

RECOGNIZING THE SONOMA
INDEX-TRIBUNE NEWSPAPER

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 6, 2004

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the Sonoma Index-Tribune Newspaper, which has been selected as the Business of the Year by the Sonoma Valley Chamber of Commerce.

Over its 125 year history, this family-owned newspaper has won hundreds of national, state and local awards: including First Place for Best Local News Coverage by the National Newspaper Association in 2004, the Environmental Business Award from the Sonoma Ecology Center in 2003–2004, the Howard Grothe Award for Progressive Contributions to Newspaper Advertising from the California Newspaper Advertising Executives Association in 2002, the James Madison Freedom of Information Award for Investigative Journalism from the California Newspaper Advertising Executives Association in 2001, the Lincoln Stephens Investigative Reporting award from Sonoma State University and the Sonoma County Press Club in 2001, the Justice F. Craemer Newspaper Executive of the Year Award to Bill Lynch from the California Press Association in 2001, the Sonoma Valley Hospital Foundation Award in 2001 and the Community Partnership Award from the Sonoma Valley Education Foundation in 1999.

The Index-Tribune was selected to receive this award not only because of its journalistic excellence but also because the paper and the Lynch Family contribute to the community in many other ways.

The newspaper has been an exemplary employer and has been a training ground for many fine journalists throughout its history.

Over the years the paper has contributed hundreds of thousands of dollars of free advertising space to non-profit organizations serving the Sonoma Valley. CEO and President Bill Lynch and his brother, CFO and Publisher Jim Lynch have personally contributed countless hours to a variety of community organizations, including the Hanna Boys Center, the Valley of the Moon Boys and Girls Club, Sonoma Valley Hospital, Field of Dreams, Maxwell Park and the Chamber of Commerce.

Mr. Speaker, through its industry excellence, its community involvement and its employment practices, the Sonoma Index-Tribune has earned a position of prestige in the Sonoma Valley. It is appropriate for us today to honor Bill and Jim Lynch, the paper and its many employees both past and present.

HONORING MAJOR GENERAL RICHARD D. MURRAY USAF (RET) ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT AS PRESIDENT OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF UNIFORMED SERVICES

HON. STEVE BUYER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 6, 2004

Mr. BUYER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor a great American patriot and tireless

worker on behalf of our military, veterans and dependents.

Major General Richard D. Murray, USAF (Ret), is retiring as the President of the National Association for Uniformed Services (NAUS), an association that he has led for the last six years. In and out of uniform, General Murray has displayed longstanding dedication to our great country in a career that spans over 50 years. For over a half century, General Murray has championed countless causes on behalf of the people who comprise the military community.

I first met General Murray just after his arrival at NAUS in 1998 where he immediately reiterated NAUS' emphasis on improving the military health system. He aggressively sought changes in law that would ensure that active duty and military retirees receive the high-quality healthcare that they earned. Despite stiff opposition from the Department of Defense, General Murray pressed hard for the government to honor the lifetime medical care promise and for the Department of Defense to implement a realistic pharmacy benefit for its Medicare-eligible beneficiaries, initiatives that I strongly supported and led as a member of the House Armed Services Committee and Veterans Affairs Committee. General Murray also initiated NAUS' unique programs such as the "NAUS Misfortune 500" program to assist lower income retirees with the high cost of their prescription drugs.

I have especially enjoyed his leadership and support for legislation I authored called "TRICARE For Life" and the Senior Pharmacy Program. His support was important to our effort and our veterans owe him a debt of gratitude.

General Murray was born in Shreveport, Louisiana, and graduated from Baylor University, Waco, Texas in 1954. He received his commission through the University's Air Force Reserve Officers' Training Corps in March 1954.

General Murray served 31 years in the United States Air Force. During his distinguished career in the Air Force, he served in various assignments in the United States and overseas in positions of increasing responsibility. His last assignment was as Commander, Army and Air Force Exchange Service from 1981 to 1985. After retiring he continued to serve as the President of the American Logistics Association.

His military decorations and awards include the Distinguished Service Medal, Legion of Merit, Bronze Star Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Joint Service Commendation

Medal, Air Force Commendation Medal with one oak leaf cluster, Republic of Vietnam Armed Forces Honor Medal First Class and Republic of Vietnam Air Service Medal Honor Class.

I wish General Murray and his wife my very best as they devote time to their children and grandchildren.

In closing, General Murray is a man worthy of Congressional distinction in his private life and in the uniform that he has worn so honorably. I salute him. Job well done, my friend.

