HONORING THE CAREER OF PRINCIPAL WILLIE SANDOVAL

HON. KEVIN MCCARTHY
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, June 6, 2013

Mr. MCCARTHY of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the career of Principal Willie Sandoval, who is retiring after dedicating 45 years of his life to the Kern High School District in California.

In the 1980s, Willie began as a teacher and—how I remember him best—a coach at Bakersfield High School, my alma mater. In the mid–1980s during my time at BHS, Coach Sandoval taught me the importance of perseverance and a constant desire to learn, both on and off the field.

By 1997, Willie was eligible for retirement. Instead, his passion for educating our young people led him to take on new challenges and continue to serve Bakersfield students. He is the only principal in Kern High School District’s history to open two new schools—Gold- en Valley High School and Independence High School. And as principal of Independence, he was constantly innovating new opportunities and educational experiences for his students. For example, Willie partnered with the California Department of Energy and PG&E to found the New Energy Academy, which infuses career technical education into our students’ traditional academic endeavors at Independence. Coach Sandoval is a living example of the mantra “never give up.”

Though his tenure in the education system comes to an end, his legacy will forever be found in the halls of our schools. President John F. Kennedy once said, “After the dust of centuries has passed over our cities, we will be remembered not for victories or defeats in battle or in politics, but for our contribution to the human spirit.” Mr. Speaker, Principal Willie Sandoval’s contribution to the human spirit through the education of our young Americans is truly admirable. Throughout his illustrious career, he has remained steadfast to his vision, passion, and advocacy for education.

I wish Willie well in retirement. And, as he enters this new chapter in his life, I know he is looking forward to spending more time with his wife Nettie, their daughter Carrie, son William, and his four grandchildren. On behalf of thousands of parents and students, I salute and honor a truly exceptional teacher, coach, principal, and leader in our community, Willie Sandoval, who leaves a legacy of hope, education, and inspiration through Kern County and the State of California.

HONORING DOROTHY ROGERS PORTER

HON. TERI A. SEWELL
OF ALABAMA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, June 6, 2013

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and pay tribute to the life and legacy of Mrs. Dorothy Rogers Porter, a beloved mentor and friend from the Great state of Alabama who passed away on June 1, 2013 at the age of 77. This phenomenal woman was an extraordinary source of wisdom and guidance to me and so many others. While I am deeply saddened by her passing I am confident her legacy will live through the countless lives she touched during her lifetime.

For 38 years, this American jewel was first lady of the historic First Baptist Church in Birmingham, Alabama. Alongside her husband, civil rights icon Rev. John T. Porter, Mrs. Porter became a fixture in the local community. But many will remember her for her extraordinary musicianship and her dynamic voice. As head of the children’s choir, Mrs. Porter inspired a small in retirement. Coach Sandoval taught me the importance of perseverance and a constant desire to learn, both on and off the field.

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