

His announcing skills began in New Mexico in 1964 with a Spanish radio show on Espa[ñ]ola's KDCE Radio, when he was a Los Alamos High School Senior. He later worked for KABQ Radio in Albuquerque, and KVSF in Santa Fe, before serving in the U.S. Navy between 1967 and 1969. In Cleveland, Ohio, he earned a First-Class Federal Communications Commission License in Engineering. In 1971, he joined Cleveland's local NBC affiliate, WKYC, where he grew in experience for six years.

In 1977, NBC Network News employed him for three years from the Latin American News Bureau based in Miami. In Florida, he covered assignments to India, Belgium, Teheran, as well as throughout Latin American countries, including Costa Rica, Panama, Nicaragua, Cuba, Peru, Columbia and many more.

During his seven years with NBC, Mr. Martinez also worked in the San Francisco and Boston NBC bureaus covering news events from the Pacific Northwest to Canada.

Mr. Martinez returned to New Mexico in 1985. He began working for the local ABC affiliate, KOAT-TV, as a reporter and weekday morning news anchor. In 1987, Mr. Martinez left for a weekend news anchor position with ABC affiliate WTNB-TV in New Haven, Connecticut. One year later he returned to New Mexico to become one of the principal weekday anchors on KOAT-TV. The rest, as they say, is history.

Throughout his years with the station, Mr. Martinez has helped Channel 7 build on its reputation as a station for credible and informative journalism. He insisted on the highest standards for the station. I know that he has also taken many younger reporters at the station under his wing and mentored them. He has offered advice and criticism to these KOAT. I know how much his colleagues and thousands of loyal KOAT viewers who invited him into their home daily will miss him.

On a personal note, I was touched by the emotion that Mr. Martinez displayed during the devastating Cerro Grande fire in 2000. He watched with disbelief as his old stomping grounds, filled with rich memories, burned to the ground. Trees turned to ash and homes vanished in the blink of an eye. He even wrote a beautiful poem about the travesty that comforted many of my constituents that had to endure the blaze.

What makes Mr. Martinez unique as a television journalist is the entertainment career he has managed to shepherd on the side. He is the singer on six mariachi CDs he has completed, and has appeared in some movies. He also served as host on a recent documentary exploring churches and missions throughout the nation. He also intends to work on a book about his memories of growing up in Chimay[oacute] that will offer advice for young people at the crossroads of life. As he told a reporter in July, "I thought, when I was growing up, that I was poor. As I look back, I choke up to think how rich I really was."

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in wishing Nelson and his family luck in all their future endeavors. His contributions to New Mexico cannot be understated and I am pleased to have been able to honor him here today. While Nelson and his lovely wife, Gina, embark on a new chapter in their life, I want them to know that New Mexico is and always will be their home. Nelson, thank you for your service and professionalism to New Mexico.

IN PRAISE OF THE LUTHERAN FELLOWSHIP ASSOCIATION OF THE SAGINAW VALLEY

HON. JAMES A. BARCIA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 14, 2002

Mr. BARCIA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Lutheran Fellowship Association of the Saginaw Valley as it celebrates 45 years of dedicated service. Over the years, members have made numerous and significant contributions to Lutheran families and to the citizens of many communities in Bay County and elsewhere. They deserve our gratitude and praise.

In Bay County, the Lutheran Fellowship Association began when a handful of faithful Lutherans with a vision of creating a gathering place for families and friends joined together to open a fellowship hall. Since then, the group has grown to include more than 250 members and their families, serving the needs of thousands of Lutherans and others.

The LFA Hall has been a center of Lutheran life in our community for generations. Under the guidance of President Earl Wegener and other leaders past and present, it has continued to fulfill its mission as a venue for individuals, families, groups and organizations to enjoy fraternal, social, educational, recreational and family events of all kinds at a reasonable cost.

