

number of years. He also served as the Scoutmaster for Hopewell Troop 8, as well as a Vigil Member of the Order of the Arrow.

Tom was also very active with the Downingtown High School Band Parents organization, making numerous trips hauling the band instruments to local venues and even Florida for band appearances. He also worked the concession stand at the Downingtown High School stadium for numerous athletic events and band competitions, all part of his committed efforts to support our local youth.

No task was too big or too small for Tom. As long as he knew it would benefit area youth, he was there to help.

All of Tom's work and accomplishments will be acknowledged this weekend at the Downingtown Area Chamber of Commerce Annual Dinner on May 2, 2008, at Whitford Country Club. His wife, Winifred, will accept the Citizen of the Year Award on his behalf and area leaders and residents will pay tribute to the life and work of a selfless man.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me today in praising the work of Thomas J. Cooper, Sr., and all those who give of themselves to help others. The Citizen of the Year Award is an acknowledgment of the full and vibrant life that Tom led, and whose work is still remembered and paving the future for tomorrow's generation.

RECOGNIZING THE HOMES FOR  
OUR TROOPS ORGANIZATION  
AND PULTE HOMES

**HON. THOMAS G. TANCREDO**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 1, 2008*

Mr. TANCREDO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a program that has provided an invaluable service to our nation's wounded veterans. The Homes For Our Troops organization is a non-partisan, non-profit 501(c)(3) group that provides specially built homes to veterans who have received debilitating injuries while fighting for our continued freedom in the ongoing military conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan. These homes are provided at no cost to the family receiving assistance. John Gonsalves founded this wonderful organization with the aim of providing a service for our soldiers which was much needed and even more appreciated. He has dedicated his time to this noble endeavor and his organization has proven to be of the highest standard of excellence. Homes For Our Troops has been awarded the Independent Charities Seal of Excellence. This award, bestowed upon members of the Local Independent Charities of America and the Independent Charities of America is recognition of the highest level for charity work. Fewer than 5 percent of all eligible charities are honored with this award.

Providing these homes for our injured service men and women is a team effort. Recently, ground was broken on a home for Army Staff Sergeant Matthew Keil and his wife Tracy, of Parker Colorado. Numerous organizations have teamed up with Homes For Our Troops and provided their expertise, materials and time to make this home a reality. Pulte Homes, under the guidance of Mike Meneguzzi has designed the Keil's future

home. Their organization has graciously donated over \$31,000 to the building effort and one of their employees, Bret Hribar, will be operating as the general contractor. Pulte has further demonstrated their dedication to worthy projects such as this by providing their employees 2 paid days of leave annually to participate in charitable projects.

With the help of other local businesses, Homes For Our Troops and Pulte Homes have performed a great service for a great American hero. Their continued dedication to the welfare of our returning veterans is a great example of patriotism which we should all strive to achieve.

CONGRATULATING MRS. DAWN  
O'CONNOR RECIPIENT OF THE  
2008 PRESIDENTIAL AWARD FOR  
EXCELLENCE IN SCIENCE TEACH-  
ING

**HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 1, 2008*

Mr. HONDA. Madam Speaker, as a former teacher, school principal, and school board member I am proud to rise today to congratulate Mrs. Dawn O'Connor for receiving the 2008 Presidential Award for Excellence in Science Teaching. Since 1983, the Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching have honored outstanding kindergarten through 12th grade mathematics or science teachers for their contributions in the classroom and to their profession. On behalf of the people of California's 15th District, I am honored to recognize one of our own as a recipient of the Presidential Award, the highest recognition that a teacher can receive—Mrs. O'Connor teaches Seventh Grade Biology at Ascencion Solorsano Middle School in the Gilroy Unified School District.

Ascencion Solorsano's students are fortunate to have Mrs. O'Connor serve as chair of the Science Department, coach of the Cross Country team, and advisor of the school's MESA program. After graduating from California State University, Humboldt with a B.S. in Biology Mrs. O'Connor completed her multiple subjects credential program at my alma mater, San Jose State University.

Mrs. O'Connor received the 2007 Horace Lucich Award for Outstanding Teachers by the Synopsys science fair and the California State Science Fair Teacher of the Year Award. She was a Summer Institute Fellow at Stanford University's Center for Probing the Nanoparticle and also participated in the Summer Leadership Institute hosted by the National Science Education Leadership Association.

During Mrs. O'Connor's tenure year at Ascencion Solorsano she has helped to expand a traditional science fair into a five-month inquiry-based project involving 98% of the students in the activities of a practicing scientist—problem identification, hypotheses generation, experimental design, experimentation, writing and presenting conclusions. Her inclusion of cross-curricular skills is indeed commendable. Through her encouragement students have performed exceptionally in the Silicon Valley science fair competition and gone on to attain awards at the State level

competitions. According to Mrs. O'Connor "It is also my goal to produce a population of capable problem solvers," a goal I share, one that is crucial to ensuring our Nation's competitiveness in the 21st century global economy.

Mrs. O'Connor represents the spirit of innovation that is the core of my District, the Silicon Valley and the State of California, and she is dedicated to inspiring and engaging students in science through inquiry. I congratulate her and her colleagues and students for this distinguished achievement.

STATEMENT IN RECOGNITION OF  
EDIE FRASER

**HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 1, 2008*

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the work of one of the leaders of diversity, entrepreneurship, women in business and mentoring, Edie Fraser, who was honored on April 24 with the Lou Campanelli Award for volunteerism and leadership.

The award, presented by SCORE "Counselors to America's Small Business," honors Edie Fraser for her volunteerism, philanthropic contributions and dedication to entrepreneurship and SCORE.

The Lou Campanelli Award annually recognizes outstanding individual volunteerism, leadership, vision and philanthropy in support of small business, entrepreneurship and SCORE. Edie received the award at SCORE's Afternoon of Vision 2008 in Washington, D.C., on April 24. SCORE CEO Ken Yancey and Lou Campanelli presented Edie with the award.

Edie Fraser has won more than 35 major diversity awards. SCORE is in her blood as her dad, Les Fraser, was a SCORE volunteer and leader for 33 years in Atlanta. Edie has worked with SCORE over the years, now serving on the SCORE Board of Directors.

She was named in 2007 as one of the Top 50 Pioneers in Diversity by Profiles in Diversity Journal and top 46 of America's Top Diversity Advocates by DiversityBusiness.com, along with Oprah Winfrey, Presidents Jimmy Carter and Bill Clinton, and many other senior diversity leaders. Her other awards include: The Enterprising Women Hall of Fame; the eWomen Network International Femtor Award for Lifetime Achievement; the Count-Me-In Leader Entrepreneurial Award; and the Euro-American Women's Council Artemis Award, presented by Athens and the sacred island of Delos. She also received the First Global ATHENA Award in Athens, Greece.

As an advocate for small business and entrepreneurship Edie says, "SCORE is a cornerstone of what is the best of this country. Small business is the most significant part of our economy across this nation." Fraser believes, "SCORE is the premiere source of free counseling and advice, and a source of loan information for America's aspiring entrepreneurs."

Edie's extensive background in support of diversity and women spans four decades, and she is the founder of Diversity Best Practices and Business Women's Network. She is a