

state of Tennessee. As county executive, his door is always open, and his card reads, "It's a pleasure to serve you." One peek around his office and it's evident that his blood runs orange because he is an avid University of Tennessee football fan.

The people of Sumner County could not have asked for a better public servant. His leadership and work ethic will be sorely missed. I cordially congratulate Tommy on his distinguished career as a public servant and wish him and his wife, Nancy, well in their future endeavors.

IN HONOR OF THE HAMTRAMCK
FIREFIGHTERS AND THE 5TH AN-
NUAL ST. FLORIAN MARCH

HON. DAVID E. BONIOR

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 21, 2002

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, as members of the Hamtramck Firefighters gathered together to celebrate the patron saint of firefighters, St. Florian, they celebrated a feast day cherished by firefighters everywhere. Honoring the patron saint of firefighters, brewers, chimney-sweeps and others, St. Florian is remembered in the Catholic tradition for many miracles, including the extinguishing of a huge fire with a pitcher of water and stopping a town from burning by throwing a single bucket of water on the blaze. Celebrating their fifth consecutive march on Saturday, May 4, 2002, the Hamtramck Firefighters continued the tradition of celebrating and honoring the miracles of St. Florian.

As the city of Hamtramck, Michigan is home to the St. Florian Catholic Church, each year the Hamtramck Firefighters celebrate this feast day by marching from the Hamtramck Firehouse to the St. Florian church for a special celebration of mass. Inviting departments from across the state of Michigan and Ontario, Canada, communities everywhere choose this day to recognize their firefighters and the countless contributions they have made to their communities.

Our great state of Michigan is home to patriotic citizens who give so much to this country everyday. This year is no exception for the Hamtramck Firefighters, who continue to stand together ready to offer relief and assistance to fellow Americans in this time of greatest need. The Hamtramck Firefighters have also chosen this day to celebrate the unity and brotherhood of firefighters, a brotherhood that reaches far beyond religious and ethnic barriers. Their actions reflect the unity and strength of Americans.

Firefighters are an integral part of every community in this nation. As the Hamtramck Firefighters and firefighters everywhere celebrate the holiday commemorating St. Florian, we join them in their tribute and honor the contributions firefighters have made to our great country.

JOBS FOR VETERANS ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 20, 2002

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 4015, the Jobs for Veterans Act. This bill would provide funds for a new performance incentive awards program to encourage employment, training, and placement programs for veterans. This incentive program would reward those states that excel in aiding our veterans. It would also provide awards to states that made significant progress in this area, even if they were not among the highest performers. The awards would take the form of new contracts for veterans employment programs.

Furthermore, It authorizes \$1 million for a Labor Department study of the economic benefit to the United States attributable to providing employment and training services to veterans.

Mr. Speaker, we have all seen the stories of those who have lost their lives so we can live ours. The tragic events of September 11th and the ensuing War on Terror that our brave armed forces are currently fighting should inspire this body to secure the future of our armed forces.

Job training is of paramount importance to our veterans. We ought to provide them with adequate resources so that they may succeed in their future endeavors.

HONORING THE DISTINGUISHED
PUBLIC SERVICE OF DOYLE
GAINES

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 21, 2002

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding public service of a good friend of mine, Doyle Gaines. Doyle is retiring as the Macon County executive at the end of his current term, which ends on August 31.

Before being elected as the county executive in 1990, he was the Macon County school superintendent for 16 years and spent more than 38 years in the education field as a teacher, coach and administrator. During his impressive career, Doyle received numerous awards and honors for his commitment and leadership.

He has always been an active member of the community, serving on various civic boards and organizations. Doyle's leadership was also instrumental in forming the Cordell Hull Economic Opportunity Corporation, a regional agency in Tennessee dedicated to fighting poverty by helping people be self-sufficient.

Always striving to be well informed and at the forefront of creative initiatives, Doyle has served his community, state and nation with distinction. The people of Macon County and the mid-state region could not have asked for a better public servant. His leadership and work ethic will be sorely missed by the Macon County government. I cordially congratulate

Doyle on his distinguished career as a public servant and wish him well in future endeavors.