It is not a stretch to say that a large percentage of mid-Michigan's Lutheran community has likely attended one or more events at the hall during their lifetime, including wedding receptions, confirmation celebrations, anniversaries and a host of other activities. Many marriages have gotten off to a beautiful start with a reception at the LFA Hall and years later an untold number of couples have returned to the hall to commemorate their anniversary with family and friends.

In addition, LFA members have always put a high premium on charitable donations. Last year, they pooled financial resources to make a contribution to the victims of the September 11, 2001 terrorist attack in New York City. In other years, they have provided assistance to disadvantaged children or those afflicted with serious illnesses.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in praising the members of the Lutheran Fellowship Association for all that they do to meet the needs of the Lutheran community. Fellowship is an integral element in the Lutheran faith and the LFA has served a useful and vital role in fulfilling that need in Bay County. I am confident the LFA will continue to serve its members, their families, our community and our Lord well into the future.

HONORING ROY KIDD, LEGENDARY EASTERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY HEAD FOOTBALL COACH

HON. ERNIE FLETCHER

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 14, 2002

Mr. FLETCHER. Mr. Speaker, Eastern Kentucky University head football coach Roy Kidd is retiring at the end of the 2002 season. Kidd,

who is serving his 39th year as the Colonel's head coach, leaves Eastern Kentucky University after establishing one of the most successful college football programs in America.

His 39 years of coaching football at his alma mater, Coach Roy Kidd stands as a monument to his loyalty and dedication to the University, the game of football and to his student-athlete players and has set a high standard of excellence and reminded us what is best about college sports. All his victories, championships and honors only begin to reflect the impact he has had on Eastern Kentucky University, the Commonwealth of Kentucky, and beyond. It is his players, and their successes, who offer the best testament to Coach Kidd's unique ability to help young men make the most of their time here, and in their lives beyond ECU's campus.

Kidd has put together a I-AA football program acknowledged throughout the country, year in and year out, as one of the nation's elite. He has a produced 24 straight ECU teams with winning seasons and 29 consecutive Eastern teams with nonlosing seasons. There have been only two losing seasons at ECU in his 39-year tenure.

Along the way, his 38 Eastern Kentucky teams have won two NCAA I-AA national championships, two national runners-up titles and 16 Ohio Valley Conference championships. He has also directed Eastern Kentucky to 17, I-AA playoff appearances, the most by any school in the nation.

A native of Corbin, KY where he starred in football, basketball and baseball, Kidd chose Eastern Kentucky over the University of Kentucky under Bear Bryant's tutelage because ECU would let him play both baseball and football.

That decision set forth a legacy that is unmatched at all but one I-AA school and just five other programs in the history of college football.

In 1963, Kidd received the call from Eastern president, Dr. Robert R. Martin, offering him the position as ECU's head coach. 1964, Kidd's first at the helm of the Eastern Kentucky football program, produced just one of two losing seasons in the 38 years as follow as the Colonels went 3-5-1.

It only took Kidd and his staff four seasons to turn that around and produce an Ohio Valley Conference championship in 1967 that culminated with a 27-13 Grantland Rice Bowl victory over Ball State, which gave the Colonels the NCAA Mideast Regional Championship. He quickly followed that up the next season with a second OVC title as the Colonels went 8-2 behind quarterback Jim Guice and future American football League Rookie of the Year, wide receiver Aaron Marsh.

In between 1968 and the formation of Division I-AA by the NCAA in 1978, Eastern's teams produced winning seasons, collected two more conference crowns (1974 and 1976) and completed in the NCAA Division II playoffs in 1976.

ECU football's decade of the 80's arguably the most prestigious by any I-AA football program ever, produced seven conference championships, three trips to the NCAA title game with one remarkable 13-0 season that tended with the Colonel's second national title. Two other Colonel teams were eliminated in the national semifinals and a third Colonel squad made it to the quaterfinal round of the I-AA playoffs before losing.

EKU teams coached by Kidd made seven more trips to the I-AA playoffs in the 90's with EKU securing five additional OVC crowns during this 10-year span.

