

HONORING TOM MORDUE

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 18, 2005

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize the vision and innovation of Mr. Tom Mordue. His efforts as a physical education teacher and principal have greatly impacted and improved the lives of students for over three decades. Tom's sense of humor, combined with his ability to see the big picture, has made his pioneering efforts to integrate diverse groups of students to form a student body soaring to success.

Tom's love of athletics began early. He wrestled all four years of high school and another four years at the University of Illinois, Chicago. In college, Tom established his leadership capacity as captain of the wrestling team. He also demonstrated his ability to successfully weave academics with athletics. At the University of Illinois, Tom participated in two NCAA tournaments and was named an Outstanding College Athlete of America in 1970.

After graduation, Tom went on to the University of Arizona to complete his Masters in Education. There, Tom began his career as a wrestling coach as a Graduate Assistant in the Physical Education program. In his first year, he coached two National place winners.

Tom's superior performance in college and graduate school landed him jobs as a social studies teacher, PE teacher, wrestling, football, and track coach. In each of these positions, Tom sought to make a difference in the lives of students. Rather than remain a passive teacher at the sidelines, Tom actively demonstrated sports skills in class to involve every student.

Mr. Mordue's contributions, however, extend much farther than the gym and classroom. At Northeast Junior High, Tom initiated an adaptive physical education program called Positive PE. In this very successful program, Tom teamed regular students with special education, developmentally and physically disabled students to provide a constructive arena for students to interact and understand one another. Tom was also heavily involved in the Jerry Lewis Telethon and would even personally drive students to the marathons. As a result of his contributions to the disabled community, Tom was named Teacher of the Year by the Association of Retarded Citizens in 1981.

Tom's record of success brought him to the position of assistant principal at Northeast and Westlake Junior High Schools, and later principal and district attendance officer at Eastlake Campus and Vantage Point Campus. In his eleven years at Vantage Point Campus High Plains High School, Tom was a Colorado Association of School Executives' Wright Way Award nominee as well as Colorado Association of School Resource Officers Administrator of the Year.

Despite his various roles in the Colorado education system, one aspect has remained constant in Tom's career: to integrate and involve students and staff in activities that bring the community together. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join with me in expressing our gratitude to Mr. Mordue for his work in the Colorado education system and among the

unique student community at Vantage Point campus.

THE VALUE OF YOUTHBUILD**HON. BARNEY FRANK**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 18, 2005

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, earlier this year I heard from dismayed leaders of the organization known as YouthBuild, who had learned that funding for this extremely valuable program had been left out of the appropriations bills brought to the House. Because I know of the value of this program, I had several conversations with both Democratic and Republican leaders of the Committee, and I am very gratified that after these discussions and consultations, funding for this program was added to the Treasury, Transportation HUD Bill on the floor of the House, with bipartisan—indeed unanimous—support.

Mr. Speaker, at a time when it has become fashionable to denigrate "government" in general, we too often lose sight of the very valuable services performed by particular government programs. Thoughtless critics of "government" have in my judgment created a mathematical impossibility—a whole that is smaller than the sum of its parts. That is, if we take into account the value of various government programs, we get a result that greatly exceeds in the contribution it makes to our quality of life the view of government's value that we too often hear expressed.

Recently, in the Brockton Enterprise, Courtney Randon wrote an excellent article that illustrates how valuable the YouthBuild program is, and how it has helped achieve a number of goals—giving job skills to young people, and advancing the concept of homeownership for people who would have economic difficulty otherwise in owning a home. The story of Maribel Arce and YouthBuild is an inspiring one, and demonstrates just why it was so important that the House acted as it did to restore funding for this program. I ask that the article be printed here.

[From the Brockton Enterprise, Jul. 1, 2005]

IT'S GREAT BECAUSE IT'S MY HOUSE

(By Courtney Randon)

BROCKTON. Maribel Arce was filled with a mix of emotions as she became a first-time homeowner on Thursday.

"I'm so excited. I still don't believe it," Arce said. "But I'm nervous. It's the first time I'm talking to a big crowd."

That crowd, which included directors, students and sponsors of the Old Colony YMCA's YouthBuild, a program in which students build homes for low-income families who qualify, had gathered to watch Arce accept the keys to her new home.

YouthBuild built the house on Laureston Street, where Arce, her three teenage daughters and her mother will live.

Arce and her family earned the right to purchase the house by graduating from the Brockton Housing Authority's Self Sufficiency program, where she learned money management and savings skills.

"Self Sufficiency is an excellent opportunity," Arce said. "They offer things I wouldn't know if I didn't go."

Maribel, a single mother of her daughters, age 13, 16 and 18, learned that she qualified to purchase the house, valued at about \$260,000,

in March for \$182,500, but she also learned she was not the only candidate.

Two other families were also eligible, and all three were entered into a drawing last month.

"I was a little scared because I knew it wasn't 100 percent or even 50 percent that I'd get the house," Arce said.

When she won, Arce said, "At first I didn't believe it. I didn't believe it when they said my name."

For the next month, until the house was completed, Arce would stop by and visit the house to see the progress.

"Every day I came, three times a day," she said.

Now, she is looking forward to throwing her first party in her new home.

"It's great because it's my house, I don't have to share it with anybody," she said.

Her 16-year-old daughter, also named Maribel, is excited that she gets to decorate her new room the way she wants.

"I want it in all angels. I couldn't paint at the apartment," she said.

The Arces are moving from their three-bedroom apartment on Park Street, where they lived for 10 years.

"We have a big yard now," Arce said. "Our dog will have space outside now."

The younger Maribel Arce said of her mother, "I'm proud of her. I'm so happy we have our own house."

Through the five-year Self Sufficiency program, Arce, who works as an instructor aide at Training Resources of America in Brockton, earned enough money for a down payment on the house and qualified for a bank mortgage.

Cynthia McDonagh, who runs the Self Sufficiency program, said Arce became an exemplary student in the program and McDonagh wants Arce to come back and talk with future classes.

"If they need me, I can talk to them," Arce said. "I think people should take advantage of it. There are so many benefits."

Arce and her family were presented with keys at the ceremony by a graduating student of YouthBuild.

Arce said she was grateful to all the people involved in YouthBuild and all the students that built the house.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF WINFRED "WIN" WYATT ADAMS FOR HIS OUTSTANDING PUBLIC SERVICE**HON. MIKE THOMPSON**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 18, 2005

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my sadness regarding the recent passing of Winfred Wyatt "Win" Adams. Mr. Adams, a devoted public servant, passed away Saturday, June 25, 2005, after a brief illness at age 88.

Born February 1, 1917, in Warren, Arkansas, Mr. Adams served more than twenty year of active duty in the U.S. Armed Services. After enlisting in the Army in 1939, Mr. Adams was deployed overseas to fight in the European Theater of Operations. During his 21 month tour, Mr. Adams served in Rome, Arno, Northern and Southern France, Ardennes, Rhineland, and Central Europe.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Adams spent his last years of active duty in Air Force Intelligence. From 1949 until 1953, Mr. Adams was assigned to the U.S. Embassy in Cairo. In July