

and raised in Bayonne, Dr. Smith works at the Bayonne Medical Center.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Dr. Jack Smith for his brave work in Afghanistan. We are grateful for his courage in the face of danger and his service to our country in the name of freedom.

HONORING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF
SAN MARCOS CITY COUNCILMAN
DANIEL GUERRERO

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the important achievements of San Marcos Councilman Daniel Guerrero, of my Congressional District.

Daniel Guerrero is a native of San Marcos, and graduated from San Marcos High School in 1995. He decided to further his education and earned his Bachelors Degree in Mass Communication/Public Relations in 2000 from Texas State University.

Mr. Guerrero was elected to the San Marcos City Council in 2004. He is actively involved in the community, giving his time to a variety of organizations that work for the public good. He has worked as City Councilman to improve city planning and the city's quality of life.

Daniel Guerrero served as President of LULAC No. 654, and was appointed by the City Council to serve on the Arts Commission. He is an inspiration for his public service, and believes deeply in the role of the community in supporting and encouraging strong families.

Daniel currently works as a national recruiter and professional development specialist with Inroads, Inc. He is a member of the Austin Chapter of the Society of Mexican American Engineers and Scientists, the Texas State University Alumni Association, and Omega Delta Phi Alumni Association.

Mr. Speaker, Daniel Guerrero's career as a public servant has done credit to the city of San Marcos, and I am proud to have the opportunity to thank him.

HONORING DELEGATE JAMES H.
DILLARD

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Delegate James H. Dillard for over 21 years of dedicated service to the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Delegate Dillard has served as Delegate to the Virginia General Assembly from 1972–1977 and then again from 1980–2005. Delegate Dillard represents the 41st District in central Fairfax County. He served in the United States Navy from 1955 to 1957 and received a B.A. from The College of William and Mary and a M.A. in Political Science from The American University.

Delegate Dillard previously served as a Fairfax County teacher and principal and began his political career as a member of the Fairfax

Education Association by working to establish a living wage for teachers in the 1960's. His strong interest in education led him to be one of the original architects of the Virginia Standards of Learning. Additionally, he was chief sponsor of legislation placing a guidance counselor in every elementary school, and has been recognized as National Legislator of the Year by the Guidance Counselors Association.

As Chairman of the Natural Resources subcommittee of the House Appropriations Committee, Delegate Dillard initiated the largest growth in parks and conservation activities in Virginia's history. Delegate Dillard was the author and chief sponsor of the Virginia Soil and Siltation Act which protects streams and waterways from pollutants. He has also worked behind the scenes to ensure the development of the Leesylvania State Park sailing marina, one of the finest facilities of its kind on the Potomac River and has been recognized as Legislator of the Year by the Chesapeake Bay Foundation.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I would like to extend my best wishes to Delegate Dillard on his retirement from the General Assembly. Through his long and distinguished career Delegate Dillard has touched the lives of countless Virginians. While I know that he will be greatly missed, his retirement is well deserved. I call upon my colleagues to join me in honoring Delegate Dillard and in wishing him the best of luck in all future endeavors.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, March 21, 2005 I was unable to return to Washington from California for consideration of and the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass S. 686, for the relief of the parents of Theresa Marie Schiavo. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall vote 90.

COMMENDING SEA EDUCATION AS-
SOCIATION STUDENTS WHO
AIDED IN RESCUING 49 HAITIAN
REFUGEES

HON. WILLIAM D. DELAHUNT

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Mr. DELAHUNT. Mr. Speaker, very few of life's important lessons come from a book. That is the educational philosophy of the Sea Education Association, a unique program based on Cape Cod to teach hands-on seafaring skills to young men and women. SEA offers college students a rigorous semester "overseas" that challenges them intellectually and physically by combining study of the deep ocean with the sailing adventure of a lifetime.

After extensive classroom training, 22 SEA students and a crew of 11 launched from Key West aboard the *Corwith Cramer*, a 134-foot sailing research vessel under the command of Captain Steve Tarrant. Five weeks later, the students were deploying oceanographic sam-

pling equipment near Jamaica when they spotted a small disabled vessel brimming with Haitian nationals, including many children. With search-and-rescue assets nowhere nearby, and with life and limb literally at stake, the students showed more than academic and navigational prowess. They acted from deep in their hearts.

What followed was a dramatic story of courage and compassion—a life-changing, hands-across-the-sea experience for rescuer and refugee alike. John Bullard, SEA president, summed it up in five eloquent words: "We're all in the same boat."

The enormity of the ocean has inspired for thousands of years. These students learned first-hand that men and women are also part of the natural rhythm of the sea, and resolved immediately to remain a part of the lives of the Haitians they encountered so far from home. All who follow in future SEA voyages can sail with deep pride in a mission that anticipates serious challenge—but that also embraces deep responsibility.

I commend to my House colleagues the following news account, one of dozens in the wake of this remarkable sequence of events:

[From MSNBC, Mar. 10, 2005]

U.S. STUDENTS AID RESCUE OF HAITIANS
ADRIFT AT SEA
(By Kari Huus)

For 22 U.S. college students on a voyage in the Caribbean, the six-week trip would have been an adventure to remember in any case, but their encounter with a boat full of Haitians adrift at sea made it a life-changing event.

The students, studying oceanography in a program called Sea Semester at Woods Hole, Mass., were about 45 miles north of Jamaica on Wednesday deploying some research equipment from their vessel, the *SSV Corwith Cramer*, when one student spotted what turned out to be a 25-foot open boat packed with 49 Haitians, including 14 children and infants. The Haitians had been heading for Jamaica, but were adrift after their boat lost its mast and rudder. Passengers on the distressed boat said they had been at sea for five days.

What to do was decided over the course of the next five hours. Through calls to the U.S. Coast Guard and Jamaican authorities, the students learned that the *Corwith*, a 135-foot sail-powered research vessel, was the only boat within reasonable range to rescue the Haitians. Jamaican authorities said they could not rescue the group of Haitians but would receive them.

But there were risks to be considered, said John Bullard, president of Sea Semester: "Piracy is one of them. Exposure to disease is another."

On the other hand, he said, if the research vessel "had just sailed away from 49 people . . . our students would have been scarred in other ways."

ASSESSING THE RISKS

Under the direction of the vessel's captain, Steve Tarrant, who leads an 11-person professional crew, calls went out to search-and-rescue experts and medical experts.

The decision was made to bring the Haitians aboard before the sun set. "We thought if we towed the vessel it might not survive that. We would end up fishing people out of the water," said Bullard. "We felt the safest action was to bring them aboard during the daylight when we could control some things."

As the Haitians gathered in a sheltered spot above deck on the research vessel, the crew cut the smaller boat loose after marking it with fluorescent paint to avoid sparking unnecessary search-and-rescue efforts if