

Reapportionment, Revenue, Transportation, and State Government Operations, the Joint Committee on Administrative Rules, the Illinois Forestry Development Council, the Swine Disease Control Advisory Committee, the Agricultural Export Advisory Committee, the Interagency Rail Passenger Advisory Council, and the Board of State Fair Advisors.

Senator O'Daniel has amassed numerous legislative accomplishments which have enhanced the quality of life for the people of his southern Illinois district and all of the people of the State of Illinois, including State sales tax exemptions for farm machinery and oil field equipment, creating tax increment financing and enterprise zone designations to spur job creation and economic development, promoting sustainable agriculture and ethanol as an alternative energy source, and enacting tough penalties against persons who sell drugs on or near the grounds of places of worship.

Senator O'Daniel built a solid reputation as one of Illinois' foremost authorities on agricultural issues, he was appointed in 1977 by President Jimmy Carter to serve as state executive director of the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Prior to his appointment by President Carter, Senator O'Daniel served as a member of the Illinois House from 1974–77.

As a longtime farmer and businessman, a decorated World War II veteran and devoted family man, Senator O'Daniel brought to the Senate a common sense, bi-partisan approach to the business of the body that shall be remembered fondly by those who served with him.

We offer our best wishes to Senator William L. "Bill" O'Daniel upon his retirement from the Senate; we offer hope for a rewarding future with his wife, Norma, their five children and eight grandchildren, and one great-grand child.

TRIBUTE TO GEORGE DODSON

HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 5, 2003

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to George Dodson, a good friend and beloved retired Capitol Police officer, who passed away last summer.

George was one of the finest men I ever knew. He was on the Capitol Police force for over 30 years. Most of that time he worked as a plain-clothed detective. He was known all over the Capitol because of his professionalism, courtesy and friendliness. He later went on to help organize the Retired Capitol Police Officers Association.

George was close friends with many Members, including Bill Natcher of Kentucky and Speaker Jim Wright. He was always friendly to all Members and the many visitors who traveled to the Capitol each year.

George spent many years in the military prior to joining the Capitol Police force. He spent three years in the Air Force and five years in the Air National Guard. He was honorably discharged in 1967 at the rank of Master Sergeant.

George Dodson was a family man. He was married to his beloved wife Pat and enjoyed spending time with her whenever possible.

George was a life-long resident of Washington, D.C. and graduated from Armstrong High School in 1947. He was also very active in his church.

Over the years, George developed a love of trains and spent a great deal of time with his grandchildren sharing that love and interest.

He also was very interested in the new convention center being built downtown. He would spend a great deal of time downtown observing the progress of the convention center. In fact, many of the workers at the site got together and gave George his own hard hat.

George passed away on June 8, 2002. He was a great American who loved his family and Country very much. Mr. Speaker, this Country would be a much better place if there were more people here like George Dodson.

HONORING DRUG FREE WEEK ESSAY WINNER

HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 5, 2003

Mr. HALL of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a special student from Gladewater, TX, Brittany Linder, who was a grand prize winner in the Red Ribbon Week "I am drug-free because . . ." essay contest sponsored last fall by the city of Longview Partners in Prevention. Brittany represents Weldon Intermediate school in the Gladewater independent school district and is a fourth-grade student of Mrs. Cathy Bedair. She is the daughter of John and Blane Linder and the granddaughter of my longtime friend, Carolyn Linder.

According to the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy, although recent trends in youth drug use have stabilized, the rates of use remain at high levels. Youth substance abuse, as we know, can lead to many other problems, including the development of delinquent behavior, anti-social attitudes and numerous health risks. These problems not only impact the child but also the child's family, friends, community and ultimately society as a whole.

Brittany speaks to this issue in her essay: "I am drug free because if I take drugs, I would not be able to realize my dreams. I would not be able to be a good teacher, or mother. If I take drugs, I would hurt valuable brain cells and when I found my dreams, I would not be able to do it."

The essay entries from area fourth-graders were judged by LeTourneau University students. Throughout our Nation, dedicated teachers, parents, clergy, law enforcement officers, healthcare providers, local government officials and community volunteers are involved in various drug-prevention programs that raise awareness among our young people of the dangers of drug use. Beginning these programs at a young age is one key to their success, and I commend programs such as the Red Ribbon Week that seek to instruct and involve our young people in this issue.

Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate Brittany on her winning essay and commend her for taking a strong stand against the use of drugs.

HONORING THE VIETNAMESE NEW YEAR: TET, 2003

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 5, 2003

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the Vietnamese New Year: Tet, 2003—Year of the Goat. In celebration of the new year, the Vietnamese Community in Greater Cleveland, Inc., will gather at St. Helena Catholic Church to rejoice with family and friends and enjoy Vietnamese culture and performances.

