

of Ohio, assigned to the Western Division in Toledo. She has served as a United States District Court Magistrate since she was appointed to the Federal bench in September of 1994.

Judge Armstrong is a 1956 graduate of Wayne State University, and also received her law degree from Wayne State University Law School in 1960. Prior to her appointment as a Federal Magistrate, Judge Armstrong served as an Assistant United States Attorney in Toledo for fifteen years, primarily handling civil litigation matters.

Judge Armstrong has been a member of the Ohio Women's Bar Association since 1993. She is currently a member of the Toledo Bar Association Round Table, the Minorities in the Profession and Federal Court Committees. In the past, she served as Secretary for the Board of Trustees for the Toledo Bar Association, on the Bankruptcy Committee, as liaison to the Bankruptcy and Minorities in the Legal Profession Committees and on the Pro Bono Advisory Board.

Judge Armstrong's past recognitions and awards include receiving the Arabella Mansfield Award by the Toledo Women's Bar Association in 1988, the Excellence in Law Award by the Black American Law Students' Association (BALSA) in 1989 and 1997, the Milestones Award by the Young Women's Christian Association in 1997, and in 1999 she was the recipient of the Athena Award by the Chamber of Commerce.

The OWBA was initially formed in 1991 and is the only statewide bar association within Ohio solely dedicated toward advancing the interests of women attorneys while encouraging networking and the creation of a statewide mentor program for women attorneys.

On May 1, 2003, Ohio Supreme Court Justice Alice Robie Resnick will be presenting Judge Armstrong with the Ohio Women's Bar Association's Justice Alice Robie Resnick Award of Distinction at its Annual Meeting in Cleveland, Ohio.

It gives me great pleasure to rise today, Mr. Speaker, and join the OWBA in congratulating Magistrate Judge Vernelis Armstrong and wishing her continued success.

TRIBUTE TO MR. CHARLES
BOUCHER

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 30, 2003

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Charles Boucher, an exceptional teacher and role model from Burrville, RI. Mr. Boucher has been named the Rhode Island Teacher of the Year for 2003. As an Applied Science and Technology teacher at Burrville High School, he has shown exemplary commitment to making education engaging and exciting. Under his tutelage, Mr. Boucher's students have received more than 30 state and national awards and his Bio Technology class was featured on a Discovery Channel program. His work and creativity have helped hundreds of student transition from school to the working world.

Mr. Speaker, I find it heartening that there are educators in this country who devote so much time and effort to shaping the minds of

our young people. I hope you and our colleagues will join me in recognizing Mr. Charles Boucher for his dedication to education and vocational training.

HONORING MR. DAVID CHUBB FOR
HIS CAREER AND SERVICE

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 30, 2003

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to honor Mr. David Chubb upon the conclusion of his career in education as an Elementary School Principal. Throughout his career in education, David has demonstrated a strong aptitude for and commitment to the field of school administration.

The conclusion of the 2002–2003 school year sees David retiring from his position as the Camelot Elementary School Principal after working as an educator in Fairfax County for more than twenty years. Always held in high regard by his colleagues, he has served as Principal at Fairhill Elementary School and Camelot Elementary School. In addition, David served as Assistant Principal at Newington Forest Elementary School and Bailey's Elementary School. Of course, he first logged many an hour in the classroom. In fact, he almost broke the two-decade mark as a teacher, spending 18 years at the front of the class.

In his 15 years as Assistant Principal and Principal, David developed into a consummate administrator. His relationship with his staff is excellent, fostered by an open-door policy and consistent fair treatment. He is also known for his skill in finances, which will certainly be missed by the Fairfax Association of Elementary School Principals.

Above all, David commits himself to the school with all of his energy. As his staff warmly noted, "the school is like his home." At Camelot, he knows the names of every single student—all 500 of them! He personally greets the buses as they arrive at school every morning and says goodbye to them at night, thereby achieving a remarkable rapport with the students. David pitches in with any project in need of help, even the smallest jobs that are someone else's responsibility: he's been known to help the custodians with cleaning or painting. He will be greatly missed by his colleagues at Camelot Elementary and warmly remembered by all who were lucky enough to encounter him.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, it gives me great pleasure to extend my warmest congratulations to David Chubb for his continuing commitment to making a difference in children's lives through education. From his very first students, to the staff who speak so warmly of their supervisor, everyone touched by David Chubb's energy and commitment recalls him fondly and has benefited from his help. Fairfax County is grateful for his service and can only hope that our education system will continue to attract teachers and principals of his caliber. I call upon all my colleagues to join me in applauding David Chubb's remarkable career.

