

IN HONOR OF DR. RAY CLIFFORD

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 8, 2004

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Ray Clifford, a long-time Salinas resident and Chancellor of the Defense Language Institute. Dr. Clifford is retiring from the Defense Language Institute after 24 years of dedicated service, leadership and mentorship to his students and country.

During his years of service, Dr. Clifford honorably fulfilled the Institute's mission to educate, sustain, evaluate and support foreign language specialists, ensuring that our military forces are prepared to meet ever-changing global foreign language requirements. As the academic leader of the world's largest language school, he has represented the Institute in national, international and professional forums including regular briefings to members of Congress and senior leaders in the Department of Defense.

Under his leadership, the Defense Language Institute has been continually regarded as one of the finest schools for foreign language instruction in the world. Specifically, Dr. Clifford has improved the language performance results four-fold in over 80 percent of major programs, created and implemented the first standardized language proficiency testing program for the Department of Defense and spearheaded the Institute's response to terrorism with the addition of new instructional and testing programs for military personnel.

In addition to his commitment to the Defense Language Institute, Dr. Clifford served in the United States Army, worked for the Bureau of Land Management and the Central Intelligence Agency. His dedication to national service is embodied in his overall belief in community service and education. He has published many papers and articles on teacher development, language proficiency assessment, curriculum design and educational program administration.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to congratulate Dr. Clifford on his retirement and thank him for his contributions to our community and country. Dr. Clifford has dedicated his life to public service and his contributions to the Defense Language Institute have been instrumental in the Institute's recognition as a world renowned language instruction institute. I wish him the best in his retirement.