

ten Chicago-area high school teachers to be awarded a 2007 Golden Apple Award for Excellence in Teaching out of over 800 nominees from Cook, DuPage, Kane, Lake and Will counties.

As chair of the school's fine and performing arts department, Ms. Williams has developed programs aimed at stimulating her students and creating awareness of the world around them. She initially came to the school in 1998 as a visiting artist specializing in glass blowing. Today she continues to share her artistic skills as a sculptor while also teaching Advanced Placement Art History, AP Studio and 3-D design. In addition she has created a unique program that has used art to connect students with communities from inner-city Chicago to communities around the world.

Golden Apple's Chief Program Officer Gloria Harper describes Ms. Williams as "an artist in the true sense. If you walk around the school, inside and outside, she's responsible for the art that brings it alive. She brings the kids out of the school and exposes them to everything, different ethnicities and cultures. She really makes them aware that they're part of a larger world."

I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Ms. Gina Williams and all the educators that work every day to ensure our children's minds are expanded.

A TRIBUTE TO JANET BARRIE SMITH

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 13, 2007

Mr. SCHIFF. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mrs. Janet Barrie Smith of Temple City, California. Each year in March, in recognition of Women's History Month, we pay special tribute to the contributions made by our Nation's women.

Janet was born in Palo Alto, California, and has been a resident of the Temple City community for the past 25 years. She earned her bachelor of arts degree in liberal arts from California State University San Diego in 1979 and her State of California teaching credential in 1980.

Mrs. Smith is a former elementary school teacher and worked for San Marino Unified School District and Monrovia Unified School District. Her greatest joy is contributing to the community in which she has raised her family. She has served four terms as the Temple City Council PTA president and has held virtually every PTA office and chairmanship at Longden Elementary School, Oak Avenue Intermediate School, and Temple City High School. Currently, she is the vice president of hospitality for the Temple City High School PTA. Janet also serves as the outreach chairman at First District PTA and the Temple City Council PTA representative.

In 2002, Janet helped develop the Temple City Schools Foundation, a fundraising organi-

zation dedicated to preserving quality programming and creating unique opportunities for students of the Temple City Unified School District. Aside from being a founding member and current board member, Janet has also served terms as secretary and vice president. Last year, Janet was the chair of a committee that raised funds for a Temple City High School Senior that was diagnosed with cancer. The overwhelming success of the event illustrated Janet's ability to bring her community together in support of a common cause.

Janet is an active supporter of the performing arts. She served on the Temple City High School Band Rose Parade Committee and helped raise over \$100,000 to support the Pride of Temple City's debut in the 2004 Rose Parade. Most recently, she has chaperoned parades, competitions, and coordinated the Temple City High School week-long band camp.

Janet states her most rewarding experience is being a stay at home mother to three sons. Janet is married to Matt Smith, a member of the Temple City Unified School District Board of Education. In her very limited spare time, she enjoys baking, photography, and being creative on the computer.

Mrs. Smith's devotion to her career and her long-time commitment to the prosperity of our community serves as a true inspiration to us all. I ask all members of Congress to join me today in honoring an extraordinary woman of California's 29th Congressional District, Mrs. Janet Barrie Smith.