

TRIBUTE TO BRONX COMMUNITY COLLEGE'S 28TH ANNUAL HALL OF FAME 10K RUN

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 9, 2006

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, it is with joy that I rise today to once again pay tribute to Bronx Community College, which will hold its 28th Annual Hall of Fame 10K Run on Saturday, May 6, 2006.

The Hall of Fame 10K Run was founded in 1978 by Bronx Community College's third president, Dr. Roscoe C. Brown. Its mission is to highlight the Hall of Fame for Great Americans, a national institution dedicated to those who have helped to make America the nation that it is today.

One of the Bronx's most anticipated yearly events, the race contributes to a strong sense of community within the Bronx and helps to promote healthy living by placing emphasis on physical fitness and achieving athletic goals.

The tradition continues under the leadership of President Carolyn G. Williams, the first woman president of Bronx Community College. Dr. Williams has endorsed and follows the commitment made by Dr. Brown to promote physical well-being as well as higher education.

As one who has run the Hall of Fame 10K Run, I can attest that the excitement it generates brings the entire borough together. It is a celebration and affirmation of life. I am happy that more than 400 people will share this experience this year—one that will surely change many of their lives forever. I salute the hundreds of joyful people who will run along the Grand Concourse, University Avenue and West 181st Street and savor the variety of celebrations. There is no better way to see our wonderful Bronx community.

I am also pleased to note that the Annual Run is also joined by a 2 Mile Fitness Walk which allows for as many people as possible, regardless of their athletic ability, to get involved and support the Hall of Fame.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing the individuals and participants who are making the Bronx Community College's 28th Annual Hall of Fame Run possible.

IN SUPPORT OF NATIONAL TEACHER DAY

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 9, 2006

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of National Teacher Day. I thank the National Education Association (NEA) for sponsoring National Teacher Day in honor of the teachers who work around the clock to help students develop the skills they need to succeed in life.

This year's National Teacher Day theme, "Great Teachers Make Great Public Schools," recognizes the instrumental role that teachers play in making sure that every child receives a quality education. In recent years, especially with increased global competition, there has

been an emphasis on the need to improve our schools and to ensure that every class is taught by high quality teachers. Fortunately, today's public school teachers are the most educated, most experienced ever. The percentage of teachers with a master's degree has more than doubled since 1961 from 23 to 57 percent, and more than 75 percent of all teachers sharpen their skills by participating in professional development related to their grade or subject area. Nine out of 10 teachers only teach subjects in their licensed subject area.

American school teachers work tirelessly to educate our Nation's students. Many of these teachers work out of crumbling old buildings, teach overcrowded classrooms and do the best they can with outdated materials and little access to technology; additionally, they are paid a salary that reflects neither their great worth nor their ability. For the benefit of children, these dedicated individuals spend an average of 50 hours per week and spend an average of \$443 per year of their own money on class supplies even though the average starting salary for teachers is only \$31,704 per year.

Confronted with a difficult job, school teachers rise to the challenge and I am grateful for today's opportunity to honor them. Unfortunately, this day is also bittersweet because as we recognize the achievements of America's teachers we must also remember the shortcomings of this Congress in failing to help them meet the mandates of No Child Left Behind (NCLB).

The No Child Left Behind Act was passed with the greatest of intentions, but major funding shortfalls have plagued school districts and handcuffed teachers, leaving them focused on federally mandated testing standards and on demonstrating adequate yearly progress (AYP) without providing them with the funding necessary to help students achieve. If this year's budget is passed as is, it would leave NCLB, an initiative that this Administration spearheaded, with \$15.4 billion less than authorized levels, bringing the total amount that has been shortchanged from the program to over \$55 billion. In a recent survey, NEA member-teachers cited "working to increase funding for public schools" as their top priority. As teachers work to make American schools great, it is a shame that this Congress has failed to fulfill its responsibility and continues to hold schools accountable to these unfunded mandates.

Today, I urge my colleagues to honor the work of America's teachers not just in word or through events, but by committing to fully fund NCLB so that our teachers can succeed in their mission of making sure every child receives a quality education.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO JOHN P. MCFADDEN

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 9, 2006

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 85th birthday of John Patrick McFadden, and the anniversary of the McFadden Insurance Agency, which John started 25 years ago.

