

Mr. Lehmann has demonstrated his devotion to Latin by engaging in related activities outside of the classroom. This teacher's devotion to his realm of study has led him to sponsor the Health Careers Latin Club which, with one hundred members, is one of the largest organizations on campus. Along with his wife, Mr. Lehmann has organized summer tours of ancient sites in Rome for his students. Additionally, he also has twice served as the president of the San Antonio Classical Society.

I am very proud of Mr. Lehmann and his professional accomplishments. Nothing is more important in one's life than education. I am pleased to acknowledge a man whose knowledge, commitment, drive, and enthusiasm have clearly been a meaningful, positive influence on his students' lives.

CONGRATULATING CHARTER
SCHOOLS FOR THEIR ONGOING
CONTRIBUTIONS TO EDUCATION

SPEECH OF

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 4, 2004

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the continued success of our Nation's charter schools. I am extremely proud of the several Charter schools that reside in my district. Many may not fully understand the difference between a regular public school and a Charter school. In Chicago, the Charter schools are public schools, open to all children who reside in Chicago without academic admissions criteria. Each charter school has a unique mission and is operated by community organizations, universities, foundations and school teachers. While charter schools are funded by the Board of Education, they are not required to follow many board regulations. For example, they are free to set their own policies for curriculum, school hours and discipline. But charter schools are held accountable for high student academic achievement by the Board of Education

I would like to acknowledge and congratulate some of the great charter schools in my district:

The first arts-focused charter school in Chicago, the Charter School of the Chicago Children's Choir (CSCCC), integrate music throughout its interdisciplinary academic curriculum. Learning is project-oriented and emphasizes creativity. Students are able to sing in as many as 17 different languages. The late Rev. Christopher Moore founded the choir in 1956 with "a dream that young people from diverse backgrounds could better understand each other, as well as learn about themselves, by learning to make beautiful music together." The choir that Moore started with a handful of kids in the First Unitarian Church of Chicago on the South Side has grown into a downtown-based, city-wide program that brings together nearly 3,000 children each year. Its groups have performed with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, the Lyric Opera, at the White House, and around the world.

In 2000, community leaders working to improve educational opportunities in the West Side neighborhood of Lawndale created L.E.A.R.N., Lawndale Educational and Regional Network. They applied for a charter

school and hired Nancy Dearhammer, an experienced charter school leader, to plan the curriculum and become executive director. L.E.A.R.N. will emphasize high academic standards through a 10:1 student-teacher ratio, a rigorous curriculum, year-round classes and parent involvement. L.E.A.R.N.'s year-round schedule is unusual: 9 weeks on followed by 2 weeks off, giving students a safe, positive environment all year. Parent involvement is key in the mission of the school with monthly parent teacher conversations, bi-monthly parental satisfaction surveys, and strong encouragement to volunteer at the school to keep parents involved. L.E.A.R.N. is also fundraising to offer pre-school, adult education and community health services to Lawndale families.

A strong work ethic and solid commitment to education are the cornerstones of success at North Lawndale College Prep and the only requirements for admission. A rigorous community school for 350 students on Chicago's west side, North Lawndale Prep graduated its first class in June 2002. It is dedicated to developing, as opposed to merely recruiting, college-ready students from impoverished city neighborhoods. With high expectations, every student is expected to complete four years of English, social studies, and math, three years of science, and two years of foreign language. There are extra courses in reading for freshmen, writing for sophomores, and oral expression for juniors. At every level, students are expected to produce their best work consistently. In addition to athletics and after-school activities, North Lawndale Prep offers students a wide array of summer programs. These include outdoor adventure programs, an extensive orientation for freshmen, internships at Chicago businesses, and attendance at prestigious prep school and college summer programs. The summer programs expand the horizons of North Lawndale Prep students and prepare them for the challenges of college.

As demonstrated in these three examples, Charter schools provide excellence in education by delivering high-quality education and challenging our students to reach their potential. Charter schools have brought hope and the idea of success back to many poor, disadvantaged areas that felt abandoned by the education system. I commend the students for their hard work, dedication and success, the teachers for their love of education and commitment to the school and the students, and all parents for playing an active role in their child's education and more importantly their lives by letting that child know that you care and are interested in what they do every day.

TRIBUTE TO KAHUKU HIGH
SCHOOL

HON. ED CASE

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 6, 2004

Mr. CASE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the incredible students of Kahuku High School for their great achievement in winning fourth place at the national finals of the We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution program held in Washington, D.C. from May 1-3, 2004. These outstanding students from my O'ahu's North Shore underwent

months of intensive study and hard-won victories to win the right to represent Hawaii in the finals, where they competed against a class from every state in the country and demonstrated a remarkable understanding of the fundamental ideas and values of American constitutional government.

This is the first time in Hawaii's eight-year history at this rigorous competition that one of our schools has competed in the final ten. This is truly a wonderful accomplishment that our whole state is deeply proud of!

I commend Kahuku's great teacher, Sandra Cashman, for her unending commitment to her students and for producing generations of responsible citizens. Commendations are also in order to State Director of We the People Lyla Berg and District Coordinator Sharon Kaohi for their leadership in creating our leaders of tomorrow.

However, ultimately this competition is by and about our kids. So I would like to send my heartiest congratulations to Samuel Braden, Chelsey Bunker, Stacia Colton, Brian Craycraft, Tusiata Esera, Lacey Golonka, Evelyn Griffin, Reis Harney, Celesta Hubner, Azura Iversen-Keahi, Jeremy James, Natalie Kamauoha, Jennifer Kamiya, Tiffany Lee, Brook McArthur, Donna Ramos, Alicia Reidy, Leilani Relator, Aaron Rillamos, Austin Spring, Ian Tapu, Alexandra Thompson, Rachel Telleson, Seini Unga, and Jordan Williams. You have all made Hawaii proud. Aloha and best of wishes in your future endeavors.

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

HON. RANDY NEUGEBAUER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 6, 2004

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Mr. Speaker, I would submit this prayer for the RECORD for the National Day of Prayer.

Father, we come to you this day that we have set aside for prayer in this great nation. May we be a nation of prayer not just on this day, but every day.

We come today acknowledging you as the Creator of heaven and earth. We thank you that You have given us the privilege of living in this great land and have blessed it in a mighty way. Our prayer today is that we would indeed be "One Nation under God".

We pray for our President as he leads during these difficult days. Give him the wisdom and courage to make clear and decisive decisions. We pray for the men and women that are defending our world today from evil. We pray for their safety and their return to the family and loved ones that wait anxiously for their homecoming. May their families know your peace and comfort now as never before. Freedom and liberty do not come without a price. Many have gone before and paid a huge price for us to live in this great nation and to enjoy the freedoms we have today. Let us never forget their sacrifice and help us to be good stewards of the inheritance they have left us.

Finally, Father today more than ever our nation needs healing. The principles on which this nation was founded and which You ordained are under attack. The scriptures say, "If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my