

dealing with their past in order that they may then embrace the necessary values that will sustain their nation in the future. In this same unity of spirit we ask that they let our people go.

May their decisions and your deliberations lead to freedom and peace for the Tibetan and Chinese people.

G-d bless.

A TRIBUTE TO THE EL CAMINO
REAL HIGH SCHOOL ACADEMIC
DECATHLON TEAM

HON. BRAD SHERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 23, 1997

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an exceptional group of individuals from my congressional district, the El Camino Real High School Academic Decathlon team. This team not only won the local and State competitions, but this last weekend competed in St. George, UT where they finished second in the national competition.

This is not the first time that El Camino Real has competed for this national honor. El Camino Real has won the California Academic Decathlon three times, and this was the school's third appearance in the national competition since 1992. This kind of continued success can only be attributed to diligence, hard work, and perseverance. Indeed, this impressive history speaks volumes about the individuals that we are honoring here today from the coaches, parents, friends, and of course students who were willing to sacrifice and give the extra effort.

Yet hard work alone does not explain their success as this group exemplifies the word teamwork. The team consists of nine students, two coaches, and seven faculty assistants compelled by the rigorous nature of this competition to study, train, and act as a cohesive unit. The manner in which points are accumulated in the Academic Decathlon competition requires every team member to make a significant contribution; indeed, the team is only as strong as its weakest link. Through their cooperation and hard work, the team has learned that self-sacrifice can lead to excellence. I believe our ability to enter and contribute to these types of relationships both as families and communities is key to our future.

Finally Mr. Speaker, I am proud to note that this track record of academic excellence is found in one of our public schools. We continuously hear about the problems facing the Nation's public education system, and although there are many obstacles and they are daunting, I believe they can be overcome. Many of the qualities that made this team successful can be used throughout our schools, such as hard work in a team atmosphere and looking to peers for support and accountability.

This team consists of nine students: Steve Chae, Michal Engelman, Robert Magee, Tamara Miller, Michael Montgomery, Jacqueline Moses, Roger Rees, Dawn Robinson, and Adi Zarchi. The faculty assistants are James Centorino, Charles Doherty, Rebecca Gessert, Jerry Hickman, Mark Johnson, Jack Liebel, Naomi McCoy, Lillian Ruben, and Shukla Sarkar; the team is led by head coaches Sharon Markenson and David Roberson. Principal Ronald Bauer's guidance and support was an-

other critical ingredient in the team's success. I commend not only the El Camino Real team, but every individual involved in similar academic pursuits. As educator John Dewey noted, "Education is not preparation for life, education is life itself."

Mr. Speaker, I am privileged to represent such outstanding young people, as they are truly the future of this great Nation.

HONORING DR. REBECCA W.
STEELE

HON. CARRIE P. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 23, 1997

Mrs. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the musical genius of Dr. Rebecca W. Steele.

On April 27, the board of directors of the Richard V. Moore Community Center, Inc., will honor Dr. Rebecca W. Steele, director of Bethune-Cookman College Concert Chorale and Young Artists group, with a musical tribute. Over a period of 50 years, Dr. Steele's expansive career has included the positions of choral music director, voice teacher, music educator, singer, and arts administrator. Family, friends, and colleagues will pay tribute to this individual who has touched the lives of hundreds of young people across the State of Florida and the Nation.

A member of the faculty of Bethune-Cookman College since 1976, Dr. Steele is currently professor of music and director of cultural affairs. She has a Ph.D. from Florida State University in humanities and music, with special emphasis in multicultural music education. She earned dual masters in music education and voice, piano, and choral conducting from Columbia University. Prior to joining the Bethune-Cookman faculty, Dr. Steele enjoyed a long teaching career at Florida A&M University, in Tallahassee, another outstanding historically Black University.

Under her direction, the concert choir at Florida A&M was recognized for its performances of such major extended choral works as Verdi's Requiem and Bach's Magnificat. The choir's exceptional renditions of Negro spirituals also received wide-spread acclaim. The Bethune-Cookman Chorale has performed with the Jacksonville Symphony Orchestra and Lyric Theater in a production of Porgy and Bess as well as at the Spoleta Festival in Charleston, SC.

A singer of considerable prominence, Dr. Steele remained in demand while at Florida A&M University. Her soprano solos from Mozart's Requiem, arias, and interpretations of spirituals were especially popular. Dr. Steele's ability to conduct different styles of music, while simultaneously producing beautiful tone and phrasing distinguishes her from many of her peers. Her latest production, "From Bach to Gospel" features varied styles of choral works, ensembles, and solos from numerous periods. Dr. Steele's professional affiliations add another dimension to an already committed teacher and humanitarian. She is a member of the Music Educators National Conference, the Florida State Music Teacher's Association, the Association of University Professors, the Southern Arts Federation and the Florida Professional Presenters Consortium.

Mr. Speaker, it is with enormous pride and extreme satisfaction that I join others in saluting the musical accomplishments and contributions of this exceptional Floridian. Shakespeare said, "[i]f music be the food of love, play on. . ."

To the thousands of students of Dr. Rebecca W. Steele, I say "play on."

EARTH DAY 1997

HON. THOMAS J. MANTON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 23, 1997

Mr. MANTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Earth Day 1997. During this Congress it is especially crucial to emphasize the significance and purpose of this nationally recognized day. Since 1970, this country has set aside 1 day a year to highlight the importance of environmental conservation and preservation. But protecting the environment and our natural resources is not a once a year project. It is about the way we choose to live our lives.

Mr. Speaker, the nationwide recognition of this day illustrates the overwhelming public concern over how the natural and man-made world should interact. While I support efforts to relieve businesses of undue red tape, I believe it is possible to do so without also reducing protection of our air, water, and other natural resources. Although striking a balance is often difficult, it is necessary for the long term health of both the environment and the economy.

As a Member of this esteemed body, I am pleased with the role Congress has played over the last 27 years. Passage of legislation such as the Clean Water Act, Clean Air Act, the Endangered Species Act, among others, has been instrumental in cleaning our environment and protecting our valuable natural resources. It is our responsibility as legislators to continue to respond to the public and its priorities through enactment and renewal of these most important environmental laws.

Mr. Speaker, I am hopeful that this day will be a reminder to Congress that the management of our resources is of vital importance. The decisions we make today will impact not only our future, but all future generations.

THE GIFT OF LIFE CONGRES-
SIONAL MEDAL ACT OF 1997

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 23, 1997

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, today our colleagues Mr. SERRANO, Mr. DELLUMS, Mr. KLECZKA, Mr. UNDERWOOD, Mr. FRANK, Ms. CHRISTIAN-GREEN, Ms. PELOSI, Mr. HALL (OH), Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mr. BERMAN, Mr. WAXMAN, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. EHRlich, Ms. CLAYTON, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. GONZALEZ, Mr. MOAKLEY, Mr. FROST, Mr. ACKERMAN, Mr. SPENCE, and I take great pride in reintroducing The Gift of Life Congressional Medal Act of 1997. The enactment of this legislation, which doesn't cost taxpayers a penny, will not only honor the individual organ donor and their loved ones, but will also heighten the awareness of the organ