

Chief Chase oversees Battalion 3 of the Santa Clara County Fire Department, consisting of seven stations and their heroic crews.

Affectionately referred to as "The Senator" by his peers, Chief Chase has served as the Program Facilitator for the Hazardous Materials Program. He is a member of the California State FIRESCOPE Task Force. In addition, Hal manages the Department's Response Map Program, Hose Program, and Hydrant Testing Program.

With these awesome responsibilities, it is a wonder how Chief Chase can reserve time for other commitments. But his contributions to his community are just as extensive. Chief Chase is committed to the high school anti-drinking campaign, "Every 15 Minutes." Through his tireless efforts, much needed fire equipment was donated to Mexico, including coats, hats, and even fire engines. Hal is also a strong supporter of the Democratic Party.

On occasion, Chief Chase has been known to forego his fire fighting skills to purposely starting them, in the kitchen. He has applied his passion for cooking for not only the pleasure of his crew, but also for charity. Along with the raised monies, raffled dinners at the firehouse have promoted stronger relations with the community.

Mr. Speaker, I commend Battalion Chief Hal Chase for his magnanimous dedication to the community and fire department of Santa Clara County. Although we celebrate his retirement, I know Chief Chase will continue serving Santa Clara, even if only out of the kitchen.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO BETTY PFISTER

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 10, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to pay tribute today to a pioneer in the field of aviation. Betty Pfister of Aspen, Colorado has been named by Women in Aviation International as one of the 100 Most Influential Women in aviation history. Betsy joins well-known figures Amelia Earhart and Sally Ride, on the list, and it is easy to see why—her accomplishments are truly impressive.

Sally began flying while in high school and served as a Woman's Air Service Pilot (WASP) during World War II. WASPs piloted planes around the country to help free-up men to fly combat missions in Europe and Asia. After the war, Sally worked as both a pilot and flight attendant, getting in plenty of flying on her own time as well.

In 1950 and 1952 Sally won international air races, and in 1973 and 1978 she piloted for the United States in the World Helicopter Championships. Sally also piloted balloons, founded the Pitkin County Air Rescue, and created scholarships to enable flight instruction among high school age children. One of her former planes, a World War fighter she named "Galloping Gertie," is on display at the Smithsonian's Air And Space Museum.

Mr. Speaker, Betty is more than a talented and versatile pilot. She is a leader who, through her remarkable success, helped motivate and inspire future generations of young male and female pilots alike. Betty embodies the competence and can-do spirit that helped

make America great, and I am proud to recount her impressive story here today.

HONORING MCLEAN COUNTY, ILLINOIS AS A COMMUNITY OF EXCELLENCE

HON. JERRY WELLER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 10, 2003

Mr. WELLER. I rise today to congratulate McLean County, Illinois, recipient of the 2003 Communities Can! Community of Excellence Award. Communities Can! is a program initiated by the Department of Health and Human Services, coordinated by the Georgetown University Center for Child and Human Development.

The Community of Excellence Award is presented to only four communities each year for demonstrating their ability to efficiently collaborate and utilize resources provided by public and private programs for supporting young children and their families. McLean County has successfully tailored these complex programs to meet their specific needs.

McLean County, a community of 154,000 people located in Central Illinois, received this honor for their innovation, flexibility, and the broad range of service and support they provide. Their approach is to identify the needs of families in the community, match those needs with appropriate service, and do so in a cost effective manner, which has produced great results.

I am proud to represent McLean County, Illinois, and commend her citizens of for their hard work and the success it yielded, leading to their receiving the Community of Excellence award. I look forward to working with them as they enjoy future success, hopefully leading other communities to adopt the creative, effective service to needy families that our Nation needs to meet the challenges ahead.

INFORMING THE HOUSE OF THE DEATH OF FORMER U.S. REPRESENTATIVE TOM GETTYS

HON. JOHN M. SPRATT, JR.

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 10, 2003

Mr. SPRATT. Mr. Speaker, I have the sad duty of informing the House of the death of Tom S. Gettys, who served in the House of Representatives from 1964 to 1974, representing the Fifth District of South Carolina, and served even longer as administrative assistant to Rep. James P. Richards.

On Sunday, Tom Gettys and his wife, Mary Phillips, went a last time together to the First ARP Church in Rock Hill, South Carolina. On Sunday evening, he slipped quietly away, dying in the town he loved, where he had spent his life, much of it serving the people.

The term "public servant" is often misapplied, but in the case of Tom Gettys, it is a perfect fit. He was a school principal and coach; right-hand aide to a high-ranking congressman; a naval officer who volunteered for duty and served in the Pacific; a postmaster; a night-school, self-taught lawyer; and for ten years, a Member of Congress.

