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TADELE WORKU: AN EXAMPLE IN OUR COMMUNITY!

HON. BOB FILNER OF CALIFORNIA IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MR. FILNER: Mr. Speaker and colleagues, I rise today to honor Tadele Worku, recipient of the 2001 Yoshiyama Award for Exemplary Service to the Community, presented to him by The Hitachi Foundation at an awards ceremony on Monday, March 18, 2002 in Washington, DC. The Foundation named ten high school seniors nationwide as recipients of this prestigious award—ten young people who exemplify the best in creativity, accomplishment, and service to their communities.

Tadele is a 2001 graduate of Hoover High School in my hometown of San Diego, California. He is receiving this award to recognize his contribution to the Ethiopian community in San Diego. Upon his arrival as a refugee from Ethiopia four years ago, he became aware that Ethiopian children in his neighborhood did not know how to read and write their native language. Tadele set to work to develop a tutoring program for these children. While their parents attended church, he worked with their children, teaching the Ethiopian alphabet and language and exposing them to the Ethiopian literature, tradition, and culture.

In addition, Tadele provided tutoring in math and science to the children who needed assistance. He also worked with young adults in the computer center of the local library and volunteered in a San Diego homeless shelter. By becoming so involved in service to others, Tadele has truly become a part of his new community, a bond which has helped him overcome a difficult exile from Africa where his mother and grandfather were killed and his father incarcerated for their political beliefs.

The Yoshiyama Award, which Tadele has received, was established in 1988 with a gift from Hirokichi Yoshiyama, former president and chairman of Hitachi, Ltd., the company that established The Hitachi Foundation in 1985. The goal of this non-profit, philanthropic Foundation is to promote social responsibility through effective participation in global society. The Hitachi Foundation is proud to highlight the achievements of the young people of our country, the leaders of their generation.

I am pleased to take this opportunity to congratulate Tadele Worku on this prestigious award and to thank him for his compassionate commitment to his community.