

RETIREMENT OF GUY SIMS
MUSCOGEE COUNTY SCHOOLS

HON. MAC COLLINS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 16, 2002

Mr. COLLINS. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to recognize and commend Guy Sims of Muscogee County.

Mr. Sims has spent the last 36 years working to strengthen and build the minds of young people in the Greater Columbus, Georgia region.

In 1966, Mr. Sims began a teaching career at Wood Elementary School. In the twenty years between 1971 and 1991, he served as principal of Rose Hill, Fox, and Carver Elementary schools. For the past five years he has served with distinction as Superintendent of the Muscogee County School District.

During his time working with young people, he has demonstrated his dedication to education by serving as President of the Georgia Association of Elementary School Principals, served on the Georgia Department of Education committees for State Standards Evaluation, Performance Based Education, Personnel Development, and Teacher of the Year Selection.

In his spare time, Mr. Sims has been a faithful community servant working with the Muscogee Educational Excellence Foundation, the Leadership Morality Institute, the United Way, Columbus Communities in Schools, the Columbus Literate Community, the Georgia Early Learning Initiative, the Rotary Club, Advisory Partnership Groups, and the Chamber of Commerce.

Mr. Sims has been instrumental in establishing the Reading Recovery Program, a Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax, construction of new libraries, Georgia's Choice, raising teacher salaries, magnet and alternative schools, and an improved District Technology Plan.

Mr. Sims has exemplified the behavior of a dedicated teacher and administrator during a time when not enough recognition is given to those who educate children. He has stayed the course when so many are leaving our schools for better paying jobs in the private sector.

So, on the occasion of his retirement, I would like to thank Mr. Sims for his service to countless young people. In fact, if you were to gather together all of the young people whose lives have been touched by this man, you could not fit them all in the Capitol.

Mr. Sims, I wish you a happy retirement and thank you for your service to your nation and to the children and community of Muscogee County.

HONORING MR. PAUL ECKE

HON. DARRELL E. ISSA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 16, 2002

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Mr. Paul Ecke, a friend whom I have known for many years. Mr. Ecke, who passed away on May 13th, led a truly remarkable life.

Although he was only 16 years of age when America entered World War II in 1941, Paul Ecke served courageously aboard a Navy Destroyer in the Pacific theater. Following the war's conclusion in 1945, Mr. Ecke attended the Ohio State University where he graduated with a degree in horticulture. After graduation, when America found itself embroiled in a war against communist aggression in Korea, Mr. Ecke again answered America's call by serving as a damage control officer in the China Sea for the Navy's 7th Fleet.

Despite his heroic service in the Navy, Paul Ecke did not choose to pursue a career in the military. There is, perhaps, a slight taste of irony that this military hero pioneered and championed a symbol, the poinsettia, which is synonymous with Christmas and the Holiday season; a time when people of many faiths pray for peace among nations and good will towards men.

Mr. Ecke found new techniques of cultivating, genetically engineering, and marketing poinsettias. Today, thanks to Mr. Ecke's legacy, approximately 60 percent of the world poinsettia market consists of licensed varieties developed at the Ecke Ranch. This figure includes over 65 million poinsettias sold nationwide last year.

Mr. Ecke shared the success of his business with many charitable causes. His philanthropy in the San Diego area was particularly generous: he shared his wealth with local schools and universities, deeded land to the state of California for preservation, and took the North Coast Family YMCA, which was later renamed after his mother Magdalena, under his wing.

Mr. Speaker, Paul Ecke was my friend. Although I am grieved by his passing, I, along with the many other lives he touched, take solace in knowing that Mr. Ecke's legacy lives on: in the County of San Diego and in every home that takes in a poinsettia for the Holiday season.

HONORING NATIONAL POLICE
WEEK

HON. ERIC CANTOR

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 16, 2002

Mr. CANTOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor National Police Week. Police officers provide for the public safety, and their contributions to our communities truly epitomize public service. This week we are proud to recognize those who put themselves in danger day in and day out for our protection.

The terrorist attacks of September 11th highlighted the importance of law enforcement officers in every day life. These tragic events demonstrated how vulnerable we are and how indispensable police are in maintaining order in emergency situations. The law enforcement officers who lost their lives in the line of duty that day impress us with their sense of duty and dedication to public safety.

As we honor fallen officers, we need to remember that all law enforcement officials put their lives on the line everyday. Too often we take for granted our community police and the sacrifices they make for our safety. This week we should show our appreciation to these officers and their families and especially to the

families of those who have made the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty.

As we observe National Police Week, we pledge that we will never forget the selfless dedication of these men and women on behalf of our communities. Their bravery, dedication and commitment to public service are qualities of which every American can be proud. Today, I join the residents of the 7th District of Virginia in honoring and remembering these brave men and women and say thank you to America's police officers.

I am proud to stand today to honor these real American heroes.

NATIONAL HOSPITAL WEEK

HON. MICHAEL E. CAPUANO

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 16, 2002

Mr. CAPUANO. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to recognize May 12-18, 2002 as National Hospital Week. This year's theme, "Where Miracles Happen Every Day" is a fitting tribute to our nation's hospitals and their dedicated staffs of health care professionals. This week, we should all recognize the service of these health care workers, volunteers and other professionals who are committed to providing quality care to communities throughout the country.

National Hospital Week was first celebrated eighty years ago in an effort to encourage more Americans to rely on the care provided at health care facilities. It has now become a powerful way to honor a remarkable industry. This year, we celebrate the impact of quality health care on our nation's families.

Hospitals are at the cutting edge of our health care system. From supporting groundbreaking research in new therapies to advancing new technologies in patient care, hospitals are at the forefront of diagnosing, understanding, treating, curing and preventing disease. These continuing improvements in medical care have helped patients recover faster from injuries and sickness while allowing many people to live happier and healthier lives.

I believe that it is important to recognize our health care system and the instrumental role it plays in ensuring quality, comprehensive care in all of our communities. From life saving surgeries to routine physicals, hospitals continuously provide quality health care to patients and their families.

The people of my Congressional District are fortunate to have some of the best research, teaching and community hospitals right in their backyard. Patients from New England, across the nation, and throughout the world come to these care centers seeking hope for better lives. Those of us from the Boston region must never take these hospitals and their staffs for granted. National Hospital Week is the perfect opportunity to recognizing the miracles that are performed in these hospitals each day.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me as we celebrate National Hospital Week and recognize the success and dedication of our nation's hospitals.