As congressman, he endeared himself to the people who elected him. If folks in the Fifth District revered Dick Richards and admired Bob Hemphill, they loved Tom Gettys. They loved him because he had an easy-going affinity for all sorts of people, and because he put his constituents first and worked hard for them, and they knew it.

When he was at the top of his form, Tom Gettys retired. He had the good grace not to hang on in Washington to capitalize on his relationships, but instead came back to Rock Hill, hung out his shingle and practiced law. As a young lawyer, I used to run into him checking titles with the rest of us in the clerk of court's office. This was the self-deprecating side of the man that people appreciated. He took his work seriously, but never himself.

I saw this side of Tom Gettys when I was in Washington in the 1970s and walked with him to the House floor. Tom knew the capitol police, the elevator operators, the doorkeepers, all by first name. He told me later that having been a staffer, he knew who ran the House.

I got an even better insight when Tom visited me soon after I was elected. I begged him to sit and talk, but could tell he had something else on his mind, and soon found out what it was. He wanted to go downstairs to the Longworth Cafeteria and speak to Odessa. Odessa ran the breakfast line, and was a spirited soul, full of chatter and advice, which she dished out freely while you decided how you wanted your eggs. Tom seldom came to Capitol Hill without visiting Odessa.

Tom Gettys belonged to the old school, to the era before pollsters, spin-masters, and 30-second spots, and he often told me, it was a good thing. He enjoyed introducing me as the "second-best looking congressman to represent the 5th District." I enjoyed telling him, "Tom, if good looks had anything to do with being elected to this office, you would have lost to Bate Harvey in 1964." He was not some political artifact, crafted to win elections. He was the genuine article—of the people, by the people, for the people. When many of his conservative colleagues voted against Medicare, Tom Gettys stood with his people. He voted for it, and was proud of it.

If he were to give his own farewell, he would tell us that marrying Mary Phillips White surpassed all of his achievements, and Julia and Beth were their crowning glory. He was a doting grandparent and used to say that if he had the chance to come back after dying, he would want come back as one of his grandchildren.

Those of us who learned from Tom Gettys and looked up to him will miss him. We will miss the wisdom he shared with us, and the stories that never grew old. He exemplified what life in a democracy is about. He earned the satisfaction every public servant wants: he left his country better than he found it.

HONORING LADISLAV COLIN "POPS" BAUER

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 10, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I stand before the nation and this Congress with a heavy

heart, as the communities of Alamosa, Colorado and Adams State College have lost a tremendous human being. Ladislav Colin "Pops" Bauer is nothing short of a legend in Alamosa, particularly to the Adams State College cross-country team, where he served as a source of employment and motivation to numerous student athletes.

"Pops," as the students affectionately knew him, was the owner of the legendary Campus Café. This small restaurant served as a way for Colin to provide jobs to the school's student athletes, enabling them to earn a little extra money between classes and practice. It was here that Colin displayed incredible heart, and he was the type of guy that just kept on giving. When one of the Adams State runners could not find a sponsor to send him to the Olympic trials, it was Colin and the Campus Café who stepped forward with the money. This is just one example of the kindness and dedication that Colin displayed toward the Adams State Cross Country team.

Mr. Speaker, I am saddened by the loss of such a kind and caring individual. However, I am inspired to know that men like Ladislav Colin "Pops" Bauer were able to have an impact on America's youth. It is Colin's heart, modesty, and loyalty to the students of Adams State that garnered him respect, and it is for those very qualities that he has earned my respect here today.

ESTABLISHING JOINT COMMITTEE
TO REVIEW HOUSE AND SENATE
MATTERS ASSURING CON-
TINUING REPRESENTATION AND
CONGRESSIONAL OPERATIONS
FOR THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

SPEECH OF

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 5, 2003

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, while may seem reasonable to establish a Joint Committee on the Continuity of Congress, I wish to bring to my colleagues' attention my concerns relative to certain proposals regarding continuity of government, which would fundamentally alter the structure of our government in a way detrimental to republican liberty.

In particular, I hope this Committee does not endorse the proposal contained in "Preserving our Institutions, The Continuity of Government Commission" which recommends that state governors appoint new representatives. Appointing representatives flies in the face of the Founders' intention that the House of Representatives be the part of the federal government most directly accountable to the people. Even with the direct election of Senators, the fact that members of the House are elected every two years while Senators run for statewide office every six years, means members of the House of Representatives are still more accountable to the people than any other part of the federal government.

