

DECEMBER SCHOOL OF THE MONTH, NEW YORK'S 4TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

HON. CAROLYN MCCARTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 8, 2003

Ms. MCCARTHY. Mr. Speaker, it's with great pride that I announce Franklin Elementary School in the Hempstead Union Free School District as School of the Month in the Fourth Congressional District for December 2003.

The Principal of Franklin Elementary School is John W. Moore. Regina Armstrong and Carolyn Townes-Richards are the Assistant Principals, and the Superintendent of Schools is Dr. Nathaniel Clay. Franklin Elementary School is the largest elementary school in the Village of Hempstead with over 750 students in grades Kindergarten through 5, and 115 dedicated staff members. The faculty work to fulfill the school's mission: To achieve a safe and secure educational environment that promotes working with parents and the community to ensure that all students reach and maintain high academic standards.

Despite various factors the students must overcome, they have shown, and maintained, academic progress in their pursuit to achieve and exceed the standards set by the school. The school's motto, "Your choices determine your destiny. * * * Choose them wisely," puts the students' future in their hands and they have succeeded. Through the rich and diverse cultural wisdom of its students and staff, Franklin Elementary School has distinguished itself as a community, county and a national resource. Recognized as a national school of excellence, Franklin Elementary School this year received from the Department of Education the National Blue Ribbon award. The honor is awarded annually to schools to acknowledge the achievements and hard work of the students, staff members, families and community.

Franklin Elementary School's band has been locally and nationally recognized and is regarded as one of the best elementary school bands in New York State. The band has participated in numerous community events resulting in its adoption by the Eastern Regional Federal Aviation Headquarters. The organization has given students mentorship, tours of its facilities, awards and career advice. It is a relationship benefiting both sides, which I hope will be maintained in the future.

Mr. Speaker, the faculty and students, of Franklin, along with the community, have created a wonderful learning environment. I am proud to name Franklin Elementary School the school of the month for December 2003.

HONORING RICHARD A. ELBRECHT

HON. GRACE F. NAPOLITANO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 8, 2003

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to honor Richard A. Elbrecht on the occasion of his retirement from the California Department of Consumer Affairs, an agency with which Elbrecht has served the public since 1976. As the Super-

vising Attorney of the Legal Services Unit, he promoted and practiced the ideal that the law must be accessible to those whom it affects.

Mr. Elbrecht graduated from Yale University in 1955 with a degree in economics and a focus on money, banking and the antitrust law. He also attended the University of Michigan Law School and earned his J.D., 1960. Mr. Elbrecht worked for Legal Aid, the National Consumer Law Center and in private practice in San Jose and Santa Cruz.

But his greatest impact on the people of California was made during his years at the Department of Consumer Affairs where he constantly inspired his staff and co-workers through his intellect, enthusiasm and energy. He has created and maintained a work environment where excellence and innovation flourished. His unit provides a wide range of legal services, including legislative drafting, advocacy before administrative agencies, litigation and education. He has personally worked in a variety of areas of importance to consumers, including banking, electronic funds transfer, telecommunications, insurance, sales, warranties, credit and cable communications. He helped design and administer California's state quality awards program and has performed research on the application of computers and telecommunications to education.

Through this work, Elbrecht has achieved many extraordinary accomplishments on behalf of California's consumers. He drafted the 1991 and 1992 rewrites of the California Small Claims Act and supervised coordination of the Small Claims Court Experimental Project, which led to numerous significant improvements to the small claims court process. He fundamentally reformed practices for selling hearing aids through his representation in *People and Director v. Beltone Electronics Corp.* He assisted policy makers in developing regulations of interest rates in retail installment sales. He played a key role in the conceptualization and enactment of the California Lemon Law, the Song-Beverly Consumer Warranty Act and the Moore Universal Telephone Service Act.

I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Richard A. Elbrecht for his many years of service to California's consumers. His advocacy and hard work will be greatly missed, and we wish him much happiness and contentment in his retirement.

ADMINISTRATION'S ATTEMPT TO BAN THERAPEUTIC CLONING WORLDWIDE

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 8, 2003

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to make clear to my colleagues how the current Bush Administration and their cadre of religious zealots are again attempting to impose their ideological views not just across our country, but across the world. The Administration, with the backing of the anti-abortion movement and several predominantly Catholic countries, is strongly lobbying members of the United Nations General Assembly to vote for a resolution to enact a worldwide ban on therapeutic cloning.

The Administration was not satisfied with their successful effort to cripple stem cell re-

search in this country. Now, they want to use their considerable resources to destroy this promising research field throughout all United Nations member countries. And who will suffer if this effort is successful? People of all races, creeds, religions who suffer conditions as varied as Alzheimer's disease, Parkinson's disease, diabetes, chronic heart disease and spinal injuries. These are the individuals who have the most to lose if therapeutic cloning is banned.

