

TRIBUTE TO JOHN BELFORTE

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 9, 1998

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor John Belforte, upon his retirement as an extraordinary educator for forty-three years.

John Belforte served for three years during the Korean War before choosing to pursue a career in education. He earned his Bachelor of Arts and Master of Arts degrees from San Francisco State University and embarked upon a life dedicated to education. He was an elementary school teacher for five years, and an elementary, intermediate and middle school administrator for a combined thirty-eight years.

Under John Belforte's guidance, numerous projects were undertaken and accomplished at Bowditch Middle School, including a TV/Radio Broadcast Studio, three computer labs, a planetarium, tennis courts, technology work stations in each classroom, an enlarged intramural sports program, a conflict resolution program, student selected scheduling and programming, and the highly successful Bowditch Means Business, an innovative business and school partnership.

During his tenure as Principal of Bowditch Middle School and as a result of John Belforte's efforts, the school was designated by the U.S. Department of Education as a Blue Ribbon School and a California State Department of Education Recognized School of Excellence.

John Belforte served as President of the Jefferson Elementary School District Teachers Association, president of the San Mateo County Teachers Association, Regional President of the Association of California School Administrators, a member of Phi Delta Kappa and the College of Notre Dame Faculty Advisory Committee.

John Belforte has given generously of his time and talents to our community, serving as a Commissioner on the San Mateo County Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Commission, and as a Board Member of the Human Investment Project and Beresford-Hillsdale Homeowners Association. He's been recognized by the Foster City Rotary and Toastmasters International for his outstanding achievements and contributions, and San Francisco State University for his distinguished service as a member of the Advisory Committee to the Department of Education. His extensive involvement was recognized by the City of Foster City which issued a Proclamation naming May 31, 1990 as John Belforte Day.

Throughout his distinguished career, John Belforte has earned the respect and admiration of his colleagues and peers for his dedication and his effectiveness in improving our educational system. He has touched the lives of countless students and served as an inspiration to many. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating John Belforte on his retirement, thanking him for his tireless efforts and dedication, and wishing him all the best in the years ahead.

CONGRATULATIONS TO MICKEY
COX ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**HON. GEORGE P. RADANOVICH**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 9, 1998

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Clovis Unified School District's Mickey Cox Elementary School for being recognized as a "California Distinguished School." Mickey Cox Elementary has educated students with great success over the years and has served as a tremendous catalyst to the community. The faculty and students of Mickey Cox Elementary exemplify excellence in student achievement and are very deserving of this recognition.

At its inception, in 1980, Mickey Cox was built by the Clovis Unified School District in an outlying rural area in the northern section of Clovis. From the outset, Mickey Cox came together as a school community with a definite vision rooted in a district philosophy and goals.

The foundation of Mickey Cox lies within the concept of being a community-centered school. The strength of their community lies within its diversity—socially, economically and ethnically. Mickey Cox enjoys an unusually high degree of volunteer support from the community. Parents are encouraged and feel comfortable in participating as classroom helpers and participants in a variety of school activities. The community helps to provide the financial support to sustain the curricular activities offered by the school. Community expectations for high academic standards, co-curricular participation and traditional values have been framed within the context of a caring community. All members of the school community work toward developing sustained achievement and social development in their students.

Mickey Cox prepares all students for the challenges of the 21st century by developing confidence and skills in critical thinking through participation in a wide range of goal-oriented experiences. The concept of nurturing the whole child is emphasized through monthly award assemblies of selected students who demonstrate strength in mind, body and spirit. They believe student recongition is essential in helping students strive toward mastery of academic, physical, and social-emotional development. The school motto is: "If it's to be, it's up to me." Mickey Cox maintains a rich tradition of recognizing student achievement and school involvement deemed important by the entire community.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I congratulate Clovis Unified School District's Mickey Cox Elementary School for being recognized as a "California Distinguished School." I applaud both the school and the community for their commitment to our children's lives. I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing Mickey Cox Elementary many more years of success.

THE RETIREMENT OF JOHN WARD,
"THE VOICE OF THE VOLTS"**HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 9, 1998

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, as many people here in Washington know, I am a tremendous fan of the University of Tennessee Athletic Teams.

For more than thirty years, John Ward has been known throughout the Nation as the "Voice of the Vols." During that time Mr. Ward has made millions of fans feel like they were sitting in the stands even though they were only able to listen over the radio.

He has been acclaimed with a reputation as one of the finest sports announcers in the history of this Nation.

Even more importantly, he has become one of the most respected and admired men in East Tennessee and has been a true friend to many many people throughout our part of the Country.

John Ward has now announced his retirement as the football and basketball broadcaster for the Tennessee Volunteers after one more season. When he leaves he will certainly be missed by countless numbers of Tennessee sports fans and will be almost impossible to replace.

I would like to offer my congratulations to John Ward on a job well done and wish him the best for the future.

I would like to call to the attention of all my colleagues and other readers of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD several articles and editorials from the Knoxville News Sentinel.

A LEGEND STEPS DOWN

JOHN WARD, BILL ANDERSON WILL END LONG
BROADCASTING STINT NEXT YEAR

At the University of Tennessee, student-athletes come and go with regularity. Less frequently, the school changes presidents, vice presidents, deans, coaches and even athletic directors. And life goes on.

What has not changed in the past 30-plus years at UT is the person broadcasting football and basketball games, John Ward.

When Ward steps down as the "Voice of the Vols" after the 1998 football season and the '98-'99 basketball season, life will go on but will be very different. Bill Anderson, the former UT football player who has been the color commentator and sidekick to Ward's play-by-play announcing, also will bow out next year. They are the longest-running broadcast pair in Division I-A college football.

Ward, who has broadcast UT football games for 30 years and Vols basketball games for 34 years, called a press conference last Wednesday to announce that he will retire following one more season behind the microphone. Succinctly he said, "It's time."

Edwin Huster, Vol Network general manager, promises a national search by the university, the athletic department and the network for Ward's replacement. The new broadcast team likely will be named by May of next year.

But how does UT or the network replace an institution? University President Joe Johnson said he would prefer the headache of picking head coaches, athletic directors or chancellors to finding a successor to Ward.

As much as Ward's longevity and steady voice at the mike, he will be remembered for the detail, the fairness and, most of all, the colorful way he announced UT's games.