Therefore, any action that abridges the people's constitutional authority to elect members of the House of Representatives abridges the people's ability to control their government. Supporters of this plan claim that the appointment power will be necessary in the event of an emergency and that the appointed rep-

resentatives will only be temporary. However, Mr. Speaker, the laws passed by these "temporary" representatives will be permanent.

I would remind my colleagues that this country has faced the possibility of threats to the continuity of this body several times throughout our history, yet no one suggested removing the people's right vote for members of Congress. For example, the British in the War of 1812 attacked the city of Washington, yet nobody suggested the states could not address the lack of a quorum in the House of Representatives though elections. During the Civil War, the neighboring state of Virginia, where today many Capitol Hill staffers and members reside, was actively involved in hostilities against the United States Government, yet Abraham Lincoln never suggested that non-elected persons serve in the House. Forty-two years ago, Americans wrestled with a hostile superpower that had placed nuclear weapons just 90 miles off the Florida coast, yet no one suggested we consider taking away the people's right to elect their representatives in order to ensure "continuity of government!"

I have no doubt that the people of the states are quite competent to hold elections in a timely fashion. After all, isn't it in each state's interest to ensure it has adequate elected representation in Washington as soon as possible? Mr. Speaker, there are those who say that the power of appointment is necessary in order to preserve checks and balances and thus prevent an abuse of executive power. Of course, I agree that it is very important to carefully guard our constitutional liberties in times of crisis, and that an over-centralization of power in the Executive Branch is one of the most serious dangers to that liberty. However, I would ask my colleagues who is more likely to guard the people's liberties, representatives chosen by, and accountable to, the people, or representatives hand-picked by the executive of their state?

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I wish to question the rush under which this bill is being brought to the floor. Until this morning, most members had no idea this bill would be considered today! The rules committee began its mark-up of the bill at 9:15 last night and by 9:31 the report was filed and the bill placed on the House Calendar. Then, after Congress had finished legislative business for the day and with only a handful of members on the floor, unanimous consent was obtained to consider this bill today.

It is always disturbing when bills dealing with important subjects are rushed through the House before members have adequate time to consider all the implications of the measure. I hope this does not set a precedent for shutting members of Congress out of the debate on this important issue.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, while there is no harm in considering ideas for continuity of Congress, I hope my colleagues will reject any proposal that takes away the people's right to elect their representatives in this chamber.

COMMEMORATING THE 25TH ANNI-
VERSARY OF THE PASSAGE OF
PROPOSITION 13

HON. DOUG OSE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 10, 2003

Mr. OSE. Mr. Speaker, twenty-five years ago, on June 6, 1978, California voters made history when they passed Proposition 13.

Millions of Californians can still remember the condition of our state in 1978, and the irresponsible government actions that moved people to create a new and better way. Skyrocketing property taxes literally drove people from their homes, and a similar fate would surely have been visited on thousands more. Many complained, but few in Sacramento heeded their plight, and this sparked the citizen movement that swept our state and demonstrated the best traditions of direct democracy.

The landslide vote that approved the initiative validated what Howard Jarvis himself said at the time: Californians from all regions of the state believed the time had come for serious reform, and they could simply wait no longer.

Proposition 13 was a voter-approved proposal that cut California's property taxes by 30 percent and then limited future increases. Other opponents of high taxes used Proposition 13 as a model that led many additional states to institute similar reforms. Almost all of these reforms are still in effect today.

The passage of Proposition 13 has resulted in a reduction in property taxes of approximately 57 percent in California. It has been an indispensable element in the way that our state moved forward to outperform the rest of the country in personal income growth, employment growth, and appreciation of real property values.

As we again face tough financial decisions and rising tax burdens, I am encouraged when I recall 1978, a time when Californians seized control of their own fate and reformed a runaway tax system. I hope Californians and all Americans will remember on this day that we can control our government and our own destinies.

HONORING BILL HARDING

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 10, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to stand before this body of Congress to recognize a man who has served as a chief and mentor for many of Colorado's brave young firefighters. Bill Harding of Glenwood Springs, Colorado, will be leaving the Glenwood Springs Fire Department soon to pursue his career as the Fire Marshal for the Basalt and Rural Fire Department.

In his 19 years of service in Glenwood Springs, Bill has been instrumental in stopping fires such as Storm King, and Coal Seam Fire. His knowledge, hard work and expertise have allowed him to occupy a variety of positions, such as battalion chief, training captain, EMT, and fire inspector.

However, if you ask his co-workers, it is not Bill's knowledge that makes him a great firefighter. What makes him stand out is his ability