CONGRATULATING ROCKY MOUNT ON ITS ALL-AMERICA CITY DESIGNATION

HON. BOB ETHERIDGE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 13, 1999

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the City of Rocky Mount, North Carolina for earning the designation of an All-America City. I have the honor of representing Rocky Mount in the U.S. House.

Founded in the early part of the Nineteenth Century, Rocky Mount is now a city of more than 57,000 people located in the heart of eastern North Carolina. Its name derives from the rocky mound situated at the falls of the Tar River, which was the site of a new post office and one of the first cotton mills in North Carolina. In 1907, Rocky Mount, then with a population of about 7,500 people, was incorporated as a city. Following decades of growth and achievement, Rocky Mount was first named an All-America City in 1970.

Almost 30 years later, Mr. Speaker, Rocky Mount continues to stand out for its civic excellence. The National Civic League, which has given out the All-America City Awards for the past 50 years, commended Rocky Mount as a community that teaches the rest of us how to face difficult situations and meet those challenges in innovative and collaborative ways. According to the organization, Rocky Mount is a city in which citizens, government, businesses and voluntary organizations work together to address critical local issues.

Specifically, the National Civic League cited three examples of this type of cooperation in Rocky Mount. The city developed the Down East Partnership for Children, which is dedicated to achieving the fundamentals of quality child growth and development. It annually reaches more than 12,000 children, parents, and agencies. Rocky Mount also formed the Carolinas Gateway Partnership, a nationally recognized non-profit corporation partnership with 190 investors, which has secured commitments worth $170 million that will eventually create 2,300 jobs as it seeks to promote economic development in the area.

In addition, Rocky Mount became part of the Rocky Mount-Edgecombe-Nash Educational Cooperative, which was designed to coordinate the resources of business and education for the betterment of both schools and students. Thus far, the Cooperative has funded more than 935 creative teaching grants worth about $500,000 that have affected thousands of students. I would like to take a point of personal privilege in adding that I am profoundly grateful and proud of the Nash-Rocky Mount Public School system for its leadership in teaching character education in the classroom, yet another reason why Rocky Mount is an All-America City.

Finally, I want to thank the Leadership Rocky Mount Alumni group and the Rocky Mount Chamber of Commerce for all their hard work over the past few years to bring this outstanding recognition to Rocky Mount.

Mr. Speaker, it is both an honor and a privilege to represent Rocky Mount and her 57,158 All-American citizens in the U.S. Congress. I encourage all my colleagues to read the following article from the Rocky Mount Telegram celebrating this well-deserved honor.

[From the Rocky Mount Telegram, June 27, 1999]

ROCKY MOUNT IS ALL-AMERICAN!!

'ALL-AMERICA CITY' DESIGNATION CAPTURED AT PHILADELPHIA EVENT

(By Tom Murphy)

PHILADELPHIA, Pa.—There's something about ''Rocky'' and Philadelphia.

In the city famed as the home of Sylvester Stallone's fictional movie boxer, another Rocky—Rocky Mount—captured All-America City status Saturday in the 50th annual awards sponsored by the National Civic League and Allstate Insurance Co.

The other nine winners were Stockton, Calif.; Union City, Calif; Tallahassee; Fla.; Wichita, Kan.; Shreveport, La; Lowell, Mass.; Tupelo, Miss.; Green Bay, Wisc.; and Tri-Cities (Bristol, Va.; Johnson City and Kingsport, Tenn.). Two other North Carolina finalists, Hickory and Morganton, failed to make the cut.

The awards honor communities that show exemplary grassroots community involvement and problem-solving. The original field of 93 applicants was cut to 30 finalists. As a winner, Rocky Mount is eligible for a $10,000 award from Allstate.

Mayor Fred Turnage, in accepting the All-America City Award, reflected on another delegation from Rocky Mount that stood on the All-America City stage in Philadelphia 30 years ago.

