

the Desert Empire Fair, and the Maturango Museum. In addition, he has also served as an elected trustee of the Trona Joint Unified School District, and as a board member for the Council on Substance Abuse Awareness and the Searles Valley Community Service Council. Jim is also a past member of the San Bernardino County Air Pollution Control Advisory Council and a member of the Kern County Air Pollution Central District Hearing Board.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join me, our colleagues, Jim's wife, Grace, and his family and many friends in recognizing his many fine achievements and selfless contributions. Over the years, Jim Smith has touched the lives of many people and it is only fitting that the House of Representatives recognize him today.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE PATCHOGUE FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. MICHAEL P. FORBES

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 23, 1995

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Patchogue Fire Department on 115 years of excellent service to the residents of the village of Patchogue and the East Patchogue Fire Protection District. I would like to extend my applause to the Southern New York Volunteer Firemen's Association on celebrating the 100th anniversary of their convention.

The Patchogue Fire Department has established a tradition as one of the oldest and finest fire departments in New York. The firemen of Patchogue are among the best trained and bravest fire fighters in New York as well. These firemen regularly risk their lives to protect and serve the people of Patchogue. Upon examining their impeccable service record, it is no surprise that the Patchogue Fire Department has been protecting the village of Patchogue so well for 115 years.

On Friday, June 9, 1995, the men and women of the Patchogue Fire Department will celebrate at the 100th Annual Convention of the Southern New York Volunteer Firemen's Association. This association, which represents the volunteer and exempt firemen of the nine southern counties, stands as evidence that New York does in fact have among the best firemen in the Nation.

REMEMBERING A HERO, HUMBLE SERVANT

HON. HAROLD ROGERS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 23, 1995

Mr. ROGERS. Mr. Speaker, the Army Corps of Engineers, our southern region and the nation lost a humble servant, war hero and good friend when Mitchell "Stoney" Merriman died last week from complications of an inoperable brain tumor.

Originally from White County, Tennessee, Stoney wrote the book on public relations—literally. A published author, newsman and writer, Stoney had such a creative and innovative style that he wrote a how-to book for the Corps that is used nationwide today.

Since 1987, he managed the Army Corps Nashville District's public information, media relations and community relations program in a 7-State area. I cannot think of anyone who knew how to promote an event better.

In Corps events and groundbreakings in my district, Stoney always amazed us with something new, creative and exciting. His style blazed a trail for all to follow and his legacy will be long remembered.

Stoney was more than just a top-notch public relations man. He was a veteran newsman, and even more importantly, a war hero.

During his 23 years of service in the U.S. Marine Corps, he served two combat tours in Vietnam, where he served as a combat journalist. Among his awards were two Purple Hearts, Legion of Merit Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, the Bronze Star with Combat "V" Medal and several other awards.

As a newsman, Stoney started in the military, but carried on his tradition of excellence at the "The Smithville Review" and then as publisher and editor of the "Carthage, TN Courier."

I am proud of Stoney Merriman. He was committed, honest and hard working in everything he did—whether it was a Corps event placing his life in harm's way to protect and defend his country. He was a joy to be with, and his service must always be remembered.

TRIBUTE TO JIM HENRY

HON. JAMES M. TALENT

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 23, 1995

Mr. TALENT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer my congratulations to Jim Henry, a constituent of mine who was recently awarded the Small Business Administration's "1995 Small Business Person of the Year" award for the State of Missouri.

Ten years ago Mr. Henry left his job with Emerson Electric and bought R.C. Wilson Co., a small collection agency in St. Louis, MO. At the time Mr. Henry bought R.C. Wilson he had no small business experience or background, but he did have a can-do philosophy, which has helped him build one of the most successful collection companies in our city. Over the past 10 years, sales, employment, and clientele at R.C. Wilson have grown significantly. Sales have increased by 200 percent, while employment at R.C. Wilson have grown from 25 to 118. At the same time, his company's collection success rate is over 30 percent—higher than the 22 percent average for the industry.

Mr. Henry explains his success this way: "The way a business owner treats employees makes or breaks a business. The key to long-term success is to treat your employees with dignity and always maintain the highest level of integrity and honesty in all dealings." This attitude is reflected in the companies employee benefit policies. R.C. Wilson Co. has a generous tuition reimbursement program which enables many employees to continue their education through post-graduate levels. The company also provides an annual scholarship for Missouri Business Week to the child of one employee. The company also shares profits with its employees.

Mr. Speaker, I want to close by again offering Mr. Henry my congratulations on being

named the 1995 Missouri Small Business Person of the Year, and to wish him and the employees of R.C. Wilson Co. continued success.

HONORING VICE ADM. THOMAS J. KILCLINE, USN RETIRED

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 23, 1995

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to Vice Adm. Thomas J. Kilcline, USN [Retired] on the eve of his retirement from his position as president of The Retired Officers Association. Because of his many accomplishments, I consider it appropriate to formally recognize him for his more than 50 years of service to this Nation.