HONORING EDWARD UEBER

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 6, 2004

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Edward Ueber, a dedicated public servant and a passionate defender of our nation's marine resources. He is a man with a wide range of marine experiences, an inquiring mind, and a can-do attitude—all attributes that he has brought to bear in a 28-year career working first for the National Marine Fisheries Service and then the National Marine Sanctuary Program, where until recently he has served as the longtime manager of the Gulf of the Farallones and Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuaries.

Ed Ueber has sea salt in his veins. As a teenager in the fifties he was a fisherman and seafood merchant. In the next twenty-five years he navigated and piloted Navy submarines and Merchant Marine ships, worked at a shipyard, earned an advanced degree in fisheries resource economics and management, consulted for the government of Brazil on fisheries management and was a University of Connecticut researcher.

With all of this nautical background, the National Marine Fisheries Service was lucky to have him come aboard as a fisheries economist in 1976. During that period, Ed published a number of peer review papers on a wide range of fisheries and resource issues.

By the late '80s Ed Ueber had amassed a wealth of experiences that for most people would have been a career in itself. But in 1990, when Ed was appointed the Manager of the Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary and a year later Manager of the brand new Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary, he began to take on legendary status. Ed Ueber, the resources economist, rolled up his sleeves and once again became a sailor, making the rounds of the sometimes-rough waters of the two Sanctuaries, and navigating the political shoals onshore.

Ed successfully fought a plan to indirectly dump wastewater into the Gulf of the Farallones; dealt with several oil spills, and a forgotten radioactive dumpsite at sea. At the same time, he brought the Sanctuary program to the public by creating the first Marine Sanctuary Beach Watch program, the SEALS harbor seal protection and education program, the Farallones Marine Sanctuary Association and opening three visitor centers.

Ed also upheld the Sanctuary program's scientific mission with an intertidal monitoring program, a new ecosystem oceanographic evaluating system, and deep-sea studies.

He was and is immensely knowledgeable, with a disarming and impish sense of humor. And with those who would threaten the Sanctuary's resource he is a skillful negotiator and tough when he has to be. He is a communicator who can speak the language of researchers, fishermen, environmentalists, beach lovers—and even bureaucrats if he really tries.

Ed Ueber's love of the ocean and its creatures manifests itself in fierce protectiveness. He personifies the ideals of the National Marine Sanctuary Program.

This week as we honor the 15th Anniversary of the Cordell Bank National Marine

Sanctuary, one of the most biologically productive underwater areas on the planet, I also honor Ed Ueber, its first manager, a man to match the bounteous and awe-inspiring resource he has protected for so many years.

IN OPPOSITION TO H.R. 163, THE
UNIVERSAL NATIONAL SERVICE
ACT

HON. ROB PORTMAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 6, 2004

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I regret that a previous commitment prevented me from being present to vote on H.R. 163, Mr. Rangel's Universal National Service Act.

This proposal would require that all young persons in the United States, including women, perform a period of military service or a period of civilian service for the national defense and homeland security. Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

Both the President and the Secretary of Defense have stated on more than one occasion that there is no need for a draft for the War on Terrorism or any likely contingency, such as Iraq. I believe the All-Volunteer Military Force has operated effectively for over thirty years. I fully agree with the Administration that there is no need for a military draft, and I do not support the Rangel bill.

TRIBUTE TO MICHAEL W. NYE

HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 6, 2004

Mr. LARSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and offer my congratulations to Mr. Michael (Mike) W. Nye, Director of Investigations, Office of Inspector General of the House of Representatives, for his outstanding career and service to the House of Representatives for the past six years, and to the Federal Government for thirty-two years. Mike will be retiring from the House this month after previously serving as a judge advocate in the U.S. Air Force, from which he retired in the rank of Colonel. Prior to joining the House Office of Inspector General, he also served as Counsel to the Inspector General of the Marine Corps. During his career, he gained widespread legal experience and has provided invaluable counsel to the House Inspector General and his colleagues at the House on a wide range of legal issues.

Mike put his skills to good use at the House and his advice and counsel has been widely sought as we strive to continuously improve controls and security over the financial and administrative operations of the House. His energy and "can do" attitude were an example to all of us and his keen insights into legal matters helped assure that the Office of Inspector General's reports consistently met our needs by providing candid and reliable advice on all aspects of House operations.

