

from the Air Force on April 30, 1975 at the rank of Captain. Since 1975, Ralph has faithfully worked for the Air Force as a civilian in his former job, achieving his final assignment in 1990 as Chief of the Facility Programming Branch (ANG/CEP).

Mr. Speaker, throughout his career, Ralph Conte has demonstrated a profound commitment to the Air Force, Air National Guard and the Nation. He is a consummate professional whose performance in over 30 years of service has personified those traits of competency and integrity that our Nation has come to expect of its senior civilian leaders. I would like to thank Ralph for his many years of dedicated service and wish he and his family a fulfilling retirement.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO SPRING
VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 6, 2006

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the students, faculty and administrators of Spring Valley High School in Las Vegas, Nevada, for their tremendous achievements in educational progress.

Spring Valley High School opened in August 2004 as the first Smaller Learning Communities/Career Academy High School in the State of Nevada. Robert Gerye, principal of Spring Valley High School, developed a unique curriculum and educational design intended to prepare students for higher education while providing opportunities to explore possible career paths. The curriculum design provides an environment in which students can interact more effectively with teachers and administrators. Each grade level is housed in its own wing of the school and assigned an administrator and a counselor who will be with those students throughout their high school years. To further foster educational growth and individualized student attention, every staff member at Spring Valley High School is assigned approximately 20 students to mentor as they advance from 9th to 12th grade. The format establishes a greater level of coordination between teachers in each grade level, increased collaboration with the local post-secondary institutions and rigorous academic standards intended to help students graduate with the preparation necessary to excel in college and in their chosen careers.

Although Spring Valley High School is worthy of recognition for many reasons, I wish to recognize Spring Valley High School today for its tremendous improvement under the standards set by the No Child Left Behind Act. As a brand-new school in the 2004–2005 school year, Spring Valley High School faced many challenges. It was classified on the 2004–2005 Accountability Report as a school which did not demonstrate Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP). As a result of Mr. Gerye's tremendous leadership, his faculty's commitment to their goals, and his students' determination to succeed, Spring Valley High School not only met the Adequate Yearly Progress criteria this year, it has been classified in the 2005–2006 Accountability Report as a High Achieving—Growth institution.

The administration, faculty and staff at Spring Valley High School have approached

