

Dr. Garcia and is a culmination of the Foundation's year-round efforts.

In an evening filled with cultural pride and celebration, the Foundation and the audience honor notable Hispanics who have distinguished themselves as role models in the Hispanic community while making a positive impact in our country.

This year marks the 20th anniversary of the Hispanic Heritage Awards and the theme of the 2006 ceremony will be "Looking Back, Moving Forward," representing the Hispanic community as part of the history of this Nation and our presence in the Nation's future.

I ask the House of Representatives to join me today in commending our Texas pioneer, Dr. Garcia, for her recognition as an outstanding educator that inspires our community, increases individual excellence among young Hispanics, and raises the standard of excellence at UTB.

A GREAT POINT-OF-LIGHT FOR
ALL AMERICANS: REGINALD
WEAVER

HON. MAJOR R. OWENS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 7, 2006

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to salute a dynamic trailblazer who continues to set a productive pace for positive change within the ranks of the Nation's education leaders. Reginald Weaver is a magnificent Great Point-of-Light. He is both profound and practical in his pursuit of school improvement across the Nation for all children. In addition to protecting the interests of the largest organization of teachers, he is a tireless spokesman for education policy-making and the need to increase expenditures for the basics which support opportunities to learn: improved and new school facilities; teacher training and compensation; adequate school libraries; science laboratories; computer instruction; and other necessities.

As a strong advocate for public education, Reginald Weaver was elected president of the 2.7 million-member National Education Association. He has traveled across the country as an ambassador for public education, stressing the association's mission to ensure that every child in America can attend a great public school right in his or her own neighborhood. In order to have great public schools, Mr. Weaver has outlined six areas that need to be addressed: parental involvement, high-quality school employees, high-quality classroom instruction, educators who give their best to every child, a high-quality teacher in every classroom, and fixing and funding the No Child Left Behind law. His NEA career started as a local president in Harvey, IL and eventually he became the president of the Illinois Education Association from 1981 to 1987; served on the NEA Executive Committee from 1989 to 1995 and as NEA vice president from 1996 to 2002. In addition, he serves on the executive board of the National Council for the Accreditation of Teacher Education and on the board of governors of the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies. Among his many accomplishments, he was named to the Ebony 2004 100+ Most Influential Black Americans list and was featured in Who's Who, as well as in Who's Who in Black America.

For his continuing leadership on the frontlines in the crusade for excellence in education, we salute Reginald Weaver as a Great Point-of-Light for all Americans.

HONORING SESQUICENTENNIAL OF
ATASCOSA COUNTY

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 7, 2006

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the sesquicentennial of Atascosa County, which resides within the 28th District of Texas. This year marks the 150th anniversary of the founding of Atascosa County.

Atascosa County had its beginnings after the Texas Revolution, when several land grants were given out to notable Texans such as Jose Antonio Navarro that marked extensive colonization in the area in 1853. The first county seat, Navatasco, was established in 1857 on land donated by Navarro. Many of the new settlers were recent immigrants from Mexico, Germany, and England. The early years of the twentieth century brought many changes to Atascosa County. Several railroads were built that helped connect the towns of Leming, Pleasanton, McCoy, Charlotte, and Hindes. In 1910, the residents of Atascosa County voted to officially make Jourdanton the county seat.

Agriculture is a vital part of Atascosa County with a wide variety of agricultural products ranging from livestock to strawberries. In 2002, there were over 1,539 farms and ranches covering 669,890 acres, 52% of which were devoted to pasture, 33% to crops, and 12% to woodlands. In that year alone, local farmers and ranchers earned \$51,808,000, with livestock sales accounting for \$34,534,000 of that total. Oil and gas also continue to be a leading industry in the county, with over 1,236,387 barrels of oil produced in 1990. By the end of 2004, over 149,778,538 barrels of oil have been produced in Atascosa County. The largest communities in the county are Jourdanton, Pleasanton, Campbelton, Poteet, Lytle, Charlotte, Christine, Leming, McCoy, and Peggy. Some of the county's wonderful attractions include the famous Poteet Strawberry Festival, the Jourdanton Days Celebration, and the Cowboy Homecoming and Rodeo in Pleasanton. As we look back on the past 150 years with pride, we also look forward to a very promising future for Atascosa County.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to have had this time to honor Atascosa County on their 150th anniversary, and I thank you for this time.

RECOGNIZING ARMY SPECIALIST
GARY PITTS OF INVERNESS,
FLORIDA

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 7, 2006

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I Rise today to honor Gary Pitts of Inverness, Florida, an Army Specialist who served in Iraq and is currently based at Fort Carson, Colorado.

Born in Inverness, Florida, Specialist Pitts graduated from Citrus High School in 1993. Following the events of September 11, he felt a strong need to do his part to fight the global war on terror and joined the Army at the age of 26. Completing basic training in May 2002 at Fort Knox, Kentucky, he went on to advanced training at Fort Bliss, Texas.