Always the consummate professional, Mike will be sorely missed by all of his colleagues, but he can take pride and satisfaction in his

service to our great nation. Truly, Mike was one of those rare individuals who made a real difference by improving every organization in which he served. Once again Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate Mike on his career and outstanding service to the House, and to wish him, and his lovely wife Judy, much happiness as they pursue new challenges in retirement.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 75TH AN-
NIVERSARY OF THE CALIFORNIA
HIGHWAY PATROL AND THE CHP
OF LAKE COUNTY

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 6, 2004

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, we rise today to pay tribute to the California Highway Patrol (CHP) in Lake County, California.

For the past 75 years, the CHP has had the motto "Safety, Security and Service." This reflects the mission and the intent of the CHP in Lake County.

The Lake County CHP consists of 32 uniformed members and five civilians. They are commanded by Lieutenant D.R. Hayward. In addition, a Vehicle Theft Investigator, Mobile Commercial Vehicle Inspector and a Motor Carrier Specialist are permanently deployed in the Lake County region. They are responsible for traffic and general law enforcement on roadways that cover 1825 square miles.

The Lake County CHP's commitment to the citizens of Lake County includes a very successful community outreach program. This program combines a dedicated community outreach officer along with Senior Volunteers and Explorers who act as a conduit for not only the general community but the Native American communities to interact with the Department and voice their concerns.

The Lake County CHP won the 2003 California Chief's Challenge as well as recognition for the 2003 Pedestrian Safety Corridor grant which was successful in reducing fatal collisions to zero during the duration of the grant.

The commander has implemented a collective program with Caltrans to continuously identify and mitigate any safety related highway designs. This program has had a quantifiable effect on reducing collisions and increasing traffic safety within the community.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker and colleagues, it is most appropriate that we acknowledge and honor the CHP in Lake County for their service to the community. The CHP of Lake County has established a standard of dependability, bravery and hard work that should be followed in all communities.

HONORING MS. ELSA BIRCHWOOD
ON THE OCCASION OF HER RE-
TIREMENT AS DIRECTOR OF THE
CHIEF OF THE ARMY RESERVE'S
STAFF GROUP

HON. STEVE BUYER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 6, 2004

Mr. BUYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to note the departure of a great lady and a good

friend, Ms. Elsa Birchwood, the Director of the Chief of the Army Reserve's Staff Group. For the past ten years, Ms. Birchwood served as a superb leader, counselor, mentor, and confidant not only within her own office, but also earned the respect from other components of the Department of Defense. She served with great distinction in a full military career that began with her enlistment in the Active Army, duty as a drill sergeant, and ultimately as a commissioned officer in the Active Guard and Reserve Program. Throughout this period, she proved herself to be an outstanding leader and thoroughly professional staff officer of great experience and compassion.

Ms. Birchwood's loyalty and reputation led to her return to Federal service in January 1994 as a civilian military personnel management specialist in the Office of the Chief, Army Reserve. She applied her skills to her congressional liaison activities, the White House and Executive Branch agencies. She was an invaluable point of contact for legislative matters and always made herself available to Members of Congress and their staffs. She responded rapidly to inquiries regarding Army Reserve programs and policies and individual personnel management problems. Her cooperative spirit, determination and perseverance gained her and the Department of Defense many friends and much good will.

Ms. Birchwood's reputation for candor and integrity spread throughout the Reserve community and senior leadership in the Washington area. By the time she was appointed the Director of the Chief, Army Reserve's Staff Group, she had become something of a legend and a cultural hero as an advisor to the Chiefs of the Army Reserve, other general officers, and their staffs. She was an enlightened manager, anticipating emerging issues before they impeded the agency's involvement in the Global War on Terror.

Despite myriad demands on her time, Ms. Birchwood always responded with detailed advice and refreshing candor. She mentored her subordinates and assisted in their professional development. She took personal and professional responsibility to prepare those she supervised to perform up to their potential and she never shirked that responsibility. She was at once enthusiastic and practical, offering long-range advice and suggesting specific immediate courses of action for achieving professional goals and objectives.

At the end of the day, Elsa Birchwood stands as a splendid role model for all who aspire to meaningful public service. She served her country well as a private soldier and officer, and as a distinguished civil servant. She rose to the grade of GS-15 and served with great distinction as a supervisor, mentor, counselor, and friend. Elsa never forgot that she was first a soldier. Elsa Birchwood deserves our thanks, and I salute her lifetime of service to America. We are proud of you and your legacy is now the standard. Job well done, my friend.