

Symphony Orchestra and their Symphonic Wind Ensemble. Robert studied at the American Institute of Musical Studies in Graz, Austria and in the International Festival Institute in Round Top, Texas. He has also received coaching in chamber music by Grammy-award winning cellist Yo-Yo Ma.

As a musician, Bob Fitzer has performed at Carnegie Hall, recorded Grammy Award winning music, and collaborated with the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra. He has performed on motion picture soundtracks, Broadway shows on tour, and with rock bands such as Yes and Styx. He has performed with the United States Navy Band and the Blossom Festival Concert Band. Bob also served as soloist in 2004 with the Youngstown State University Symphonic Wind Ensemble.

Bob Fitzer has been a faculty member at YSU's Dana School of Music for 11 years. He teaches a studio of 24 clarinet majors and has formed clarinet choirs, trios and quartets. He has also served on the faculties of Trinity University in San Antonio and Allegheny College in Meadville, Pennsylvania. In addition, he also conducts classes at his private clarinet studio in Youngstown.

Bob Fitzer has also been involved in the community life of Youngstown and Mahoning Valley. He has served as president of the Citizens League of Greater Youngstown and as a volunteer counselor at the Help Hotline Crisis Center. From 1995 to 2001 Bob Fitzer was co-host of WYSU's Commentary Café radio show. During that time I was granted the honor of being one of his guests.

Bob Fitzer spent a lifetime contributing to the art that this world so desperately needs. Currently, Bob Fitzer needs the comfort of that art and the friendship of his friends as he fights cancer. Bob, we wish you well and we pray for you and we hope you find the comfort and friendship that you have so freely provided for others throughout your life.

IN MEMORY OF MURRAY TOLER

HON. MIKE ROSS

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 25, 2007

Mr. ROSS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of my friend Mr. Murray Toler of Malvern, Arkansas, who passed away April 14, 2007.

Murray Toler was a World War II veteran, devoted family man and a civic leader whose optimistic and determined outlook on life impacted all who knew him and called him a friend.

Murray Toler was born and raised in Leola and Sheridan, Arkansas, and upon graduating high school, he joined the United States Navy, where he served through World War II. Murray Toler spent a lifetime in the forestry and lumber business as the longtime partner and active manager at the H.G. Toler and Sons Lumber Company in Leola. He was a devout member of the First United Methodist Church of Malvern, where he actively served on numerous committees and boards throughout the years. Murray Toler also served on the board of directors of the Malvern National Bank for more than 40 years, an accomplishment that demonstrated his dedication and commitment to his community.

I send my deepest condolences to his wife, Ruby, of Malvern; his two daughters Nancy Toler Grigsby and Cindy Toler Hale; his son David Toler; and to his five grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

Murray Toler will be sorely missed by his family, his church and his community. I will continue to keep his family in my thoughts and prayers.

HONORING THE CAREER OF RETIRING CALVIN COLLEGE CHAPLAIN DALE COOPER

HON. VERNON J. EHLERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 25, 2007

Mr. EHLERS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Dale Cooper, chaplain of Calvin College in Grand Rapids, Michigan, who will retire after 30 years of service at Calvin.

Chaplain Dale Cooper began his work at Calvin College in 1976. Three years later, he became chaplain, and has over the past three decades provided students, faculty, and staff at Calvin College with remarkable guidance. Chaplain Cooper's devotion to God and love for all people led him to become chaplain, and by all accounts, his career at Calvin can be regarded as wholly successful. In his time there, he has provided invaluable spiritual guidance to students, whether they had suffered a loss in the family or were struggling to cope with a rigorous class schedule. Through his counseling, preaching and other interactions with students and faculty, Chaplain Cooper embodied the creed of the Christian Reformed Church to incorporate faith and to honor God in every aspect of life, including work and study. Chaplain Cooper has helped see the Calvin College community through both good times and bad, and has left a lasting impact on everyone he has come into contact with.

One of Chaplain Cooper's most remarkable endeavors occurred when he drove his 1941 John Deere "B" tractor across the Midwest, from Calvin College all the way to Alton, Iowa. It was a spiritual journey for Chaplain Cooper; his father was a farmer and John Deere tractor enthusiast. He had to give up farming after his wife, Dale's mother, was paralyzed from the neck down by polio. The illness confined Dale Cooper's mother to an iron lung for 40 years of her life. Incredible spiritual journeys such as this are not uncommon for Chaplain Cooper.

Chaplain Cooper's effectiveness as a spiritual guide to students at Calvin College is validated by their affection for him. Known simply as "Coop" to most students, Cooper has a gift of immediately connecting with people. His friendliness, open door policy, and love for Calvin College and its students, faculty and staff have earned him a sterling reputation around campus, and in the greater community.

In addition to providing guidance, Chaplain Dale Cooper will leave behind a number of programs at Calvin College that reflect his dedication to the institution. Cooper worked to constantly reform the college to welcome people of all backgrounds and faith traditions.

For these and other acts of caring, compassion and dedication to Calvin College and the community it serves, we honor Dale Cooper in

his retirement. The impact he has had on people at Calvin cannot be measured by any tangible means. But ask anyone who has gotten to know him there, and it is evident that the mark he leaves behind at the institution is immeasurably large. I hope Dale Cooper's life continues to be as fulfilling for him in retirement as it has been in his years at Calvin College.

TRIBUTE TO RUDY OKRUHLIK

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 25, 2007

Mr. PAUL. Madam Speaker, on April 26 the Brazoria Roundtable will honor Mr. Rudy Okruhlik for his over 30 years of work in Texas schools, the last 6 years of which were spent as superintendent of Brazosport Independent School District (ISD). Brazosport ISD consists of 11 elementary schools, 2 middle schools, 3 intermediate schools, 2 high schools, and an alternative placement center. Under Superintendent Okruhlik's leadership, Brazosport ISD combined challenging academic programs with a passionate commitment to excellence in order to produce an environment conducive to high student achievement.

The results of Superintendent Okruhlik's efforts are shown in Brazosport ISD's rating as Academically Acceptable for the last 2 years on the Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (TAKS) test, with 9 of the 18 regular education campuses rated exemplary or recognized in 2005. Additionally, Brazosport ISD has scored well above the minimum Federal Adequate Yearly Progress requirements for the last 2 years.

Prior to coming to Brazosport ISD, Rudy Okruhlik served as superintendent of Palacios Independent School District from 1992 through 1997 and of Huntsville Independent School District from 1997 through 2000. In recognition of his lifetime commitment to, and achievement in, education, Okruhlik has been named an honorary life member of the Texas Association of School Boards.

In conclusion, Madam Speaker, I once again express my pleasure in joining the Brazoria Roundtable in saluting Mr. Rudy Okruhlik for his work on behalf of Texas children.

IN LASTING MEMORY OF JUDGE GEORGE HOWARD, JR.

HON. MIKE ROSS

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 25, 2007

Mr. ROSS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Judge George Howard Jr., a true treasure to the community of Pine Bluff, Arkansas, and to the entire State of Arkansas. Judge Howard passed away April 21, 2007, in Pine Bluff, Arkansas, at the age of 82.

Judge Howard spent a lifetime breaking down barriers, and began his service to our nation at the age of 18 in the U.S. Navy during World War II. During his service, the Navy