

soldiers and their families and a commitment to excellence. I ask Members to join me in offering our heartfelt appreciation for a job well done and best wishes for continued success to a great soldier and friend—Colonel Carroll F. Pollett.

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION  
TO GRANT FEDERAL CONSENT  
TO THE KANSAS AND MISSOURI  
METROPOLITAN CULTURE DISTRICT COMPACT

**HON. KAREN MCCARTHY**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 15, 2000*

Ms. MCCARTHY of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, today I announce my intention to introduce legislation to grant the consent of the Congress to the Kansas and Missouri Metropolitan Culture District Compact, a successful project I have worked on for over a decade.

In 1987 I sponsored enabling legislation in the Missouri House of Representatives to establish a bi-state cultural district for the Kansas City metropolitan area of five counties in Western Missouri and Eastern Kansas. This unique effort in our nation provides a secure source of local funding for metropolitan cooperation across state lines to restore historic structures and cultural facilities. Through the next seven years I worked closely with my counterparts in the Kansas State Legislature, the Mid-America Regional Council, KC Consensus, and civic leaders and elected officials to secure State and Federal approval. When the Bi-State Metropolitan Cultural District Compact was finally sent to the U.S. Congress for authorization in 1994, I appeared in Washington, D.C. in support of passage of this Compact, along with my co-sponsor, Missouri State Senator Harry Wiggins.

I am proud to seek approval of the continuation of the Kansas and Missouri Metropolitan Culture District Compact. Approval of new State and Federal legislation to extend the Compact is necessary for three reasons. First, the existing Bi-state Contract sunsets at the end of the 2001 which means the local revenue stream will end unless new legislation extends the authority. Second, the new Contract expands the cultural definition to include sports facilities important to the region. Finally, with the consolidation of the governments of the City of Kansas City, Kansas and Wyandotte County into the unified government, the Kansas representation on the Bi-State Board was decreased by two Board Members. Consequently, Missouri currently has an advance of two votes. The new law corrects this inequity so that membership on the Board is balanced with half of the Members from each state.

Over the past four years the Greater Kansas City area has seen the successes of the original Compact. It has made possible the restoration of Union Station which is one of the Midwest's greatest historic landmarks and the largest preservation project currently underway in the United States. The restoration project has been a unique example of a bi-state, private-public, local-federal partnership. Continuation of the Compact will allow the metropolitan area to further this productive alignment for successful arts and cultural ini-

tiatives in the region, and I expect more will be done in Kansas using the revenue in the next phase of the Compact.

Mr. Speaker, I am requesting the House join me in supporting this worthwhile and successful effort in our districts by granting federal consent of the Kansas and Missouri Metropolitan Culture District Compact.

CONGRATULATING FRESNO  
COMPACT

**HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 15, 2000*

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Fresno Compact for being awarded a "1999 Distinguished Performance Award," by the National Alliance of Business (NAB). This award designates Fresno Compact as the number one local business-education coalition in the United States for 1999.

Fresno Compact is a broad-based coalition of leaders from business and education, whose focuses are to improve student achievement and to bring business leaders and educators together. The Compact helps coordinate such programs as the high school "employment Competency Certification" and the Chamber of Commerce's business partnership programs. It also participates in school-to-career activities of the State Center Consortium and works with the Business Education Committee.

Fresno Compact began its alliance more than ten years ago. It focuses on influencing educators to provide teaching that better prepares students for the workforce. According to NAB President Robert Jones, Fresno Compact is a "catalyst that focuses the attention of Central California business, education and political leaders on long-term, cooperative programs that are designed to raise student achievement levels and provide skills needed by local employers."

Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate Fresno Compact for being awarded the "Local Coalition of the Year" award. I urge my colleagues to join me in wishing Fresno Compact many more years of continued success.

IN RECOGNITION OF MS. JULIE  
WILLIAMSON

**HON. DAVID D. PHELPS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 15, 2000*

Mr. PHELPS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize one my district's finest teachers, Ms. Julie Williamson. A first grade teacher at the Pioneer School in Neoga, IL, Ms. Williamson recently received the award for "Illinois Ag in the Classroom Teacher of the Year" by the Illinois Farm Bureau. She was chosen as the recipient from a group of more than 1000 Illinois teachers.

Ms. Williamson's method of teaching allows students to learn about and appreciate the benefits of agriculture. She teaches her students where the products come from and how the products reach them in their everyday

lives. She wants children to understand the connection between the farm and the table. Ms. Williamson believes that people need to understand where their food originates in order to be more appreciative of the people who supply it. Some of the activities that she brings into her classroom are: bread making, field trips to local farms and orchards, and honey-making with live bees. Ms. Williamson's next step will be to attend the U.S. Department of Agriculture National Ag in the Classroom Conference in Salt Lake City.

