

FIFTIETH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY  
OF RUSS AND BETTY COPE

**HON. ROBERT A. BORSKI**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 8, 1997*

Mr. BORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Russ and Betty Cope, as they celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary. Fifty years of marriage is a celebration of love, commitment, and dedication to vows made to each other.

Now retired, Russ worked as a rural mail carrier, and Betty as a teacher. In their years of marriage, the Copes had three children: Brian Cope, Judy Gallagher, and Diane Lloyd. Their children also made them the proud grandparents of Tonya Malaga; Neil, Danny, and Christie Cope; and Layla Lloyd.

The Copes should be a reminder to us of the sanctity of marriage. Russ and Betty Cope should be honored for their continued commitment. I congratulate them on 50 years of devotion to each other, and the promise that they made. May they experience many more years of happiness and love.

A TRIBUTE TO PETER AGUIRRE,  
JR.

**HON. BRAD SHERMAN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 8, 1997*

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the late Deputy Peter Aguirre, Jr., a man who made the ultimate sacrifice to his fellow citizens—he gave up his life in the line of duty. Even as we mourn the death of Deputy Peter Aguirre, we remember and celebrate his life, the family and friends that love him, his work as a deputy, and the ideals that he lived by.

After graduating from California State University at Northridge in 1994, Peter attended the Ventura County Sheriff's Academy. On April 24, 1994, he was sworn in as a deputy, and was assigned to Detention Services in the Ventura County Main Jail. In January 1996 he was given his second assignment, patrol at the Ojai substation. Despite his short time as a law enforcement officer, Peter's fellow officers were impressed by his hard work and reliability.

On July 17, 1996, Deputy Aguirre and other officers responded to a domestic disturbance call. Shortly after arriving at the scene the suspect opened fire on the deputies, fatally wounding Deputy Aguirre. The Ventura County community felt a great loss with Peter's tragic death. The sacrifice he made was best put by his boss, Sheriff Larry Carpenter:

Peter did something extraordinary, something courageous, something valorous. Peter gave all that he had. Peter also gave up much. He gave up ever seeing his beautiful wife after working long shifts. He gave up the ability to hold his precious daughter in his hands. He gave up spending Sunday afternoons with his mother and father. He gave up everything, simply so that you and I could do all those things with our families.

Deputy Aguirre's bravery for the sake of our community is truly remarkable. He put his life on the line to protect the safety of our families and our community, indeed we all owe him a

great debt. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this moment to recognize not only Peter, but the 53 law enforcement officers that gave up their lives last year in the line of duty. It is only through the self-sacrifice and dedication of these individuals that we are able to enjoy the freedom and safety that make this Nation great.

A TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE  
CARLOS RODRIGUEZ UPON HIS  
RETIREMENT

**HON. ESTEBAN EDWARD TORRES**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 8, 1997*

Mr. TORRES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize my good friend, Judge Carlos Rodriguez, upon his retirement after over 21 years of service on the bench of the State of California Workers' Compensation Appeals Board. Judge Rodriguez will be honored on Friday, May 9, 1997, at a special ceremony held in his honor in Los Angeles, CA.

Judge Rodriguez was appointed to the Workers' Compensation Board in 1975. He was a trailblazer, as the only Latino judge on the State of California Workers' Compensation Board. Recognizing a need for Latino representation in his field, he sought to recruit Latino lawyers and judges. His efforts led him to conduct legal seminars, where he informed and encouraged lawyers to improve themselves and their practice.

The son of Mexican immigrants, Judge Rodriguez attended public school in the Los Nietos and Whittier area. His father, Refugio Rodriguez, was a shift foreman at a laminated plastics fabrication plant and his mother, Felicia Rodriguez, worked at a food processing plant. During high school, Judge Rodriguez worked on a farm feeding chickens and rabbits, at a car wash, and later in a machine shop. He continued working in the machine shop as he pursued his Bachelor of Arts degree in business from the University of California, Los Angeles. After graduating from UCLA, he was drafted into the Army and sent to France, where he spent 2 years as a data processing machine operator. After completing his tour of duty, he worked at the Los Angeles County Probation Department as a clerical aide, while he attended law school.

Judge Rodriguez planned to practice criminal defense and after being admitted to practice law he became a prosecutor with the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office, to obtain the critical trial experience he would need as a criminal defense lawyer. He later joined the law firm of Sillas and Castillo, winning the first personal injury case he was assigned. He then moved to the Law Offices of Nephan and Foglia, where he did criminal defense and some worker's compensation cases. His experience in worker's compensation cases led Judge Rodriguez to the law firm of Manuel Hidalgo to handle that firm's worker's compensation cases.

During this time, Judge Rodriguez decided to take the examination for worker's compensation specialist and for judge of the Workers' Compensation Appeals Board. While he had only taken the judge examination to gain the experience, he passed both tests and later accepted an appointment as judge to the Workers' Compensation Appeals Board.

His tenure has been a commitment to serving the community and his profession with distinction. He has dedicated many hours to providing legal seminars, which he intends to continue in his retirement. Also, Judge Rodriguez, plans to continue his advocacy and active volunteerism. He is a member of the Mexican American Bar Association and Mensa, an organization of individuals with a genius IQ.

Mr. Speaker, it is with pride that I ask my colleagues to join me and Judge Rodriguez's friends and family in paying tribute to the Honorable Carlos Rodriguez, for his many years of dedicated service on the California State Workers' Compensation Appeals Board.

THE RETIREMENT OF DANIEL F.  
CASSIDY

**HON. WILLIAM F. GOODLING**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 8, 1997*

Mr. GOODLING. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Mr. Daniel F. Cassidy upon his retirement on June 3, 1997. He will complete 38 years of distinguished service with the Federal Government, the last 26 with the Federal Aviation Administration's [FAA] Harrisburg, PA, Airports District Office.

A civil engineering graduate of the University of Notre Dame, Mr. Cassidy began his Federal service in 1959 with the Air Navigation Facilities Division of the Federal Aviation Administration. As a young engineer, he served as resident engineer on a variety of air navigation facility installations in the Northeast. In 1964, Mr. Cassidy transferred to the Airports Division's Harrisburg District Office as an airport planner. He subsequently relocated to the Cleveland Airports Area Office as project manager, taking on responsibilities for construction work in Ohio, Kentucky, and western Pennsylvania.

In 1971, with the reopening of the Harrisburg Airports District Office, Mr. Cassidy returned to central Pennsylvania as assistant manager, providing direction in the planning, programming and construction of airport improvement projects in Pennsylvania and Delaware. Mr. Cassidy has greatly contributed to the development of a safe and efficient system of airports in the mid-Atlantic region. Of particular note were his contributions to the development of new terminal facilities and increased runway capacity at Pittsburgh International Airport. In addition, Mr. Cassidy has been a leader in implementing compatible land use and safety recommendations at Federal agreement airports. He has worked with airport sponsors and elected Federal, State, and local officials to resolve complex funding and technological issues in a timely and positive manner.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Cassidy's service to his country and dedication to duty have reflected credit to himself and the Federal Aviation Administration. I wish him the best.