

To his family, I humbly extend my thanks and the sincere appreciation of a grateful community, State, and country for his sacrifice. On behalf of the people of the 7th Congressional District and the U.S. Congress, I extend my heartfelt sympathy to the Parker family.

CONGRATULATING STUDENTS
FROM NASHVILLE'S HILLSBORO
HIGH SCHOOL ON THEIR
ACHIEVEMENTS IN THE NA-
TIONAL "WE THE PEOPLE"
CIVICS COMPETITION

HON. JIM COOPER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 27, 2004

Mr. COOPER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate an extraordinary group of students from Hillsboro High School in Nashville, Tennessee, who are this year's State winners of the Nation's largest annual competition in civics education: We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution. I am proud of these outstanding students for having earned a chance to represent our fine State and to compete in the national finals here in Washington.

These students should be honored not only for their achievements in this prestigious competition but for their interest in politics, government and current events. As citizens of this great Nation, we are all duty-bound to exercise the rights and obligations of citizenship. Recent times, however, have seen a steep decline in voter turnout and increased cynicism about the political process. I am refreshed by the energy and enthusiasm of these students and am impressed by their commitment to the democratic ideals of our Nation. These students will no doubt serve as role models for their generation.

I am also proud to support the annual We the People competition, which is the most extensive educational program in the country developed specifically to educate young people about the U.S. Constitution and Bill of Rights. This program is administered by the Center for Civic Education and funded by the U.S. Department of Education. Since its creation, We the People has won widespread recognition for its effective and innovative programs to encourage civic participation in our younger generation. I am confident that Congress will maintain its support of this fine program and ensure its continued success.

On behalf of the people of the Fifth Congressional District of Tennessee, I extend my heartiest congratulations to the following Hillsboro High School students: Emily Bacon, Susan Bursch, Molly Caldwell, Julianne Codd, Maeve Cornell-Taylor, Jonathan Cox, Emelyn Davies, Alice Floyd, Maisha Grigsby, Claire Hipkens, Anna Holt, Hal Nichols, Caitlin Pinhey, Kaitlin Reinhardt, Andrew Schneider, Lauren Smyth, Michael Terrell, Lee Tice and David Winjun. I also commend the leadership of their teacher, Ms. Catherine Bradshaw.

I applaud the tremendous achievement of these students and wish them well.

IN HONOR OF THE 75TH BIRTHDAY
FOR THE UNIVERSITY PARK EL-
EMENTARY SCHOOL

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 27, 2004

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the 75th Birthday for the University Park Elementary School in Dallas, Texas. I am proud to represent the University Park Elementary School in Congress, and four of my staff members in my Washington, D.C. and Dallas offices are graduates of the Highland Park Independent School District, and so I am well aware of the quality education that University Park Elementary School and the Highland Park Independent School District deliver on a yearly basis. One of my staff members has three generations of his family that attended University Park Elementary School.

The State of Texas is celebrating 150 years of publicly educating young Texans, and along with this important anniversary is the 75th Birthday for the University Park Elementary School. This is a very special milestone in the history of the school, its students, families, teacher professionals, support staff, and the greater community that it has served with distinction for three-quarters of a century. I congratulate the school's principal Dr. Lynda Carter for her excellent leadership of the school during this birthday year.

University Park Elementary School opened its doors in September of 1928 with six teachers and 165 students. The school has come a long way from its initial academic year, as in 1988 the United States Department of Education cited University Park Elementary School for its excellence in education; and it has also received national recognition for excellence in the area of character development. In 2001, University Park Elementary School received special recognition from the Texas Commissioner of Education, Jim Nelson, for being one of the eight schools in Texas to receive an "Exemplary" rating for nine years of the rating system's existence.

University Park Elementary School will formally celebrate its birthday on Friday morning, and I am very much looking forward to being there personally in honor of such a great occasion. I sincerely salute the University Park Elementary School on its birthday, and I wish it continued success for many years to come.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO ALEX
MADONNA

HON. LOIS CAPPS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 27, 2004

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to Alex Madonna of San Luis Obispo, California, in my district. Alex died on April 22, leaving a hole in the heart of his wife of 55 years, Phyllis, and in those of his large and devoted family. He will truly be missed by the people of San Luis Obispo County, and throughout the Nation.

Alex Madonna was a second generation American whose grandparents emigrated from Switzerland. A self-made man who was guided by a strong work ethic, Alex made his mark building and paving highways throughout the state and in numerous building projects. During World War II, Alex used his construction skills as a soldier in the Army Corps of Engineers. A champion of the agricultural community, Alex was also known as "the host from the coast" at the Madonna Inn, a landmark in San Luis Obispo.

In addition to his numerous business accomplishments, Alex Madonna was also a philanthropist of legendary proportions. Alex Madonna's generosity to the people and the organizations of San Luis Obispo is part of history. Nearly everyone in town has a story about a donation that Alex and Phyllis have made to our community.

San Luis Obispo will be wearing pink on Thursday, the day of Alex Madonna's funeral. The church will be packed with people wanting to say goodbye to a man whose life can be summed up in these words: determination, hard work and a great heart.

HONORING ISRAEL INDEPENDENCE
DAY

HON. MARTIN FROST

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 27, 2004

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate Israel Independence Day on the 56th Anniversary of its birth as a state.

As Americans, we all take great pride in the founding of our country. The birth of Israel also serves as a sense of pride—not only to the people of Israel, but also to Jewish people throughout the world. Almost every day, we receive news of Israelis falling victim to terrorism and tragedy, yet every day, Israel stands as a symbol not just of the Jewish faith, but of freedom loving people who have the courage, even today, to live in danger, fight for freedom and work for peace.

While Israel and America were founded in different centuries, a world away from each other, both countries share similar values which provide a foundation for a strong society. These values are rooted in educating our children, keeping our families healthy, and protecting our citizens from harm.

I applaud Israel for all it has accomplished throughout the past 56 years. It has weathered war and terrorism, and yet it still remains a democratic state committed to improving the quality of life for all its citizens. The commitment to serve its people is the mark of a great country, because only when a state wants its citizens to succeed, will it too succeed. In its short but rich history, Israel has proven its success by this unwavering dedication.

Mr. Speaker, it is with honor and respect of Israel's great history, that I congratulate the country for its successes, and look forward to a long-lasting relationship between our two countries, based on our shared values.