

By selflessly giving of themselves, they ensure a safer future for us all. We owe these volunteer fire departments a debt of gratitude for their services and sacrifice.

#### TRIBUTE TO LESTER RIGGINS

HON. ROBERT T. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 21, 1996*

Mr. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, we rise before you today to pay tribute to Mr. Lester Riggins of Sacramento who is retiring after an outstanding career of more than 40 years as a manager, educator, administrator, entrepreneur, community, and political activist and serviceman in the U.S. Air Force.

Mr. Riggins was born in Marshall, TX and moved with his family to Fresno, CA at the age of 8. In his early academic career, he strived for excellent grades in preparation for college and pursued a number of sports, as well as success in the California Cadet Corp., where he rose to the rank of First Sergeant.

In 1946, Mr. Riggins joined the U.S. Army and served for almost 2 years, earning the rank of Buck Sergeant and obtaining 4 years of education through the GI bill. He then returned to Fresno, enrolling at Fresno State College, where he played football on scholarship and completed his AF ROTC. He graduated from Fresno State College in 1951 with a BA in history and earned awards for outstanding AF ROTC cadet, three varsity letters, a Blue Key Honor Society scholarship, Phi Gamma Mu and listing in Who's Who in College, 1951.

Shortly after graduating, he was called to active duty during the Korean war, serving from 1951 to 1971 in a number of assignments which took him throughout Asia, Europe, and the United States. During this period of service, he earned a number of medals and awards and pursued his academic interests, earning an MBA from Indiana University and a masters in science, counseling, and psychology from DC University, he has since completed all course work for DPA at the University of Southern California.

After leaving the military, Mr. Riggins became active in politics, community activism, and civic interests. Professionally, he settled at California State University in Fresno where as Assistant Professor, he served as chairman of the black studies program, increasing enrollment from 200 to over 2,000 students. In 1976, he was appointed by Governor Jerry Brown as Chief Deputy Director of the Department of General Services for the State of California. There, he was responsible for over 5,000 employees and a budget exceeding \$50 million. In 1983, he left the State and founded California Matrix, Inc., a consulting firm.

He later served for 1 year as director of youth training program for IMPACT, a California National Guard program in Modesto, CA. In 1985, he took a position as counselor/night administrator at the Grant Skills Center of the Grant Join Union High School district. In this capacity, he provides counseling services and resources to the more than 1,000 students attending each semester.

Apart from his professional careers in the USAF and in education, Mr. Riggins has distinguished himself as a consummate activist

devoting outstanding service to a number of organizations including the National Education Association, California Teachers' Association, NAACP, Urban League and the Retired Officers Association. In addition, he has served a number of local organizations including the Sacramento City Civil Service Board, the Harry S Truman Club, the Sacramento City Affirmative Action Committee, and the California Conference on the Black Family.

Mr. Speaker, we ask our colleagues to join us in recognizing the great spirit of this committed individual and in wishing him many years of continued success, happiness, and prosperity of his retirement.

#### SALUTE TO THE UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY VICTORY IN THE NCAA FINAL FOUR

HON. SCOTTY BAESLER

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 21, 1996*

Mr. BAESLER. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the people of the great State of Kentucky, it is my honor and privilege to rise to salute the University of Kentucky basketball team. As you are aware, the U.K. Wildcats are the 1996 National champions in college basketball. Yesterday, May 20, they were the toast of Washington and feted at the White House.

The University of Kentucky seized the NCAA crown with a combination of speed, defensive prowess, unparalleled depth, 3 point accuracy, team cohesiveness, and its unblinking poise under incredible pressure.

The victory in this year's tournament represents the sixth time the University of Kentucky has won the top honor in the NCAA basketball tournament. This season also puts Kentucky back on top with the most all time wins in the annals of college basketball.

It has often been said that basketball is a religion in the State of Kentucky. The skeptics were scarce in the state from the moment the team laced up its sneakers for the first time this past season.

Our fans had good reason to dare to dream. The Wildcats were placed on the top of many preseason polls and during the season, they vanquished many opposing teams by more than 20 points. The Big Blue team came through, and fulfilled the hoop dreams of Wildcat fans, young and old, during the NCAA Final Four.

I encourage my colleagues to join me in saluting coach Rick Pitino, the members of the U.K. team, both individually and collective, the citizens of the Commonwealth of Kentucky, and the fans of U.K. basketball everywhere.

