

Student quality at UCSD is at a record high under the guidance of Bob Dynes. Student enrollment has grown 25% since 1996 and quality of life has remained among the highest in the University of California system. This year, UCSD received close to 44,000 applications for admissions, the second-highest rate in the system. An accomplishment he is surely proud of is the one-year retention rate of 94% of all first year students.

Bob set high standards for himself and his administration as well as innovative ways to meet them. This is the truly the sign of someone who is a special leader. I am not just saying this because I am his friend; others see this quality in him as well. Bob has recently been named the 18th president of the University of California system by the UC Board of Regents. He was selected from a national pool of more than 300 candidates. His recommendation was made by a Regental selection committee that was assisted by advisory committees of faculty, staff, students, and alumni.

I would also like to thank Bob for his service to the 50th District of California. He and his administration worked hard to ensure that my staff was well informed of the University's accomplishments, and a variety of issues and challenges they have faced over the course of his term. This University is an important part of my Congressional District and is important to all San Diegans. I could not be happier with the leadership Bob has provided.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize Robert Dynes on this occasion of his tenure as Chancellor of the University of California at San Diego for his dedication to education and his continued role in enriching the lives of students across the country. I thank him for his service and wish him continued success in the future.

INTRODUCTION OF THE "SEPTEMBER 11TH VICTIM COMPENSATION FUND EXTENSION ACT OF 2003"

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 16, 2003

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the "September 11th Victim Compensation Fund Extension Act of 2003," legislation that extends the deadline for filing a claim with the September 11 Victim Compensation Fund to December 31, 2004. I am joined by Reps. NADLER, SCOTT of Virginia, JACKSON LEE, MEEHAN, DELAHUNT, WEINER, SCHIFF, LANGEVIN, SCOTT of Georgia, CARSON of Indiana, SANDERS, CROWLEY and MORAN.

The current deadline for applying for compensation from the Victims Fund is rapidly approaching, but it has become apparent that many families need more time. Thus far, just under a third of eligible families have applied to the Fund for compensation—only about 1,282 death claims and 1,050 injury claims have been filed so far by victim families, according to the Department of Justice.

Ken Feinberg, the Special Master for the Fund, is doing his best to get victims families to understand their rights. Recently, he has even taken out extensive advertisements in a number of newspapers and created a series of

informational meetings and claim assistance sites to assist victims' families to file for compensation with the Victims Fund instead of filing a lawsuit against the airlines industry. These efforts should be commended.

In light of this reality, however, we believe it is appropriate to extend the deadline for filing applications to the Victims Fund to December 31, 2004—an extension of just over a year. This extension would give grieving families additional time to mourn those who were lost and to overcome the emotional challenges of filing paperwork with the Victims Fund. Several September 11 victims support groups all agree that such an extension would provide some relief during these dark days for victims' families, as they endure the grieving process.

As we continue to reflect upon the tragedy of September 11th, victims' families have many burdens. They do not need this arbitrary deadline confronting them between September 11 and the year-end holidays. This is something we can do now for victims of September 11. We strongly encourage our colleagues to support the "September 11th Victim Compensation Fund Extension Act of 2003."

HONORING THE LIFE OF JAMES BRENNAN

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 16, 2003

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, our home community of Toledo and the state of Ohio lost a champion citizen and patriot with the passing of James Brennan, who passed from this life on August 11, 2003 at the age of 77.

Born in Chicago, Jim attended Drake University on a football scholarship. He left to join the Army, but upon his return from service, he attended the University of Chicago. While in Chicago, he began his lifelong career in politics in 1955. Two years later, Jim moved to Toledo and established himself as a businessman. He grew Freeman Material Handling, now Brennan Industrial Truck Inc, into a viable business, which he was able to pass down to his children. While a prominent successful business leader, Jim extended himself to the broader community, and served on Ottawa Hills Village Council from 1975 to 1979. He followed this service with three tenures as the chair of the Lucas County Republican Party. His chairmanship was marked by strong leadership, civility, honesty and cooperation across party lines, with his vision always directed toward the betterment of our region. In addition to his county chairmanship, Jim also served at the grassroots level as a precinct committeeman, state central committeeman, and convention delegate.

Jim did not limit his civic-mindedness to business and politics. He was a member of the Ohio Board of Regents and trustee of Defiance College. He served on the boards of the Salvation Army, Goodwill Industries, and St. Vincent Hospital and was president of the Toledo Opera Association. All the while Jim Brennan was first and foremost a devoted family man and caring father and grandfather. A good and kind man beneath a brusque exterior, Jim lent his talents to many endeavors, and our community will miss his wit, energy, bluster, intelligence, and devotion. He helped

build the character and ethic of our community.

We extend our heartfelt sympathies to Jim's children James Jr, Christine, Kate, and Amy, his brother Robert, and his grandchildren. May they find some comfort in the gift of his life and their cherished memories. Jim Brennan will be missed.

IN RECOGNITION OF WANDA RYAN'S ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN THE EDUCATION FIELD

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 16, 2003

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker. I rise before you today in recognition of Ms. Wanda Ryan who has taught for 40 years with perfect attendance at the George Washington School located in Camden, New Jersey, in my District. Ms. Ryan is a shining example of what educators of today should be.

Ms. Ryan had only one leave of absence to give birth, 28 years ago, to her daughter. She went home from work one day and called her doctor with labor pains. The doctor admitted her to the hospital that evening and she gave birth to her daughter. She took a six week maternity leave of absence.

Barring the birth of her daughter, Ms. Ryan has not missed a day of school in her 40 years of teaching 1st grade at the George Washington School. Ms. Ryan has acted as a teacher-mentor over the years, providing wisdom and knowledge to share with her fellow educators. For Mr. Malcolm Adler, Principal at George Washington, Ms. Ryan serves as an exemplar through which he instills the values of dedication and service in new teachers.

There are no plans for retirement in Ms. Ryan's future. Her continued passion and dedication have recently earned her outstanding evaluations from her supervisor and Principal. Ms. Ryan is also well respected by her colleagues at George Washington who last year voted her "Teacher of the Year."

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating Ms. Wanda Ryan on her dedicated service to the public school system, the George Washington School, the City of Camden, and the 1st Congressional District of New Jersey.

TRIBUTE TO THE DELAWARE VOLUNTEER FIREMAN'S ASSOCIATION AND THE LADIES' AUXILIARY LED BY PRESIDENTS JASPER LAKEY AND PAT MCCALL ON THEIR NINTH ANNUAL CONFERENCE

HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 16, 2003

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today as a member of the Congressional Fire Service Caucus to honor and pay tribute to leaders and foundations in the firefighting community—The Delaware Volunteer Fireman's Association and the Ladies' Auxiliary of the Delaware Volunteer Fireman's Association. The members of both organizations are outstanding, dedicated and caring Delawareans