

elementary schools, two middle schools and a high school projected to open in the near future.

Mr. Mikolajcik was a strong proponent of American Canyon during his tenure on the Napa City Council, where he served two terms from 1980 to 1988. Mr. Mikolajcik was at the forefront of the negotiations to integrate American Canyon into Napa County, and in 1992 that goal was achieved. He continued in his civic efforts and served one term on the Napa County Planning Commission, where he was involved in the formation of a volunteer fire department and a water and recreation district.

Madam Speaker, it is appropriate at this time that we thank John Mikolajcik for his years of dedication and service on behalf of the Napa Valley. He has been a model citizen and leader in American Canyon and his presence there has enriched the lives of everyone in our community.

COMMENDING DR. KHEM AGGARWAL FOR HIS CONTRIBUTIONS TO HIGHER EDUCATION

HON. RODNEY ALEXANDER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 14, 2008

Mr. ALEXANDER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate Dr. Khem Aggarwal for his outstanding contributions to the field of higher education.

Dr. Aggarwal has been an educator in higher education for over 50 years, having served in his homeland, India, for 13 years, at the University of Wisconsin, Whitewater, Wis., from 1983 to 1986, Temple University, Philadelphia, Pa., from 1981 to 1983, and currently serving as Professor of Mathematics at Louisiana State University at Alexandria, Alexandria, La., where he has been teaching since 1986.

Dr. Aggarwal has made a tremendous impact on the achievements and successes of students who have enrolled in his college courses. His first priority has and continues to be ensuring the academic development of his students, as evidenced by time spent with them both inside and outside of the classroom setting.

Throughout his tenure at Louisiana State University at Alexandria, alumnae as well as university graduates have consistently reported how Dr. Aggarwal contributed to their success in their chosen career fields. Moreover, his colleagues regard him as an excellent professor and deem him a gracious and grateful person deserving of recognition and honor for his active role in the advancement of higher education.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in commending Dr. Khem Aggarwal for his exceptional contributions and remarkable influence on the field of higher education.

TRIBUTE TO GULF COPPER & MANUFACTURING

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 14, 2008

Mr. PAUL. Madam Speaker, on February 27, the Galveston Chamber of Commerce will

present its business of the year award to Gulf Copper & Manufacturing Corporation, Gulf Copper, in recognition of the many contributions that it has made to the Galveston community. I am pleased to join my friends from the Galveston Chamber of Commerce in paying tribute to Gulf Copper.

Gulf Copper is an employee-owned company that has been in existence for over 50 years. Originally specializing in the installation of copper tubing on marine vessels, Gulf Copper has since expanded into the offshore, military marine, petrochemical, and industrial markets with base services including full topside marine repair, steel fabrication, steel and mechanical repair, machining, painting, and blasting. These expansions of service are helping Gulf Cooper achieve their objective of being the preferred provider of marine and industrial fabrication and repair services in the Texas Gulf coast.

Gulf Copper's customer list includes most major U.S. commercial ship operators as well as the U.S. Government Maritime Administration, Coast Guard, U.S. Navy, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and the Military Sealift Command.

Gulf Copper's success has brought many benefits to Galveston. For example, Gulf Cooper is responsible for pumping a seven-digit revenue stream into the Port of Galveston. Gulf Cooper is also a source of employment for many residents of Galveston County. In June 2007, Gulf Copper Dry Dock and Rig Repair added an additional 683 employees to its already large staff. Gulf Copper has also helped attract London-based Rolls Royce Commercial Marine to the Galveston area.

Gulf Copper also benefits the people of Galveston by serving as a model of corporate civic involvement. The company has helped promote Galveston's Oceans of Opportunities Job Fair and works with Galveston College to promote Workforce Investment Act-funded welding and pipe fitting classes.

Gina Spagnola, president of the Galveston Chamber of Commerce, said that Gulf Copper deserves this award because: "They are actively involved in the Galveston community and have made a positive impact on both employers and workers. This chamber and the City of Galveston are grateful for Gulf Cooper's commitment to our community."

Madam Speaker, I am pleased to join the Galveston Chamber of Commerce in honoring the management and staff of Gulf Copper for all of their contributions to the economy and community of Galveston, Texas.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TRENT FRANKS

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 14, 2008

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 43, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

HONORING AN ADVOCATE FOR ARMY QUALITY OF LIFE, WILLIAM A. ARMBRUSTER

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 14, 2008

Mr. FARR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a tireless public servant who has dedicated much of his career to improving the quality of life for our soldiers and their families. William A. Armbruster shortly will be retiring from the Army as he steps down from his role as Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army for Privatization and Partnerships.

I first came to know Bill through the Army's collaboration with myself and local officials over re-use issues at the former Fort Ord, which was closed in a BRAC action in 1991. More importantly, Bill was pivotal in shepherding plans to privatize Army housing at the Presidio of Monterey—now known as the Ord Military Community—in one of the most successful Residential Community Initiatives ever undertaken in the United States. In Monterey there is a strong military presence including the Army and Navy and related agencies. Both services were in dire need of upgrading their housing to accommodate growing numbers of personnel. Rather than expend millions of dollars in rehabbing inadequate barracks and family quarters for soldiers and their families who are attached to the Defense Language Institute, Bill helped craft a first-in-the-nation joint RCI project between the Army and the Navy using private capital to leverage new and improved housing stock. Now not only do both the DLI and the Naval Postgraduate School have premier housing for their personnel, they have it at minimal cost to the Federal government.

This is the sort of creative thinker Bill Armbruster is. He uses the power of his office to make positive changes in his department and for the men and women who serve our military.

Even more recently Bill has been front-and-center on negotiating a complicated land swap at the former Fort Ord that, again, will result in much needed housing for Army personnel and for the first time will make available this housing to essential personnel attached to the DLI and other Federal agencies. This deal, colloquially known as the Stilwell Kidney exchange, involves the Army, the City of Seaside, the California State Parks system and the American Youth Hostel. It has taken 4 years to accomplish. But Bill stuck with it because he knew it was the right thing to do to advance the mission of the Army and the nation.

Madam Speaker, I will miss Bill Armbruster for his creativity, his dedication and especially his humaneness. He was always looking out for our service men and women's quality of life. It has been a joy to work with a man of such integrity, and I wish him well in the years ahead.