The Tet celebration will include recognition of volunteer leaders, Vietnamese food, and dancing and entertainment by the Vietnamese youth of Cleveland. As Tet is the time of year to pay homage to ancestors, visit with friends and family, and celebrate, it is with great honor that I pay tribute to the Vietnamese Community of Greater Cleveland.

This year marks the 27th year of the Vietnamese Community in Greater Cleveland's outstanding service to the Vietnamese community in my hometown of Cleveland, Ohio. Vietnamese heritage has long been important to Cleveland, and the Vietnamese Community in Greater Cleveland has played a vital role in ensuring that important cultural traditions continue to be embraced.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to take this opportunity to honor and thank Le Nguyen, President of the Vietnamese Community in Greater Cleveland, for coordinating this wonderful evening of festivities. I would also like to honor the members of the Vietnamese Community in Greater Cleveland for their dedication to the Cleveland area.

Best wishes to all celebrating the Vietnamese Lunar New Year: Tet, 2003—Year of the Goat. I wish everyone a joyous and prosperous new year.

TRIBUTE TO REAR ADMIRAL JOHN P. DAVIS

HON. TIMOTHY H. BISHOP

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 5, 2003

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Rear Admiral (Upper Half) John P. Davis, a native of Shelter Island, New York, who will retire from the U.S. Navy on February 1, 2003 after 35 years of distinguished service to the U.S. Navy and to our nation.

Rear Admiral Davis is well known to many members of this body. He has been the Program Executive Officer for Submarines since 1997. In 1998 he also becomes the Deputy Commander, Submarines, helping launch Team Submarine, an innovative organizational structure that unified many submarine-related acquisition and life cycle support entities into a single "submarine-centric" organization. The Team Submarine concept of operations is dedicated to eliminating the traditional "stove-pipe" structures and processes that create impediments and inefficiencies in submarine research, development and acquisition, ensuring that the operational needs of the fleet are met, today and in the decades to come, in an effective and affordable way.

Under Admiral Davis' watch, Team Submarine has delivered two *Seawolf* class submarines and redesigned a third to expand its mission capabilities; started construction of four *Virginia* class submarines; and brought the transformational SSGN program from concept to full up-and-running program in two years time. He has also overseen the overhaul of over one-third of our submarine fleet, and directed the modernization of submarine warfare systems with economical and easily upgradeable commercial-off-the-shelf (COTS)-based units. Additionally, Admiral Davis has acted as an emissary to allied nations, most notably Australia, and he has helped forge strong relationships with friendly navies to enhance U.S. national security.

Admiral Davis began his Navy career in 1964 when he entered the U.S. Naval Academy. Upon his graduation from Annapolis in 1968, Admiral Davis entered the Naval Postgraduate School, where he earned a Master of Science degree in 1969.

Following nuclear power training, Admiral Davis held many critical assignments. He served on the USS *Pogy* (SSN 647) and the USS *Daniel Webster* (SSBN 626). He also served as the department head and post department head detailee in the Submarine Officer Assignment Office of the Bureau of Naval Personnel. He subsequently returned to sea duty as Executive Officer of the USS *Memphis* (SSN 691) and later, as Commanding Officer of the USS *Jacksonville* (SSN 699), which deployed to the Atlantic, Mediterranean, and Indian Oceans. He went on to serve as Deputy Commander of Submarine Squadron Six, during which he also served as Commanding Officer of the USS *Glendard P. Lipscomb* (SSN 685) for three months during a Mediterranean deployment.

From 1989 to 1991, Admiral Davis served as Head, Undersea, and Arctic Warfare Branch in the Office of the Chief of Naval Operations. Following completion of the Program Managers Course at the Defense Systems Management College in 1991, he became the Director of Advanced Submarine Research and Development. In September 1992, Admiral Davis became Program Manager of the MK48 ADCAP Advanced Capability Torpedo Program. In July 1996, Admiral Davis became Program Manager for the Undersea Weapons Program Office.

Admiral Davis was selected to Flag rank in 1996. In December 1996 he became the Director, Submarine Technology at Naval Sea Systems Command. In August 1997 he was assigned to his current post of Program Executive Office, Submarines. In October 1998 he assumed additional duties as Deputy Commander, Submarines.

Admiral Davis was promoted to Rear Admiral (Upper Half) in 1999. He has received numerous military awards including the Legion of Merit with two Gold Stars and the Meritorious Service Medal with one Gold Star.