their goals with discipline and determination and, as a result, they have enhanced both the academic experience and performance of its students. For the incredible contribution they have made to the success of Spring Valley High School, I would like to commend the following individuals: Walt Acra, Larry Adams, Sheila Ali, Lisa Ancona, Carlrose Arellano, Rica Arenas, Jennifer Ashford, Joyce Bakkedahl, Teresa Barajas, Phanom Baravong, Ana Barnes, Bianca Bautista, Elaine Beller, Bibi Belloto, Louise Belviso, Christopher Bires, Robert Bloom, Donald Bohm, Christina Bolin, Liana Bolton, Marilee Botos, Shawn Boyle, Charles Branich, Susan Brewer, David Brooks, Elizabeth Brown, Valerie Bugni, Dawn Burns, Antonio Caiati, Paul Campbell, Heather Carroll, Daniel Casel, Charlotte Chapman, Bernard Chase, Holly Chidester, Douglas Clarke, Kathy Clemens, Vaunette Coache, Paulette Coleman, Ann Collum, George Comadena, Melissa Conley, Geraldine Conte, Laurie Daly, Eric DeAnda, Ann Deleuil, Patricia Delfs, Amy DeVaul, Paula Digerolami-Macon, Suzanne Dompierre, Melody Dubois, Anna Eapen, Sindy Eisen, Ann Elandt, Jeanette Engelhart, Diane Epstein, Sarah Federspiel, Karen Florence-Hopkins, LaVanda Ford, William Fouts, Victoria Franklin-Dillon, Thomas Fraiser, Rhonda Fritch, Jennifer Gallegos, Wanda Gambino, Anthony Gamboa, Richardo Garcia, Gail Garrett, Dean Gentuso, Michelle Gex, Robert Gillingham, Mamie Glorioso, Michael Gomez, Dennis Goode, Gayane Gulyan, William Hamilton, Sarah Hanes, Yuki Harada-Hart, Christopher Hendley, Edward Henry, Kevin Henry, Connie Hines, Caprice Houston-Bey, Rebecca Hutchings, Linda Idemoto, Lori Jackson, Rebecca Jackson, Tanya Jackson, Steven Jacobson, Jill Jaeger, Charles Janette, Margaret Jeffrey, Susan Jennings, Andrew Jennings, Emily Jensen, Brett Jeross, Shirley Jimenez, Bessie Lee Johnson, Deborah Johnston, Harlan Johnston, Karen Jolivet, Emily Jones, Yvette Kagan, Ethel Keck, Lisa Keith, Heather Kennedy, Lezlie Koepp, Joel Krautstrunk, Morgan Krista!, Susan Kuehl, Denise Lauriano, Monica Lavelle, Wende Lestelle, Robert Leytham, Enrico Litterini, Peter Locatelli, Johnny Macon, Rosette Mare, Kyle Martin, Gary Mayers, Phillip McAlister, Brianna McElroy, Melinda McGill, John McLavy, Jr., Jackson Meeker, Frederick Meyer, Michelle Minggia, Kimberly Moody, Dawn Moore, Robert Murphy, Elonda Murray, Amy Murray, Rachelle Nearn, Jane Newton, Richard Niemczewski, Amy Nugent, Michael O'Brien, Michael Oliver, Serene Oppenheim, Rebecca Pappas, Chrissy Paradiso, Iretta Pearson, Joe Peck, Evan Politi, Debbie Pope, Shannon Powell, Jeffrey Pynter, Dennis Pumphrey, Louis Reale, Efrain Rene, Shirley Reuben, Susan Rheinwald, Tyra Riefler, Roberto Rodriguez, Jeffrey Rubin, Ian Salzman, Adam Sampson, Angelica Sanchez, Elizabeth Sandelin, Daniel Schantol, Christina Schenauer, Nikki Semmelroth, Nicholas Sevano, Paul Shapiro, Susie Shepley, Donald Shumaker, Debbie Simons, Brant Smith, Marion Smith, Jr., Mitchell Sperling, Gregory Stack, John Staples, Heather Stringham, Jen Strobel, Robert Stropky, Jr., Cindy Taylor, Marcus Teal, Jeanine Tegano, Jennifer Tichon, James Tippet, Bonnie Toth, Justin Truitt, Leota Tucker, Travis Underwood, Becky Utchel, Nayelee Villanueva, Clara Virga, Lynn Wentland, Stacey White, Yvette White, Debo-

rah Whitt, Michael Williams, Sabrina Woodruff: Dave Yacobovich, Kenneth Young, Suzanne Ziegler, Emily Zierse, and Lee Zigan.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor Robert Gerye and his extraordinary staff at Spring Valley High School for the exceptional progress they have made this year. Their tireless efforts to exceed the achievement standards set by the No Child Left Behind Act have made a profound difference for the students who attend Spring Valley High School. I applaud this outstanding achievement and I look forward to seeing Spring Valley High School and its students continue to excel in our community.

CONGRATULATING HEATHER
CROSSMAN

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 6, 2006

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Heather Crossman of North Richland Hills, Texas, on receiving the venerated 2006 Presidential Freedom Scholarship. As a recipient of this prestigious award, she is recognized for her outstanding leadership and commitment to servicing of her community and its residents.

The Presidential Freedom Scholarship program, sponsored by the Corporation for National and Community Service and administered by Learn and Serve America, honors select high school juniors and seniors, displaying exceptional service and citizenship, with a \$1,000 scholarship to the college of their choice. To be eligible for nomination, individuals must have completed at least 100 hours of community service and receive the recommendation of their high school.

