

HONORING NEWSWEEK RANKING
OF THE SCHOOL FOR THE TALEN-
TED AND GIFTED AND THE
SCHOOL FOR SCIENCE AND ENGI-
NEERING AT YVONNE A. EWELL
TOWNVIEW CENTER

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 9, 2009

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I would like to congratulate the School for the Talented and Gifted and the School for Science and Engineering at Yvonne A. Ewell Townview Center for receiving the extraordinary honor of being ranked as the top two public schools in the nation.

Each year, Newsweek ranks the top public high schools out of a possible 27,000, placing these two schools as the top two out of the 1,500 schools listed. For 2009 the Magnet School for the Talented and Gifted ranked number one, with the Magnet School for Engineering and Science ranking number two. I am delighted that these two schools have achieved such a distinction, placing them among the elite public institutions in this country.

Additionally, I would like to recognize W. T. White High School which ranked 171st and Woodrow Wilson High School which ranked 637th. These rankings put all of these high schools in the top 6 percent of all public secondary schools in the country.

Located in my district of Dallas, Texas, Townview Magnet is one of the most diverse schools in the state, with minorities representing over half of the student population. Given the diverse nature of the City of Dallas itself, and the increased globalization of most industries, the students attending these two schools will have the opportunity not only to impact the Dallas area, but on a global scale. This marks the third time in 4 years that the School for the Talented and Gifted has been ranked number one in the nation. This unveiling marks the second time that the School of Engineering and Science has been ranked second nationally, the other year being in 2007.

This honor shows the values of a good educational environment, as many of the students attending these two schools will have opportunities to be the future leaders of this country. This honor will serve as an inspiration to the faculty, staff and students of Townview Magnet School to maintain a high level of work. I extend my appreciation for the hard work of everyone involved in achieving this honor, and lend my support to the future success of Townview.

Madam Speaker, again, I congratulate the students, teachers, principals and parents of Townview Magnet School for the Talented and Gifted and the Magnet School for Science and Engineering on this honor.

A SPECIAL TRIBUTE TO VAN
WERT MIDDLE SCHOOL

HON. ROBERT E. LATTA

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 9, 2009

Mr. LATTA. Madam Speaker, it is with a great deal of pride that I rise to pay a very

special tribute to an outstanding school in my district in Northwest Ohio. Van Wert Middle School in Van Wert, Ohio is one of only 80 schools in the United States to be recognized as a School to Watch by the National Forum to Accelerate Middle Grades Reform.

Madam Speaker, there is no question that education is the foundation of our country. From the earliest days of our nation's history, children have sought out the opportunity to learn subjects such as math, science, and literature. Education has opened doors for America's citizens and allowed our nation to be one of the most advanced in the world.

Every year, the Schools to Watch program identifies schools across the country that are well on their way to meeting the criteria for high performance. These schools are known to be academically excellent, developmentally responsive, and socially equitable.

In order for Van Wert Middle School to be selected for this prestigious honor, this high-performing school established norms, structures and organizational arrangements to support and sustain its trajectory toward excellence. Van Wert Middle School has a sense of purpose that drives every facet of their practice and decision-making.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying special tribute to the Van Wert Middle School. Our communities are well served by having dedicated educators who go above and beyond the norm to teach the citizens of tomorrow. On behalf of the people of the Fifth District of Ohio, I am proud to recognize this great achievement.

HONORING ANNETTE GODISSART

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 9, 2009

Mr. SHUSTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the accomplishments of Ms. Annette Godissart, the recipient of the Bedford County Rotary Club's 2009 Citizen of the Year Award. As this year's award winner, Annette has shown exemplary service as a citizen of Bedford County.

In addition to her duties as a Laboratory and Cardio-Pulmonary Manager at UPMC Bedford Hospital, Annette has remained steadfast in her service to the community as a volunteer, with an emphasis on the youth of Bedford County. Whether serving the Bedford County School System as a member of the Athletic or Technology Committee, or acting as umpire for youth softball games, her efforts to aid in the positive development of Bedford County youths have been constant.

Annette has been integral to the success of the Bedford County "Reality Tour" at the Bedford County Jail. Here, on a monthly basis, she has spent the last five years working to convey the importance of remaining drug-free to hundreds of local teenagers by showing them the stark realities of drug abuse. This type of selfless volunteerism is another way in which Annette seeks to mold the future leaders of Bedford County.

The artistic and civic-minded aspects of Annette's community service are shown in her involvement in community theatre as well as the Boy Scouts of America. In the theatre Annette entertains Bedford County residents

through her stage talents, appearing in several shows each year with the Bedford County Players, a local non-profit theater group that promotes the involvement of youth in on stage productions. With respect to scouting, after years of service to her two sons, and the Boy Scouts, as a scout leader, Annette remains active as a merit badge counselor, where she helps scouts to earn their Theatre Merit Badges.

