

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SAM JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 14, 2009

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, having been absent from the House for the week of October 5th, I would have voted the following way:

Conference Report to H.R. 2997—"nay."
Conference Report to H.R. 2647—"nay."

CONGRATULATING THE VILLAGE OF ALEXANDER, NEW YORK, ON ITS 175TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. CHRISTOPHER JOHN LEE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 14, 2009

Mr. LEE of New York. Madam Speaker, it is with great pride that I commemorate the 175th anniversary of the Village of Alexander, New York, a beautiful community home to nearly 500 Genesee County residents.

Incorporated in 1834, the Village of Alexander is named after Alexander Rhea, who purchased the first land from his employer, the Holland Land Company, in 1802.

Alexander's history is closely tied to the Tonawanda Creek, which flows northeasterly through the town. The lands along the creek attracted numerous settlers, and Alexander continued to grow throughout the early 1800s and quickly became one of the most populous towns in Genesee County. By 1812, more than 100 families had taken up land in the town.

A tavern, tannery, blacksmith shop, general store, and a library were all soon built. A literary society was then formed out of the library, and after residents were able to raise \$6,000, the Alexander Classical School and later the Genesee and Wyoming Seminary were formed, leading to some of the first secondary education institutions in Genesee County.

Rich in history and community pride, the Village of Alexander and its residents are a true asset to Western New York.

Madam Speaker, in recognition of its 175th Anniversary, I ask this Honorable Body to join me in commemorating the Village of Alexander, New York.

HONORING SPECIALIST SAM D. MERONEY

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 14, 2009

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Specialist Sam D.

Meroney who has exemplified the finest qualities of leadership and citizenship by proudly serving our country in the United States Army. Specialist Meroney is currently stationed at Fort Carson, Colorado, and is most deserving of this special recognition as he continues to fight to protect the United States of America.

Specialist Meroney recently participated in the U.S. Army Military Police Challenge at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri. From September 16–18, 2009, Specialist Meroney and his two compatriots competed in thirteen spirited events. Of the nation's top 34 three-man teams participating, Specialist Meroney and his team were able to meet the significant challenges and succeed in winning the overall competition. In addition to this achievement, his team placed first in two individual events. Not only has Specialist Meroney earned the respect of his family, peers, and community, he has also made both the state of Missouri and the United States of America proud.

Madam Speaker, I strongly urge all Members of Congress to join me in commending Specialist Sam D. Meroney for his accomplishments in the United States Army and for his efforts put forth in defense of this nation.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE INDIA PLAZA

HON. HARRY E. MITCHELL

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 14, 2009

Mr. MITCHELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the many contributions of the India Plaza to the city of Tempe. The India Plaza has been a strong and distinctive feature in the Tempe community since 2003. The plaza serves as a window into the Indian culture, showcasing India's food, clothing, music and hospitality.

Since its beginnings, the plaza has continuously thrived. Its business owners and employees have partnered with local charities and been active in the Tempe Chamber of Commerce. Those same merchants also worked to create a safer environment by promoting the addition of crosswalk and signal access near the plaza.

I am truly privileged to represent such a strong cultural fixture in our district and will continue to treasure the plaza's addition to Tempe's diversity. As many in the Indian community decorate their homes with lights, share sweets and start the new financial year in celebration of Diwali, I am honored to share in their celebration. Again, I am proud to serve the India Plaza and am eager to see its continued success and growth.

Therefore, I urge you Madam Speaker, in rising to congratulate the India Plaza on its partnerships and accomplishments within the community of Tempe, Arizona.

CONGRATULATING THE ALDINE SCHOOL DISTRICT FOR WINNING THE BROAD PRIZE FOR URBAN EDUCATION

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 13, 2009

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 791, congratulating the Aldine Independent School District in Harris County, Texas, on winning the 2009 Broad Prize for Urban Education. I am proud to support this resolution because the Broad Prize for Urban Education reflects the hard work and outstanding effort that the Aldine Independent School District, Aldine ISD, has exerted to improve overall performance and reduce achievement gaps among low-income and minority students.

The honor bestowed upon Aldine ISD is a beacon of hope for improving public education in Texas and the United States. With over 61,000 students enrolled, Aldine ISD is one of the largest local education agencies in my congressional district and nearly 80 percent of those students qualify for free and reduced lunches. Providing a quality education to such a large number of students, especially students with diverse socioeconomic backgrounds, poses challenges for school districts across the United States.

Aldine ISD's receipt of the Broad Prize for Urban Education is a testament to the hard work of parents, teachers, and students as well as the steady leadership of the district administration. Aldine ISD uses a district-wide plan focused on student achievement, student behavior, and community relations. The district administration uses that district-wide plan to ensure that its schools provide a supportive, safe, and—most importantly—effective learning environment. The district has succeeded in communicating clear expectations of academic excellence to teachers and increasing school administrators' oversight of student success.

Aldine ISD's model has produced incredible results. The school district regularly ranks as one of the top performers of all districts in the State of Texas. Studies by Texas A&M University and the University of Texas—Pan American showed that Aldine ISD ranks as one of the best school districts for educating African-American and Hispanic students in Texas. In 2008, African-American students in Aldine ISD achieved higher proficiency rates in math at all school levels and in reading at the middle and high school levels than their counterparts across the State. In 2008, Hispanic and low-income students in Aldine ISD performed the best in State reading and math assessments relative to similar Texas school districts.

A crucial product of Aldine ISD's success is the narrowing of achievement gaps. Math achievement gaps at all income levels were among the smallest in the State and between

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.