

no. Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

TRIBUTE TO MR. MARK
ALVARADO

HON. MICHAEL A. ARCURI

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 29, 2007

Mr. ARCURI. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Mr. Mark Alvarado, a resident of my congressional district in upstate New York. Mark currently serves as the field representative for New York DeMolay, but he is leaving this position at the end of the fiscal year.

DeMolay is a youth organization that develops leadership skills, civic awareness and personal responsibility among young men. With more than one thousand chapters worldwide, the organization combines its serious mission with a fun approach.

Mark's first experience with DeMolay came when he joined, and later became the master councilor of, the David J. Nye chapter in Ohio. After serving as the secretary and president for Northeast Ohio, he became the state secretary in July 1995. Due to his outstanding work in Ohio, Mr. Alvarado was offered a position at the DeMolay International Headquarters in Kansas City, Missouri. In 2002, he became the field representative for New York DeMolay.

During his tenure as field representative, Mark has traveled throughout the state to help the members of New York DeMolay as they have contributed approximately ten thousand hours of community service per year. He has developed and implemented a membership education curriculum, and planned conventions, athletic weekends and charity functions.

Perhaps Mark's greatest accomplishment as field representative has been the redevelopment and expansion of the Mohawk Valley chapter, which is based in my hometown of Utica. Due to his encouragement and support, the chapter has become involved in many community events, including the Boilermaker Road Race and the St. John's Day Festival.

In recognition of his work with DeMolay, Mark has received numerous honors including the Leadership Correspondence Course, the Blue Honor Key, the Chevalier, the Legion of Honor and the Representative DeMolay Award.

Mark's exceptional dedication is to be commended. As the father of two teenagers, I recognize the importance of organizations like DeMolay that encourage young people to get involved in their communities. I thank him for his commitment and wish him luck as he pursues his future goals.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RAHM EMANUEL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 29, 2007

Mr. EMANUEL. Madam Speaker, I was absent from the Chamber for rollcall votes 1003 and 1005 on October 25, 2007. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on rollcall vote 1003 and "no" on rollcall vote 1005.

RECOGNIZING THE RETIREMENT
OF TERRY NEUSTAEDTER AS
PRINCIPAL OF BERRYHILL ELE-
MENTARY SCHOOL

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 29, 2007

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, it is an honor for me to rise today and recognize the retirement of Terry Neustaedter, a great educator.

For over 33 years, Terry has served as the principal of Berryhill Elementary School in Milton, FL, and under his leadership the school's size, facilities, and reputation have flourished. When he took the helm at Berryhill in 1974, the school served 350 students with a faculty and staff of only 35 people, and when he retires at the end of this year the student body will have more than doubled to 850 students and a faculty and staff of 115.

When the State of Florida implemented the Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test, FCAT to determine how well schools were meeting the standards set by the No Child Left Behind Act, every school principal was faced with a new challenge of making sure the schools under their charge lived up to its highest potential. Within 2 years, Terry Neustaedter had Berryhill Elementary School earning an "A" grade, and it has remained that way ever since. In addition, the Florida Department of Education recently awarded Berryhill with a Certificate of Achievement for having exceeded the standard for annual progress, and the school is 1 of only 12 schools out of 1,400 to receive such distinction.

Terry's leadership of Berryhill Elementary was not limited to just within the school walls. The school has received numerous awards on both the State and local level for community involvement, especially in the area of volunteering in the surrounding community. These volunteer efforts have included helping raise money for the American Heart Association and the American Cancer Association, and for many years Berryhill has received the Department of Veteran Affairs "Outstanding Service" award recognizing its outstanding service to our nation's veterans through the Voluntary Service Program. In addition, he has brought programs into the school that teach the importance of civic participation through activities such as voting, reinforcing the importance of being involved with one's community.

Madam Speaker, Terry's leadership and friendly positive demeanor will be missed by past and current students of Berryhill Elementary School. I am confident that those following in his footsteps will aspire to achieve the same great results for our Nation's youth as Terry has achieved, and I know he will continue to be looked up to as a great educator.

IN RECOGNITION OF LYNDA
SACKETT

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 29, 2007

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Lynda Sackett as she

retires from her position as Director of Dance at the Beck Center for the Arts in Lakewood, Ohio. For the last 40 years, she has touched the lives of thousands of young dance artists as she has worked to establish the Beck Center as a great arts resource for Northeast Ohio.

Lynda began her career in the 1960s in Beck Center's Theatre Education Program. During the 1970s, she helped to create the Dance Education Program and has led that program ever since. Her passion for dance and for the arts led her to get even more involved with the Beck Center, serving as both director of Outreach Education and program director for Visual Arts Education while continuing to lead the dance program.

In her honor, the Beck Center has recently announced the establishment of the Lynda Sackett Endowment Fund for Dance Education. This money will serve to honor Lynda's spirit and dedication to dance by continuing her efforts to reach out to the community and encourage more young people to learn about the art of dance.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring Lynda Sackett for her service to her community and to arts education.

CONGRATULATING JUNIOR
ACHIEVEMENT OF ROCKY MOUN-
TAIN INCORPORATED

HON. THOMAS G. TANCREDO

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 29, 2007

Mr. TANCREDO. Madam Speaker, today I am honored to acknowledge the achievements of Junior Achievement of Rocky Mountain Incorporated for serving Colorado's youth attending Littleton public schools. This year, Junior Achievement is being recognized by the Colorado Association of Partners in Education for its outstanding volunteerism and academic contributions in the fields of economics and finance. Their commitment has instilled a strong sense of financial prowess and capitalist spirit within the youth of their community; a valuable asset which will undoubtedly yield great benefits in the years to come.

The successful history of Junior Achievement mirrors the entrepreneurial character it strives to instill. Founded in 1919, it has grown from being an after school mentoring program to become the world's largest organization focused on educating students on the dynamics and benefits of local and global financial markets. By introducing young individuals to the values of economics, they are better prepared and responsible to establish and manage their financial and personal goals as they grow older.

In addition, all Junior Achievement programs are taught by volunteers who successfully mentor roughly 8 million individuals annually. These volunteers are comprised of a myriad of experiences and backgrounds, from business professionals to college students. They instill economic knowledge and understanding in youth and reflect the importance of service to local communities; a value which my district is distinguished to have.

Madam Speaker, it is my distinct pleasure to have such a fine organization at work in my district. Please join me in congratulating Junior Achievement for their many successes.