

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Dick Purtan will be remembered for his award winning personality and as a philanthropist and friend to Metro Detroit. As we celebrate his retirement, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing his many achievements and honoring the contributions he made to our community and country.

CONGRATULATING UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS AT PINE BLUFF

(Mr. DAVIS of Illinois asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express congratulations to the small liberal arts college that I attended that started with seven students when it began, a historically black college, in Pine Bluff, Arkansas.

Of course on Friday evening, they played Duke University. It was a major accomplishment for their athletic department. They didn't win, they didn't place, but they did show; and I congratulate them for a tremendous effort.

CONGRATULATING THE 2010 EDINA BOYS HOCKEY TEAM

(Mr. PAULSEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PAULSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight to congratulate the Edina High School boys' hockey team on their recent Minnesota Class 2-A State championship title. In a highly anticipated championship game, Edina beat a very strong Minnetonka team to clinch their seventh State hockey title.

After jumping out to a 4-0 lead after the first two periods, the Hornets had to hold off a strong third-period charge from Minnetonka before finishing with an impressive 4-2 victory. The win was a total team effort, with four different players scoring goals and the Hornet defense and goaltending protecting the lead until the final horn sounded.

Edina was led by a great coaching staff and, more importantly, was supported by a large contingent of students, faculty, parents, friends and family throughout the tournament. To each of them, as well as every member of the championship team, I want to offer my congratulations.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2009, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. AL GREEN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. AL GREEN of Texas addressed the House. His remarks will appear

hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

CONGRATULATING THE SAIPAN SOUTHERN HIGH SCHOOL MANTA RAY CONCERT BAND

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from the Northern Mariana Islands (Mr. SABLAN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SABLAN. Mr. Speaker, when we open our hearts to our young people—give generously our support and encouragement—those young people consistently exceed our expectation.

Let me tell you of the story of a dedicated group of students from a tiny island in the western Pacific Ocean, and the teachers who supported and encouraged them. Because on April 20, those students, the Saipan Southern High School Manta Ray Concert Band, exceeding any reasonable expectation, will be performing at one of America's premier musical venues: Carnegie Hall in New York City.

Saipan Southern High School opened just a few years ago, in 2002. Southern was a beautiful new facility, but it needed to be filled with life and with heart. The new students and new teachers quickly adopted the motto “un eskuela, un korason”—one school, one heart—and began to bring their school to life.

One of the new teachers was William DeWitt. Mr. DeWitt is a wonderful musician himself and his new Saipan Southern music and band students were enthusiastic to learn. But few had any musical training. Yet within a few months of opening, Saipan Southern enjoyed the first performance of its very own band, the Manta Ray Concert Band, and quickly “un eskuela, un korason” became more than just a motto because the musical rhythms of the Manta Rays became the heartbeat of Saipan Southern.

The band performed at pep rallies, sports competitions, for the PTA, at graduation. It seemed whenever Saipan Southern had an event, the beat of the Manta Rays provided the musical backdrop. By 2005, the Manta Ray Concert Band had reached a level of proficiency that allowed them to take on the complex Latin rhythms and jazzy dissonances of West Side Story for a production at Saipan Southern.

And their reach extended beyond their school, as they began performing—and entertaining—for the annual Taste of the Marianas festival, Northern Marianas College Charter Day, the Western Pacific Judicial Council Conference, and many other community events. How that heartbeat grew stronger.

In 2008 and again in 2009, the Manta Ray Concert Band captured First Place Gold awards at the Tumon Bay International Music Festival in Guam. Student members of the Manta Ray Concert Band joined the Official Youth Orchestra at the 2008 Summer Olympics and performed in Beijing, China.

Today, the Saipan Southern High School band program has grown to more than 150 aspiring student musicians. The Manta Ray Concert Band has studied under guest conductors from Guam and Japan. They have played for dramatic productions of *My Fair Lady*, *A Winter's Tale*, and *It's a Wonderful Life*. They host their own concerts and perform at others as well. The Manta Ray Concert Band typically presents more than 20 performances annually.

Throughout their exemplary rise, these young musicians and their teachers have struggled with lack of finances, with lack of instruments, with the difficulties of travel for a band of students of various ethnicities and citizenship. But they have not lost heart. Nor have they forgotten that music can fill the hearts of others. When a security guard was brutally murdered at a sister school, the Manta Rays played to raise funds for the grieving family. After a shooting rampage left four dead on the island of Saipan, the Manta Rays raised spirits and funds for those in mourning.

The Manta Ray Concert Band certainly deserves recognition. But they won their most recent distinction solely by virtue of the quality of their music. Still under the dedicated direction of William DeWitt, they auditioned for the right to play at this year's New York International Music Festival at Carnegie Hall. And on April 20, with some of the most accomplished high school and college bands, the Manta Rays will fill the storied venue with their heartbeat.

As usual, they will not be playing for themselves but for others. The band is dedicating its Carnegie performance to Peter Le'au, the first principal of Saipan Southern High School, who, as the Manta Rays' program notes, “is courageously fighting to recover from a recent illness.”

Mr. Speaker, I hereby submit this tribute to the Saipan Southern High School Manta Ray Concert Band, along with individual names of each band member performing at Carnegie Hall as well as of their esteemed band director and school principal, for publication in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. They are:

Eun Joung Ahn, tenor saxophone
 Ken Alvarado, trumpet
 Naomi Cabrera, percussion
 Scott Cabrera, trumpet
 James Camacho, clarinet
 Crista Ching, trombone
 Joe Ray Dela Cruz, tuba
 Anna Rose Deleon Guerrero, percussion/lo-gistician
 Mereylen Denora, trumpet
 Pedro Dueñas, alto saxophone
 Kevin Fejeran, baritone
 Rodolfo Guiao, Jr., baritone saxophone
 Jun Yeop Han, tenor saxophone
 Hyun Rock Jang, horn
 Joseph Jang, percussion
 Chan Young Kang, percussion
 Haneul Kim, flute
 II Ho (Ted) Kim, trombone
 Shin Hye Kwon, flute
 John Craig Lamberto, clarinet
 Bo Mi Lee, flute
 Ji Won (Rebekah) Lee, flute