

board member and chairman of the Missouri Corn Merchandising Council and a board member of the Missouri Corn Growers Association. He also serves as Vice President of Mid-Missouri Energy, Inc., a producer-owned ethanol plant that is currently rising from the fields of Saline County, Missouri. Don was instrumental in reaching out to farmers throughout central Missouri to create Mid-Missouri Energy, Inc.

In addition to his positions in agriculture, Don is active in his community and is a man who cares deeply for his family. Since 1964, he has been a member of the Waverly Jaycees and since 1985 has been a member of the Waverly Lions Club, serving as president of both organizations. Don is a member of the Waverly Rural Fire Department and has served on the board for Lafayette County Regional Health Center for 12 years. Don has also served on the Carrollton Country Club board of directors and held the office of president of the board. Don is a member of St. Peter Catholic Church in Marshall, Missouri, and a member of the Knights of Columbus.

Don and his late wife Donna Lieser were married in Dover, Missouri, in 1964, and have two children and three grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, through the years, I have been lucky to know Don Arth as a friend. He is truly an expert in Show-Me State agriculture and a role model for young Missourians. As he prepares to retire from these agricultural boards and to dedicate more time to his community and his family, I know that all members of the House will join me in paying tribute to this outstanding American.

TRIBUTE TO LTC (RET.) K. PAUL LEGRICE

HON. JIM SAXTON

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 14, 2004

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to LTC (Ret.) K. Paul LeGrice as he prepares to retire as the Director of Force Projection, United States Army, Fort Dix, New Jersey, effective September 30, 2004.

A true patriot, Paul tirelessly supported this nation's military through both his service in the military and as a key Department of the Army Civilian. He enlisted in the United States Army in 1962 and later received his commission in 1965. In February 1993, after serving 30 years in enlisted and officer status, Paul retired as a Lieutenant Colonel and began his service as the Director of Force Projection Directorate, Fort Dix, New Jersey.

In his role as Director, he constantly demonstrated his unparalleled ability to accomplish complex tasks in an outstanding fashion through his untiring diligence, uncanny foresight and exceptionally noteworthy leadership. His response to the events of September 11, 2001, demonstrated his true mettle. Paul provided the even-tempered, professional leadership required as Fort Dix successfully mobilized over 30,000 soldiers for both OCONUS combat missions and CONUS support missions in support of Operations Enduring Freedom, Iraqi Freedom and Noble Eagle.

As Ft. Dix continued its role as a major power projection platform, Paul took very personally his responsibility to ensure proper sup-

port of the mobilizing and demobilizing soldiers. Additionally, he constantly sought ways to improve and expand upon the Joint Installation Partnership between Ft. Dix, McGuire Air Force Base, and Naval Air Engineering Station Lakehurst to better serve our nation's military personnel. These joint installation projects all proved advantageous to the three bases and their personnel by efficiently consolidating activities while saving valuable tax dollars.

Thus, I am pleased to recognize the efforts and accomplishments of this outstanding American patriot. I congratulate and thank LTC (Ret.) K. Paul LeGrice for his 42 years of selfless service to this nation and wish him a happy retirement.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GEORGE R. NETHERCUTT, JR.

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 14, 2004

Mr. NETHERCUTT. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, September 13, I was unavoidably detained due to a prior obligation. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall vote No. 441 to suspend the rules and agree, as amended, to H. Con. Res. 363; "yea" on rollcall vote No. 442 to suspend the rules and agree to H. Res. 667; and "yea" on rollcall vote No. 443 to suspend the rules and agree to H. Res. 760.

TRIBUTE TO MR. CHARLES STRANG

HON. HENRY E. BROWN, JR.

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 14, 2004

Mr. BROWN of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. Charles "Chuck" Strang, who on September 29, 2004, will mark 20 years of service with the Servicemembers' and Veterans' Group Life Insurance programs. Chuck is the director of the Office of Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance (OSGLI), the office established by the Prudential Insurance Company of America to administer VA's Servicemembers' and Veterans' Group Life Insurance programs (SGLI and VGLI).

Following the example set by his family's military service, Chuck served in the U.S. Army from 1966 through 1969. Trained as a Communication Center Specialist, he spent his entire military career in Nuremberg, Germany. In 1982, he earned an Associate's Degree in Occupational Studies with a major in Life and Health Insurance from The College of Insurance in New York City.

