

A TRIBUTE IN HONOR OF JEAN K.  
HOLBROOK, ED.D

**HON. ANNA G. ESHOO**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 14, 2010*

Ms. ESHOO. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to an extraordinary educator and community leader, Dr. Jean K. Holbrook, who is retiring after four decades of outstanding service in San Mateo County, California. Under her leadership, county schools have made impressive and promising strides forward, teaching students to love learning and preparing them to enter a globalized workforce.

Born and raised in Minnesota, Dr. Holbrook received her Bachelor's Degree in English from Augsburg College in Minneapolis, before moving to California for further studies. Already committed to educational leadership, she earned a Master's Degree in Secondary Education and Educational Administration from San Francisco State University, and a Doctorate in Educational Leadership from the University of San Francisco.

A longtime resident of San Mateo, Dr. Holbrook began working as a researcher for the San Mateo Education Research Center and rose to become its Director. Since then, she served as Deputy Superintendent and Associate Superintendent of Instructional Services, before being appointed San Mateo County Superintendent of Schools in January 2006, and subsequently elected to a four-year term in 2007.

As Superintendent, Dr. Holbrook oversaw a \$1.5 billion budget, instructional and curricular assistance, and special education for 23 school districts and nearly 90,000 students. Announcing her decision to serve a second term, Dr. Holbrook stated her desire "to make the county office more effective in providing countywide leadership." Dr. Holbrook succeeded. During her tenure, schools and scores improved substantially, and her committed efforts were widely praised. Dr. Holbrook took pride in San Mateo County's gains, while soberly noting that "the challenge remains to meet the needs of all students and to close the achievement gap where it exists." For Dr. Holbrook, the glass was neither half full nor half empty. She believed, as did William Butler Yeats, that "education is not the filling of a pail, but the lighting of a fire."

She worked hard to 'light that fire,' serving on a wide array of civic and educational organizations in addition to her career with the San Mateo County Office of Education. Dr. Holbrook is a member of the First 5 Commission and the California County Superintendents Educational Association Pre-K Task Force, chairs the Peninsula Partnership Leadership Council, and co-chairs the Child Care Partnership Council. Involving herself in all aspects of her community, she is also active in the Rotary Club and the Chamber of Commerce.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Dr. Jean Holbrook's forty years of extraordinary leadership. Throughout her career, Dr. Holbrook's greatest gift was that she never forgot to treat each and every one of her 90,000 students as individuals with extraordinary potential. When she retired, Dr. Holbrook thanked the County for the "profound honor of serving as Superintendent, but it is San Mateo County and the surrounding

communities that are honored by her contributions. As a San Mateo County resident and public servant, I am extremely proud to call Dr. Holbrook my friend and even prouder of the profoundly positive impact of her life's work on our community, on our children, and on our country.

HONORING FRED WOEHL FOR  
USDA SERVICE IN IRAQ

**HON. JOHN BOOZMAN**

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 14, 2010*

Mr. BOOZMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor Fred Woehl for his service, sacrifice and commitment to establishing stability and security in Iraq. Woehl taught Iraqis the agriculture lessons he learned as a farmer and as a farm loan manager for the United States Department of Agriculture Farm Service Agency for 33 years.

Woehl served on the Mosul PRT in Ninewa, Iraq from 2008 to 2009. While in Iraq, he helped to revitalize interest in the Al Jerzera Irrigation project, the largest system in Iraq and developed cooperation between Ministry of Agriculture and Extension for agricultural training. His expertise and knowledge in the agriculture field helped him create a mentoring program that is ongoing; working with Iraqi citizens building greenhouses for growing tomatoes, cucumbers and melons and establishing the first all female farmer association in Iraq. He also received the Meritorious Honor award from Ambassador Chris Hill.

By empowering Iraqis with knowledge and best practices to improve their agriculture industry Woehl has helped create opportunities for development and long-term economic viability in Iraq. Fred's devotion to helping others in need is a great example of selfless Arkansas values. I am so proud of his accomplishments and the opportunities he helped create for Iraqi citizens. He's continuing to use his skills to help others around the globe. Today, Woehl is serving in Jordan to help teach people how to increase productivity on the farm, develop functioning markets, improve availability of agricultural credit, and enhance infrastructure along the supply chain.

Woehl's devotion to serving his country and helping others find better ways to use their land and provide for themselves, their families and their country is a great example of the American spirit.

HONORING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF FAIRVIEW BAPTIST CHURCH IN WAYNESVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA

**HON. HEATH SHULER**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 14, 2010*

Mr. SHULER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the 100th anniversary of Fairview Baptist Church in the community of Waynesville, North Carolina. Since 1910, this church has brought light and joy to the lives of many devoted members.

From its humble beginnings consisting of a congregation of eight people and a house pur-

chased for six dollars, Fairview Baptist has grown to be a proud and prominent part of the Waynesville community. Over the past hundred years, the Church has witnessed many significant moments in history from World War I to the Civil Rights Movement.

The strength and longevity of Fairview Baptist Church has proven to be an inspiration for many and I look forward to seeing what the future holds for the Church as it continues its journey through the next 100 years. Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me today in congratulating Fairview Baptist Church on its outstanding accomplishments over its 100-year history.

TRIBUTE TO THE 2010 FERRAGOSTO FESTIVAL ON BELMONT AVENUE

**HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 14, 2010*

Mr. SERRANO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize one of the most special places for culture and cuisine not only in the Bronx, but all of New York, the Ferragosto Festival on Belmont Avenue. This is a celebration that grows in size and fame with each successive year. People now travel from across the nation to sample the delicious tastes and wonderful atmosphere on display in the Bronx's own Little Italy.

Ferragosto is powered by small businesses, many family-owned, and has built a reputation for generosity to its patrons and authenticity to its cultural source. The Festival is made possible with the support of many people and institutions, perhaps none more so however than the Belmont Business Improvement District, which deserves special recognition for its efforts.

One of the landmark attractions of the Festival, and indeed a cultural touchstone for the entire city, is the Arthur Avenue Retail Market, known popularly as simply "The Market." Owned by the City of New York and located in the Belmont Community of the Bronx, The Market has a history and symbolism that is distinctly New York. Back in the 1940s, through the efforts of Mayor Fiorello LaGuardia, pushcart vendors, who were largely immigrants, were taken off the streets and relocated into buildings and shelters throughout the five boroughs. The Arthur Avenue Retail Market in the Bronx was one such creation, with purveyors of Italian food, craft and specialty items. It retains today the cooperative vendor model and "old world feel" from so many years ago, endearing it to all who visit.

Importantly, The Market is currently undergoing important renovations that will ensure its stairways, halls and storage spaces will stand up to merchant demands in the new century. The goal of the project is to comprehensively renovate and modernize The Market, while maintaining the atmosphere which has made it so well-known and well-loved.

Madam Speaker, one of our most distinguishing qualities as a nation is the passion with which we celebrate our cultural diversity. At the most basic level, festivals like Ferragosto and institutions like the Arthur Avenue Retail Market are expressions of pride and honor. They are part of an exchange of