Admiral Kilcline was born in Detroit, MI, on December 9, 1925. He enlisted in the U.S. Navy in 1943, graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy in 1949, and was designated a naval aviator in November 1950 after which he flew with VR-5 until 1953. Admiral Kilcline attended the Naval Postgraduate School and later Massachusetts Institute of Technology, where he earned a masters degree in aeronautical engineering in 1956.

He then joined Heavy Attack Squadron Nine, serving on the *Saratoga* and *Ranger*. In 1959, he was assigned to the staff of the commander Sixth Fleet. He completed the command and staff course at the Naval War College and in 1962 completed test pilot school. He was later assigned as coordinator of test programs for all attack aircraft at the Naval Air Test Center. In January 1965, Kilcline reported to Heavy Attack Squadron Eleven [VAH-11] aboard the *Forestall*. He commanded an RA5C squadron deployed to the Vietnam theater. He returned to the staff of the commander Naval Air Force, U.S. Atlantic Fleet in August 1967, and a year later was assigned as operations officer and later executive officer aboard the U.S.S. *Ticonderoga* [CVA-14] during operations off Vietnam. He then became program manager for acquisition and support of the RA-5C aircraft, Naval Air Systems Command. In October 1970, he was named director of liaison with the House of Representatives under the Navy Office of Legislative Affairs.

From August 1972 until May 1974, Kilcline was commanding officer, Naval Air Station, Patuxent River, MD. He was then assigned as director of aviation officer distribution, aviation captain detailee and later, assistant chief of Naval Personnel, Officer Distribution and Education. In August 1975, he assumed command of Naval Base Subic Bay with duties as commander in chief Pacific representative in the Philippines and commander U.S. Naval Forces, Philippines. He became chief, Legislative Affairs in February 1978 and in July 1981, was assigned as commander Naval Air Forces, U.S. Atlantic Fleet. He retired from the Navy in 1983.

His awards include the Distinguished Service Medal; the Legion of Merit with three gold stars; the Bronze Star; the Air Medal; and awards from the governments of the Philippines and the Republic of Vietnam.

Following retirement, Admiral Kilcline formed a military and congressional consulting firm

which he disestablished when he became TROA president in December 1986. Through his stewardship, The Retired Officers Association played a pivotal role in convincing Congress to enact several legislative initiatives to maintain readiness and improve the quality of life for all members of the military community—active, reserve and retired, plus their families and survivors. I won't describe all of his accomplishments, but will briefly focus on a few to illustrate the breadth of his concern for military people.

Under his direction, TROA supported strengthening the underpinning of the Montgomery GI Bill and thus provided a solid foundation for our Nation's future leaders by placing the wherewithal for a college education on the horizons of more than 1 million young men and women who otherwise might have been denied that opportunity. He was ever mindful of the adverse effects on morale and retention caused by broken commitments and inadequate compensation and forcefully championed the causes of fairness and equity. His leadership efforts to preserve the long-standing commitment to lifetime care in military health care facilities, to fight perennial threats to retiree cost of living adjustments and to provide adequate military pay raises are some of his other significant contributions. Most recently, he fought and won the battle for a transition plan that provides a comprehensive benefits package for those personnel and their families who are forced out of active service as a result of the force structure drawdown that, hopefully, is in its final stages.

One of Tom's added strengths has been his lovely wife of 44 years, the former Dornell Thompson of Pensacola, FL. Dornell has stood steadfastly at his side, championing the cause of military people, particularly their families and survivors, everywhere. For these contributions, we owe her a debt of gratitude, as well.

Tom and Dornell live in McLean, VA. They have had four children: Captain Tom, Jr., an F-14 pilot now in the Navy Chair at the National War College; Lieutenant Patrick, lost in an F-14 accident off the U.S.S. *Constellation*, Lieutenant Kathleen, a navy doctor killed in an auto accident; and Mary, wife of Commander Bob Novak, a P-3 pilot assigned as a program manager in the Naval Air Systems Command in Washington, DC.

I wish to extend my heartfelt appreciation for his numerous contributions to military people everywhere and my best wishes for continued success in all of his endeavors.

IN RECOGNITION OF THREE BAI- LEY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL RE- TIREES

HON. KEN BENTSEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 23, 1995

Mr. BENTSEN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize the longstanding service and dedication of three employees of the William F. Bailey Elementary School of Pasadena, TX, who will retire at the end of this month.

Bailey Elementary has provided an excellent education to the thousands of students that have passed through its doors in its 37-year history. Bailey was the first school to establish

the Right Choice Program, which teaches children that with everything there is a right and a wrong choice. It is the only elementary school with a choir, orchestra, and band in the Pasadena Independent School District. The entire staff at Bailey Elementary School works together with one goal in mind: To make every child a winner.