#### 1996 AAA SCHOOL SAFETY PATROL LIFESAVING MEDAL

HON. FRANK MASCARA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 21, 1996*

Mr. MASCARA. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to announce to the House today the names of the three youngsters who are winners of the 1996 American Automobile Association Lifesaving Medal.

This is the highest award given to members of school safety patrols throughout the United States. It is presented to students who, while on duty, took heroic lifesaving actions to save the life of a fellow student from imminent danger.

One of the young people being honored today is William "Willy" D. Mace, 10, who is from my district. Willy is a safety patrol member at Borland Elementary School, located in Canonsburg, PA.

The other winners are Shane Lee, 11, of Cherry Run Elementary School in Burke, VA, and Esther Daniel, 11, of Trapnell Elementary School in Plant City, FL.

Willy Mace, the young man from my district, was on his safety patrol job just 2 days last September when an emergency situation arose. Out of the corner of his eye, Willy spotted a Rambunctious 6-year-old dashing out into traffic to greet his father and brother who were standing across the street.

Willy noticed a fast approaching car and screamed at the little boy to stop. Willy raced after the boy and, fortunately, grabbed the 6-year-old and pulled him back out of the path of the on-coming car. The driver slammed on his brakes, narrowly missing the boys.

Being the father of four children and the grandfather of six, I can almost hear the sighs of relief. Willy was an instant hero!

Shane Lee also took heroic action, this time to save a 6-year-old boy who had darted back to a stopped school bus last October and was laying down in the road in front of one of the bus's front tires. It was unclear what the child was doing, but Shane, who was in charge of rear patrol for the bus, suddenly saw the child's legs, ran to the front of the bus and pulled the little boy back over the curb just as the bus was starting to move forward. Needless to say, the bus driver was very startled to suddenly see two faces pop up on the side of the bus and quickly stopped.

It was a dark, rainy morning last October in Plant City, FL when Esther Daniel quickly recognized danger and raced to save a 5-year-old girl. The little girl, who had just left her bus, suddenly started crying. Thinking she had left her backpack on the bus, the little girl abruptly turned around and ran after the bus which by this time was about ready to turn back onto a main road. Thankfully, Esther chased the little girl and caught her and held her back just before the child reached the bus's rear wheel. Again thank goodness for clear-thinking safety patrol students!

I also want to take a moment to thank the American Automobile Association for honoring these outstanding safety patrol members.

In the 1920's AAA began organizing safety patrol programs whereby older students assist younger students with crossing streets to and from school. Today, more than 500,000 students across the country serve as AAA safety patrol volunteers and more than 50,000 schools have safety patrols.

AAA supplies training materials, belts, badges and other items needed to operate the safety patrol programs. Importantly, AAA promotes and recognizes patrol efforts each year through a series of awards, newsletters, summer camps, and scholarships.

On behalf of my colleagues, and parents all across the country, I want to thank AAA for its work in helping to keep our youngsters a little safer on their way to and from school.

I am very proud of Willy, Shane, and Esther and know their parents and communities are also very pleased that three young people

showed the courage necessary to save another's life. God bless each of you.

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HONORING THE CHAPEL HILL  
VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

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HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 21, 1996*

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I am taking this opportunity to applaud the invaluable services provided by the Chapel Hill Volunteer Fire De-

partment. These brave, civic-minded people give freely of their time so that we may all feel safer at night.

Few realize the depth of training and hard work that goes into being a volunteer firefighter. To quote one of my local volunteers, "These firemen must have an overwhelming desire to do for others while expecting nothing in return."

Preparation includes twice-monthly training programs in which they have live drills, study the latest videos featuring the latest in firefighting tactics, as well as attend seminars where they can obtain the knowledge they need to save lives. Within a year of becoming

a volunteer firefighter, most attend the Tennessee fire training school in Murfreesboro where they undergo further, intensified training.

When the residents of my district go to bed at night, they know that should disaster strike and their home catch fire, well-trained and qualified volunteer fire departments are ready and willing to give so graciously and generously of themselves. This peace of mind should not be taken for granted.

By selflessly giving of themselves, they ensure a safer future for us all. We owe these volunteer fire departments a debt of gratitude for their service and sacrifice.