Mr. Speaker, I extend my sincere congratulations to Heather Crossman on receiving this award and commend her dedication and desire to help her school, community and country.

TRIBUTE TO THE VIRGILIO LODGE
NO. 1586 AND THE BEATRICE
PORTINARI LODGE NO. 1626 OF
THE ORDER OF SONS OF ITALY
ON THEIR 75TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 6, 2006

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to invite my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Virgilio Lodge No. 1586 and the Beatrice Portinari Lodge No. 1626 as they celebrate their Golden Jubilee Gala on September 9, 2006.

The Order of the Sons of Italy in America was established in Vallejo, California, in January of 1931 when one-fourth of the community was composed of Italian Americans. The Sons of Italy is a National Fraternal Order that has lodges throughout the United States and Canada and took out its Charter in 1905 in New York City. They believe in liberty, equality and fraternity.

The lodges have been very active in Vallejo and Solano County including awarding 15 annual scholarships; raising in excess of \$80,000

for the Alzheimer's Research Center at the University of California at Davis Medical Center; donating \$5500 to the helipad at Sutter Solano Hospital in Vallejo; donating to numerous charities in the area; and in 1976 sponsoring the Landing of Columbus at the Vallejo Waterfront as a Bicentennial Tribute to the City of Vallejo.

Through the years the Virgilio Lodge and the Beatrice Portinari Lodge have jointly participated in activities from civic to social functions in Vallejo. Among their shared highlights during their 75-year history are sponsoring the annual Columbus Day Banquet and initiating the renaming of Miller Road to Columbus Parkway. In 1974 they dedicated their own Lodge building in the former Lincoln School annex, which represents a second family home to the entire membership. Three Lodge members have served as Mayors of Vallejo: Terry Cutrola, Jr., Anthony J. Intintoli, Jr., and Gloria Exline. Many other members have served as elected or appointed officials in the City of Vallejo and are very active in the community.

I commend the Virgilio Lodge No. 1586 and the Beatrice Portinari Lodge No. 1626 for their many contributions to the City of Vallejo and wish them many more years of service to the community.

HONORING DAVID ANDERSEN

HON. JOHN E. SWEENEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 6, 2006

Mr. SWEENEY. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to honor and recognize David Andersen, President and CEO of Saratoga Hospital and Saratoga Care Inc., in celebration of his retirement on August 31, 2006. The immeasurable amount of time and effort that David has given during his career has helped countless citizens of my district, and has made Saratoga County a better place to live.

Since becoming President and CEO of Saratoga Hospital in 1991, David has greatly expanded and improved the healthcare capabilities available to those in need throughout Saratoga County. Under his leadership the hospital merged with Family Health Centers in the towns of Ballston Spa, Galway, and Schuylerville, and established Saratoga Care Inc. as the parent company of the combined healthcare organization. During his tenure, David oversaw the creation of the Same Day Surgery Center, the Cardiac Catheterization Center, the Saratoga Surgery Center, the Radiation Oncology Center, the Pulmonary Rehabilitation Center, and Wilton Medical Arts as affiliates of Saratoga Hospital. David has also worked to implement innovative healthcare education programs through Saratoga Care, to give patients and their families the knowledge they need to make difficult healthcare decisions. Through his tireless dedication to his profession, Saratoga Hospital and its affiliates have become among the healthiest in the Capital District of New York.

It is my privilege to honor such a selfless and dedicated member of my district. All citizens should be able to have access to the best quality healthcare available, and through David's leadership and the expansion of the

Saratoga Hospital and its affiliates, that has become a reality to so many of my constituents in Saratoga County. On behalf of the House of Representatives I would like to commend David Andersen on a truly distinguished career and wish him the best of luck in the future.

