

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;

and the "special right" to have photographs on your desk, to have picnics in public places, and to care for your friends who are sick. He has worked for the "special right" to be free and equal and unafraid in America.

Tom has done all this by speaking, teaching, advocating, organizing, and writing. He has been a model for young people who care about progress, and he has been a reminder for older people that not all justice has yet been done. Tom is the kind of American who has made the Nation make the quantum leap from thinking about gay civil rights as a fringe issue to gay civil rights as a fundamental issue.

The Alliance for Justice has made these leaps before, leading the Nation closer to liberty and justice for all. I am pleased to join with the Alliance in honoring Tom Stoddard as a pioneer in that fight, and as a man whose work has changed politics for the better and forever.

TRIBUTE TO 2D LT. WAYLAND E. BENNETT, USMC

HON. STEVE LARGENT

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 23, 1995

Mr. LARGENT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to 2d Lt. Wayland E. Bennett, a Marine Corps pilot who was commissioned on a training mission during World War II, but was only recently brought back to this country for burial. The story of his return is a remarkable tale of friendship and dedication and deserving of special recognition.

Mr. Bennett was a young man of 18 when he left home to join the war effort in the South Pacific. In 1943 he was commissioned a second lieutenant in the Marine Corps and was sent to a small island 1,200 miles northeast of Australia to complete his training and join the elite Black Sheep Squadron of fighter pilots. On October 22, 1943 his Corsair crashed into a jungle area of the island too dense and too dangerous to risk a patrol. The wreckage and Mr. Bennett's remains were considered by the military to be unrecoverable.

But the story doesn't end there, thanks in large measure to the devotion of Mr. Robert Bowden of Texarkana, TX. He refused to let his memories of his childhood friend end with a plane crash in the jungle. In 1988, he began a friendship with Dr. Dan Bookout, and together the two men decided to search for the wreckage. Enlisting family, friends, and strangers alike, Mr. Bowden and Dr. Bookout began to raise money and to organize an expedition to the South Pacific to scour the jungle for the plane.

Dr. Bookout led his teams of volunteer searchers on four trips to Vanuatu, the first in 1988. He made friends with and enlisted natives to aid in the searches. The team endured many hardships and dangers in the jungles, each trip bringing them nearer to their objective as they eliminated improbable sites. Then in March and April of 1994, local villagers assisting in excavating a crash site told the CILHI team that they knew of another crash site and led the CILHI team to this site. From April 2 to 5, 1994, the CILHI team conducted an excavation of this newly revealed crash site and recovered the remains tentatively identi-

fied as being those of 2d Lt. Wayland E. Bennett. The board appointed to review the matter after all tests were completed acted with characteristic military thoroughness and on August 23, 1994, confirmed positive identification of the remains as being those of 2d Lt. Wayland E. Bennett, USMC. Lt. Bennett's nearest survivors were so informed, and on September 16, 1994, 2d Lt. Wayland E. Bennett's remains were interred in the family plot in Texarkana, TX. Dr. Bookout continued to act as the Bennett family representative until the interment.

I know I speak for all Members of Congress when I say the selflessness and dedication of Mr. Bowden and Dr. Bookout deserves recognition. I hope you will join me in extending best wishes to them, as well as to the families of Lieutenant Bennett. I am proud that their efforts led to his return.

CATHOLICS UNDER ATTACK IN BANJA LUKA

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 23, 1995

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, today I want to bring to the attention of my colleagues the deteriorating conditions in the region of Banja Luka in northern Bosnia. It seems the latest atrocities committed by Bosnian Serb militants, who control the area, are directed at Catholic Church leaders and Catholic believers, who are primarily Croats. These attacks come on the heels of Croatia's efforts to regain control over some of its territory occupied by the Croatian Serb militants since 1991. Around 40,000 Croats still live in northern Bosnia despite significant ethnic cleansing by the Serbs. An estimated 50,000 Croats and hundreds of thousands of Moslems have been expelled from this region alone during the past 3 years.

In one recent incident in Banja Luka, a priest and nun were reportedly doused with gasoline and set on fire in the parish rectory as militants blew up the parish church building next door. This tragic act of barbarity is part of a larger campaign directed against the Catholic community in the diocese of Banja Luka. On May 4, militants forcibly expelled nuns from two convents in the region. Since that time, a total of five churches and one monastery have been destroyed. In all, since the beginning of the war, 40 churches in the diocese have been completely destroyed and another 25 have sustained heavy damage.

The bishop of Banja Luka, Franjo Komarcia, has repeatedly called upon the Bosnian Serb leadership to stop the attacks. These pleas have fallen on deaf ears. Bishop Komarcia, in an open appeal, described the current situation in his diocese: "Fear and panic, for their lives, has overcome the Catholics remaining in the area because they are totally unprotected from the local and newly arrived Serbian extremists. They are virtually [sic] hostages and are faced with the real threat of immediate catastrophe or widespread banishment." Bishop Komarcia began a hunger strike recently to draw attention to the gravity of the situation faced by the Catholic community in Banja Luka. Late last week, an urgent appeal was sent to the head of the Serbian Orthodox Church urging his intervention to ensure the

protection of Catholics in the Serb stronghold. The senseless attacks in Banja Luka have been roundly condemned by Pope John Paul II.

Mr. Speaker, these tragic developments are but the latest examples of the campaign of death and destruction directed against innocent civilians by the Bosnian Serb militants in Banja Luka and elsewhere in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

TRIBUTE TO WILLIAM K. WATERS

HON. JACK REED

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 23, 1995

Mr. REED. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a gentleman who has dedicated his life to one of our Nation's most honorable and arduous professions: teaching. Mr. William K. Waters has been a social studies teacher at Park View Junior High School in Cranston, RI, for his entire 31 year tenure with the Cranston public school system. At the end of this school year, Mr. Waters will retire after his many years of teaching.

Mr. Waters first went to Park View as a student teacher while studying at Rhode Island College in 1963. The following year, he returned to Park View as a full-time social studies teacher. He quickly became immersed in this dynamic school, and soon his duties extended far beyond the classroom.

Mr. Waters has worked tirelessly with students on Park View's award winning yearbook for over 20 years. As the ninth grade class advisor for 28 years, Mr. Waters' encouragement and guidance instilled qualities of responsibility and leadership. However, Mr. Waters' legacy to Park View will be most remembered as advisor to the student council, a position he has held for 29 years.

Park View's student council has long been the envy of junior high schools throughout Rhode Island. The council's many longstanding traditions and services have benefited students, teachers, and the community. Students chosen by their peers to represent their class on the student council have managed school stores, a student handbook, all-school dances, the ninth grade dance, and fundraisers. Overseen by the always attentive and dedicated Mr. Waters, these were not merely student activities, they fostered a cooperative and active student body within the Park View community.

And for the students fortunate enough to serve on the council, it served as a life-long lesson. Someone believed that at their age they could be trusted with money, to carry out responsibilities, and to deliver results. Leadership and commitment are not easily learned, but Mr. Waters not only encouraged these, he expected them.

The student council's organizational skills and resources also benefited the local community. The Meeting Street Center, the Heart Association, the R.I. Lung Association, and Rhode Island's senior citizens have all come to recognize that Park View is not just another junior high school. At the same time, students were able to learn about life beyond the confines of classes, teachers, and friends.

Of course, none of this would have been possible had someone not taken on the enormous responsibility of going beyond the afternoon school bell. Junior high school teachers