Chuck's distinguished career with OSGLI began on September 24, 1984, as the manager of New Business and Insurance Services. Through various managerial positions, he became a recognized authority on the many details of veterans' insurance programs, and was promoted to Director in 1993.

Chuck's accomplishments at OSGLI are many. Some noteworthy program enhancements he has overseen include: an increase in servicemembers' insurance coverage from \$35,000 to \$250,000; the addition of insurance

coverage for family members; reductions in premiums for each of the veterans' insurance programs; and allowing terminally ill insureds to receive up to 50 percent of their Servicemembers' or Veterans Group Life Insurance coverage in a lump sum.

Through nationwide toll-free telephone service, Internet access to personal accounts, design and installation of updated computer systems, and imaging capabilities, Chuck has instituted changes that have improved service to policyholders and their families.

Mr. Speaker, I have spent all my life in the business world and it is evident to me that owing to Chuck Strang and the Office of Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance, VA's SGLI and VGLI insurance programs are two of the best-managed in the government. I am pleased to pay tribute to Chuck's professionalism and dedication to our Nation's servicemembers, veterans, and their families.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 14, 2004

Mr. CARTER. Mr. Speaker, during rollcall votes No. 441, H. Con. Res. 363, the Human rights/civil liberties violations by Syria, 442, H. Res. 667, the Expressing support for freedom in Hong Kong, and 443, H. Res. 760, the Condemning the terrorist attacks in Russia, I was unavoidably detained. If I had been present, I would have voted "yea."

A TRIBUTE TO THE RANCHO SANTA FE HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S 20TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. RANDY "DUKE" CUNNINGHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 14, 2004

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate the Rancho Santa Fe Historical Society on their 20th Anniversary, commemorating two decades of public service. The Society dedicates itself to preserving and documenting local history; while educating members of the community and visitors on such matters.

The Rancho Santa Fe Historical Society received national attention for its World War II Veterans Oral History Project. The Society also published a book, *Rancho Santa Fe: A California Village*, which was just printed in its fifth edition. The book captures the distinctive beauty and the architectural quality of one of California's first planned communities through early and contemporary photographs.

In 1989 Rancho Santa Fe was designated a California State Historic Landmark. The Society provides educational tours and lectures to students of all ages, and graciously offers their archives to researchers. Also, via the Architectural Review Committee, the Society offers expertise and advice on the preservation of historical homes.

Mr. Speaker, I am delighted to share with you the contributions and accomplishments of the Rancho Santa Fe Historical Society. Their enthusiasm and earnest efforts over the past

20 years have contributed greatly to the community of Rancho Santa Fe.

REBUILD LIVES AND FAMILIES
RE-ENTRY ENHANCEMENT ACT
OF 2004

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 14, 2004

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to introduce the Rebuild Lives and Families Re-Entry Enhancement Act of 2004. This legislation will be the next important step in establishing policy to help the men and women emerging from our Nation's prisons and jails re-integrate into society and rebuild their lives.

While our national crime rates have fallen over the last decade, we have seen an unprecedented explosion in our prison and jail populations. Over two million prisoners are now held in Federal and State prisons and local jails. Each year, approximately 650,000 people return to their communities following a prison or jail sentence, resulting in more than 6.7 million under some form of criminal justice supervision.

Reentry refers to the return of incarcerated individuals from America's jails and prisons to the community and their reintegration into society. There is a pressing need to provide these individuals with the education and training necessary to obtain and hold onto steady jobs, undergo drug treatment, and get medical and mental health services. However, they are confronted with the "prison after imprisonment"—a plethora of seemingly endless obstacles and impediments which stymie successful re-integration into society. These obstacles have substantially contributed to the historically high rate of recidivism, with two-thirds of returning prisoners having been re-arrested for new crimes within 3 years.

This legislation is designed to assist high-risk, high-need offenders who have served their prison sentences, but who pose the greatest risk of reoffending upon release because they lack the education, job skills, stable family or living arrangements, and the substance abuse treatment and other mental and medical health services they need to successfully reintegrate into society. Title I of the bill reauthorizes and enhances our early adult and juvenile reentry programs to broaden the availability of critical ex-offender services, while Title II addresses the substantive federal barriers to successful reentry. Both titles include provisions requiring that the funded programs be rigorously evaluated and the results widely disseminated, so that reentry programs can be modified as needed, to ensure that recidivism is reduced and public safety enhanced.

