

his life and six years ago moved to San Juan Capistrano. His immediate devotion and commitment to San Juan Capistrano was evident in his leadership as Mayor in 2003 and his service as Chairman of the City's Redevelopment Agency.

Community members remark on his love for the city and charitable organizations, such as the American Diabetes Association's South Orange County Walk and his service on the Orange County Library Commission. His accomplishments during his short time as a city councilmember include the prevention of a second railroad track in town, the prevention of a San Diego Gas & Electric electrical substation being located in the City, and working with the Orange County Transportation Authority to make traffic improvements along the San Diego Freeway corridor.

In 2000, my congressional district changed to include part of San Juan Capistrano and immediately I was impressed with John's passion and commitment to his community. San Juan Capistrano is undoubtedly a better place because of John Gelff's contributions. His leadership and energy will be truly missed.

SHORT-CHANGING THE U.S. POSTAL SERVICE IN PREVENTING BIOTERRORISM THROUGH THE MAIL

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 4, 2004

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, the discovery of ricin in the Dirksen Senate Office Building, and the resulting closure of all three Senate office buildings, is an unfortunate and disturbing reminder of our mail system's vulnerability to terrorism. As the Representative of the 12th District of New Jersey, my concern on this matter is heightened because of our area's direct experience with the anthrax attacks of 2001. At least one of the anthrax-tainted letters mailed to Capitol Hill was sent from a postal drop box in Princeton, New Jersey and processed at a sorting facility in Hamilton, New Jersey. Anthrax spores were also discovered in my Washington, D.C. office, which resulted in my congressional office—and several others—being relocated for three months.

I rise today to express my profound disappointment that our federal government seems to have learned very little from these incidents. I am concerned that the United States Postal Service (USPS) has not received adequate funding to protect postal employees and the general public from the risk of bio-terrorism in the Fiscal Year 2005 budget that President Bush delivered to Congress two days ago. Specifically, I am troubled that the USPS was denied emergency preparedness funding in Fiscal Year 2004, and would be denied again in the President's Fiscal Year 2005 budget request. This continued lack of funding leaves the United States Postal Service ill-equipped to defend against bioterrorism.

A safe postal delivery system is critical not only for our homeland security, but also for our economic security. Only sustained, significant investment in our postal system will ensure that we are prepared to prevent, detect, and respond to bio-terrorism through the mail. I will be writing to President Bush to recon-

sider this oversight and provide the USPS with funding for this important initiative.

RECOGNIZING STATE SENATOR JOHN L. BURTON OF CALIFORNIA

HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 4, 2004

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, I stand today to recognize State Senator John L. Burton of California.

A bellwether in American politics, Senator Burton authored policy at the state and federal levels for 30 years. Prior to being elected to the California State Senate in 1996, Senator Burton served as a Member of Congress from 1974 to 1983. Elected President Pro Tempore of the California State Senate in 1998, he proudly represents the 3rd Senatorial District, encompassing the City of San Francisco and other Bay Area counties. He also serves as Chair of the Rules Committee and is a member of other powerful panels such as the Appropriations, Constitutional Amendments, Public Safety, and Revenue and Taxation Committees.

Under his leadership, Senator Burton has improved the lives of millions of Californians by authoring legislation that ranges from education to health care. He has made college accessible for thousands of low-income students, by guaranteeing Cal Grant scholarships of \$9,700 for students who meet the GPA requirements. In the first state budget enacted during his time as President Pro Tempore, he revived cost of living adjustments and increased benefits for the elderly, disabled, and welfare-dependent mothers. In the latest budget, he ensured that mental health services and juvenile crime prevention programs receive high levels of financial support. In addition, Senator Burton has spearheaded legislation that allows the use of DNA testing to improve criminal investigations, strengthen child support collection and reform the campaign monetary system.

During his illustrious political career, Senator Burton has received numerous honors by eminent organizations and institutions. Some of his past recognitions include: Legislator of the Year by the California Association of Mental Health Patients' Rights Advocates, the California State University Lifetime Achievement Award, and the Sean McBride Award for Human Rights Work.