During the past 38 and one-half football seasons at Eastern Kentucky, there have been two National I-AA Coach of the Year awards, 10 OVC Coach of the Year honors, 55 EKU All-Americans, 197 first team All-OVC players, a term as President of the American Football Coaches Association, all with Roy Kidd's named stamped beside them.

Forty-one former Colonels have gone ahead to either sign or play in the National Football League. Four former Eastern Kentucky stars are still playing in the NFL, including defensive Chad Bratzke of the Indianapolis Colts, offensive tackle Tyrone Hopson of the Detroit Lions, tight end Jason Dunn of the Kansas City Chiefs and wide receiver Alex Bannister of the Seattle Seahawks.

Roy and his wife, Sue, have three children—Marc, Kathy, and Keith—and six grandchildren.

Roy Kidd is truly one of the legendary football coaches in America and, certainly, in the history of college football. His record speaks for itself and I wish him and his wife Sue, happiness and success always. May God continue to Bless Roy Kid and shine on Eastern Kentucky University for many years to come.

TRIBUTE TO DR. DAVID ROMEI

HON. KEVIN BRADY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 14, 2002

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. David Romei, a veteran and Executive Director of the Arts Council of Brazos Valley. Over the past two years Dr. Romei led the Brazos Valley community in the creation of a Veteran's Memorial dedicated to the preservation of the memory of all Brazos Valley Veterans and as a reminder of their sacrifice to future generations. This week I was privileged to share a speaker's platform with Dr. Romei at the dedication of this memorial and was so moved by his words that I felt compelled to relay them to you.

DR. P. DAVID ROMEI'S BRAZOS VALLEY VETERANS MEMORIAL DEDICATION CEREMONY SPEECH, NOVEMBER 11, 2002

Today, today upon this sacred site, blessed by all the powers of our eternal and infinite Creator, we celebrate the lives and mourn the deaths of America's heroes.

We see in this bronze representation not only realistic truth and imaginative power united that enwraps our hearts in pangs of longing and suffering, but also an emotional grandeur that gives new birth to our core foundation of strength and courage.

We see a soldier carrying his dying comrade from a field of violent horror. We feel the warm and weakening breath of a dying soldier upon the neck of his friend, the last friend he will ever have, but for a greater friend no one could ask. We imagine his eyes closing as his falling helmet fades, fades away into the distant horizon of the unknown. And, then, then his heart reaches out to his loved ones, slowly, painfully, reluctantly, and says goodbye. Parting from those whom he loves to join the ranks of America's eternal warriors, those men and women who have died with the words DUTY, HONOR,

COUNTRY upon their lips; untainted by the cynicism of time.

The gallant soldier may be felled by the enemy, but the cause for which he fights shall never succumb. The American soldier's soul is a fragrant garden, and his colors never melt into the light of the moon. The freedom for which he fights stands in glory before the mighty rays of the midday sun and, and we call it America.

We who survive have the ultimate responsibility. It is we who must make immortal the memory of those who have sacrificed all that they were, all that they are, and all that they were promised to be. It is we who must allow no one to ever say that the sun has set, that darkness possesses the day, and time passes, time passes and these men of valor must lie alone.

To honor America's warriors is not a celebration of military triumphs that some people falsely associate with America's great victories. We are remembering. We are expressing our gratitude; the gratitude of a grateful nation to those who have served, suffered and died. But, even more importantly, we are saying to every man and woman who has served this nation that time does not pass on, life does not go on, nothing is the same because of you. Your deeds and sacrifices have altered our destiny and our lives are forever entwined with your life and, indeed with your death.

The goal of history is not to separate out events of different dimensions at a particular point in time, but to show their continuous interaction in an evolving story. There are those who see history as something we paint on a canvas, while others see history as something we record in a book and store upon an old dusty shelf. History is neither; it is as alive and as deep as the currents of the vast oceans. As civilization evolves so does history, and as people evolve so do nations.

Today we speak of the history of individuals, not nations. We speak of a fellow soldier, a friend, a brother wounded who stretches out his hand for help, a bloodied hand that we cannot reach, for duty demands we fight on, we cannot pull him from death here, but in heaven we shall embrace him in eternal life.