A recent study by Peter D. Hart Research Associates reveals that Americans strongly favor rehabilitation and reentry programs as the best method of insuring public safety. With this changing paradigm in public opinion, the opportunity is ripe to sensibly reassess the role and impact of criminal justice policies. This legislation translates this emerging public perception into balanced policies and procedures which dismantle the structural impediments to successful reintegration into society.

TRIBUTE TO MR. JOEL D.
HEDENSTROM

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 14, 2004

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, let me take this means to honor and pay tribute to Mr. Joel D. Hedenstrom who retired September 3, 2004, from the United States Army Training and Doctrine Command at Fort Monroe, Virginia, after more than 35 years of service to our Nation.

Mr. Hedenstrom served in the United States Army from 1969 until 1973 with the United States Army Military Personnel Center in Alexandria, Virginia. His military service included an assignment with the Office of the Secretary of Defense to support a study-group that established the Survivor Benefit Plan.

Following his military service, he resumed duties with the United States Military Personnel Center, in a civilian capacity. He later accepted a position with the Secretary of the Army's Chief of Legislative Liaison, where he subsequently became a team chief and carried an additional duty as the Congressional point of contact for mass casualties.

In 1988, Mr. Hedenstrom was selected to serve as Congressional Affairs Specialist for the United States Army Training and Doctrine Command. Mr. Hedenstrom displayed the highest level of expertise in his field and was respected throughout the Command and the Department of the Army for his sound guidance and advice.

In recognition of his dedicated service, he was awarded the Meritorious Civilian Service Award for his outstanding performance of duties. I commend Mr. Hedenstrom for 35 years of honorable service to the Nation and the United States Army and wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO MR. CECIL BROOKS III

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 14, 2004

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a cultural innovator in my district, Mr. Cecil Brooks III. A world renowned jazz artist, drummer, band leader, composer, arranger, and record producer, Mr. Brooks and his wife Adreana have recently established a jazz club in West Orange. Opening in late June 2003, Cecil's is quickly establishing a reputation as one of the most prestigious addresses in northern New Jersey.

Mr. Brooks is responsible for bringing internationally acclaimed entertainers to our community, including renowned jazz saxophonist Don Braden and American comic legend Bill Cosby.

Mr. Brooks achieved international prominence as a Goodwill Ambassador, and is considered one of the most popular and innovative figures in the world of modern jazz, as well one of the most prolific record producers and band leaders on the scene today. He has been credited with numerous recordings which have been ranked in the Top Ten of the Gavin National Radio Airplay Chart and has worked

for several labels including Muse and Highnote/Savant records.

He has been recognized in the Downbeat Magazine Critic's Poll as "Producer Deserving Wider Recognition," and has performed on world tour with jazz icons such as Houston Person and Etta James, Pharoah Sanders, Stanley Turrentine, the Mingus Dynasty Big Band, the Dizzy Gillespie Reunion Band, and was the drummer for The Bill Cosby Show.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in extending my thanks to my neighbors Cecil and Adreana Brooks for their contributions to the civic and cultural life of our community, and I invite my colleagues to join me in sending our congratulations for their outstanding achievements which celebrate jazz, the truly American art form, and have brought such positive recognition to the city of West Orange.

DEPARTMENTS OF LABOR,
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES,
AND EDUCATION, AND RELATED
AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS
ACT, 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. BENJAMIN L. CARDIN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 9, 2004

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5006) making appropriations for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2005, and for other purposes:

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. Chairman, each year the Labor-HHS-Education appropriations bill is one of the most difficult measures for this body to complete. One reason is that it is often the costliest of our spending bills. Another is that the programs it funds are the most critical to the well-being of our citizens.

I want to thank the members of the Appropriations Committee, particularly Chairman YOUNG, Ranking Member OBEY, and Subcommittee Chairman REGULA for their hard work on this measure, particularly in light of the budgetary limitations on what we can accomplish for many vital domestic programs.

I am pleased that the House has increased by \$22 million the bill's funding for the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), and I want to thank the gentleman from Vermont, Mr. SANDERS, for his leadership and my colleagues on both sides of the aisle for their support of his amendment.

I also want to thank Mr. OBEY for his leadership on the key issue of overtime pay. American workers deserve to be paid fairly for the work they perform, and I am proud that the House has voted to eliminate damaging aspects of the Labor Department's rule.

This is a bill that in many ways improves upon the President's budget proposals, and I intend to support it. However, I am concerned about the low funding levels in several areas that I hope can be improved upon in conference.

In the area of education, this bill does not do enough for our Nation's elementary and secondary school students. In my home state of Maryland, more than 100 schools do not