

society they were defending. They showed the best of America, and we are all so proud of their accomplishments. I am privileged to count one of them among my neighbors on the Central Coast of California.

TRIBUTE TO DR. DAVID BENSON,  
SUPERINTENDENT OF THE BLUE  
VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT IN  
JOHNSON COUNTY, KS

**HON. DENNIS MOORE**

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 2, 2004*

Mr. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor today to recognize Dr. David Benson, who is retiring this month as superintendent of the Blue Valley School District in the Third Congressional District of Kansas. Since 1993, Dr. Benson has led this outstanding school district, which has experienced exponential growth in facilities and in students. All the while, the district has continued to score exceptionally on all standardized tests and by any other measure of school excellence is one of our nation's outstanding school districts. I am lucky to represent in Congress some of the best schools in the United States, and many, many of them are in the Blue Valley District.

During his time at Blue Valley, the district has grown by 8,000 students. This phenomenal growth required two successful bond campaigns, led by Dr. Benson, and the construction of two new high schools, four middle schools, and six elementary schools. A seventh elementary school will open next fall. During Dr. Benson's tenure, the average growth in Blue Valley enrollment was larger than the total enrollment of most Kansas school districts!

During his years at Blue Valley, the district developed new programs, including foreign language programs for all elementary schools, a broadcast technology program, a new Wilderness Science Center (with wetlands and prairie environments), an alternative high school program, and a program to teach independent living skills to students 18 to 21 with moderate to severe disabilities.

In 2001, Dr. Benson was named Kansas Superintendent of the Year by the Kansas Association of School Administrators. In 2000, he was selected as Communicator of the Year by the Kansas School Public Relations Association. His leadership extends beyond the education community. Recognizing the importance of the business community's support for public education, Dr. Benson has served as a board member for the Greater Kansas City and Overland Park Chambers of Commerce, and also served as president of United Community Services in 1999 and 2000.

Dr. Benson began his career teaching high school in Joplin, Missouri. He has served in various capacities in Salina, Moundridge, Junction City, and Kingman, Kansas, school districts; and also served as superintendent in both Fort Madison, Iowa, and Moundridge, Kansas. I know each of these districts has benefited from this outstanding public educator.

I wish Dr. Benson and his wife Donni the very best in their new community. While Dr. Benson will be missed by all students, teach-

ers, staff, and patrons of Blue Valley, the district will continue under the excellent leadership of Dr. Tom Trigg, currently the Deputy Superintendent of Administrative Services for Blue Valley.

## FALLEN HEROES

SPEECH OF

**HON. SUSAN A. DAVIS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 20, 2004*

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an amazing generation of Americans, a generation that possessed both the courage and the strength to defend the United States against its fiercest enemies.

I refer, of course, to those who served our great nation during World War II, the brave Americans who stormed the beaches of Europe and who fought to defend our territories in the South Pacific.

Just this weekend, Mr. Speaker, we gave our World War II veterans the commemoration they earned and deserve with the dedication of a new memorial on the National Mall.

Visiting this new monument in person made me think about all of the great sacrifices this generation made on our behalf.

Mr. Speaker, I can only imagine the enormous pressure they faced. The Japanese had already sunk some of our greatest battleships and were gaining ground in the Pacific and across Asia.

German and Italian forces were marching across Western Europe and were gaining ground against our allies.

With the goal of world dominance, the freedoms and liberties of the United States were in jeopardy like never before.

We would have to defeat some of the most powerful military forces in history if we were to keep our independence intact and to prevent a new era of tyranny around the world.

Despite this intense pressure and the great dangers before them, our young men signed up by the thousands and were willing to take on any task no matter what the risk.

They would fight in heroic battles and many of them would never return home or would spend a lifetime with severe injuries.

Working closely with my veterans in San Diego, I have heard firsthand accounts of the heroics on the battlefield and what our young men had to endure to win the war, including one who survived the attack on Pearl Harbor, another who fought in the famous Battle for Midway, and one who was held as a prisoner of war by the Japanese for several years.

We achieved victory only because these service members were willing to fight and willing to do whatever it took to win. We must also not forget the others who were crucial to our great victory.

Women were not eligible for full military status at the time, but this did not prevent them from making vast contributions. Women worked as laborers, engineers, and managers to produce the equipment our soldiers relied upon in the battlefield.

Women also put themselves directly in harm's way by working as medical personnel in battle zones.

Women performed so well and were so crucial to our victory, the War Department would

soon establish women's corps in the different branches leading to full military status for them.

We also broke stiff racial barriers during World War II. The Tuskegee Airmen, a squad of African-American pilots, were among the most elite who flew during the war and are credited with contributing to the desegregation of the Air Force.