20TH ANNIVERSARY OF PORTLAND'S MAX LIGHT RAIL LINE

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 6, 2006

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, today we are celebrating the 20th anniversary of the opening of Portland's pioneering MAX—Metropolitan Area Express—one of America's first light-rail lines. Since 1986, MAX has been one of our region's most visible icons of livability—and has served as an inspiration to cities across the Nation and around the world. Instead of building yet another expensive and destructive freeway that would have divided and degraded Southeast Portland, we created MAX and coaxed higher-value investments from Federal transportation dollars. While this was certainly controversial at the time, our decision led to a renaissance for both Gresham and Portland and increased value for our entire region.

This anniversary gives us the opportunity to think about how our current decisions will be celebrated in another 20 years. If we are to continue our success, we must leverage what we've accomplished in the years ahead.

With light-rail, that's exactly what we're doing. In the last 20 years we have built three more extensions: Westside MAX, Airport MAX, and Interstate MAX. We are also hard at work on extending the system to the south and are hopeful that the next project will cross the Columbia River, expanding our regional system to include Vancouver, Washington.

The overwhelming popularity and success of our light-rail system is a testimony to wise investments, meaningful public participation, and regional leadership that took the political risks to make it all come together. The result has been a regional transportation system that truly supports the communities it serves and provides people with reliable and efficient choices to cope with congestion, skyrocketing oil prices, and global warming.

My heartiest congratulations to TriMet, elected officials, business leaders, and citizens throughout the Portland region for this amazing success story.

TRIBUTE TO VIETNAM WAR VETERAN LEON ZIMMERMANN, JR., OF CITRUS COUNTY, FLORIDA

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 6, 2006

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Leon Zimmermann, Jr., of Homosassa, Florida, a Purple Heart Veteran from the Vietnam War.

In August of 1970, Leon Zimmermann was assigned to guard an area along the Phouc

Xuyen River and provide a safe landing area for his fellow troops. As a 19-year-old Navy sailor serving in the jungles of Vietnam, Mr. Zimmermann was looking forward to his watch being over and the opportunity to get some much needed rest in the barracks.

A sudden mortar explosion killed two of his fellow troops, and severely wounded Mr. Zimmermann and two other sailors nearby. Taken to the radio room by the medics, Mr. Zimmermann was eventually evacuated by a rescue helicopter. Once he recovered from his wounds, he received a medical discharge from the Navy.

Due to problems with his military records, Mr. Zimmermann never received official recognition for his military service. I recently had the honor of presenting Mr. Zimmermann with his Purple Heart Medal for the wounds he received that fateful August afternoon.

Following his military service, Mr. Zimmermann was able to put the incident behind him and raise five wonderful children in the United States.

Mr. Speaker, sailors like Leon Zimmermann, Jr. should be recognized for their service to our Nation and for their commitment and sacrifices in battle. I am honored to have presented Mr. Zimmermann with his long overdue Purple Heart. He should know that we truly consider him one of America's heroes.

IN HONOR AND RECOGNITION OF THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE WEST SIDE HUNGARIAN REFORMED CHURCH

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 6, 2006

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in tribute and recognition of the West Side Hungarian Reformed Church, which is celebrating its centennial anniversary. This month, the congregation will also commemorate the 50th anniversary of the 1956 uprising against communism in Hungary.

The Church has supported its members and community faithfully during its 100 years of service. It has served as a haven for immigrants and refugees during various stages of its historic pilgrimage. The Church has become a spiritual community comprised of Hungarian old timers, newcomers, and others associated with the congregation through family and religious ties.

All the people of the greater Cleveland area have benefited from the West Side Hungarian Reformed Church's participation in the community's social and cultural activities. People of the Cleveland area have joined the congregation to honor Hungarians who, half a century ago, resisted oppression, fought in a heroic attempt to restore freedom to Hungary, and made sacrifices to advance the cause of liberty.

My official congratulations and best wishes are extended to the Reverend Zoltan Sandor Kelemen, as well as to the members of the congregations, past and present, for their selfless efforts to serve the church and community.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in offering a proclamation of congratulations to the West Side Hungarian Reformed Church on its 100th anniversary.