Well into his seventies, Senator John L. Burton continues to work hard for the people of California. He is a tireless and relentless leader, who I believe exemplifies the excellence in leadership today.

HONORING THE HARLANDALE HIGH SCHOOL CHEERLEADERS

HON. CIRO D. RODRIGUEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 4, 2004

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to recognize the Harlandale High School Cheerleaders as the 2003 National Cheerleading Association's Senior and Junior

High School National Champions. In addition to this great accomplishment, this star team also placed first in the Large Co-ed Division and won the Innovative Choreography Award.

Angie Pina, cheer director, Delilah Loreda, captain, and Felicia Campos, co-captain, deserve praise for leading and motivating the squad to such a high level of accomplishment. Their hard work and athletic ability have made this team an impressive success, and their tireless dedication has been well rewarded. Not only am I proud of the team, but also of each individual member for her commitment to achieving such high goals. They have set a new standard for achievement.

As an alumnus of Harlandale High School, I would like to thank these students for bringing acclaim to Harlandale and keeping the school spirit strong. I know they will continue to excel this year and in their future endeavors—both in athletics and academic studies.

HONORING CURTIS MANCINI

HON. PETER DEUTSCH

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 4, 2004

Mr. DEUTSCH. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to commemorate the contributions of Curtis Mancini of Davie, Florida. Curtis was among the seven U.S. soldiers killed on January 29 while serving in Afghanistan. He had served as a Davie police officer for 17 years and had been serving in Afghanistan for a year as a reservist.

Curtis was a soldier's soldier. His father, Commander Sergeant Major John Mancini of Rhode Island had served in the Army for 35 years and remembers Curtis saying he served now so that his children and other people's children would not need to later. Curtis had been promoted to sergeant first class, assigned to the 2nd Battalion Infantry, 10th Mountain Division and shipped off to Afghanistan on January 5. He served as a positive role model and longtime instructor at the Institute of Public Safety. Between 1989 and 2000, Curtis served on a drug task force in the U.S. DEA in Fort Lauderdale and upon returning to Davie, he became a training instructor. Friends and family remember Curtis as an avid sportsman, a brilliant instructor and dedicated father. He enjoyed running marathons, most recently the Walt Disney World marathon and ran 45 miles weekly.

In 2000, Curtis said in a Miami Herald interview, "It's better to burn out than fade away." This was the type of man Curtis was.

Curtis is survived by his three children, his former wife, and countless colleagues, friends and family.

RECOGNIZING THE DENTISTS OF CHESTER COUNTY FOR THEIR PARTICIPATION IN "GIVE KIDS A SMILE!" DAY

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 4, 2004

Mr. GERLACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the dentists in my district, as well as

those throughout the nation, who will be participating this week in the "Give Kids a Smile!" program.

On Friday, February 6, 2004, the nation's dentists are providing free oral health care services to thousands of low-income children across the country. The ADA's second annual "Give Kids a Smile!" national children's dental access day, during National Children's Dental Health Month, will enhance the oral health of large numbers of needy children. The "Give Kids a Smile!" initiative is designed to nationally promote the numerous charitable edu-

cation, screening, prevention and comprehensive treatment programs already in existence by having many of them coordinated and occurring on the same day. At the same time, the campaign has provided a framework for identifying, cataloging and recognizing the many access programs that take place throughout the year.

In Chester County, Pennsylvania over 30 local dentists will be doing their part to provide a wide range of dental services for underserved children. These dentists and their staff members will be volunteering their time in the

dental clinic at the Community Volunteers in Medicine (CVIM) facility in West Chester. They will be providing much-needed free dental care to between 75 and 100 uninsured or underinsured children in the County.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in recognizing the dentists in Chester County, as well as those throughout our country, who are volunteering their time and services so nobly on Friday to provide dental care to thousands of uninsured and underinsured children.