Deployed to Iraq in February 2003 for a 5-month tour as a Patriot missile operator, Specialist Pitts returned to Fort Bliss following the completion of his duties. Having completed his initial commitment, on April 6, 2004, Specialist Pitts re-enlisted for another 3 years. Once again deployed to Iraq in March 2005, he served for a year in the 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment as a radar operator and a turret gunner. While serving in Iraq, Specialist Pitts' missions included convoy security and elections security during Iraq's first elections.

Specialist Pitts received the Combat Action Badge for engaging the enemy in action following an IED explosion next to his vehicle. Currently based at Fort Carson, Specialist Pitts has approximately 8 more months to complete his 6 years of enlistment.

In addition to his military service, Specialist Pitts has a natural talent for art and creativity, winning numerous blue ribbons for his pastel artwork. He is now married and living in Colorado Springs and enjoys his visits home to see his parents, Mike and Anne, and brothers, Steven and Mike. He also visits his sister Michele and niece Tiffany who live in Colorado.

Mr. Speaker, it is soldiers like Gary Pitts who volunteer to protect the freedoms that all Americans hold dear to their hearts. He is to be commended for his service to our Nation and for his commitment to his family and loved ones. This Congress will never forget his sacrifices in battle.

JIM WESTFALL—JOHNS
FELLOWSHIP AWARDEE

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 7, 2006

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, I stand here today to honor James M. Westfall as the Johns Fellowship Award Winner for 2006. After graduating from high school, "Jim" Westfall completed the San Diego Electrical Joint Apprenticeship 4-year program in 1973.

In 1976, he began working for the Bechtel Power Corp., at the San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station and advanced to General Foreman in the Electrical Department. In 1980, Jim was elected Business Representative for I.B.E.W. Local 569 and served for 7 years.

For the past 19 years, Jim has been employed with the San Diego Electrical Training Trust as Administrative Manager/Director of Training. During his tenure, Jim was instrumental in building the Apprenticeship from 300 students with 12 instructors to 13 full-time staff, 1250 students and 75 instructors.

During his 30-year career, Jim has served on the National Electrical Training Directors Association, California Apprenticeship Coordinators Association and the Apprenticeship Coordinators Association of San Diego. He has also been awarded the Electrical Industry Progress Award for Leadership and Exemplary

Service and the Founder's Trophy for Extraordinary Leadership and Service to the Electrical Industry by the National Electrical Contractors Association, San Diego Chapter.

Jim is currently the Director of Training for San Diego Electrical Training and has been inducted into the California apprenticeship Hall of Fame on May 4, 2006.

James M. Westfall is very deserving of this award as he has been a driving force in the organized labor movement for the past 30 years.

CONGRATULATING MAGEE RIETER AUTOMOTIVE SYSTEMS OF BLOOMSBURG, PENNSYLVANIA ON BEING NAMED SUPPLIER OF THE YEAR TO GENERAL MOTORS FOR THE 14TH CONSECUTIVE YEAR

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 7, 2006

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask you and my esteemed colleagues in the House of Representatives to pay tribute to Magee Rieter Automotive Systems of Bloomsburg, Pennsylvania, on the occasion of their being named worldwide "Supplier of the Year" to General Motors for the 14th consecutive year.

Of GM's 30,000 suppliers, Magee Rieter Automotive Systems is the only company in North America to achieve this remarkable record, a fact that should make its nearly 800 employees exceedingly proud.

Magee Rieter is the leading supplier of carpets to General Motors in America. The company has been in business in Bloomsburg since 1889 and has been supplying General Motors for more than 90 years, first with hand draped tapestries for Fisher Body carriages and, today, with fully molded carpet floors and integrated acoustical systems.

For more than a century, the company has endured and overcome numerous challenges including floods, fires and the rapidly changing business environment. After World War II, the company received the Army/Navy "E" award for excellence in recognition of its production of high quality materials for the war effort.

Magee Rieter records annual sales in excess of \$175 million and has an annual payroll of more than \$37 million that provides its employees with family sustaining incomes that average about \$39,000 annually. Overall, Magee Rieter is responsible for a \$168 million annual impact to the local economy.

The current employees of Magee Rieter are carrying on traditions of pride and success handed down by their parents, grandparents and great grandparents who worked at this remarkable company.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating Magee Rieter for demonstrating superior performance and for serving as a shining example for other businesses to emulate.

AIDS IN 2006—MOVING TOWARD ONE WORLD, ONE HOPE?

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 7, 2006

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, the International AIDS Society meeting in Toronto last month focused the world's attention on ways to deal with the ongoing AIDS pandemic. Global health experts and advocates came together to discuss effective tactics and comprehensive strategies for improved prevention and therapies and, ultimately, a cure. I am particularly glad that the meeting highlighted the need for microbicides development, treatments that will allow vulnerable women to protect themselves and their families from infection.