The following is a statement released by Don Reed who is a constituent from Fremont, California. Don and his wife Gloria are tireless advocates of spinal cord research. Their interest in this area is passionate and very personal. Their son Roman was a star college football player until he was paralyzed by a game injury that broke his neck. Since the accident, Roman has been confined to a wheelchair. The Reeds are very much aware of the promise of therapeutic cloning and stem cell research to someday help their son, and many others, to live less restricted lives. This statement describes the efforts of the Administration at the United Nations and provides a poignant view of its effect on his spinal injured son.

WHITE HOUSE BEHIND CHRISTMAS ATTACK ON STEM CELL RESEARCH?

"This is like Scrooge putting Tiny Tim's doctor in jail," said stem cell activist Don C. Reed today, reacting to news that White House officials were part of a stealth campaign at the United Nations to internationally ban all forms of cloning with an up-or-down vote planned for December 8.

"My son is paralyzed with a spinal cord injury," said Reed. "Therapeutic cloning for stem cells is our only realistic hope of cure: that he will one day stand up and walk. But the White House continually attacks that research, apparently because of the religious convictions of the President."

As reported in Thursday's Financial Times of London, the Bush-backed Costa Rica plan would ban cloning everywhere. This would overturn the November 6 vote by the U.N.'s Legal Committee. By a razor-thin margin, (80-79, with 15 nations abstaining) that vote postponed a decision on the controversial therapy for two years.

"Mr. Bush did not like the way that vote turned out," said Reed. "And he wants a new vote. Well, I did not like the way the 2000 Presidential election turned out, but I don't get to have that vote re-done. Millions of people will suffer, if the President can overturn the November 6th U.N. vote. That vote did not approve or disapprove therapeutic cloning. It only says, we should take time to make this important decision carefully. What's wrong with that?"

A more moderate measure, sponsored by Belgium and backed by the UK, would ban reproductive cloning but allow member nations to make their own decisions on therapeutic cloning for medical research. This is opposed by the President, the Catholic church, and anti-abortion organizations.

"The American Medical Association supports therapeutic cloning," says Reed. "As does our own National Academy of Science." Exhaustive studies have been done on therapeutic cloning again and again, both nationally and in the state of California, as well as in countries like England, Israel, Singapore and China. All arrive at the same conclusion: reproductive cloning of children is dangerous to the unborn child, and should be banned; but therapeutic cloning of stem cells is potentially enormously valuable to cure hundreds of diseases and disabilities, and should be preserved.

"None of the stem cell lines approved by the White House can ever be used to help people," says Reed. "Because all of those stem cells were fed on rat feeder layers, which not only brings the possibility of interspecies infection, but also disqualifies them for human use according to FDA guidelines. To individualize embryonic stem cells for human use, therapeutic cloning for cells is a must."

"If therapeutic cloning is banned, embryonic stem cell research is effectively killed," said Reed, "and my son is imprisoned in his wheelchair forever. This is not the sort of Christmas present one expects from the President of the United States."

My fellow colleagues; advanced cellular research is a ray of hope for the Reeds and many others. And this hope is based in reality. According to the National Institutes of Health, therapeutic cloning and stem cell research has "enormous" potential to improve the lives of many. We should not interfere with this progress; we should embrace and support it. I ask you to join me and protest the efforts of the Bush administration at the United Nations to ban therapeutic cloning.

TRIBUTE TO MR. WILLIAM "BILL"
HUGHES

HON. JOHN T. DOOLITTLE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 8, 2003

Mr. DOOLITTLE. Mr. Speaker, today I wish to pay tribute to an outstanding citizen and a close friend, Mr. William "Bill" Hughes, from Citrus Heights, California. Well known for his dedication to family, faith, and community, Bill Hughes passed away unexpectedly on November 25, 2003, while visiting family in Utah for Thanksgiving. He was 55 years old. Though seemingly cut short, Bill's life was, nonetheless, filled with much experience, accomplishment, and success.

Very fittingly, Bill Hughes was born on the Fourth of July in Colorado Springs, Colorado in 1948. Raised on his parents' ranch, he grew up enjoying the outdoors and engaging in hard work. He could often be found on horseback, even as a small child. When the Hughes Family moved to the rural community of Orangevale in Sacramento County, California, Bill's interests grew to include flying small aircraft out of the old Phoenix Field.

After graduating from Bella Vista High School, Bill served as a missionary of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, ministering among the Spanish-speaking population of Southwest Texas. Upon his return home, he met and married the love of his life, Sarah. Together, they soon started a family and settled in Citrus Heights.

Having completed a Bachelor of Science degree in criminal science at California State University, Sacramento, Bill launched a three decade career in law enforcement. Following a two-year stint with the Federal Bureau of Investigation, he accepted a position with the Roseville Police Department. In his 28 years on the force, he helped found the SWAT team, spearheaded the implementation of neighborhood policing, and eventually rose to the rank of lieutenant. Strangely, he passed away exactly one year from the day he retired from the department.

