

DEDICATION OF A PORTION OF
INTERSTATE 80 IN MEMORY OF
HIGHWAY PATROL OFFICER RAY-
MOND CARPENTER

HON. TOM McCLINTOCK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 12, 2013

Mr. McCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join the city of Rocklin in dedicating a portion of Interstate 80 in memory of Highway Patrol Officer Raymond Carpenter.

This dedication is meant to pay tribute to Ray's life and his long service to our nation and our community.

His great sense of duty and commitment came as no surprise to those who knew his story; in fact it was a testament to his humble upbringing. He was born in a small cabin and raised on the Sullivan Ranch in Auburn, where he learned the long hours and hard work of a ranch hand. This hardy experience taught him the uniquely American values of hard work and the freedom that self-reliance provides. That same tenacity and perseverance would lead him to later become an Alaskan homesteader while stationed there as a Technical Sergeant with the U.S. Air Force, building his own cabin on the frontier of our nation, like his forebears before him had in the rugged wilderness of northern California.

It was to the blessing of his native state that Ray was called to return home in 1956, where his love of the outdoors, motorcycles, and his passion for service led him to the California Highway Patrol. His kind disposition made him friends easily, and he was always fast in offering a helping hand. Whether in his time with the Air Force or as a Highway Patrol Officer after returning to California, Ray had spent the better part of his life in service to his fellow Americans. It was in that service that Ray surrendered his life when he was shot and killed in the line of duty on February 17, 1970.

Mr. Speaker, while Ray's life was cut short, we must celebrate his contributions, for as General Patton said "it is foolish and wrong to mourn the men who died. Rather we should thank God that such men lived." I am proud today to rise to honor his memory and in grateful recognition of his many years of service and sacrifice.

IN RECOGNITION OF LAWRENCE S.
SYKOFF, ED.D.

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 12, 2013

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Lawrence S. Sykoff, Ed.D., on his retirement as Head of School of Ranney School in Tinton Falls, NJ. Dr. Sykoff has served as Ranney School's Head of School for 20 years, and his accomplishments are to be celebrated.

Much of Dr. Sykoff's 35 years within the education field have been spent at Ranney School. He has been a dedicated and involved Head of School throughout his tenure. He has been a hands-on administrator, giving lectures; playing guitar along with the music students; and rooting on the athletic teams. His

commitment to the families of the school was exemplified in the wake of Superstorm Sandy. Dr. Sykoff ensured that those displaced found places within the community to stay days after the storm hit. The school has also helped support local charities that help the many residents affected by the storm.

In addition to his involvement with Ranney School, Dr. Sykoff is an active member of the community-at-large. He is a member of the Board of Trustees at the Riverview Medical Center Foundation in Red Bank and the American Cancer Society, where he also serves on the Eastern Division's Board of Directors. He also served on the Board of Trustees of Count Basie Theatre in Red Bank and was recognized for his ongoing support of the arts. Dr. Sykoff has received numerous commendations for his work in the community and his commitment to education. He was honored with the 2012 Quarter Century Award by the Council for Advancement and Support of Education, CASE, and received the Crystal Star Award from the nonprofit Holiday Express.

During Dr. Sykoff's tenure, Ranney School has expanded enrollment and completed an accreditation process. He has also overseen the expansion of school buildings and modernization of athletic facilities. The improvements to Ranney School have helped highlight the school's merit.

Mr. Speaker, once again, please join me in congratulating Dr. Lawrence Sykoff on his retirement and thanking him for his service and commitment to education.

REMEMBERING CHARLES "CHUCK"
ALBERT POLAND, JR.

HON. MARTHA ROBY

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 12, 2013

Mrs. ROBY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the heroic actions of Mr. Charles "Chuck" Albert Poland, Jr., a school bus driver from Southeast Alabama who died protecting the lives of the children in his care.

Tuesday, January 29, started out just like another day for Mr. Poland, who had worked as a school bus driver for the Dale County Schools system since 2009. However, that afternoon while completing his route, an armed man entered Mr. Poland's school bus and demanded to take children hostage. Faced with this perilous situation, Mr. Poland rushed the children out the bus emergency exit and to safety. Standing between the gunman and the children, Mr. Poland was shot four times and killed. There is little doubt that Mr. Poland's actions saved lives.

This, of course, began the week-long hostage standoff, which, thankfully, ended with the amazing rescue of the child hostage. But who knows how the situation might have ended had Mr. Poland not bravely stood in the gunman's way.

Mr. Speaker, as a mother of two young children, I am particularly moved by the actions Chuck Poland took to protect the children in his care. It is difficult to even imagine our children being in such danger. How heartening to know that—whether in a classroom or on a school bus—people like Mr. Poland are looking out for students and protecting them.

Those who know Chuck Poland best speak to his quiet, humble spirit. They note that he

would likely shy away from the attention. Born in Idaho, Mr. Poland made Southeast Alabama his home in the 1960s. He served in the Army before settling down as a diesel mechanic. When he retired, he took up a part-time job as a bus driver. Ultimately, Mr. Poland was asked to become a full-time bus driver in 2009.

Mr. Poland was a beloved husband to Jan, his wife of over 40 years; a loving father to his son, Aaron, and daughter, Lydia; and doting "Paw-Paw" to his three grandsons, Timothy, Ryan, and Blake.

Mr. Poland and his wife shared a favorite Bible verse, which, in this moment seems very fitting. "For the which cause I also suffer these things: nevertheless I am not ashamed: for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that He is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day."—2 Timothy 1:12

According to his son, Mr. Poland viewed his students as his own children, and he looked after them as though they were his own. Chuck Poland would be proud to watch them grow up; to see the men and women they become.

One of the children might grow up to be a scientist who makes the next big discovery or cures a disease. One might start a major company that employs thousands. One might be a soldier who fights valiantly for our country. One might be a teacher, a nurse or a firefighter who makes a difference in the lives of others. But one thing is for sure—they each have the chance to live a full and happy life because their bus driver, Mr. Poland, was willing to give his life for theirs.

The author Joseph Campbell wrote, "A hero is someone who has given his or her life to something bigger than oneself."

Mr. Speaker, today we recognize a true hero. Chuck Poland gave his life so that others may live and, for that, he will always be remembered.

HONORING MR. JOHN OSCAR
BOONE, SR.

HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 12, 2013

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I present the following U.S. Citizen of Distinction.

Whereas, our nation is blessed to have this innovator and pioneer touch the lives of thousands through his leadership and service; and

Whereas, Mr. John Oscar Boone, Sr.'s legacy is present throughout the nation and the world for all to see, being the first African American appointed to head a major state prison in the United States, serving many roles in the American Correctional System: Commissioner, Superintendent and Director; he valiantly served our country in the U.S. Army Air Force during World War II; and

Whereas, this giant of a man transformed the American Correctional System, he was instrumental in the implementation of the Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1965 and he represented our nation on an international level, he inspired elected officials, motivated the young and the old, as he accomplished so much during his time on this earth; and