

Commerce, serves on the board of the Cyprus Children's Fund, and has served as Treasurer of the World Federation for Overseas Cypriots (POMAK). He is a member of the Council of Hellenes Abroad (SAE) of the North and South American Region, as well as the American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association, AHEPA. And, while his involvement in these and many other organizations is as extensive as the plethora of honors he has received, Andy's family is his proudest accomplishment. He and his lovely wife Anna have been blessed with two children and three grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, today I rise to congratulate my dear friend, Andy Comodromos, and thank him for his devotion to the Cypriot-American community, both in the great State of New Jersey and across the Nation.

HONORING LINDA JACKSON-WHITMORE ON THE OCCASION OF HER RETIREMENT

**HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 3, 2011*

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Ms. Linda Jackson-Whitmore, an extraordinary teacher who will soon retire. Her students refer to her affectionately as Ms. J. Ms. J started teaching at Washington High School in Fremont, California in 1975 as a drama instructor, director, choreographer and Performing Arts Club advisor. She transferred to Irvington High School in Fremont, California in 1978, performing the same duties.

Ms. J has been on the staff of Irvington High School as the Artistic Director for 31 years and Artistic Director of the Irvington Conservatory Theatre since 1990 where she has directed two major productions each year and over 70 shows during her professional career.

Adding to her extra-curricular duties, she volunteers as Advisor for the Black Student Union Club, Advanced Dance Club, Hip Hop Dance Club and the Step Club.

In 1986 she was accepted as a Fulbright Exchange Teacher and taught in London for a year. Another acknowledgement of her teaching excellence was her selection as Mentor Teacher in Theatre Arts for the Fremont Unified School District in 1984–1986 and 1997–98.

Ms. J has also served as a part-time instructor in the Theatre Arts Department at San Francisco State University, San Francisco Community College and serves as a high school outreach instructor for Ohlone Community College, a position she has held since 1999.

She received her Bachelor of Arts and Secondary Teaching Credential in 1973 from San Francisco State University. In 1980 she received her Masters of Arts and Community College Credential from the University of San Francisco. She is a member of the California Teachers Association, Educational Theatre Association, International Thespian Society, National Education Association, Fremont Unified School District Teachers Association, Na-

tional Forum of Black Administrators, Black Women Organized for Political Action and a Life Member of the NAACP.

Ms. J is the recipient of many honors and awards that include the International Thespian Society Most Inspirational Theatre Educator Award and the California Congress of Parent/Student/Teacher Association of Outstanding Service Award, in addition to recognition of her community service.

Ms. Linda Jackson-Whitmore has given many students, through the years, guidance in the theatre arts and will leave a lasting legacy as the instructor who gave a thespian voice to our youth. I join her colleagues in wishing her well in her well-deserved retirement.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF JOHN HARDWICK

**HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 3, 2011*

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the life and legacy of John Hardwick. John Hardwick was the personification of a community servant. Born in Miami on March 27, 1970, Hardwick grew up in Hallandale, Florida. It is in the City of Hallandale that he touched the lives of so many with his hands and his heart.

Hardwick served as president of the Class of 1988 of Hallandale High. By the age of 19 he started his own business as a barber and three years later he chose to reinvest and renovate his business rather than relocate. He would go on to serve on the Hallandale Beach Chamber of Commerce board of directors, he was instrumental in founding Top Shops, a consortium of mostly minority owned beauty salons in Miami-Dade and Broward counties, and he also served on the committee that gave his often forgotten community a name, "The Palms of Hallandale."

Hardwick's community service efforts sent young children to see live theatre, he was instrumental in organizing the city's Martin Luther King Day parade, and he fought to remove a sanitation transfer station thereby keeping his community beautiful. In general, Hardwick was the type of individual who could give you a haircut while simultaneously educating you about the events in your community. He was the cornerstone for personal grooming and civic awareness. Hardwick's life was cut short last week by complications he suffered from a stroke at the young age of 41.

Mr. Speaker, John Hardwick kept his community looking good and feeling good because he was a good person. It is with privilege and sadness that I honor his life today.

TRIBUTE TO MRS. KAREN BOUNDS

**HON. GREG WALDEN**

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 3, 2011*

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the career of Mrs. Karen Bounds of

Hermiston, Oregon. Today millions of young people across the country are graduating and looking forward with hope and confidence to the next step in their lives. Whether it is college, service in our armed forces, or civilian employment, young adults are prepared for success by the caring and invested teachers they encountered throughout their education. Karen was one such teacher.

It is with a note of sadness that I honor Karen today, because I do so on the occasion of her retirement. For more than 20 years, she has taught essential courses including English, history, and government at Hermiston High School, which is located in my district. Future students at HHS will, regrettably, miss the opportunity to learn from Karen's knowledge and enthusiasm as well as her manifest passion for teaching and compassion toward her students.

Karen has never been one to call it a day after putting in the minimum number of hours; she has consistently volunteered her time and resources to enhance the educational opportunities available to her students. Many times over the years, for instance, Karen brought groups of exemplary students to Washington, D.C., to participate in the Close Up program, which gives high school students firsthand exposure to their nation's capital. She also dedicated much of her time to training Hermiston's successful Mock Trial team and escorting it to district and state competitions.

Karen never missed an opportunity to expose her civics and government students to the real work of government. I myself enjoyed the opportunity to address her class as a guest speaker. It will come as no surprise that the questions I faced from her students were pointed and informed. It was a pleasure to meet those students and witness their interest and curiosity about our system of government. It is more important than ever that Americans take an active and informed interest in their government, and Karen equipped her students with the foundation essential for doing so.

A California native, Karen met her husband of 45 years, Roger Bounds, while attending their alma mater, Stanford University. Karen and Roger raised four children and, as you might imagine, Karen's efforts on behalf of her students represent just a fraction of the commitments she has assumed over her years as a teacher, a mother, and an involved citizen. Between the kids' sporting and scholastic events, Karen found the time to participate in many community-service organizations, including as a founding director of the Desert Arts Council, which has brought live performances to Hermiston for almost three decades, and as a member of the vestry of Saint John's Episcopal Church.

Mr. Speaker, I acknowledged a trace of sadness in marking Karen's retirement from Hermiston High School, but it is just a trace. I am delighted that she will have even more time in retirement to dedicate to her family, her friends, and her community in Hermiston, Oregon.

On behalf of that community, which I am pleased to represent, I thank Karen Bounds for her years of service and dedication to the students at Hermiston High School. While she will be missed, we wish her a long, productive, and enjoyable retirement.