John McFadden was born July 23, 1921 in Butte, Montana. Born to Irish immigrants, John was educated in a one room school house in Boulder City, Nevada, where the family resided while John's father worked construction on the Hoover Dam. John later attended Las Vegas High School, and graduated in 1940. In 1942, after the start of World War II, John joined the United States Navy. He went to boot camp in San Diego, California, and after completing his training he was assigned to the destroyer minelayer, the USS *Shea* out of Lido Beach, New York. On May 5, 1945, the ship was struck by a Japanese kamikaze plane off the shores of Okinawa, Japan. Two-thirds of the crew of the destroyer were killed and many more wounded; John's injuries were also significant, having sustained 13 pieces of shrapnel in his left leg, severing a nerve and leaving the outside of his foot numb. His right leg, rear end, and head were also full of shrapnel. The shrapnel in his head caused temporary blindness, but after treatment in Saipan, his sight returned. John was not able to return to active duty and was honorably discharged.

In 1951, John was hired at Mercury, Nevada now known as the Nevada Test Site, to set up warehousing in both Camp 1 and Camp 3. In 1953 he was asked to go to Saudi Arabia to work in warehousing and supply and aided the building of dormitories and air strips for the U.S. Air Force, which were used by our country in Operation Desert Storm. During his tenure in Saudi Arabia, he met his wife, Rose. John and Rose subsequently moved back to Las Vegas and were married in 1957.

John trained to be an insurance adjuster, handling property claims, and with a partner formed Key Adjustment Company. He later agreed to manage Horsey Insurance, which later became Harrington-Horsey Insurance. In 1981, after managing the agency for 17 years he decided to form his own agency, now known as McFadden Insurance. This agency is now in its 25th year. During his years with the agency John served as the President of the Nevada Independent Insurance Agents for 2 years, and then served 2 terms as the State National Director for the Nevada Association. He was named "Man of the Year" by the Nevada Independent Insurance Agents in 1986. Even on the eve of his 85th birthday, he has no plans to quit working, and still comes into the office and continues to be a vital asset to the agency.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor John P. McFadden for his heroic service to America and for his personal and professional successes.

COMMEMORATING THE MOUNT VERNON YACHT CLUB'S 50TH ANNUAL COMMISSIONING DAY CEREMONIES

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 9, 2006

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate the Mount Vernon Yacht Club on its 50th annual Commissioning Day.

The Mount Vernon Yacht Club was founded in 1956 to offer a variety of social and water-

based activities to family members who live in the Historic Mount Vernon area. The clubhouse and marina facility are located where Dogue Creek joins the Potomac River. The club hosts many official and unofficial social and service-oriented events throughout the year. In season, it supports an active swim team, a power fleet, and a sail fleet. The club actively contributes to the boating community by serving as the home base of two Coast Guard Auxiliary Power Squadrons. It hosts meetings of local Coast Guard, County Police and Emergency Responders for Homeland Security training and communications drills.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the Mount Vernon Yacht Club on its proud history of promoting safe boating, the sport of sailing, and camaraderie among members of the Mount Vernon Yacht Club through its activities of organized club racing. On the occasion of this 50th annual Commissioning Day, I ask my colleagues to join me in acknowledging this outstanding and distinguished organization.

TRIBUTE TO MONROE
BASKETBALL PROGRAM

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 9, 2006

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the undefeated national basketball champion Monroe College Lady Mustangs. On Saturday, March 18, the Lady Mustangs (36–0) beat Mohawk Valley Community College (MVCC) 100–70 to become 2006 National Junior College Athletic Association, Division III National Champions. Monroe's men's team, led by Coach Jeff Brustad, also had a successful season, compiling a record of 35–5 and finishing 8th in the national tournament.

There is an old saying: "Everyone has the desire to win, but only champions have the desire to prepare." Under the outstanding leadership of Coach Seth Goodman, the Lady Mustangs worked tirelessly in the off-season to prepare themselves physically and mentally for the season ahead. Their dedication and unrivaled work ethic helped to ensure that their third consecutive appearance in the tournament was a charm.

The Lady Mustangs earned Monroe's first ever national championship in athletics with a tenacious defense and potent offense, a combination that worked for them all season long. Although the tournament was played in front of MVCC's hometown fans in Utica, New York, the Lady Mustangs were not intimidated—they promptly quieted the crowd with stifling defense, holding their opponents to only 2 points for the first seven minutes of the game.

Mr. Speaker, the success that these young ladies enjoyed on the court is not only a reflection of their skills with a basketball, but more importantly, a reflection of their character. To reach the level of competition that they have achieved, one must acquire certain qualities that will not only help in sports but in life as well; qualities such as discipline, patience, and perseverance. While I am excited that they have proved to be champions on the court, I am more excited to know that they have developed the skills necessary for them to become champions in life.

