

The story of Novato is one of reinvention and perseverance. From its rural beginnings, the city has grown into a home for innovators in industries from biotechnology to winemaking and from insurance to artisanal tea. From a small settlement of Mexican ranchos, Novato has become a thriving city and only the second in California governed by an all-woman city council.

Hamilton Air Force Base, one of the most successful base closure efforts in the Nation, has been reclaimed as a vibrant, mixed-use community with one of the largest wetlands restoration projects in the State. I am especially proud to have worked in partnership with residents, city leaders, and government agencies in the ongoing efforts to achieve this transformation.

This is also a community committed to a healthy and sustainable future. Novato offers recreational facilities and support programs for people of all ages, including one of the country's premier research institutes on aging. The city boasts 27 parks and over 3,600 acres of open space protected by urban growth boundaries. Even now, Novato residents are setting a leading example on promoting sustainable practices and adopting green building standards.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to represent the City of Novato. I ask that you join me in celebrating its achievements and in wishing all its residents the best for the future. Congratulations, Novato, on your 50th birthday!

RECOGNIZING THE NOMINEES FOR  
THE PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY  
TEACHER OF THE YEAR/AGNES  
MEYER OUTSTANDING TEACHER  
AWARD

**HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 27, 2010*

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the nominees for the Prince William County Teacher of the Year/Agnes Meyer Outstanding Teacher Award.

The Agnes Meyer Outstanding Teacher Award program was established by the Washington Post to "recognize excellence in teaching, to encourage creative and quality instruction, and to contribute in a substantive way to the improvement of education in the Washington metropolitan area."

The annual recipients represent each of the 19 public school systems in the metropolitan region and a single representative from the region's private schools. The educator selected from Prince William County Public Schools also is recognized as the Prince William County Teacher of the Year. Teachers who meet the criteria for the award are those who instill a desire to learn and achieve, understand the individual needs of students, and demonstrate a thorough knowledge of subject matter and have the ability to share it effectively with students.

I congratulate the 2010 Prince William County nominees for the Agnes Meyer Outstanding Teacher Award:

Karen Bentall, library media specialist, Sudley Elementary School;

Margaret Bozzard, third-grade teacher, Enterprise Elementary School;

Toni Anne Cipriano, learning disabilities teacher, Buckland Mills Elementary School;

Colleen Crownhart, physical education teacher, Dale City Elementary School;

Elizabeth Genova, K-5 reading teacher, Swans Creek Elementary School;

Artise Gill, 11th- and 12th-grade English and photojournalism teacher, Brentsville District High School;

Tammy Hinkle, fifth-grade teacher, Buckland Mills Elementary School;

Megan Howland, fourth-grade teacher/reading specialist, Buckland Mills Elementary School;

Elizabeth Johnson, third-grade teacher, Buckland Mills Elementary School;

Leota Johnson, art teacher, Marshall Elementary School;

Mary Tate Kenneally, 11th- and 12th-grade algebra 2 and 11th-grade geometry teacher, Battlefield High School;

Joseph Kirrane, sixth-grade social studies teacher, Graham Park Middle School.

Terri Lawson, seventh-grade life sciences teacher, Saunders Middle School;

Erin Lips, 9th-12th-grade business teacher, Stonewall Jackson High School;

Donald Magee, band director, Forest Park High School;

Bobbie Mandro, family and consumer sciences teacher, Gar-Field High School;

Dory McAllister, 9th-12th-grade special education teacher, Hylton High School;

Heather Oberle, 9th-grade English teacher, Brentsville District High School;

Doreen Raymond, French and gifted education teacher, Bull Run Middle School;

Erin Steinebach, fourth-grade reading specialist, Buckland Mills Elementary School.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in commending the nominees for the Prince William County Teacher of the Year/Agnes Meyer Outstanding Teacher Award. Their continued service will ensure that Prince William County students are provided with a world-class education in a more vibrant learning community.

THE REFUNDABLE CHILD TAX  
CREDIT ELIGIBILITY VERIFICA-  
TION REFORM ACT

**HON. SAM JOHNSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 27, 2010*

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce along with my colleague from Florida, Representative Ginny Brown-Waite, the Refundable Child Tax Credit Eligibility Verification Reform Act, a bill to prevent those who are here illegally from claiming the refundable child tax credit due to a loophole in our tax code. According to the March 31, 2009 report by the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration entitled "Actions Are Needed to Ensure Proper Use of Individual Taxpayer Identification Numbers and to Verify or Limit Refundable Credit Claims," this tax credit "appears to provide an additional incentive for aliens to enter, reside, and work in the U.S. without authorization, which contradicts Federal law and policy to remove such incentives." Because this credit is refundable, parents who owe no taxes can receive cash back for their children through the tax code.

In other words illegal immigrants may not only be receiving this public benefit through the tax code but may also be tempted to come to the U.S. because of it. This is just plain wrong.

Unfortunately, this refundable tax credit can be provided to an illegal immigrant so long as the immigrant is able to obtain from the IRS an Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN). It is because of this very situation that I am introducing the Refundable Child Tax Credit Eligibility Verification Reform Act, a simple, commonsense bill to require tax filers to provide their Social Security numbers in order to claim the credit. This simple change can go a long way toward protecting taxpayers by helping to ensure that the refundable child tax credit is going to those who are here legally. This is the fair and right thing to do. I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

HONORING BOB BURES ON BEING  
NAMED WESTERN SPRINGS  
"MAN OF THE YEAR"

**HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 27, 2010*

Mr. LIPINSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Bob Bures on being named the 2009 Western Springs "Man of the Year." Mr. Bures was selected by the Citizen of the Year Committee from nominations sent in by community organizations and residents. He will be honored on January 30, 2010, at a dinner I will be attending with my wife, Judy.

Bob Bures, a resident of Western Springs since 1975, has dedicated his life to the service of others. Mr. Bures worked in the Chicago Public School system for 30 years, and has remained a fixture in the community through his many involvements. He has served as executive director of the Retired Teachers Association of Chicago and on the Western Springs Village Board. He is a member of the Knights of Columbus, the Western Springs Masonic Lodge 1136, the Affairs Committee and Education Subcommittee for the Union Club of Chicago, and the Western Springs Business Association. Mr. Bures is also involved with the West Suburban Chamber of Commerce and Industry Foundation and helps to transition special education students into local jobs. Currently he is the auditor for the Czech & Slovak Genealogy Society of Illinois, and previously served as treasurer of the Thomas Ford Memorial Library Foundation. And in 2008, Mr. Bures was appointed to the Lyons Township Mental Health Commission.

Previously a recipient of the City of Chicago Superior Service Award and the Excellence of Service Award from the Aquin Guild of the Archdiocese of Chicago, Bob Bures is very deservedly being honored for his dedication to Western Springs.

I ask you to join me in honoring Bob Bures for his outstanding service to his community and his recognition as the 2009 Western Springs Man of the Year.