HONORING THE BRAVE FIREFIGHTERS WHO SAVED MAGNOLIA AND ALL THOSE WHO SUPPORTED THEM

HON. KEVIN BRADY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 26, 2011

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the brave men and women who answered the call when wildfires roared. Having survived Hurricanes Rita and Ike, my district and the people of Southeast Texas know and understand the devastation Hurricanes bring. This September we dealt with a very different kind of disaster in the form of massive wildfires.

Luckily for us, our September miracle was granted Labor Day weekend as fire crews from across Texas and in fact the entire country came to Magnolia to battle a three county blaze that threatened to consume well over ten-thousand homes and businesses in Magnolia as well as thousands more in neighboring Grimes and Waller Counties.

Having been out on the line with them to see for myself how the fire lines came right up to families' back porches—yet they saved home after home—it is impossible for me not to be in awe of these heroes. Their skill and dedication saved the town of Magnolia and I can't wait to join them this Saturday in Unity Park to honor their success and hard work.

Magnolia Volunteer Fire Chief Gary Vincent united over a hundred different fire fighting agencies by his side and with the help of our dedicated Sheriff Tommy Gage, his deputies, our constables, our police departments, our Fire Marshall Jimmy Williams, school districts, the Texas Forest Service and many others stepped up. California's Interagency Incident Management Team not only took our thanks back to the Golden State, they take back the model for how communities and first responders unite with charities from the United Way, Red Cross, local food banks, churches, YMCAs and Chambers of Commerce to provide a response that firefighters across this nation will be talking about for years to come.

If a firefighter was thirsty, three volunteers would rush over with water and there were likely two more behind carrying hot meals just in case that firefighter might be hungry as well. All the firefighters who came in from across the country could talk about was how well they were treated in Texas, God's country.

Today, it's an honor for me to be here on the House floor to honor my heroes who made it possible for thousands of families to have homes to go home to. This Saturday, our community will honor those who held the line by celebrating their service and by heeding their warnings that the fire danger remains extraordinarily high as the drought drags on.

RECOGNIZING AVON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL OF AVON, SOUTH DAKOTA FOR BEING NAMED A BLUE RIBBON SCHOOL

HON. KRISTI L. NOEM

OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 26, 2011

Mrs. NOEM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Avon Elementary School of Avon, South Dakota for being named a Blue Ribbon School by the United States Department of Education.

This year the Department of Education named 305 schools Blue Ribbon Schools, Avon Elementary School was one of them. I would like to congratulate Avon Elementary School for its incredible academic achievements. This school reflects the attributes all American education institutions strive for: academic improvement and tangible results. These early successes will give students the ability to further their education and open doors to future opportunities. The commitment of students and staff to quality education and a high level of performance is commendable.

Again, congratulations to Avon Elementary School for being named a Blue Ribbon School.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 26, 2011

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to cast votes on the following legislative measures. If I were present for rollcall votes, I would have voted ''aye'' for the following votes:

Roll 801, October 24, 2011: On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H.R. 320: To designate a Distinguished Flying Cross National Memorial at the March Field Air Museum in Riverside, California.

Roll 802, October 24, 2011: On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, as Amended H.R. 1160: To require the Secretary of the Interior to convey the McKinney Lake National Fish Hatchery to the State of North Carolina, and for other purposes.

HONORING KEITH KIRBY AND CURBCO FOR 25 YEARS OF SUCCESS

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 26, 2011

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor two great men and one great company.

As a young man Robert Matsko served in the United States Air Force. After leaving the military he earned a bachelor's degree in liberal arts from Michigan State University. Upon completion of his degree, Robert worked at A.C. Spark Plug for 7 years. In 1967 he began teaching at Randels Elementary in the Carman School District. Mr. Matsko found his calling as an elementary school teacher. He taught at Carman for 27 years making a lasting impression on hundreds of young students, especially Keith Kirby. During his career, Robert Matsko was twice awarded ''Who's Who of Teachers in America.''

At the age of 11, Keith Kirby decided to start his own business. Keith began mowing lawns and that business became what is known today as Curbco. Curbco is a multimillion dollar business that has grown from lawn care to a full service maintenance company. They specialize in landscape, snow removal, street sweeping as well as paving and asphalt maintenance. Keith embodies the American Dream and the entrepreneurial spirit that makes this country great. His vision and investment have created jobs for many and helps provide for our community.

In his humble ways Keith credits much of his success to his 4th and 5th grade teacher, Mr. Robert Matsko. We all have a teacher that has changed us for the better and Keith thought it was important to highlight his teacher at Curbco's 25 year anniversary party.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating Keith Kirby and Curbco on reaching the milestone of 25 years in business. Also, join me in thanking Mr. Robert Matsko for his years of dedication to the profession of teaching.

RECOGNIZING HAMLIN JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL OF HAYTI, SOUTH DAKOTA FOR BEING NAMED A BLUE RIBBON SCHOOL

HON. KRISTI L. NOEM

OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 26, 2011

Mrs. NOEM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Hamlin Junior High School of Hayti, South Dakota for being named a Blue Ribbon School by the United States Department of Education.

This year the Department of Education named 305 schools Blue Ribbon Schools, Hamlin Jr. High School was one of them. I would like to congratulate Hamlin Jr. High School for its incredible academic achievements. This school reflects the attributes all American education institutions strive for: academic improvement and tangible results. These early successes will give students the ability to further their education and open doors to future opportunities. The commitment of students and staff to quality education and a high level of performance is commendable.

Again, congratulations to Hamlin Jr. High School for being named a Blue Ribbon School.

HONORING THE TWENTIETH CENTURY CLUB OF BUFFALO

HON. KATHLEEN C. HOCHUL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 26, 2011

Ms. HOCHUL. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following Proclamation.

Whereas: The Twentieth Century Club of Buffalo is located in the City of Buffalo in Erie County; and