

somewhere in the New Orleans area or out of state.

In addition to its legacy area of responsibility (AOR) Air Station Houston instituted a plan to relieve Air Station New Orleans of its non-Katrina SAR responsibilities west of the Mississippi River throughout the Katrina response effort, thereby increasing Houston's AOR by more than 18,000 square miles. With two aircraft and crews deployed to New Orleans, Air Station Houston crews responded to a report on 6 September of a civilian helicopter missing 20 miles south of Sabine, Texas. Although already engaged in nearly around-the-clock operations in New Orleans, Air Station Houston's outstanding readiness posture permitted two unit helicopters, manned by crews recently returned from Hurricane Katrina, to be launched in a search for the 12 persons reported aboard the overdue helicopter. All 12 persons were quickly located and then successfully recovered during this multi-unit case by the two Air Station Houston helicopters in a daring nighttime offshore rescue.

The possibility of a category five hurricane hitting the Houston-Galveston metropolitan area set in motion a massive response effort from the Coast Guard Area Commanders. Within 48 hours of Rita's early morning landfall on 24 September, over 125 contingency aircrew personnel along with 15 additional Coast Guard aircraft arrived at Air Station Houston to commence operations.

During the Houston-based response operation for Hurricane Rita, the Air Station coordinated over 61 missions and 123 sorties resulting in 205 mishap-free flight hours and the saving of 32 lives in a one week period. During this time, Air Station Houston also provided invaluable support to Gulf Coast based cutters including CGC Cypress, which allowed them to quickly fix the position of displaced waterway buoys, enabling the reopening of vital waterways and the free-flow of commerce in and out of the Gulf.

**SAN CARLOS PTA CELEBRATES
THE 34TH BIENNIAL CHICKENS'
BALL 2006**

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 24, 2006

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to honor the Parent-Teacher Association (PTA) of the San Carlos School District, located in my Congressional District, as well as the 34th Anniversary of its historic and infamous Chickens' Ball. This biennial event has helped to raise money for San Carlos' public schools as well as create ties within the community for the past 66 years.

This creative means of raising funds was first proposed by middle school teacher and PTA member, Howard J. Demeke, in 1939. Mr. Demeke himself was a regular patron of the historic San Francisco Barbary Coast Chickens' Ball, a live-entertainment show performed by women of a certain reputation in various saloons. This philanthropy-oriented event had been around since the early 1900s and included a contest of various colorful and riotous acts. The winner of the best act was awarded amounts of gold to then be donated to a designated charity.

Under Mr. Demeke's request to the San Carlos PTA, the Chickens' Ball left the swanky scene of the saloon and was reborn in San

Carlos for the purpose of raising money for the school district's milk funds. Members of the PTA, local clubs and members of the community joined together to plan comedy and entertainment skits, each competing for a large sum of donated money. The ball was an enormous success and has continued to be for the past six decades with all proceeds directly benefiting the schools of San Carlos.

I personally had the pleasure of attending the 34th Biennial San Carlos Chickens' Ball this year, with my lovely wife Annette. As we discovered, the Chickens' Ball requires the attention and participation of the audience, making each second at the show memorable. I congratulate each act unequivocally for the brave hilarity exhibited on stage by each performer.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in saluting and congratulating the outstanding Parent-Teacher Association of the San Carlos School District, for their dedication to our community and the quality of education for our children, through the most creative Chickens' Ball.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CATHY McMORRIS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 24, 2006

Miss McMORRIS. Mr. Speaker, during the second series of votes on amendments to H.R. 5384 the Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2007, I was avoidably detained and missed two votes on amendments by Representative JEFF FLAKE.

Had I been present I would have voted in favor of H. Amdt. 904 to prohibit any of the funds made available in the Act from being used to fund dairy education in Iowa and H. Amdt. 909 to prohibit use of funds in the bill for the Hydroponic Tomato Production, Ohio grant.

**IN RECOGNITION OF KEN
STEWART**

HON. DAVID E. PRICE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 24, 2006

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Ken Stewart, recipient of the 2005 National Language Teacher of the Year Award, which is given by the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL). Ken is the very first teacher ever to receive this award.

Señor Stewart, as he is known by his students, has taught Spanish at Chapel Hill High School for nearly 20 years. A National Board Certified Spanish teacher, he has been successful in sharing his passion for language learning in the classroom because of his foreign language teaching philosophy, education, and extensive travel experience.

As the ACTFL National Language Teacher of the Year, Señor Stewart competed for this award with five other regional winners from across the country. His award dossier included video segments demonstrating his skill as a classroom teacher and documentation of his

teaching practices, as well as testimonials from his students, their parents, and his school administrators. This award, sponsored by ACTFL and publisher McDougal Littell, was created to recognize foreign language teachers at the K-12 level who exhibit excellence in classroom language teaching. As part of this honor, Señor Stewart is now involved in serving as a spokesperson for language educators and making appearances and giving presentations that promote language education through the "Discover Languages" national public awareness campaign.

The shortage of qualified language professionals across the United States underscores the importance of Señor Stewart's work: only 9 percent of students enrolled in college study a foreign language. We need to introduce language study at an earlier age and do more to encourage pursuing real proficiency.

Foreign language needs have significantly increased due to the presence of a wider range of security threats, the emergence of new nation states, and the globalization of the United States economy. Outstanding teachers who instill critical skills of language competence and cultural understanding in our students are indeed worthy of recognition and gratitude.

I call on my colleagues to seek out the 2006 Language Teacher of the Year in their own states and to encourage that teacher as he or she competes this year at the regional and national levels. It is important that we support these educators who do so much to provide our students with the foreign language skills and cultural understanding that are essential to a world class education and that will prepare them for living and working in the 21st century.

I ask my colleagues to join me in commending Señor Stewart for his years of dedicated service and his commitment to foreign language instruction.

**TRIBUTE TO CHAIRMAN HENRY
HYDE**

HON. DARRELL E. ISSA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 24, 2006

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I have had the honor of serving under Chairman HYDE on the House International Relations Committee since I came to Congress in 2001. From my very first day on the Committee I have witnessed firsthand the wit, humor and brilliance that are trademarks of my party's elder statesman.

Henry has succeeded in bringing sensibility and strength to one of the House's most important and internationally scrutinized committees in the wake of September 11. While my colleagues on both sides of the aisle have occasionally attempted to use the International Relations Committee as a venue to push forward partisan ideology; Chairman HYDE and his fine staff have worked hard to ensure that resolutions that leave his committee are based on fairness, the promotion of our democratic ideals, the protection of human rights, and American interests throughout the world.

I appreciate the guidance and mentorship that HENRY provided to me when I first came to Congress. As a freshman member I had