We must also remember those from other nations who took up arms for the United States—specifically the Filipino veterans who fought alongside American soldiers in the Pacific.

As we dedicate the World War II Monument on our National Mall and celebrate the 60th Anniversary of D-Day, I hope we will remember the commitment by all of those who were crucial to our victory. Please join me in paying tribute to those who would become known as the "Greatest Generation."

## FALLEN HEROES

SPEECH OF

**HON. CHARLES W. STENHOLM**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 20, 2004*

Mr. STENHOLM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of our military troops fighting for liberty in Iraq and Afghanistan. As we celebrated Memorial Day this past weekend, it is fitting to remember not only those heroes who have passed on, but also those who promote freedom around the world today.

I also want to take this opportunity to remember the fine young men of the 17th District of Texas who made the ultimate sacrifice for us all in Iraq and Afghanistan. They made the ultimate sacrifice in defense of freedom and liberty, and I extend my condolences to their families and loved ones. Today I honor:

Lt. Nathan White of Abilene, Texas;  
Chief Warrant Officer Scott Jamar of Granbury, Texas;  
Sgt. Roy Wood of Graham, Texas;  
Lt. Doyle Hufstедler of Abilene, Texas;  
Lance Corporal Elias Torres of Grape Creek, Texas;  
Staff Sergeant Rene Ledesma of Abilene, Texas.

These men are patriots, and I salute them and thank them and their families for their priceless sacrifice.

This Memorial Day, we were especially aware of the sacrifices made by the Greatest Generation, those men and women who fought and won the most important war in our history. Last weekend, we opened a memorial to these brave men and women in a prominent location on the National Mall in Washington, D.C., in a grand setting that befits the strong and indomitable nature of these true heroes.

The veterans of World War II earned their greatness through their blood and sacrifice for a global conflict that destroyed the ambitions of tyrannical regimes. Our soldiers' dedication to country, to freedom, and to duty persevered over frightening threats to our society and way of life.

The Greatest Generation fought against these threats with the best qualities that America had to offer—courage, strength, determination, resourcefulness, fearlessness, and independence. They fought against those who

would steal our freedom and replace our way of life with blind obedience enforced by secret police and fear. Today's soldiers are fighting an enemy with similar goals. Our soldiers are fighting an enemy that would take our freedoms through acts of terror and fear. But these enemies cannot defeat our indomitable spirit and our love of freedom. Our enemies cannot and will not defeat us.

This is not the first time that the United States and her allies have gone into a country representing freedom. As we remember the Greatest Generation we certainly recall the epic D-Day Invasion during World War II when we asked our military—today's distinguished veterans—to place themselves in danger to liberate Europe from the occupation of Nazi Germany. We did not ask for much in return when our troops were victorious.

And our World War II troops did not ask for much from America when they returned home. Most of them did not return to hometown parades, they just returned to their everyday, pre-war lives, even though they had not seen their loved ones in several years. In return for all they had given up, they simply came home, desiring that the world would remain free. We helped Europe, the West, and Japan rebuild under democratic principles, and today we see the fruits of that labor. We have the golden opportunity to do that for Iraq, to help them rebuild into a free country after years of tyranny.

I give my thanks, respect and gratitude to today's military who will be tomorrow's veterans. These individuals represent the long and distinguished tradition of our armed forces as exemplified by the Greatest Generation. Our current service men and women can look to those who came before them as examples of honor and courage, the very lifeblood and creed of the military, and the principles that will always carry the United States to victory.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. SAM JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 2, 2004*

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I missed votes on May 19 and 20, 2004. The following is an explanation on how I would have voted had I been present:

Rollcall No. 191 "Yes," Previous question—budget rule.

Rollcall No. 192 "Yes," Adoption of the budget rule.

Rollcall No. 193 "Yes," Previous question—DOD rule.

Rollcall No. 194 "Yes," Adoption of the DOD rule.

Rollcall No. 195 "Yes," H. Con. Res. 424—Memorial Day resolution.

Rollcall No. 196 "Yes," Goode amendment (DOD) military on border.

Rollcall No. 197 "No," Davis (CA) amendment—abortion.

Rollcall No. 200 "Yes," Kennedy (MN) amendment—BRAC delay.

Rollcall No. 201 "Yes," Weldon (PA) amendment—destroying Abu Ghraib.

Rollcall No. 202 "Yes," Slaughter amendment—sexual assaults policy.

Rollcall No. 203 "Yes," Tauscher amendment to H.R. 4200—bunker buster.

Rollcall No. 204 "Yes," Ryun amendment to H.R. 4200—Taiwan training programs.