PETRI-KIND TEACHER VOLUNTARY
EARLY RETIREMENT INCENTIVE
ACT OF 2003

HON. THOMAS E. PETRI

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 30, 2003

Mr. PETRI. Mr. Speaker, today with my colleague from Wisconsin, RON KIND, I am introducing the Teacher Voluntary Early Retirement Incentive Act.

It is a common practice across the country for school districts to provide senior employees an opportunity or incentive to voluntarily retire before the age at which they could receive Medicare coverage and full retirement benefits from a state or municipal retirement system. These early retirement incentive plans, ERIPs, are truly a win-win proposition for school districts and employees. School districts are able to lower overall payroll costs and pass the savings on to early retirees in the form of greater retirement options and supplemental benefits. In a profession where many experience "burnout" before full retirement age, ERIPs are a highly valued option among teachers, retirees, and school boards.

Despite the popularity and mutual benefits of these plans, school districts in Wisconsin, Minnesota, and Iowa over the past several years have been threatened with age discrimination charges by the Equal Opportunity Employment Commission for their voluntary early retirement incentive plans, and many school districts in other states may be at risk for similar action. We do not believe that it was the intent of Congress that voluntary benefits, negotiated between unions and employers and offered to all employees who reach a certain age, should come under the definition of age discrimination. The Petri-Kind Teacher Voluntary Early Retirement Incentive Act of 2003 would clarify the Congress' intent by carving out an exemption in federal age discrimination law for voluntary early retirement plans offered to elementary and secondary school teachers, similar to the exemption that already exists for teachers in colleges and universities.

This bill will go a long way in clearing up the legal uncertainty surrounding voluntary ERIPs, thus making available greater retirement options for teachers and giving school districts more flexibility in managing their workforce.

HONORING ALMA MARTINEZ AND
HER THIRD-GRADE CLASS FROM
FENLEY-FLANDERS ELEMENTARY
SCHOOL

HON. CIRO D. RODRIGUEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 30, 2003

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. Mr. Speaker, educators from Fenley-Flanders Elementary, which is located in my Congressional district, have been preparing their third grade classes for the Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (TAKS) test. The Express News from San Antonio followed third grade teacher Alma Martinez and her eleven students as they prepared for the test, which they took on March 4, 2003. During Spring Break the results of the test came back, and an overwhelming majority

of Ms. Martinez's class passed the test, which allows them to advance onto fourth grade.

Starting this year, third graders will be among the 2 million elementary, middle and high school students taking a TAKS test. Students who do not pass the exam will have two more opportunities to pass the TAKS test.

I would personally like to congratulate Ms. Martinez and her third grade class on an outstanding job in the preparing for and taking the TAKS test and their advancement onto the fourth grade next year.

Schools are a reflection of our community and it takes everyone working together to make them quality institutions. The administration, teachers, staff, students and their families should be commended for their hard work and dedication in preparing the children of Fenley-Flanders Elementary for their performance on the TAKS tests.

CONGRATULATING UNITED
STATES CAPITOL POLICE ON
175TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 30, 2003

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I am an original co-sponsor of H. Con. Res. 156, honoring the men and women of the U.S. Capitol Police as they celebrate the 175th anniversary of the police force.

Congress established the Capitol Police during the administration of John Quincy Adams. Ponder how different the world was then, when the U.S. Congress was a young and largely untested deliberative body located in a relatively isolated town that was as much wilderness as it was settled territory.

In the last 175 years, the world has changed immeasurably, and so has the work of the Capitol Police.

Today the U.S. Capitol—which is simultaneously a national shrine, tourist attraction, and working office building—imposes extraordinary security requirements.

For example, more than three million tourists visited the Capitol complex in 2000. At the same time, the Capitol hosted more than 1,200 American and foreign dignitaries and 1,000 special events, and was the site of nearly 500 scheduled demonstrations. In addition to lawmakers and their staffs, a sizable number of journalists, concerned citizens, lobbyists, and service personnel also work within the Capitol complex.

To address these security requirements while keeping Congress as open and accessible as the Framers of the Constitution intended, the mission of the Capitol Police has expanded to provide the Congressional community and visitors with the highest possible quality of a full range of police services. These services are provided through the use of a variety of specialty support units and a network of foot patrols, vehicular patrols, and fixed posts.