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AF-
FAIRS EMERGENCY PREPARED-
NESS RESEARCH, EDUCATION,
AND BIOTERRORISM PREVEN-
TION ACT OF 2002

SPEECH OF

HON. CIRO D. RODRIGUEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 20, 2002

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. Mr. Speaker, the events of September 11th and the subsequent anthrax attacks have forced us as a country to reevaluate our ability to respond to chemical, biological, and radiological contingencies. As a member of the House Veterans Affairs Committee (HVAC) Subcommittee on Health, I participated in a hearing to assess the readiness of the Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA) to be a third line responder in the event of a threat of this sort. The news was not good. This is why I am an original co-sponsor of HR 3253, the Emergency Preparedness Research, Education, and Bio-Terrorism Prevention Act of 2002. Through the establishment of National Medical Emergency Preparedness Centers, we would enhance the work that the DVA is already engaged in, and strengthen our national homeland defense efforts.

In recognizing that the DVA is the nation's largest health care system and engages in some of the most promising research, and provides first-rate medical training and education should signal to us all that herein lies an opportunity. Considering all that the DVA already does successfully, I see no reason why they cannot be positioned as a first responder in the event of a biological or chemical attack. With the proper allocation of resources and support, those provided by the passage of HR 3253, many DVA medical centers will be well positioned to provide our country with the necessary support in these crisis situations.

In my district, the 28th Congressional District of Texas, the South Texas Veterans Health Care System, Audie L. Murphy Division, already engages in shared teaching and research arrangements with medical schools and has been able to attract several high-level scientists in fields relevant to bio-chemical and radiological threats. This facility is among the top ten research and development facilities within the DVA and is a tribute to the rewards of collaborative research efforts like those suggested by this legislation.

I am excited about the prospect of National Emergency Preparedness Centers, which would not only engage in research to develop methods of detection, inoculation, and treatment, but also coordinate research with universities and federal agencies in the dissemination of the latest information to healthcare workers at public and private hospitals across the country.

Through the passage and enactment of this measure the DVA will become a key partner in our nation's homeland defense efforts.

RECOGNIZING MIKE MARTEL FOR
HIS SERVICE TO NEW HAMPSHIRE
RADIO

HON. JOHN E. SUNUNU

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 21, 2002

Mr. SUNUNU. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a familiar New Hampshire voice that will soon be absent from Northern New England's airwaves. Dover, New Hampshire's Mike Martel, a member of WOKQ's "Morning Waking Crew," will be retiring on May 31 after making his start in local, New Hampshire radio 30 years ago.

For the past 28 years, Mike has been employed at WOKQ, a 50,000 watt radio station located in Dover, New Hampshire. There, he often began his day well before most of us had even stirred from bed preparing to hit the airwaves at 5 a.m.

Whether hearing Mike from their homes or while making the drive to work, listeners in New Hampshire, Maine, Vermont, Massachusetts, and Canada were sure to have their day brightened with his infectious laugh and "Joke of the day."

Mike's consistent service to his profession and his community stands out as a positive contribution to the field of radio, and is one in which he and his family can certainly take pride. For the rest of us, he will be sadly missed. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to please join me in thanking Mike for his dedication and wishing him the best.

TRIBUTE TO REVEREND DR. ARTHUR J. POINTER, 35TH PASTORAL ANNIVERSARY, METROPOLITAN BAPTIST TABERNACLE

HON. DAVID E. BONIOR

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 21, 2002

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, as the congregation of the Metropolitan Baptist Tabernacle Church gathered together on Saturday, May 18, 2002, they celebrated the 35th Pastoral Anniversary of Reverend Dr. Arthur J. Pointer. A lifelong leader and devoted pastor, Dr. Pointer has truly demonstrated his commitment to advancing the mission of Metropolitan Baptist Tabernacle across the state of Michigan. As the members and friends of Dr. Pointer gathered to celebrate this special anniversary, they paid tribute to his outstanding years of activism, leadership, and faith.

Dr. Pointer has been preaching the Gospel to the congregation of Metropolitan Baptist Tabernacle, located in Flint, Michigan, since 1967. As his message and ministry has been received, he has shown a special dedication to making a positive difference in the lives of others. Dr. Pointer, a father, grandfather, and great-grandfather, has truly become a leader to all those who know him. "A leader who dared to dream great dreams", Dr. Pointer has truly led his family, congregation, and community to greatness.

Dr. Pointer has been an active force in his community, working with Metropolitan Baptist Tabernacle in organizing several programs and ministries as well as working with many

organizations around the state of Michigan. As the former chairman of the Metropolitan Detroit Housing Development Corporation, the Michigan State O.I.C., and the Board for Urban Community Outreach Program, which was initiated at Metropolitan Baptist Tabernacle, his involvement with church and beyond has been an inspiration to all. Even today, Dr. Pointer continues to serve his community well as the President of the Wolverine State Missionary Baptist Convention and as Chairman of the Political Action Committee of Concerned Pastors and the Christian Evangelical Broadcasting Association, Inc. Dr. Pointer's distinguished service and outstanding dedication to improving the lives of people through faith will continue to serve as an example to communities across this nation.

