

Mr. Speaker, I am very proud of the California Legislature and SANA for their contributions to the Salvadoran community. Having served two years as a Peace Corps volunteer in El Salvador, I am especially touched by this issue because of my close ties to the people there and to the Salvadoran community in California. I will forever remember the generosity and friendship of the Salvadoran people, and I am proud to celebrate with them this Dia del Salvadoreño.

JUNIOR ACHIEVEMENT VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR DAVID SCHRADER

HON. PETER HOEKSTRA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 26, 2002

Mr. HOEKSTRA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of a distinguished resident of Michigan's Second Congressional District who is being honored by an organization that has had an immeasurable impact on America. David Schrader, of Baker College in Muskegon, is Junior Achievement's National High School Volunteer of the Year.

Mr. Schrader, a resident of Whitehall, Michigan, has volunteered for 2 years and taught 34 JA classes in that time. Each class encompassed an hour of time and focused on the teaching of fundamentals of business and economics to students. Having started his own accounting firm, and through his work as a professor at Baker College, Mr. Schrader was able to share his professional insights and experiences with the students he instructed.

Mr. Schrader brings a unique energy and enthusiasm to the classroom, and he always goes above and beyond in his efforts. He has volunteered to teach students at the elementary, middle and high school levels, and he has volunteered in rural parts of Michigan, so that young people in those areas can share in the important business and economic educational programs supported by JA as well.

Founded in 1919 as a collection of small, after-school business clubs for students in Springfield, Massachusetts, Junior Achievement serves as a testament to the human spirit and American ingenuity. Mr. Schrader is one of the more than 100,000 volunteers who assist JA in spreading the free enterprise message of hope and opportunity to young people across America.

Mr. Speaker, David Schrader represents the proud and longstanding tradition of volunteerism in the State of Michigan. I wish to congratulate him on his accomplishments and for his outstanding service to Junior Achievement and the students of Michigan.

ON THE PROGRESS OF FUEL CELLS AND THE CONTINUING NEED FOR ALTERNATIVE ENERGY SOURCES

HON. MICHAEL R. McNULTY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 26, 2002

Mr. McNULTY. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday of this week, at the Town Hall in Babylon, Long

Island, located in New York's Second Congressional District and represented by my colleague, Mr. ISRAEL, without much fanfare, we saw into the future.

A device was switched on, Mr. Speaker, that—by converting natural gas to hydrogen—produces both useable electricity and useable heat. The heat is captured and reused to warm the building, and the electricity is harnessed and channeled to supplement the structure's power supply. And no contaminants or particulates of any kind are, or will be, released into the atmosphere or water supply at any point in the process.

This device is the first of its kind in use in the State of New York to provide the combined supplemental heat and electricity for a building. This device is called the "GenSys5C" and is produced by Plug Power in Latham, New York—which, I am proud to say, is located in my Congressional District. This device, Mr. Speaker, is called a fuel cell.

Last year, I joined a number of my colleagues from both sides of the aisle to introduce H.R. 1275, a bill to provide tax incentives for the development and production of fuel cells and related technologies.

Wisely, this tax credit was included in both the House-passed and Senate passed versions of the energy bill. As our colleagues on the conference committee meet to resolve the differences, I encourage them to support the preservation of this provision in the final report.

Fuel cells, Mr. Speaker, represent the future of energy efficiency, the future of clean and renewable heat and electricity energy sources for our Nation.

There are solutions to our energy crisis that avoid the continued depletion of our natural resources and destruction of the environment, and fuel cell technology is one of them. I am proud to call attention to the milestone reached on Long Island by Plug Power. I call upon my colleagues to continue to support research and development in this field, in order to ensure that success stories will continue to be told. As those present at the Babylon Town Hall already know, the future is now, and it is exemplified in the production of clean, efficient energy using fuel cell technology.

RECOGNITION OF RETIREMENT OF MILDRED PARSONS FROM THE FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

HON. ALBERT RUSSELL WYNN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 26, 2002

Mr. WYNN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to honor Mildred C. Parsons, a constituent in my district who recently retired from the Federal Bureau of Investigation. With the recent controversial security revelations and the new reorganization of the Homeland Security Department, we have not heard much positive news about our Nation's security agencies.

Despite what we often hear or see in the media, there are many dedicated individuals who are working diligently within these agencies. In particular, I would like to commend Ms. Mildred Parsons of Takoma Park, Maryland, affectionately called "Millie" by her co-workers, for her tremendous service. Ms. Par-

sons, who retired from the FBI in June at the age of 88, was recognized with an article in the Washington Post, which I would like to enter into the official House RECORD. In 62 years, 9 months, and 2 days, Ms. Parsons never once called in sick to work and retired in June with over 6,000 hours in sick leave.

She has been called an "institution within an institution" by her former supervisor at the field office. I would like to again thank Ms. Parsons for her wonderful and diligent service, and wish her a wonderful retirement. Judging from the article on her, she still has a lot of spunk left.

I think all of us can learn a lot from Ms. Parsons' spirit, hard work, and determination. Thank you Ms. Parsons, your hard work is the foundation upon which our Nation was built.

[From the Washington Post, June 29, 2002]

NOT A SINGLE SICK DAY IN 62 YEARS

(By Allan Lengel)

Mildred Parsons, bucking the very laws of nature, worked as an FBI secretary in Washington for 62 years, 9 months and 2 days—never once calling in sick.

Yesterday, clad in a bright-pink dress suit adorned with a white corsage, Parsons, 88, the longest-serving employee in FBI history, retired. Her final day on the job included a visit to the office of the director, Robert S. Mueller III, and a party, during which former and current co-workers showered her with hugs and unbridled adulation.

"No, I'm not going to cry," she told well-wishers. "It is sad, but at the same time, it's nice. Everyone has to retire sometime. It's time for me to leave."

In nearly 63 years on the job, Parsons, known as Millie, had a headache or two and a cold, but no ailment serious enough to make her stay home.

"I may have sneezed or something, or had a little bit of a cold," she said. "If I had a headache, I just went in there. If I was around people, I would forget."

Parsons said she doesn't take vitamins or use secret herbs. "I eat whatever I want," she said. "I eat a lot of TV dinners, whatever sounds good or looks good at the time."

She gets some exercise. There's ballroom dancing and the six-block walk to the bus to stop each workday, and back again, from her home in suburban Maryland.

But she credited her good health to the joy of "being around people."

Parsons's sick-free record became a matter of pride—and legend—at the FBI. In the early 1990s, FBI agent Frank Scafidi pulled a prank, altering her pay-check stub to reflect an hour of sick leave. Furious, she got on the phone to FBI headquarters—then learned it was a joke.

Her boss, Van Harp, who heads the FBI Washington field office near Judiciary Square, called her "an institution within an institution." Co-workers described her as witty, with a good sense of humor but also a serious side. She liked to take charge, they said, and she paid great attention to detail.

"She was a stickler for everything. . . . You have to have every comma in place, every 'i' dotted," said Donna Cummings, administrative assistant to Harp. "But she liked to party and have a good time."

After graduating from high school in Frederick in 1930, Parsons worked at the old Woodward & Lothrop department store in the District. In 1939, she took a job as a clerk-typist at FBI headquarters, moving to the Washington field office in 1940.

By the end of her career yesterday, she had worked under six FBI directors and 30 bosses at the field office.

"People ask who my favorite boss was," she said. "That's something I do not discuss."