

and made frantic noises. They stood by helplessly for a long time, watching her distress, until they thought to look down at the deck below Amy's window. The floor mat on the deck had blown out of place. My staffer went out to the deck with a hammer and nails and nailed the mat to the floor of the deck so that it would stay where it was supposed to be. As he hammered the nails, he could hear Amy's happy laughter.

When he got back to bed, Amy was quiet. Her world was in order again.

It takes years to learn the needs of a child like Amy and how to care for her. Parents and siblings of those with autism, and teachers and social workers, do heroic work every day just to help the autistic lead more comfortable, though not normal, lives. They deserve our recognition and they deserve our support.

We need to recognize the importance of helping Amy and the many other autistic individuals in our country. We have to support programs for increased research and improved training and support to make their lives better. In the past, we have made bold statements, pledging federal support for the autistic, but we have not fulfilled those pledges.

For example, the Individuals with Disabilities Act (IDEA) of 1990 ensures a free and appropriate public education to children with diagnosed learning deficits. The 1991 version of the law extends these services to developmentally delayed preschoolers. IDEA calls for 40% of the funding for educating special education students to be provided by the federal government. To date, Congress appropriates less than 20 percent, or less than one half that was promised.

It is time to fulfill our promise to the autistic, their families, and our schools. I strongly support this resolution that will help raise awareness of autism, and encourage this Congress and this nation to help take care of those who need us.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO KELLY
ALLMON

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 6, 2004

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to rise today to recognize Kelly Allmon for her selfless dedication to the community of Cortez, Colorado, and congratulate her on being recognized by the Cortez Chamber of Commerce as their Citizen of the Year. The award is presented to an individual who has shown an outstanding commitment to the Cortez community, and Kelly could not be a more worthy recipient. It is a privilege to pay tribute to Kelly for her well-deserved award, and her ongoing efforts to better her community today.

In 2001, Kelly implemented the Retail Enhancement Program in Cortez, which works together with the Cortez Chamber of Commerce to market local businesses. During her tenure as director, the program has developed marketing campaigns such as the "Cortez Cash" program, and creating a community slogan, "Cortez: Genuine to the Core." In addition, the program works to provide workshops and seminars for local businesses. Kelly's hard work and dedication seem to be paying off, as Cortez has seen a marked increase in sales tax revenue over the last year.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to pay tribute to Kelly Allmon before this body of Congress and this nation for the recognition she received as the Cortez Chamber of Commerce's Citizen of the Year. Her efforts to strengthen the business community in Cortez are truly remarkable, and her award is a well-deserved testament to her tireless efforts. I sincerely thank Kelly for her service, and wish her the best in her future endeavors.

HONORING ROBERT HENRY OF
SANTA ROSA, CALIFORNIA

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 6, 2004

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Robert Henry of Santa Rosa, California, who is retiring as the General Counsel for School and College Legal Services of California, a Joint Powers Authority which serves school and community college district clients throughout California.

Bob is widely recognized as one of the most experienced and accomplished education attorneys in the state. A frequent presenter at law school conferences and school organizations, he demonstrates in-depth knowledge of all aspects of the Education Code. He has argued school cases before state and federal trial, appellate, and supreme courts. Several times Bob successfully defended positions that others were afraid to take because he believed it was right. He has taken such cases to both the California Supreme Court and the Federal Court of Appeals and won. His courage and skill have saved the school districts untold dollars that were used to educate our children.

After graduating from U.C. Berkeley (Boalt Hall) Law School in 1971, Bob served as an attorney for the California State University, then as General Counsel of the Coast Community College District and Los Angeles Community College District. He began the development of School and College Legal Services of California in 1984.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Henry is the embodiment of all that is good about the legal profession. He has a profound respect for the law and a sense of mission to use it to insure the best results possible for students. I am proud to acknowledge the work of a man who understands that our nation's children are our future and deserve all that we can do to secure the best education for them.