Mr. Speaker, for 35 years the Department of the Navy, the Congress, and the American people have been well served by this dedicated naval officer. Admiral Davis has been instrumental in ensuring that the U.S. submarine force is, and will remain, the world's most preeminent submarine force in the 21st Century. Thus, he leaves an enduring legacy.

I am honored to rise today to express appreciation to Admiral Davis for his outstanding service to the nation. I also want to recognize

his wife Nancy and his daughters Kate and Tricia for their loyalty and support, which are so necessary in the life of a career naval officer.

Mr. Speaker, I know my colleagues join me in wishing Rear Admiral Davis "fair winds and following seas" as he concludes a most honorable and distinguished career.

TRIBUTE TO GARY WHYTE ON BEHALF OF WHITNEY WELDON

HON. STEVEN R. ROTHMAN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 5, 2003

Mr. ROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of 10-year-old Whitney Weldon of Westfield, New Jersey. Whitney is a wonderful, happy, and active child who was diagnosed in April 2001 with a disease called Fibrodysplasia Ossificans Progressiva (FOP).

FOP is a rare genetic disorder in which bone forms in muscles, tendons, ligaments and other connective tissues forming a second skeleton that immobilizes the joints of the body. With so few people afflicted by the disease, there is little attention being paid to this illness.

For the past fifteen months, Gary Whyte, of Mountainside, New Jersey, has been going non-stop, doing everything he can, to raise awareness and help spread news about FOP through countless efforts speaking before clubs, churches, synagogues and organizations and hosting events to raise money for the Weldon FOP Research Fund.

Mr. Speaker, I stand before you on behalf of Whitney Weldon and the 200 other Americans suffering from FOP to praise the efforts of these dedicated people who are staging a campaign to increase awareness of and find a cure for a disease that few people know about. Gary has shown that education about FOP is the first step toward working to get a cure. Little by little, with more awareness comes more action.

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION TO BAN HOUSING DISCRIMINATION AGAINST MEMBERS OF THE MILITARY

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 5, 2003

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to call to the attention of my colleagues a bill I have introduced today to prohibit discrimination in the rental of housing to members of the armed forces.

It has been reported in the press that managers of certain apartment properties in my home state of New York have required renters to sign an affidavit stating that they are not in the military. This practice, aimed at members of the armed forces who might be called off to war, is an outrageous form of discrimination, particularly at a time when young Americans are on their way overseas to defend our country.

This legislation is meant as a deterrent to this kind of practice by any landlord or prop-

erty management company anywhere in the country. The bill would make it a federal crime to discriminate in rentals to members of the armed forces with a penalty of up to a year imprisonment.

The reason mentioned for requiring the affidavit is to relieve landlords of the potential need to seek court orders to evict military families who may have defaulted on their rent.

I have never before heard this concern raised by a landlord. But the bottom line is that discrimination against individuals or an entire class of people cannot be defended under any circumstance. In New York City, this practice is already outlawed under local anti-discrimination laws. However, there remains a glaring absence in federal and state law of the protections provided for in my bill, thus leaving members of the military in most of New York State and the rest of the country vulnerable.

At this time of crisis in our country, in which we are asking so much of our military, the governing principle should be one of shared sacrifice—and certainly not discrimination.

TRIBUTE TO LAURA KENT DONAHUE

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 5, 2003

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Laura Kent Donahue who has dedicated her life to serving the people of western Illinois.

Laura had the privilege of serving in the same area her mother, Mary Lou Kent, represented. She began her legislative service in the State Senate in 1981.

She was appointed an Assistant Majority Leader in the Illinois State Senate in 1997 after serving as Majority Caucus Chairman for four years.

As a lawmaker, Laura secured nearly \$1 billion for road and bridge improvements in her district since 1981.

Her dedication to improving the funding process for downstate nursing homes and hospitals has earned her numerous legislative awards from the Illinois Association of Homes for the Aging, the Illinois Hospital Association, the Illinois Association of Rehabilitation Facilities and the Illinois Healthcare Association.

She has devoted much of her time and energy toward finding a resolution to the education funding issue in Illinois.

Laura was instrumental in bringing a juvenile prison facility to Rushville, adult prison facilities to Mt. Sterling and Canton and work camps to Clayton and Pittsfield.

She is a member of the Vermont Street Methodist Church in Quincy.

She is a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution, the Lincoln Club of Adams County and the PEO Chapter MK.

She graduated with a bachelor's degree from Stephens College in Columbia, Missouri.

She is respected by her colleagues from both political parties for her honesty and integrity.

Laura will be remembered as a Senator who took her responsibility as an advocate for her district seriously.

Therefore we recognize Laura Kent Donahue for her accomplishments as she