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HON. BILL SALI
OF IDAHO

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Recognizing Teacher Appreciation Week

Madame Speaker, I rise today in recognition of National Teacher Appreciation Week, May 4-10, 2008.

This week we take a moment to thank educators who are committed to enriching the lives of the children they teach.

I want to thank the teachers in Idaho dedicated to paving the road for the next generation's success. Educators have a unique opportunity to play a vital role in the lives of Idaho students and provide a powerful role model through their patience, dedication and knowledge.

Several teachers from my youth left a lasting impression that has shaped who I am today. I want to express my gratitude to those teachers who taught me life long lessons. I am in debt to them for their wisdom and vision.

Benjamin Franklin once said, "Genius without education is like silver in the mine." I'm confident in the ability of Idaho educators to cultivate the minds of our youth and inspire them to greatness.

Idaho teachers face a unique challenge in that the Gem state includes sixty-three percent Federally-administered land and this has left many of our counties and schools without an adequate tax base. In light of this, I will continue to dedicate my time in Congress to ensure Idaho's rural counties get a fair shake and the federal government meets its responsibilities to them fully.

It is through the innovation and hard work of parents, teachers, local administrators and the community as a whole that the educational needs of all children will be served. I remain confident that Idaho's students will reap all the benefits that our teachers have to offer.