These three individuals, Patricia Ann Autrey Hawkins, Rebecca Faye Dorsett Buck, and Pauline Sophie Trojanowski Braden, have demonstrated their commitment to this goal and to the students of Bailey Elementary.

Mrs. Hawkins was born on July 22, 1938. Her parents devoted their lives to public education, spending over 75 years in the classroom or administration, so it was no surprise when Patricia attended Sam Houston State Teachers College and the University of Houston. She received her bachelor degree in education from Sam Houston in 1959. Her first teaching experience began with the Houston Independent School District, but she moved to Pasadena Independent School District after only one semester. She taught at Red Bluff Elementary for 5 years, before she and her family moved to Austin for her husband to complete his graduate studies. Mrs. Hawkins returned to Pasadena in 1969 and began her career again at Bailey Elementary School as a fourth grade teacher. She never left.

Mrs. Hawkins' dedication to education was not limited to the classroom, however. She remained active in the Texas State Teachers Association, the Pasadena Junior Forum, Delta Kappa Gamma, and First United Methodist Church. She served as a grade-level chairman and on numerous faculty committees at Bailey, and she was also honored with a Texas lifetime membership to the PTA. Mrs. Hawkins also found time to complete her own education, and she received her masters degree from Southwest Texas State Teachers College in 1965.

Mrs. Hawkins and her husband Sam have remained in the Pasadena area for over 30 years. Their children, Malcolm and Melissa, continue to live in Texas. Mrs. Hawkins will retire from Pasadena Independent School District and Bailey Elementary on May 29, 1995, after 31 years in public education.

Rebecca Faye Dorsett Buck was born on September 4, 1938, and moved to Houston at the age of 6. He graduated from Galena Park High School in 1956 and married her husband, Ronald Buck, in December 1957. Mrs. Buck waited until her three children, Ronald, Teresa, and Terrie, were in high school before she started to work in the Pasadena School District. She began in the visual handicap program in 1975, and after taking 1 year off, she returned to complete 19 years working at Bailey Elementary School, her latest position as a member of the office staff.

Mrs. Buck has also dedicated herself to activities outside the school, including the Central Baptist Church. She has a great talent for decorating and is very creative with arts, crafts, and floral arrangements. Mrs. Buck also spends a great deal of time entertaining her six grandchildren.

According to her coworkers and friends, Mrs. Buck goes out of her way to help anyone and treats everyone equally. She has maintained the respect and admiration of the faculty, administration, and students during her 19 years at Bailey.

Pauline Sophie Trojanowski Braden was born on February 6, 1931, in Sealy, TX. She

married Anton Otto Braden, Jr. in October 1948, and has 5 children, 10 grandchildren, and 1 great-grandchild. Mrs. Braden began working with Pasadena Independent School District in 1971, and will be retiring from the cafeteria staff of Bailey this year.

Mrs. Braden has lived in Pasadena since 1960. Currently three of her children and one grandchild live with her. Her daughter Cynthia said, in a tribute to her mother, that:

She would not hesitate to give anything she has to anyone of her family with no thought of asking for repayment. She comes from a large family and does not consider this living arrangement as cramped as some might think. I might even go as far to say she is happy because this is her family. Little does mother know she is giving up something which is totally unknown to her, and as of now it may never be known to her. That is total peace mind. And even if she was aware of what she might be missing, she would choose to give it up for her family anyway.

Mrs. Braden will be sorely missed for her warmth, dedication, and friendship to Bailey Elementary, its staff, and its students.

I congratulate Mrs. Hawkins, Mrs. Buck, and Mrs. Braden on their combined 73 years of service to the Pasadena School District and to the Pasadena community. I wish them the very best as they enjoy their retirement, and I am certain they all will be missed at Bailey Elementary.

ON THE OCCASION OF THE ALLI- ANCE FOR JUSTICE HONORING TOM STODDARD

HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 23, 1995

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, on May 23, the Alliance for Justice—a coalition of organizations with a history of working for equal justice—honored Tom Stoddard for his long career. I want to take the opportunity to do so as well.

Now is precisely the right time to honor Tom Stoddard.

This Congress is dominated by politicians who would have us march backward and have us repeal the progress of the last 25 years, especially the ideals of equal justice.

But Tom embodies a different philosophy, one first said by Frederick Douglass: "Those who profess to favor freedom, and yet deprecate agitation, are men who want crops without plowing up the ground. If there is no struggle, there is no progress."

In that spirit, Tom has worked and struggled. For years after the Nation decided that race discrimination, sex discrimination, religious discrimination, and finally disability discrimination were all wrong—discrimination against gay men and lesbians is not just allowed, it is encouraged, it is joked about, it is expected.

Tom has worked against that, working for what the opposition calls "the special rights for gay people." He has worked for the "special right" to work if you are qualified; the "special right" to live in the privacy of your home with those you love; the "special right" to have families; the "special right" to speak your mind; the "special right" to serve your country;