Through her dedication to community service, and her enduring commitment to the young men and women of Bedford County, Annette Godissart is an exemplary citizen who embraces the Rotary Motto of "Service above Self." She is deserving of this year's Citizen of the Year Award, and I congratulate her for all her efforts.

EMILIO MARTINEZ

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 9, 2009

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Emilio Martinez who has received the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Emilio Martinez is a senior at Arvada High School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Emilio Martinez is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential that students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations once again to Emilio Martinez for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication he has shown in his academic career to his future accomplishments.

RECOGNIZING CONGREGATION
TORAT EMET

HON. PATRICK J. TIBERI

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 9, 2009

Mr. TIBERI. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise to recognize Congregation Torat Emet. This synagogue is the product of the hard work and dedication of many individuals in Central Ohio and their commitment to the religious growth of their membership and the local Jewish community.

Central Ohio is blessed with many houses of faith that can claim long traditions of service to our community. The addition of Congregation Torat Emet to Central Ohio will continue to make it a vibrant and thriving spiritual center. The congregation will serve the community well and is an inspiration to all.

Throughout our community's history those seeking a place to learn more about their faith have found a home among our houses of worship. The faithful dedication exhibited helps to make Columbus and Central Ohio the kind of place where citizens of all religions and nationalities desire to live, work and raise their families.

This congregation, of more than 150 families, began only five years ago. The goal of securing and strengthening modern Orthodoxy in Central Ohio has been driven by Jay and Jeanie Schottenstein along with Rabbi Howard Zack. Rabbi Zack has been the Spiritual Leader of Congregation Torat Emet since its inception in September 2001. Today, as they open their second Synagogue in Columbus, Ohio may the local Jewish community celebrate the reality of this vision.

I offer my congratulations to the Congregation Torat Emet and the dedication of their new facility.

VETERANS NONPROFIT RESEARCH
AND EDUCATION CORPORATIONS
ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 2009

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 9, 2009

Mr. FILNER. Madam Speaker, today I introduce the "Veterans Nonprofit Research and Education Corporations Enhancement Act of 2009".

As the nation's largest healthcare provider network and the custodian of our veterans' health, the Department of Veterans Affairs has an important role to play in the development of innovative new healthcare technologies, medication, and practices.

Mr. Speaker, the Department of Veterans Affairs research program is well respected within the research community. The program focuses on research that concerns the special health care needs of veterans especially war related injuries and illnesses.

Some recent successes of the program include neuromotor prosthesis for paralyzed patients, development of an artificial retina for veterans who have lost vision due to retinal damage, and the use of a generic drug (prazosin) for veterans with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder.

Importantly, this research program does not just benefit veterans but also American citizens as a whole. Years ago, this program was responsible for bringing to the medical community the pacemaker.

Nonprofit Research Corporations were authorized by Congress in 1988. The intent of these Corporations was to provide a flexible funding mechanism to conduct research and education at VA medical centers. Today, there are 82 independent, state-chartered corporations.

Nonprofit research corporations are a critical component of the overall VA research program. In Fiscal Year 2007 alone, nonprofits were responsible for securing \$250 million from the private sector and non-VA public funding to support over 4,000 research and education programs at the VA. This includes providing nearly 2,500 without compensation research employees who work side-by-side with VA-salaried employees.

This legislation authorizes the creation of multi-medical center research corporations that would allow two or more VA medical centers to share one Nonprofit Research Corporation. VA facilities with small research programs may join with larger ones. Additionally, smaller ones will be allowed to pool resources to support a Corporation.

It also clarifies the purpose of the corporation by enabling Nonprofit Research Corpora-

tions to support functions related to the conduct of research and education.

Additionally, this legislation will broaden the qualifications for the two mandatory non-VA board members beyond familiarity with medical research and education to acquire those with legal and financial expertise for sound governance and financial management. This provision would also remove the overly strict language prohibiting non-VA board members from having any financial relationship, current or past with a for-profit entity which funds VA research or education. This change would be consistent with the rules applied to federal employees in dealing with conflict of interest by allowing for means of recusal.

This legislation further clarifies the powers of corporations. Some of the key authorities provided by this provision include allowing the Corporations to charge registration fees for education and training programs and to use such funds to offset program expenses or for future educational purposes.

It will allow the VA to reimburse Nonprofit Research Corporations for the salary and benefits of NPC employees loaned to VA under Intergovernmental Personnel Act (IPA) assignments.

Finally this legislation will improve accountability and oversight of corporations by requiring each Nonprofit Research Corporation to submit an annual report to the Secretary of the VA on operations, activities, and accomplishments. It would also require Nonprofit Research Corporations with revenues in excess of \$300,000 in any given year to obtain an audit.

I urge your support.