As we consider the recommendations made in Toronto, I want to draw my colleagues' attention to a recent article, "AIDS in 2006—Moving toward One World, One Hope?," published in the August 17 edition of *The New England Journal of Medicine*. Written by Dr. Paul Farmer and Dr. Jim Yong Kim, leading medical experts with years of front-line experience through their work at Partners in Health, they offer us important lessons that will help translate the optimism expressed in Toronto into the reality of improved global health.

As they point out, an effective approach to the global AIDS epidemic (and to the global TB and malaria epidemics as well) will require strategies that address the global epidemic of poverty and the inequitable distribution of health care resources. Affordable drugs, viable public health systems, access to trained health care personnel, and the provision of nutrition and other "wrap-around" services that make the difference between life and death are all essential components for success. As Partners in Health has proven in Haiti and Rwanda, this comprehensive approach is not a pie-in-the-sky notion. It is completely achievable given a commitment to make and sustain the necessary investments.

The work of nongovernmental organizations like Partners in Health, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and the Clinton Foundations HIV/AIDS Initiative has allowed us to make incredible strides, but they cannot solve these problems alone. As Dr. Farmer and Dr. Kim caution us, "Only the public sector, not nongovernmental organizations, can offer health care as a right." The U.S. government can and must take the lead in expanding our commitment to defeating the twin dangers of global pandemics and global poverty. By doing so, we will not only make the world healthier, we will make it safer.

[From the *New England Journal of Medicine*, Aug. 17, 2006]

AIDS IN 2006—MOVING TOWARD ONE WORLD, ONE HOPE?

(By Jim Yong Kim and Paul Farmer)

For the past two decades, AIDS experts—clinicians, epidemiologists, policymakers, activists, and scientists—have gathered every two years to confer about what is now the world's leading infectious cause of death among young adults. This year, the International AIDS Society is hosting the meeting in Toronto from August 13 through 18. The last time the conference was held in Canada, in 1996, its theme was "One World, One Hope." But it was evident to conferees

from the poorer reaches of the world that the price tag of the era's great hope—combination antiretroviral therapy—rendered it out of their reach. Indeed, some African participants that year made a banner reading "One World, No Hope."

Today, the global picture is quite different. The claims that have been made for the efficacy of antiretroviral therapy have proved to be well founded: in the United States, such therapy has prolonged life by an estimated 13 years—a success rate that would compare favorably with that of almost any treatment for cancer or complications of coronary artery disease. In addition, a number of lessons, with implications for policy and action, have emerged from efforts that are well under way in the developing world. During the past decade, we have gleaned these lessons from our work in setting global AIDS policies at the World Health Organization in Geneva and in implementing integrated programs for AIDS prevention and care in places such as rural Haiti and Rwanda. As vastly different as these places may be, they are part of one world, and we believe that ambitious policy goals, adequate funding, and knowledge about implementation can move us toward the elusive goal of shared hope.

The first lesson is that charging for AIDS prevention and care will pose insurmountable problems for people living in poverty, since there will always be those unable to pay even modest amounts for services or medications, whether generic or branded. Like efforts to battle airborne tuberculosis, such services should be seen as a public good for public health. Policymakers and public health officials, especially in heavily burdened regions, should adopt universal-access plans and waive fees for HIV care. Initially, this approach will require sustained donor contributions, but many African countries have recently set targets for increased national investments in health, a pledge that could render ambitious programs sustainable in the long run.

As local investments increase, the price of AIDS care is decreasing. The development of generic medications means that antiretroviral therapy can now cost less than 50 cents per day, and costs continue to decrease to affordable levels for public health officials in developing countries. All antiretroviral medications—first-line, second-line, and third-line—must be made available at such prices. Manufacturers of generic drugs in China, India, and other developing countries stand ready to provide the full range of drugs. Whether through negotiated agreements or use of the full flexibilities of the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights, full access to all available antiretroviral drugs must quickly become the standard in all countries.

Second, the effective scale-up of pilot projects will require the strengthening and even rebuilding of health care systems, including those charged with delivering primary care. In the past, the lack of a health care infrastructure has been a barrier to antiretroviral therapy; we must now marshal AIDS resources, which are at last considerable, to rebuild public health systems in sub-Saharan Africa and other HIV-burdened regions. These efforts will not weaken efforts to address other problems—malaria and other diseases of poverty, maternal mortality, and insufficient vaccination coverage—if they are planned deliberately with the public sector in mind. Only the public sector, not nongovernmental organizations, can offer health care as a right.

Third, a lack of trained health care personnel, most notably doctors, is invoked as a reason for the failure to treat AIDS in poor