I applaud Dr. Pointer for his leadership, commitment, and service, and I urge my colleagues to join me in saluting him for his exemplary years of faith and service.

IN HONOR OF MR. BERNARD C.
WATSON

CHAKA FATTAH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 21, 2002

Mr. FATTAH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a truly remarkable man, a person who genuinely exemplifies what it means to be a teacher, mentor, and scholar.

Mr. Bernard C. Watson, a longtime educational and civic leader in Philadelphia, will be this year's recipient of the Philadelphia Award for 2001. The award, which will be presented June 11, honors a resident of the Philadelphia region who does the most to "advance the best and largest interest of the community." The award is complimented with a cash prize of \$25,000. Prior recipients of this distinguished award include people such as Sister Mary Scullion, co-founder of Project H.O.M.E., former Mayor Edward Rendell, former City Council President and current mayor John Street, and Rev. Leon Sullivan, a social activist, and educator responsible for leading international efforts to promote non-violent social and economic change.

Originally from Gary, Indiana, Mr. Watson quickly rose to prominence by becoming a deputy superintendent to Philadelphia public schools in 1967. He was also president of the William Penn Foundation, vice president for academic affairs at Temple University, and vice president of the Pennsylvania Council of the Arts. Considered an expert in his field, Mr. Watson was appointed to a number of educational advisory councils by three different U.S. presidents. He also authored several books, including a memoir, "Colored, Negro, Black: Chasing the American Dream."

Chairman of the Philadelphia Award Trustees, William J. Marrazzo, indicated Mr. Watson was selected from dozens of highly qualified nominees. Chairman Marrazzo commented that Mr. Watson "has been a tireless fighter of ignorance and injustice, a determined advocate for educational excellence, and an energetic supporter of the arts. He is truly one of Philadelphia's treasures."

Mr. Speaker, I couldn't agree more with the Chairman's comments. Mr. Watson's selflessness is evidenced in his words and actions.

Educating others, Mr. Watson recently reflected, is the most rewarding aspect of his work. Mr. Watson commented, "Education is how you give people control of their lives. It is a way of giving someone the notion of what you can be as a human being."

TRIBUTE TO HALF HOLLOW HILLS
HIGH SCHOOL EAST

HON. STEVE ISRAEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 21, 2002

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the outstanding performance of Half Hollow Hills High School East from Dix Hills, New York in the "We the People . . . The Citizen and the Constitution" competition.

A select group of 24 students from Half Hollow Hills High School East represented the State of New York at the national finals competition in Washington, D.C., May 4-6, 2002. These young people competed with 50 classes from across the nation and demonstrated a remarkable understanding of the ideas and values of American constitutional government.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize the efforts of the student participants. They are: Beth Bernstein, Jacqueline Borgia, Sherri Cohen, Katelyn Del Priore, Lindsey Forur, Brian Ginsberg, Sarah Givner, Seth Glodowski, Jamie Golden, Emily Gustafson, Dustin Kreltzeberg, Megan Meagher, Michal Meiler, Jacquelyn O'Neil, Gabriella Pinto, Lindsay Posner, Sarah Rasheed, Inger Reres, Steven Savella, Dennis Schmelzer, Persis Singh, Megan Spector, Stanley Voigt, and Matthew Witko.

These young scholars are taking the Advanced Placement American Government class. Part of their learning experience includes participation in the "We the People" program. These students, through teamwork and dedication, captured the New York State championship after advancing from district and regional levels.

Mr. Speaker, I commend them for balancing this demanding extracurricular activity with the rigors of their daily course work. Furthermore, I commend them for working together as team to accomplish the goals they set forth.

Mr. Speaker, I also stand to recognize the efforts of the coaches, faculty, parents, and facilitators involved. Specifically, Scott Edwards, the group's coach and AP American Government teacher, prepared these students through intensive classroom instruction and numerous study sessions after regular school hours. James McCaffrey, the school's principal, contributed to the students' success by providing adequate resources and administrative support. Jane Weber, the district coordinator, made logistical arrangements and directed the group's fundraising efforts. Laura Parker also helped by serving as an assistant coach and chaperone.

Mr. Speaker, I commend these individuals for their unselfish commitment to these students' education.

It is with great pride, Mr. Speaker, that I recognize the efforts and achievements of these outstanding students and individuals and bring their achievements to the attention of this Congress.