CONGRATULATING COCOA BEACH HIGH SCHOOL AND RALPH M. WILLIAMS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL FOR BEING DESIGNATED AS 2009 BLUE RIBBON SCHOOLS

HON. BILL POSEY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 15, 2009

Mr. POSEY. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to recognize and extend my congratulations to two schools in the 15th Congressional District of Florida that have been designated as 2009 Blue Ribbon Schools: Cocoa Beach High School and Ralph M. Williams Elementary School. I am honored to represent a district that is home to these schools that have achieved so much. These schools will serve as models for other schools throughout the country.

The Blue Ribbon Schools Program commends public and private elementary, middle, and high schools that are either academically superior by scoring in the top 10 percent on state assessment tests or that demonstrate extraordinary gains in student achievement, specifically in students from disadvantaged backgrounds.

Florida's success in the realm of education is nothing new. Florida's education system is frequently boasted as the best in the Nation. In a recent publication by the Heritage Foundation, Florida public education is described as ''remarkable.'' The paper goes on to say that, ''Over the past decade, National Assessment of Education Progress (NAEP) reading scores for Florida fourth graders have soared nine percentage points—more than twice the national gain. Florida's eighth-grade reading gains were also almost double the national average. Math scores also registered solid gains, exceeding the national average . . . Most impressive has been the success of minorities. Scores among Florida's low-income black and Hispanic students have risen much faster than the national average. Hispanic fourth-graders in the Sunshine State now boast reading scores higher than the all-student average in 15 states, including California.'' These achievements are truly remarkable.

I would also like to take a moment to thank the principals and teachers of these two fine schools. Your leadership and service have made these achievements possible. Most fundamentally, education is the province of parents, teachers, and local and state governments. This award demonstrates that the innovation and hard work of parents, teachers, local administrators, and the community as a whole can produce efficiency, accountability, and achievement in our Nation's schools. These two schools have served their students well and are effectively preparing them for the challenges awaiting them as adults through an effective education system.

Madam Speaker and my colleagues, I ask that you join me in honoring the students, teachers, and administrators at Cocoa Beach High School and Ralph M. Williams Elementary School for their extraordinary accomplishments. They have made Florida's 15th Congressional District proud.

TRIBUTE TO LIZ ANDERSON

HON. JO ANN EMERSON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 15, 2009

Mrs. EMERSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay my respects to a good friend of mine and a great servant of Missouri's Eighth Congressional District, Liz Anderson. Mrs. Anderson, born in Poplar Bluff, Missouri, passed away on September 9th, and she is being sorely missed by her family, friends, colleagues and the citizens of Southern Missouri.

For 30 years, Southern Missourians have been accustomed to getting the news of the day from Mrs. Anderson. First as a reporter, then as editor and co-owner of The Enterprise-Courier in Charleston, Missouri, and The East Prairie Eagle in East Prairie, Missouri, Mrs. Anderson brought her considerable skills to the newsroom. In our communities, she is remembered for being tough, fair, inquisitive, patriotic, and—above all—for taking the time to become at least twice as informed as she needed to be on any issue that earned a place in her newspaper.

Separate from her vocation in the newsroom, Mrs. Anderson put her considerable talents to work on issues she felt were important to Mississippi County, Missouri, as well as to the rest of the state and to the nation. On flood control, river transportation, and economic development issues, the positive effect of her efforts will endure along with our memory of her.

To Liz Anderson's family, I extend my heartfelt condolences. To the members of this U.S. House of Representatives, I commend her strong community spirit and her dedication to the principles of a free press. Mrs. Anderson put that free press to work in an exemplary way in Southern Missouri—and we should all take her tremendous contributions to heart as we honor her memory.

TRIBUTE TO JOHN MANGANARO

HON. ADRIAN SMITH

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 15, 2009

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mr. John Manganaro upon his retirement after 17 years serving as head baseball coach at Wayne State College.

Manganaro came to Wayne State as an assistant in 1990 and took the helm in 1993, inheriting a sport with less than one scholarship and a $12,000 budget. He built Wayne State into one of the top programs in NCAA Division II, winning the last six Northern Sun Conference regular season titles while guiding the Wildcats to six straight NCAA tournament appearances.

Manganaro tallied a 506–309–1 record and was 198–54 in Northern Sun Conference games. Manganaro is a four-time Northern Sun Conference Coach of Year award recipient and led Wayne State to five Northern Sun Conference Tournament titles. Manganaro produced All Americans in six of the last seven seasons and had two players selected in the Major League Baseball Draft over the past three seasons.

In July of this year, the Omaha World Herald selected John Manganaro as the 2009 Midlands College Coach of the Year for men's sports. This was a fitting award for a coach that built a baseball program from scratch and turned it into the 12th winningest team this decade in NCAA Division II baseball.

Many of my constituents have been members of his teams through the years and they have all benefited from the experience. He is a credit to his sport, his college, and all of Nebraska.

I wish John Manganaro, his wife Janice, and their six children and two grandchildren all the best in their future endeavors.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 15, 2009

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, on September 14, 2009, I was unavoidably detained and was unable to record my vote for rollcall Nos. 696–98. Had I been present I would have voted:

Rollcall No. 696: Yea—Recognizing the significant contribution coaches make in the life of children who participate in organized sports and supporting the goals and ideals of National Coaches Appreciation Week;

Rollcall No. 697: Yea—Expressing support for designation of ''National Safety Month;'' and

Rollcall No. 698: Yea—Supporting the goals and ideals of senior caregiving and affordability.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING STRASBURG HIGH SCHOOL

HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 15, 2009

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker:

Whereas, Strasburg High School has displayed incredible dedication to creating well-rounded students; and

Whereas, the Strasburg High School has been supportive of their athletes; and

Whereas, the Strasburg High School has broadened the abilities and skills of their athletes in the sport of softball; and

Whereas, the Strasburg High School has always promoted sportsmanship on and off of the field: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That along with their friends, family, and the residents of the 18th Congressional District, I congratulate the Strasburg High School on supporting their Girls' Division IV State Softball Championship. We recognize the tremendous amount of support they have given to their athletes.

HONORING DOLPH CHIANCHIANO

HON. MARK STEVEN KIRK

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 15, 2009

Mr. KIRK. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor Dolph Chianchiano, Senior Vice President for