It is with this, Mr. Speaker, that I say congratulations to Ms. Julie Williamson on her excellent accomplishment. Due to her dedication to her students and community, it is clear that Ms. Williamson is an asset to Illinois and the educational system.

HONORING PROFESSOR MARGARET  
MURNANE

**HON. MARK UDALL**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 15, 2000*

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, today I honor one of my constituents, Margaret Murnane, who is a physicist at the University of Colorado at Boulder. This week Professor Murnane received a "genius" award from the MacArthur Foundation for her work in optical physics. She is one of just twenty-five Americans named as MacArthur fellows this year.

Professor Murnane has developed a camera-like laser that emits pulses of red light. Applications of this laser technology range from laser surgery to monitoring water content in cooking. Additionally, this laser can aid scientists visualize processes that are too fast for the human eye to detect, such as chlorophyll harvesting sunlight, which is a process in plant growth.

When she was a child, her father used to give her math puzzles to solve. Without a doubt, this practice contributed to her passion for science. This shows what a little parental involvement can do to further the development of a child's mind.

Professor Murnane's contributions to science, education and technology will have a large impact on our society for years to come. I am pleased to honor her today for her accomplishments.

COMMEMORATION OF THE 50TH  
ANNIVERSARY OF THE START  
OF THE KOREAN WAR—A SPECIAL  
TRIBUTE TO THE 503D  
FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION  
OF THE 2D INFANTRY DIVISION

**HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 15, 2000*

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the courageous Americans who fought and died in defense of freedom in the Korean War. On June 25th, we will commemorate the 50th anniversary of the start of that conflict—the so-called "Forgotten War"—which claimed more than 35,000 American lives.

On behalf of President Clinton, I will co-chair, with Veterans Administration Secretary

Togo West, a Presidential Mission to Korea to represent the people of the United States during the anniversary commemoration ceremonies in Seoul. We will be accompanied on that mission by some of my comrades-in-arms with whom I served during my wartime tour in Korea, members of the 503d Field Artillery Battalion of the 2d Infantry Division.

The battalion landed in Korea in August 1950, arriving in time to participate in hard-fought battles that defeated the North Korean offensives against the United Nations forces on the Pusan Perimeter. When the Chinese entered the war in November with massive ground assaults against UN forces in North Korea, the 503rd and rest of the 2d Infantry Division fought their way out of encirclement by the Chinese near Kunu-ri.

The battles in North Korea exacted a terrible price—the 503d lost almost all of its equipment and nearly half of its men. But in early 1951, overcoming many obstacles, the battalion rebuilt itself into a combat-ready unit, and played a major role in the 2d Infantry Division's stubborn stand against a far stronger force during the May 1951 Chinese offensive, an action that earned the entire division a Presidential Unit Citation.

During the battalion's fifteen months in Korea, members of the 503d received nineteen Silver Stars, four Distinguished Flying Crosses, and seventy-nine Bronze Stars. The battalion suffered 512 casualties, including 150 men who died in Communist prison camps and 79 who remain listed as missing in action.

The 503d, a Black unit, lived up to its motto of "We Can Do It," serving with heroic valor in the face of relentless attacks by the enemy. In doing so, it shattered the biased and unfair negative stereotypes attached to Black fighting men and women in Korea and earlier wars.

Mr. Speaker, today I pay special tribute to my brave and loyal Brothers who served in the 503d Artillery Battalion, and join with them in saluting all of our comrades-in-arms in Korea, whom we will never forget.

PRESIDENTIAL MISSION TO THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATION MEMBERS OF THE 503D ARTILLERY BATTALION—JUNE 25, 2000

Ronald Chatters, Samuel Gilliam, Harvey Ginn, Robert Greer, Hezekiah Gregory, Walter Jackson, William Jackson, Elgin Miller, Donald Minter.

Henry Mitchell, Charles B. Rangel, Leroy Sykes, James Thompson, John Worley, Robert Lee Wyatt.

COMMENDING DR. RAMEK HUNT, DR. GEORGE JENKINS, AND DR. SAMPSON DAVIS

**HON. DONALD M. PAYNE**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 15, 2000*

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to draw to the attention of my colleagues a remarkable and powerful story about three young men who have been selected as recipients of my Congressional Community Service Award. They have also received Year 2000 Essence Award for outstanding community service and have been honored by the organi-

zation 100 Black Men. Theirs is a success story rooted in their youthful friendship and nurtured over the years by mutual support and shared determination to reach their goals against all odds.