I want to compliment everyone associated with Monroe College Women's and Men's Basketball for the courage and class they exhibited throughout the entire season. Athletics is about much more than winning. It is about learning how to work with others to overcome adversity. The men's and women's basketball programs have shown that they have learned this valuable lesson. I am very proud of Monroe Basketball for the great strides it has made in the pursuit of excellence. May these programs continue to serve as an example of what heights can be reached when you combine patience, hard work, and dedication.

For their strong work ethic and mental toughness on and off the court, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to the Monroe Lady Mustangs for winning the 2006 NJCAA, Division III National Championship and to congratulate the Monroe Men's team for an impressive run at the national title.

TRIBUTE TO HENRY WEILER

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 9, 2006

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Henry Weiler for his many years of public service to Chautauqua County.

Mr. Weiler served two terms as county clerk and has continued to work as a part-time court office assistant in the Supreme and County courts. Mr. Weiler was recently honored at the Chautauqua County's annual Law Day celebration for his many years of service to the courts.

Mr. Weiler, as been very active in his community as well. He is involved with the County Historical Society, the American Legion, the Jamestown Harmony Express Barbershop Singers and the local Masonic Lodges. His involvement in the community has helped maintain organizations that strive to improve the quality of life for the citizens of his community.

Mr. Weiler's public service and community involvement has been an inspiration, that is why, Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor him today.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO GERALD
BURKIN AND LYNN MAYERS-
GERRY

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 9, 2006

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Gerald Burkin and Lynn Mayers-Gerry who are American Medical Response "Star of Life" recipients.

The American Medical Response "Star of Life" is a special program. Its sole purpose is to publicly recognize and celebrate the achievements of all people working in the selfless and heroic world of ambulance service providers. The "Star of Life" Program seeks to honor outstanding individuals as a thank you for the service, sacrifice and inspiration they bring to all of us.

Gerald and Lynn are heroes in many ways, they have both served as mentors to new employees and have promoted positive changes

in the local health care community. Gerald and Lynn have also risked their own safety in the line of duty. While Gerald, Lynn, and an intern were setting up some warning devices, another vehicle struck Gerald and Lynn and they both sustained serious injuries. Even pinned between the ambulance and the vehicle, they maintained contact with the dispatch center via radio and cell phone.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor Gerald Burkin and Lynn Mayers-Gerry for their being awarded the American Medical Response "Star of Life". Gerald and Lynn are also to be commended for their sense of duty and dedication to improving the local health care community. I wish to congratulate and thank them both.

HONORING THE LIFE OF CAPTAIN
BRIAN LETENDRE

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 9, 2006

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Marine Captain Brian Letendre, one of the true heroes of today's ongoing war against terrorism, and to recognize his service to our Nation.

Captain Letendre was born in California at Stanford University Hospital, but was raised all of his life in Woodbridge, VA. In 1996, Captain Letendre graduated from Potomac High School where he was an exceptional student and captain of the varsity soccer team.

Captain Letendre received his degree in Computer Science from Milligan College, where he met his future wife, Autumn Crane. Captain Letendre then attended Basic Officer School and the Infantry Officer's Course in Quantico, VA. After completing these schools, he and Autumn were married. Captain Letendre was then assigned to the First Battalion, Second Marine Regiment, Second Marine Division. He quickly embarked on a six-month deployment to Okinawa, Japan as an infantry platoon commander, and after returning to the United States briefly, was assigned to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba to provide security and guard the terrorist prisoners being held there.

Captain Letendre's battalion was then deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. His battalion fought their way north into Iraq after crossing the Kuwait border and were heavily engaged in combat, particularly at the infamous battle of An Nasiriyah during the early days of the liberation. Captain Letendre was decorated with the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal with a Combat "V" for valor, for his heroic actions during combat operations.

Captain Letendre's wife, Autumn, gave birth to their son Dillon the day before Captain Letendre crossed the line of departure into battle. A year after returning from combat, Captain Letendre was assigned to the Marine Forces Reserve's Inspector and Instructor Staff, 1st Battalion, 25th Marine Regiment, 4th Marine Division, Plainville, Connecticut. He was promoted to the rank of Captain on January 1, 2005.

After two years serving stateside, Captain Letendre bravely and selflessly volunteered to join a newly formed elite 11-man unit that was