Rollcall No. 205 "No," Democrat motion to recommit.

Rollcall No. 206 "Yes," DOD final passage.

Rollcall No. 207 "Yes," S. 2092—Taiwan in the World Health Organization.

Rollcall No. 208 "Yes," H.R. 4359—Child tax credit.

#### TRIBUTE TO SHEILA LOCKWOOD

### HON. JAMES L. OBERSTAR

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 2, 2004*

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on a bittersweet mission—to honor a most cherished staff member, Ms. Sheila Lockwood, on her retirement from the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee.

Sheila began her federal government service career in Washington as a clerk-typist for the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). After six years at HUD, Sheila joined the staff of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

For the past 24 years, Sheila has served the Members of the Committee and its staff with grace under pressure, uncommon ability, and an irreverent style that endeared her to all. She has worked for six different Chairmen and Ranking Democratic Members including Harold "Bizz" Johnson, Jim Howard, Glenn Anderson, Bob Roe, Norm Mineta, and me. She has held many titles and roles—staff assistant, assistant office manager, assistant to the Chief Counsel, executive staff assistant, office manager, and systems administrator—to name but a few.

But titles have never mattered to Sheila; helping people and completing the job have. From Chairman of the Committee to the unpaid intern, she has always been available to help. She has been the glue that has held our Committee and its staff together and we truly appreciate her many important contributions.

Sheila has spent many years supporting our legislative staff in the preparation of documents, charts, tables, and statements. She has the innate ability to create easy-to-read materials that enable Members to read documents and charts and quickly discern the critical information. Having worked for the Full Committee for so many years, she has seen it all and always found a way to get it done.

In addition, although she began her career with the Committee using a typewriter, Sheila always served as our in-house systems administrator. With each new computer program, Sheila became the expert to whom all would appeal with any computer problem or question, of which there are always many. From Word 11 to Microsoft Word, she always had the answer—and the patience to explain it.

One prime example of both Sheila's can-do work ethic and considerable computer skills was her work on the Committee's Democratic Web site. Several years ago, we needed to find a way to more efficiently update our Committee's Democratic Web site. We wanted to be able to provide the public with immediate access to the Democratic position on Committee issues and legislation. Sheila took it upon herself to become our "Web diva", as she would say, teaching herself how to post information on the site. Over time, she redesigned the site to make it more user-friendly

and to enable users to conduct searches for issues. Within the past four years, the site has received more than 50,000 hits and has become an essential tool for the transportation community.

Sheila's greatest contribution to the Committee flowed from her personal qualities—her genially irreverent style, her interest in her colleagues, and her absolute grace under pressure. Sheila started each day with the theme song to her favorite TV show, Hawaii Five-O, and, after her dance to the song, her "complaining" began—she made us all laugh. She genuinely cares about her colleagues and has always been there to help. In essence, Sheila has simply made the Committee a much better place in which to work.

Mr. Speaker, after 30 years of public service, Sheila returns home to Woodland Park, Colorado, to have the opportunity to spend more time with her beloved family, especially her mother. She carries with her our gratitude for her service, and our prayers for good health and happiness in the many years ahead.

#### HONORING RAYMOND T. WHITE

### HON. PETER DEUTSCH

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 2, 2004*

Mr. DEUTSCH. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to Raymond T. White. Mr. White is stepping down from his outstanding service to veteran advocacy, and his work deserves our respect, gratitude, and admiration.

Mr. White's commitment to veteran affairs is rooted by his own service to this country. In 1953, he enlisted in the U.S. Air Force to fight in the Korean conflict. His tenure is marked with distinction, and he served as a combat air policeman, a forerunner of the Green Berets. He completed his tour at Mitchell Field, Long Island, and there began his family with his wife, Roberta.

This week, Mr. White relinquishes his duties as commander of the Jewish War Veterans of the United States of America, Department of Florida. He has also served in similar capacities over the past 20 years with veteran organizations such as the American Legion and the Disabled American Veterans. In addition, Mr. White's civic commitment led him to serve as Mayor of New Hyde Park Gardens, NY, in addition to his tenure as Chief of Police in Albertain, NY.

I am happy that Mr. White will enjoy this day in the company of his wife, five children, and nine grandchildren. I am reassured that Mr. White's service to his fellow soldiers has been returned in blessings with a bountiful family.

#### AMERICAN LUNG ASSOCIATION CELEBRATES 100TH ANNIVERSARY

### HON. PATRICK J. KENNEDY

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 2, 2004*

Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island. Mr. Speaker, this year, the American Lung Association proudly celebrates their 100th Anniversary. On this momentous occasion, I would like to recognize this organization for their invaluable