

our deepest thanks and appreciation to Bill as he brings his career in state government to an end.

Visionary, community leader, activist, teacher, advocate, mentor, and friend are just some of the descriptions one could use for Bill Dyson. He is one of those rare individuals who has dedicated a lifetime to public service. As an educator and one of Connecticut's most respected lawmakers, Bill has been a powerful voice in the State legislature as well as in the New Haven Public School system.

In the more than 3 decades that Bill served in Connecticut's House of Representatives, Bill has served on a variety of committees and caucuses including many years as the chairman of the Appropriations Committee. He has been a champion of the arts, securing funding which has helped New Haven's rich arts community to flourish and is perhaps best known for his leadership on issues dealing with children, ex-offenders and the mentally ill as his work on their behalf has translated into meaningful public policy.

During his tenure he was often the strong voice of reason in what at times could be a chaotic session. I have no doubt that his colleagues will long remember his booming voice—commanding their attention and calling for common sense dialogue. His straight-forward, no nonsense attitude garnered him the respect of his colleagues and constituents alike. Bill is a reflection of all that we hope our political leaders will be and his presence at the Capitol will certainly be missed.

I must also take this opportunity to thank Bill for his many years of special friendship—one which harkens back to my own service in city government. Bill is an extraordinary man whose impact on our community and our public policy cannot be understated. He has left an indelible mark and a legacy—both political and personal—that is sure to inspire many generations to come.

It is for these reasons and countless more that I am honored to stand today to pay tribute to my dear friend, the Honorable William R. Dyson, as he is recognized by the New Haven community for his outstanding contributions. He is one-of-a-kind and I wish him many more years of health and happiness as he enjoys his retirement.

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**RECOGNIZING HOWARD JAMES STRICKLER OF LAKE COUNTY, CALIFORNIA**

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**HON. MIKE THOMPSON**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2008

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Chief Howard Strickler on the occasion of his retirement from the Kelseyville Fire Protection District of Lake County, California after 32 years of service, 28 of them as Fire Chief. Chief Strickler's leadership will be truly missed by his colleagues and the people of Lake County.

Chief Strickler is a native son, graduating from Kelseyville High School in 1967. His career in public service began in the U.S. Army, where he served from 1970–1973. After his discharge, he worked with the White House Communications Agency before coming home and joining the Fire Protection District.

Chief Strickler has lived in Kelseyville for 47 years and has done more than perhaps anyone else over that time to keep Lake County residents safe. During his tenure he was instrumental in the implementation of the county's first paramedic program as well the first countywide Hazardous Materials Response Team. He also helped develop a 911 First Responder Agreement that is now used by all fire departments, EMS and law enforcement agencies in the county.

Chief Strickler has earned the undying admiration of all who have worked for him and with him. To a person, they describe Chief Strickler as the consummate leader, someone who instills confidence in everyone around him and whose compassion and love for the community shines through. He is a family man whose quiet sense of humor and listening skills always made his employees feel comfortable and at home. He will be missed a great deal.

Madam Speaker, it is my distinct pleasure to recognize Chief Howard Strickler for his many years of service to Kelseyville and all of Lake County, California, and to thank him for his many contributions on behalf of our country and his community. I join his wife, Debbie, his two children, and five grandchildren in wishing him the best as he enters this new phase of his life.

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**EARMARK DECLARATION**

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**HON. RON PAUL**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2008

Mr. PAUL. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the Republican leadership standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information regarding earmarks I received as part of the Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act (H.R. 2638):

Requesting member: Ron Paul.

Bill number: H.R. 2638.

Account: Rdt&E Defense Health Program.

Legal name of requesting entity: Gulf Chemical and Metallurgical Corporation.

Address of requesting entity: PO Box 2290, 302 Midway Road, Freeport, TX 77542-2290.

Description of request: The project earmarks \$3,000,000 for a Department of Defense lead study of vanadium to assess the health safety and risks of military and civilian workers exposed to vanadium through work in military applications.

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**HONORING DR. PETER G. MEHAS**

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**HON. JIM COSTA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2008

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today along with Congressman RADANOVICH to congratulate Dr. Peter Mehas upon his induction into the Fresno Athletic Hall of Fame. Dr. Mehas was honored at the 50th anniversary enshrinement dinner of the Fresno Athletic Hall of Fame on Thursday, November 6, 2008.

Peter Mehas' love of sports was nurtured during his childhood, as he shagged baseballs as a bat boy for the Fresno Cardinals at Eu-

less Park. Although he never considered himself a great athlete, Dr. Mehas was an All-American center/linebacker at Fresno City College, and a member of the 1961 California State University, Fresno Mercy Bowl team. After graduating from California State University, Fresno, Dr. Mehas coached the football, soccer and tennis teams at Roosevelt High School. His tennis teams won five straight North Yosemite League titles.

After receiving his masters degree, and coaching football at University of California, Los Angeles, Dr. Mehas returned to Fresno where he taught and coached future Fresno Hall of Famers Charlie Young and Charles Anthony, both football players at Edison High School. Dr. Mehas moved into administration for Clovis Unified School District, and assisted in the development of many programs and facilities; including Clovis High School's Lamonica Stadium and the Clovis West High School Olympic Swim Complex. He earned his doctorate in Education from the University of Southern California in 1979.

Dr. Mehas has served as the Fresno Athletic Hall of Fame president for 15 years. At the time of his induction, his professional and civic career is a notable example of applying the lessons learned in athletics to other endeavors. Under his leadership, the Hall of Fame expanded on its mission of honoring the Valley's greatest sports heroes and inspiring youngsters to follow in their footsteps. He also has been instrumental in expanding athletic opportunities for women.

Politics came next as Dr. Mehas served as Governor George Deukmejian's secretary of education and a trustee for the State Board of Education and California's Community Colleges. In 1990, he was elected to the first of four terms as the Fresno County superintendent of schools. In 2007, he was appointed to the California State University board of trustees.

Madam Speaker, we rise today to commend and congratulate Dr. Peter Mehas upon his achievements and induction into the Fresno Athletic Hall of Fame. I invite my colleagues to join me in wishing Dr. Mehas congratulations on his many accomplishments.

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**RECOGNIZING JAMES P. CHITWOOD UPON HIS RETIREMENT**

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**HON. JEFF MILLER**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2008

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, it is an honor for me to rise today in recognition of James P. Chitwood upon his retirement as the Executive Director of the College Advancement and Foundation for Northwest Florida State College.

As executive director of the College Advancement and Foundation for Northwest Florida State College, an organization that provides educational and charitable aid to the Northwest Florida State College, Mr. Chitwood has greatly expanded the fundraising abilities of the school and has helped it obtain the sixth greatest endowment among community colleges in the United States.

Over the past 20 years, the Foundation for Northwest Florida State College, under the direction of Mr. Chitwood, has evolved into an