

Emerson Elementary School, and stayed with Fresno Unified until he retired in 1986.

Beyond his scholastic achievements, Mr. Gaston has also served the country well. He gave the United States Army five years of service and moved up the ranks to become Second Lieutenant before he was honorably discharged.

Bud has not only served his country, but also served his community through many affiliations. He is a member of the Board of Directors of the Boys and Girls Clubs of Fresno, a Foundation Board Member for Saint Agnes Medical Center, a member of Kiwanis Club of Fresno, and a member of NAACP Black Political Council.

As a result of the tremendous efforts Bud has made within his community, he has been honored with many awards: The Black Educators' of Fresno Award, the Troy Award for Education, the Fresno Mall Dedication Plaque, Second Baptist Church Laymen's Award, Kids Day Award, Elementary Partnership Program Award, KSEE 24 Portraits of Success Award, and the Fresno District Fair Appreciate Award are just a few of such examples.

Our community has truly been blessed by the contributions Bud has made, and we are thankful for his dedication.

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SUPPORTING NATIONAL  
MENTORING MONTH

SPEECH OF

**HON. BETTY McCOLLUM**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 8, 2005*

Ms. McCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, as one of the co-chairs of the Mentoring Caucus, I rise today in support of House Resolution 46, to express the sense of Congress and the House of Representatives regarding the many benefits of mentoring.

Mentoring programs, as we are talking about them here today, link children with caring, responsible adults to provide opportunities for young people to develop strong character and new capabilities. Mentoring opportunities are a proven method, as has been pointed out, to help children who may be struggling in school or at home or just in life. We need to take advantage of mentoring opportunities to allow every child to become self-sufficient, have better self-esteem, and feel that they too can achieve the American Dream.

In my own state of Minnesota, there are over 350 mentoring programs that connect youth with positive role models. One valuable mentoring program is Big Brothers Big Sisters. In the St. Paul/Minneapolis region alone, more than 2,000 children benefit from this mentoring program. In 2005, they hope to reach 5,000 children.

Sergeant Mamie Singleton, of the St. Paul Police Department and founder of Youth Initiative Mentoring Academies, is one example of many in Minnesota who in her spare time mentors youth. Youth Initiative Mentoring Academies is a non-profit organization for at-risk youth that utilizes a mentoring model through aviation education. I cannot tell you how proud I am when I go to their graduation day and each and every one of those children receives a certificate for their aviation education and for their civic education projects. It

is a special time for the mentors as well, as they witness their generous gifts of time and hard work payoff for these children.

Mentors make a difference, for a mentor can be a friend, a listener, a coach, a tutor, or just a confidante. A mentor is simply a person who cares enough to be a good listener at times and to offer the opportunity to open new doors and new worlds by offering encouragement and support along the way.

I encourage all of my colleagues to support this resolution, and to look for opportunities for Members to be mentors themselves. As the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. OSBORNE) pointed out, many of our staff are mentors. J.D. Burton, who recently left my staff, was a mentor for Horton's Kids. He tutored for 3 years, and, at times, we worked our schedule around his mentoring schedule. I have many others in my office who are also mentors, and each and every one of them says that they get more out of the opportunity of mentoring than they could ever imagine.

I would also like to thank the sponsor of this bill, the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. OSBORNE), for, you see, his family comes from a mentoring background. His cousin, the Honorable Kathleen Vellenga, took time to be a mentor of mine when I was in the Minnesota House of Representatives. Mentoring—you never know where it might lead you.

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RECOGNIZING DEXTER SLAGLE  
AND DONNA CHASTEEN

**HON. IKE SKELTON**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 15, 2005*

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I announce the upcoming union of Dexter Slagle and Donna Chasteen, two long time residents of Morgan County, Missouri, and dedicated public servants.

Dexter has been a business owner in Versailles for 42 years and served his neighbors as City Alderman and as Morgan County Surveyor. Donna has also owned her own business for 35 years and for 12 years held the position of County Clerk. These are two individuals who have dedicated their time, money and energy to making the City of Versailles and Morgan County better places to live and raise a family.

Mr. Speaker, on February 20, Dexter and Donna, along with their children, Amy and Windy and Barbara and Bert, and their grandchildren will become one family. I am sure my fellow Members of the House will join me in wishing them all the best as they start their new life together.

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A PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING  
RUSSELL MCCALL

**HON. ROBERT W. NEY**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 15, 2005*

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker:

Whereas, Russell McCall has demonstrated ongoing commitment to education for the residents of the Muskingum Valley; and

Whereas, Russell McCall has attended 500 consecutive board meetings of the Muskingum

Valley Educational Service Center without absence; and

Whereas, Russell McCall has served as a board member since 1963, served on the New Concord-Union Local Board of Education for 4 years, was a founding member of the Mid-East Career and Technology Center's Board of Education for 19 years, and was a founding member of the Zane State College Board of Trustees for 19 years; and

Whereas, Russell McCall served in the United States Army during World War II and was awarded a bronze star; and

Whereas, Russell McCall is a lifelong member of College Drive Presbyterian Church and was active in the New Concord Grange and Muskingum County Pomona Grange.

Therefore, I join with the residents of the Muskingum Valley and the entire 18th Congressional District of Ohio in recognizing Russell McCall for his longtime dedication to the residents and children of Coshocton, Morgan, and Musingum Counties.

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LEADER IN EDUCATION

**HON. JIM COSTA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 15, 2005*

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate Dr. Walter L. Buster, of Prather, California. Dr. Buster is a recipient of the Kremen School of Education and Human Development "Noted Alumni Award."

Dr. Buster received his Bachelor of Arts in English from Westmont College in Santa Barbara, then went on to attain his Master of Arts from Chapman College in Orange, California. He then moved to Montana and attended University of Montana to receive his Doctorate in Curriculum Development.

Walt moved back to California where he began his teaching career in Fullerton, then became Superintendent of Fairfax School District in 1984. In this position, Walt acted as the Chief Executive Officer for a K-8 district with 600 students in Marin County. He developed a plan for consolidation with the San Anselmo School District that was approved by the voters, and was responsible for cooperatively merging the Fairfax School District with the San Anselmo School District into the new Ross Valley School District.

He continued on as Superintendent, helping other school districts succeed, and finally came to Clovis and joined our community as Superintendent of Clovis Unified School District. After seven years with Clovis Unified, Walt became the Director of the Central Valley Education Leadership Institute at California State University, Fresno.

Walt's success has been great, and he has served on numerous committees and councils, such as the Fresno Compact Board of Directors, California State University, Fresno, Superintendents' Advisory Council, ACSA/CSLA Executive Leadership Planning Committee and Seminar Facilitator.

As gratitude for his service, Dr. Buster received the Robert Alioto Award for Instructional Leadership from the California School Leadership Academy, and the Citizen of the Year Award from the Clovis Chamber of Commerce. Most recently he is being honored by the Kremen School of Education and Human