They also proclaimed that Rocky Mount was a community that was walking to the beat of a different drum, and how it had focused on racial harmony, quality education and job opportunity, Turnage said.

Turnage added in subsequent years and certainly in the most recent decade, many citizens have worked diligently to accomplish those goals.

''In recent years, the formation of partnerships has enabled us to make significant strides in all of those areas,'' he said. ''The Down East Partnership for Children is a tremendous example of what cooperation can accomplish with its total focus on giving our young people Smart Start and a quality education.

''The Gateway Partnership has demonstrated what cooperation and teamwork between the private and public sectors can truly accomplish, and is helping provide quality job opportunities and economic stability for our community.''

Turnage said the third partnership, which was a part of Rocky Mount's presentation, is a great example of what the business and education community can and must do to achieve quality education.

''It would be my hope that as pleased and humbled as we are to have received this award that we, as well as other award-winning cities, would simply use it as an opportunity for even greater cooperation and basis for addressing many of the challenges that still confront us,'' he said. ''It is important to recognize that the All-America City Award does not mean a community is perfect, but that it is attempting to meet challenges and solve problems in innovative and cooperative ways at the ground level of democracy.''

Turnage commended the Leadership Rocky Mount Alumni group for initiating this process some two years ago, and for the Chamber of Commerce for carrying the process to its conclusion.

''There is a tremendous amount of work and effort that goes into this process, and it takes a great deal of planning and commitment to see it to a successful conclusion,'' he said.

''We are particularly proud of our young people, who were a part of that delegation and who brought so much enthusiasm. The Jazzy Jaguars from D.S. Johnson School particularly kept us pumped up with their performances and energy.''

Chamber President Charlie Glazener agreed.

''It's just unbelievable,'' said Glazener. ''We wish every city here tonight could feel the pride our city feels.

''Mayor Turnage was so right when he accepted our award and said it's time to start more projects for the next generation.''

City manager Steve Raper said the city is extremely proud of its citizens across the entire Nash Edgecombe community.

''The people in Nash and Edgecombe are truly reflective of the work we can do and all the work we've completed together to improve our community,'' Raper said.

PRESIDENT LYNDON B. JOHNSON'S RIGHTFUL PLACE IN HISTORY

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 13, 1999

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to President Lyndon B. Johnson. President Johnson was born on August 27, 1908, in central Texas, not far from Johnson City, which his family had helped settle. He knew poverty firsthand, which helped him learn compassion for the poverty of others.

In 1960, Johnson was elected as John F. Kennedy's Vice President. On November 22, 1963, when Kennedy was assassinated, Johnson was sworn in as President.

On May 22, 1964, in a speech at the University of Michigan President Lyndon B. Johnson spoke of a ''Great Society.'' He said, ''The Great Society rests on abundance and liberty for all. It demands an end to poverty and racial injustice, to which we are totally committed in our time. But that is just the beginning.''

President Johnson's vision included aid to education, attack on disease, Medicare, urban renewal, beautification, conservation, development of depressed regions, a wide-scale fight against poverty, control and prevention of crime and delinquency, and the removal of obstacles to the right to vote.

On July 6, 1999, the Houston Chronicle printed a column by Marianne Means, a Washington, D.C.-based columnist for the Hearst Newspapers, which details why President Johnson will be considered as one of our nation's greatest Presidents. Mr. Speaker, I would like to conclude by including Ms. Means' column in my remarks.

DON'T FORGET LBJ—HIS LEGACY HIGHLY VISIBLE

(By Marianne Means)

For 30 years, President Lyndon B. Johnson has been ignored by Democratic politicians afraid of being tagged as liberal lackeys for the much-mocked Great Society or the bloody Vietnam War that brought down his presidency.

His name is seldom mentioned in his own party. Only a few brave souls defend him against conservatives who have campaigned for decades against the ambitious federal social programs he created and the cultural tumult of the 1960s that took place during his administration.

President Clinton has been particularly craven. Although he often cites his admiration for President Kennedy, who produced