Mr. Speaker, Bill also displayed great concern for the future of his own community by

driving the move to incorporate the City of Citrus Heights. In fact, with the birth of the City of Citrus Heights in 1997, Bill Hughes was sworn in as its first mayor. During his seven years on the city council, including three as mayor, he spurred the creation of neighborhood associations, guided major economic development efforts, and improved local law enforcement. Due to his leadership, the city is well regarded as a responsive, user-friendly local government.

In his one year of retirement, Bill fulfilled personal goals such as climbing Mount Shasta and sailing the entire coast of California. He also elevated his civic involvement by taking on increased leadership roles in regional affairs. This year, he chaired the Sacramento Area Council of Governments and was the energy behind its Blueprint Project to direct regional transportation and land use planning.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to publicly thank you and the rest of our colleagues for appropriating funding this year to support this visionary project which will help the greater Sacramento region focus and direct its development according to community desires and principles of good planning.

Despite his involved professional and civic life, Bill actively fulfilled his church and family responsibilities. He is survived by his lovely wife Sarah, daughters Yolanda and Kymbra, sons Jarom, Jashon, Corom, and four grandchildren.

As an elected official, I appreciated Bill's hard work and professionalism. As his friend of over 20 years, I appreciated his sincerity and good nature. I join with his family, friends, colleagues, and constituents in celebrating his life and mourning his passing. We will surely miss him.

Rest in peace, Bill.

TRIBUTE TO MR. WILLIAM
THOMAS

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 8, 2003

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and offer my congratulations to a hero in my community, Mr. William Thomas. During this holiday season, we are lucky to have such a heartwarming reminder of the goodness within the human spirit.

As Mr. Thomas was riding to work with his wife, Jamelia, and two of their children, on East Hazelwood Avenue in Rahway, NJ, he saw a group of people gathered along the river's edge. Upon stopping, he observed a woman flailing in the water.

Disregarding his own safety, and not much of a swimmer himself, Mr. Thomas dove into the 50 degree water to rescue the drowning woman. Struggling to control the panicking, hysterical woman, he managed to pull her close enough to the shoreline for police officers to draw her from the river.

He then returned home to quickly shower and change clothes, setting out again on his drive to work at the Woodbridge Developmental Center in Avenel. He later discovered that the drowning woman also worked at this state-run residential facility for the mentally and physically impaired. They had never met.

Without a thought for his welfare, Mr. Thomas placed another human's life above his own.

I am touched by his sacrifice and his service. I am honored by his presence in my community, and I ask you to join me as I salute Mr. Thomas and his outstanding display of compassion and bravery.

TRIBUTE TO BOB GRAHAM

HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 8, 2003

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, sometimes ordinary people do extraordinary things. We do not have to be rich or famous to leave a positive and lasting legacy to this world.

Bob Graham, one of my constituents from Knoxville, TN, was one of those people. Mr. Graham was the long-time supervisor of athletic officials for the City of Knoxville and a long-time volunteer leader in our community.

Bob Graham loved children, and he gave tirelessly of himself to thousands of young people throughout his career. Many people remember him from his days as a youth baseball, football, and basketball coach. Everyone who knew him remembered him as a great leader and role model for our children. This Nation would be a much better place if there were more people here like Mr. Graham.

Bob Graham passed away following a lengthy illness on November 28th. He will be remembered fondly by his family and friends and the countless young people he helped through the years.

Mr. Speaker, I have attached a copy of a tribute to Mr. Graham that ran in the Knoxville News Sentinel that I would like to call to the attention of my colleagues and other readers of the RECORD.

HELPING KIDS WAS GRAHAM'S FOCUS UNTIL
HIS DEATH

(By Chuck Cavalaris)

Rare is the occasion when just three words can sum up the essence of a person's life.

Such is the case with a great man like Bob Graham, who passed away Friday night.

His three words were all about, "Helping the kids."

Bob always had a handy explanation for those 14-hour days and frequent weekends at a ballpark.

"I just want to do whatever I can to help the kids," he said.

Anyone who had the privilege of knowing the supervisor of athletic officials for the city of Knoxville would agree: he is an all-time great in this regard.

This stocky, blue-eyed former lineman and kicker from Oliver Springs High School became a youth baseball, football and basketball coach (1956-1982) who helped thousands of kids. He also found time in the 1970s to be a TSSAA football referee and was a baseball scout for the St. Louis Cardinals.

To many people, Bob Graham was the tireless volunteer leader at Badgett Field. His passion led to a full-time job offer by former recreation department director Maynard Glenn. Talk about a great hire.

"Bob is probably the most-conscientious person I have ever known," said Norman Bragg, who worked with Graham for many years. "Nowadays, you just don't replace someone like that. He did what he did without asking for a single thing in return—that was just Bob."

Sure, he loved his children—all seven of them—and he was really proud of his grandkids. But he also cared deeply about