In modern times, the Capitol Police have also had to cope with emergencies, bombings and shootings, including the tragic 1998 murders of Officer J.J. Chestnut and Detective John Gibson, that remain so painfully fresh in our memories.

After that tragic event, Congress properly heightened Capitol security, adopting a pos-

ture that requires considerable additional manpower. Recent events in the Middle East and elsewhere have obviously underscored the need for more officers and greater security. Fortunately, additional resources have been provided.

Congress has appropriated money to fund all the additional officers the Capitol Police can hire and train. Supplemental funds have also been provided to address needs identified since September 11, 2001.

Today, the Capitol Police face evolving threats from those who, for whatever reason, wish our country and our democracy harm. What was unthinkable only 18 months ago, has been done. We must remain vigilant and prepared as we work to rid the world of the scourge of terrorism and preserve and expand the promise of peace and democracy.

We will continue to rely on the Capitol Police as the first line of defense for the People's House and all who work and visit here.

The men and women of the Capitol Police meet their challenges with courage and a level of professionalism not exceeded anywhere. Since the dastardly attacks of September 11, and again after the heightened security level of the past few months, Capitol Police officers, under the able leadership of Chief Terrance Gainer, have worked long hours under adverse conditions. These men and women clearly represent the best that America has to offer.

I want to express my personal thanks for a job well done and wish the United States Capitol Police a sincere and happy 175th anniversary.

Mr. Speaker, I urge adoption of the H. Con. Res. 156.

COMMENDING THE CENTER FOR
RURAL HEALTH DEVELOPMENT
FOR WEST VIRGINIA

HON. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 30, 2003

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend an exceptional organization in West Virginia on its receipt of a prestigious certification of the U.S. Department of the Treasury.

The Center for Rural Health Development has been working since 1994 to make sure that West Virginians in rural communities have access to the highest standards of health care services. Its dedicated Board of Directors and professional staff have worked effectively to bring essential infrastructure, equipment, technical assistance, and skilled health care providers of all types to rural counties in our beloved State.

Ever mindful of the fact that a community's economic health is linked to the quality of its health care delivery system, the center has played a vital role in the growth and development of many rural and underserved areas, opening up opportunities for jobs, both in health care fields and in new businesses attracted to the high quality of life in West Virginia.

Its loan partners in the private sector and sponsors, including the Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Appalachian Regional Commission

and the State of West Virginia, have long recognized the financial expertise of the Center for Rural Health Development.

It is now my pleasure to note that the U.S. Department of the Treasury, through its Community Development Financial Institutions Fund, has certified the Center for Rural Health Development as a "Community Development Financial Institution". The CDFI designation is a testament to high standards of practice and exceptional results, and serves as a signal to financial markets and West Virginia communities that the confidence they place in the Center for Rural Health Development is well deserved.

I ask that my colleagues join me in commending the Center for Rural Health Development and its Director, Ms. Sharon Lansdale, on its CDFI certification, and in expressing our appreciation for the vital role they have played in the lives of so many West Virginians.

PROCLAMATION

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 30, 2003

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, on Saturday, May 3, 2003, the Chicago "DODO" Chapter of Tuskegee Airmen Incorporated, in concert with Black Pilots of America will honor three of aviation's pioneer women of color, Bessie Coleman, Willa Beatrice Brown and Janet Harmon;

Bessie Coleman journeyed to France in 1920 to enter the field of aviation, planning to return to America to open an aviation program for African Americans; and

Bessie Coleman died on April 30, 1926, while preparing for an air show to benefit the Negro Welfare League of Jacksonville, Florida;

In 1939, Willa B. Brown held a limited commercial pilot's license issued by the United States Commerce Department; and

Managed the Coffey School of Aeronautics, which was awarded a government contract to train the first group of African-American aviators, and was the first African-American woman to hold a United States Civil Air Patrol Commission;

Janet Harmon was one of the first African-American women to purchase an airplane, which she then made available to the Challenger Air Pilots Association for training purposes; and

Served as surrogate advisor to the first group of African-American aviation cadets for the United States Army Air Force;

Now, therefore be it resolved that I, Danny K. Davis, duly elected by the people of the Illinois 7th Congressional District, do hereby join with the "DODO" Chapter of Tuskegee Airmen Incorporated, in concert with Black Pilots of America hereby proclaim;

Saturday, May 3, 2003, to be the day we celebrate as Aviation Pioneer Women of Color Day in Chicago and all over America; and urge all people to take note of the pioneering contributions to aviation made by these women of color;

Done, this 3rd day of May, 2003.