It is the memories of those who live, the memory of holding our dying buddy in our arms, of embracing his tired and broken body, of closing his eyes as the last tears streak his tender cheeks, because, because it is our duty.

Our goal today is not to separate America's warriors from Americans and hold them up as more important than others. Every soldier knows that without a supporting nation, without a loving family and without an ethical code of conduct his actions and his mission are worthless. Our sacred purpose is to demonstrate that it is only the soldier who is called upon to give his life to ensure freedom. We soldiers are the guardians of America's promise to the world. We show here today that the will that permits one to lay down his life for family and country separates those with pure souls fueled by courage from those who have yet been given such an opportunity and privilege.

Those of us who have put on the military uniform of our country have done so with the expectation of receiving no reward. We have been privileged to serve in the defense of freedom and liberty. There is no sense of entitlement; there is only a sense that we have been honored that you, those whom we serve with honor and love, the love of our entire hearts, have entrusted us with your lives. It is your trust that illuminates the soul of every American fighting man and woman with pride. It is your trust that sees us through the long, dark, cold and lonely

nights as we stand watch. It is your love and trust that gives us the courage to leave our beloved parents, to say goodbye to our tender-hearted wives, and to ask God in silent prayer to watch over our children while we are away.

Today we recall the countless graves of brave Americans from the smallest islands in the great Pacific to the unforgiving shores of Normandy. We also remember those who froze to death at Valley Forge and who fought upon the burning sands of the Persian Gulf. From our nation's birth until this very moment, we have endured every cost and paid every price to protect, to defend and to serve our beloved nation.

Hundreds of thousands of Americans have given their lives in far away lands for us. Many are now interred in the earth of those distant lands, but their memories, their memories, we shall never yield, for those memories are our most valued treasure. Wherever an American soldier is buried, there also is a part of America.

It is in the memory of our heroes, friends and loved ones that we gather today. The Brazos Valley Veterans memorial is a sacred tribute that commemorates for time immemorial the sacrifice made by America's heroes. It honors those men and women who will never return to bless us with their smiles, to hold their children in their arms, and to share with their wives and husbands joys and sorrows that we take for granted. Indeed, even if some forget their names, no one must ever be allowed to forget their sacrifice. By the labor of our hands and hearts we have ensured that the generations that follow, even for a thousand years, will recall with pride our veterans' unselfish love for this light unto the world that we call America.

Some say our fallen heroes hear the grass growing over their graves and the leaves of autumn rustling above in the stilled heavens, finally bringing the loud guns of war to silence, but those of us living will never know peace until we pay in full the debt we owe them. This is the debt we honor today.

Do not look at the place where life has left an American warrior, do not say how the smoke of dreams has risen. This is the way one moment deserts another, and this is the way that the all-powerful sun suddenly deserts the world. Do not say this, for we shall always remember and our sun shall never desert our world. It is our faith that keeps America's flame of freedom alight.

Let me challenge each of you today. Look upon this work of art, an expression of Robert Eccleston's genius. Prepare your hearts, open your minds and allow the better nature of your souls to rise to a new level, a new level of historical purpose. Try to wrap yourselves in these soldiers' experience.

Whose heart does not explode like a million stars when looking upon this beautiful symbol of our love and respect for America's fighting men and women? Witness the bullet hole in the soldier's helmet and shudder, share the suffering of the wounded soldier and bleed, and behold the valor of the soldier who never leaves his friend behind—then, pray to God that you would do the same. Dare if you will to touch the name of a veteran, any veteran whose name is engraved in this Texas granite, and know that you are united with an American hero.

Never forget that when the bow of God's wrath is bent, America's fighting men and women are the arrow that finds heartless evil and draws from it all life. We are the instrument of God's justice, and we are the men and women who preserve civilization itself.

Now, as we dedicate this holy monument and leave it to the generations that follow us, be assured that we have done our duty.