know the story of North Korea that he put up his own kidney as collateral for a \$20,000 loan to ensure the musical was produced.

Mr. Speaker, that a North Korean was willing to put up his own kidney to produce this story speaks to the gravity of the suffering in North Korea. The international community must get its head out of the sand and ACT to stop the terrible suffering of the North Korean people.