Thirteen years ago, three teenage boys from the streets of Newark, New Jersey made a pact that they would encourage, support and stand by each other until each graduated from medical school. With hard work, tenacity, and determination to overcome all obstacles, an amazing thing happened—these three friends realized their youthful goal. Their impossible dream came true. Last year, Ramek Hunt and Sampson Davis received degrees from the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey Robert Wood Johnson Medical School, and George Jenkins graduated from UMDNJ Dental School.

Growing up, Dr. Ramek Hunt lived in Orange, Newark and Plainfield, New Jersey, eventually returning to and settling in Newark. There, he attended University High School and clearly succeeded, but the path to success was often rocky. He began to focus on his future when a recruiter from Seton Hall University visited his school and spoke about careers in medicine and dentistry. George Jenkins encouraged Ramek and Sam to go with him to Seton Hall and become doctors.

Dr. George Jenkins was born in South Carolina, but has lived in Newark, New Jersey since the age of two. He first lived in the Stella Wright Housing projects and then moved to the High Park Gardens Co-op, where he still resides. Dr. Jenkins presence in the Newark community is a source of inspiration for young people who look to him as a solid role model.

Dr. Sampson Davis was born and raised in Newark, New Jersey where he excelled at academics and sports at an early age. As a young man, he reached for the stars, determined to succeed not only for himself, but for the good of the entire community.

Even today, the three friends meet together with the young people of the community and they share a new goal—to open a health clinic in their old neighborhood. Mr. Speaker, I know my colleagues join me in commending these remarkable young men, who have set such a fine example of determination to succeed as well as dedication to community service. Let us express appreciation for their work and extend best wishes for continued success to Doctors Ramek Hunt, George Jenkins and Sampson Davis.

COLUMBIA, MISSOURI FIRE DEPARTMENT

**HON. KENNY C. HULSHOF**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 15, 2000*

Mr. HULSHOF. Mr. Speaker, we all have probably heard the favorite saying of the former Speaker of the U.S. House, Tip O'Neill, "that all politics are local." Taking this quip to heart, the actions of William Markgraf, the Fire Chief of Columbia, Missouri, show that in this rapidly shrinking world, even strong international relations can be encouraged locally.

Recently, Chief Markgraf informed me about a remarkable relationship that he has formed

with another firefighter from Moers, Germany. The story begins about 12 years ago, when a volunteer firefighter named Michael Stroinski from Moers trained and worked with the Columbia Fire Department during their Spring Fire School. Moers, which is about 15 minutes outside of Dusseldorf, has a fire department that is largely composed of volunteers and serves nearly 125,000 people. For the last twelve years, Michael has returned nearly every year to Columbia, sometimes bringing as many as six of his company-mates from Germany with him to train, work and live with members of the Columbia Fire Department. In kind, Michael has repeatedly extended a similar invitation to Chief Markgraf and others from the C.F.D., who have gratefully accepted, resulting in a vibrant exchange program between Moers and Columbia firefighters.

This July, Moers will be celebrating the 150th Anniversary of its central fire station and has invited members of the Columbia Fire Department to attend this celebration. For this reason, I would like to send my thanks and the thanks of those in this chamber to the people of Moers, Germany for the hospitality they have extended to my constituents. In addition, I would like to recognize Michael Stroinski, Captain of Moers Fire Station One, for his meritorious service to his city and the people of Columbia in the line of duty, as well as for his role in fostering a partnership and good relations between these two international communities.

Mr. Speaker, it is my hope that this anniversary celebration will be as successful as the relationship formed between Columbia and Moers, and I wish Michael and the other German firefighters many safe returns to Columbia, Missouri.

HONORING MS. BOOS' SECOND GRADE CLASS FROM EVERGREEN AVENUE SCHOOL

**HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 15, 2000*

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, today I commemorate a special occasion in which 38 children from Evergreen Avenue School have excelled in the classroom. Ms. Boos' second grade class is a remarkable group of young people. I wish the best of luck and continued success in school to Vanessa Adams, Natasha Barnett, Armand Brown, Roberta Burns, Adrienne Curry, Amber Darling, Brittany Feldman, Ashley Hecht, Ashley Kersey, Markie McDonald, Samantha Miller, Allen Moore, Scharron Nock, Brandon Rivera, Nicholas Schoning, David Viereck, Rashon Warrington, Jaquel Williams, Conner Wisely, Chloe Berger, Brittani Brydges, Robert Carter, Francis Connor, Shaneyce Cordy, Ashley Demarco, Thomas Hair, Hailey A. Headrick, Nicole L. Miller, Phillip Morris, Joseph Nunn, Nicole Pentz, Kelsey Serra, Renia Singleton, Angela Vincent, Amy Lynn Watson, Alexander Weiss, Darnell Whye, Analya Young.