

in 1997, the 2004 Benefactor Award by The Tennessee Council for Resource Development and the 2005 Tennessee Board of Regents Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Philanthropy—just to name a few.

Dan's affiliations and leadership positions include being president of the Chattanooga Jaycees and the Tennessee Jaycees, founding member of Jaycee Future Corporation and Jaycee Progress, Inc., which built housing for the elderly in Chattanooga. He is also a board member and past chairman of Chattanooga's public television station, WTCI Channel 45, member and past secretary of the Chattanooga Kiwanis Club, treasurer and co-founder of Blood Assurance, vice president and board member of the Chattanooga Chamber of Commerce, a member of the board of trustees at Erlanger Medical Center, vice president and board member of Orange Grove Center, past Chairman of the Hamilton County Republican Party, 1998 Chairman of the Year for the TN Society of Certified Public Accountants and my trusted campaign treasurer for more than a decade.

Dan and his wife of 43 years, Linda, live in Hixson. Their four children have blessed them with twelve grandchildren. The Johnsons have been active members of the First Baptist Church of Chattanooga for almost forty years.

A great man! A great mind! And a big heart! Thank you, Dan Johnson, for the example you set, your devotion to others and selfless service to mankind. We are all the better because of your dedication to our region, state and nation.

HONORING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF ST. DOROTHEA'S CHURCH

**HON. RUSH D. HOLT**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 21, 2005*

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 100th anniversary of St. Dorothea's Catholic Church in Eatontown, New Jersey.

The one hundred year history of St. Dorothea's Church is rich in stories of individuals' commitment to community service and helping others. The congregation was first established on October 1, 1905 in the small Quaker village of Eatontown made up of farmers, merchants and some professionals. Before enough funds were secured to build an actual structure, Mass was celebrated in the private homes of the few Catholics in the neighborhood. The first recorded Mass was celebrated in the "Buttonwood Cottage" on Main Street, on October 10, 1905.

Over the years, many pastors have served the community of St. Dorothea's. Rev. James B. Coyle, who served the parish from 1960–1990, oversaw the construction of a new, modern church in 1965, which offered more space for worship as well as youth and adult, educational programming and community activities. With the creation of the new building, St. Dorothea's has provided to the local residents of Eatontown and the surrounding communities in Monmouth County.

In recent years, Rev. G. Williams Evans has developed greater outreach and community service for St. Dorothea's. Some of the many

programs that he has established are ministries to several segments of the population, the Knights of Columbus chapter and a "Prayer Garden" located on the grounds of the church. Currently, Rev. Evans is supervising the publication of St. Dorothea's one hundred year history, written by parishioner Gordon Bishop.

Some of the many community outreach programs that St. Dorothea's runs are religious education classes, Vacation Bible School for young parishioners as well as a youth group that provides structured activities and events for teenagers. Also groups of volunteers provide pastoral and hospital care for the community's sick and elderly, giving spiritual care to those in need. The parish continues to organize important events for fundraising and special occasions, and soon is commemorating its centennial anniversary with a series of events, including a picnic, parish trip, concert, mass, and dinner.

Mr. Speaker, I join Eatontown Mayor Gerald Tarantolo and many others in recognizing St. Dorothea's Church for its rich one hundred year history and service to the people of Eatontown. From the hard work of the original 18 parishioners in 1905 to the dedication of the over 1770 parishioners today, St. Dorothea's has provided an outstanding ministry to the people of Central New Jersey.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE  
APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2006

SPEECH OF

**HON. NATHAN DEAL**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 20, 2005*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2863) making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and for other purposes:

Mr. DEAL of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, I commend the following comments and questions, posed by the National League of Families of American Prisoners and Missing in Southeast Asia, to my colleagues as they consider relations between the aforementioned organization and the Defense POW/Missing Persons Office. I also ask that you note my June 20, 2005 floor colloquy with Mr. YOUNG on this subject.

CONGRESSIONAL REQUESTS

Prime Minister of Vietnam is visiting the U.S. June 21. The focus seems to be on economics, trade and religious rights. What about accountability?

1. Vietnam is NOT cooperating in "full faith". We have never had access to the Central Highlands since the War was over where hundreds of our Americans are Missing—no chance to interview witnesses who are dying who might have valuable information on crash and grave sights plus documents.

2. Two U.S. war ships have been allowed to come into Vietnamese ports but never a salvage ship that could recover remains from known crash sights off the coast. We have offered to make this an educational venture but denied access.

Accountability should be a priority especially in a time of war—not just rhetoric but action. The families should be treated with respect.

Why does Jerry Jennings, head of the Defense POW/MIA Office still have a job? He has been under investigation for sexual harassment and hostile environment charges by his staff + alleged misappropriation of government funds. He has tried for over a year to undermine the family organizations. Three groups have released a vote of No Confidence in Jerry and his leadership staffers.

The league is very concerned over policy being pursued by the office assigned the responsibility within the Defense Department, headed by DASD Jerry Jennings.

The President in 2002 and Secretary of State in 2004 defined criteria expected of Vietnam, namely unilateral actions that Vietnam should take to be fully cooperative, including on cases of Americans missing in Laos and Cambodia controlled by Vietnamese forces during the war.

These pertain to unilateral provision of relevant archival records from ALL ministries and unilateral repatriation of remains that can't be recovered in the field with joint operations, for example Last Known Alive (LKA) cases where Americans were captured on alive on the ground in immediate proximity to hostile forces.

If dead, their remains should be readily available to the Vietnamese, but could be sensitive in view of the many years withheld on manner of death, readily determined by the experts at CIL.

We'd appreciate your reading this "End-of-Year Policy Assessment," prepared at our request by our Policy Adviser Richard Childress, a retired U.S. Army COL who served on President Reagan's NSC staff as Director Political Military, then Director for Asian Affairs from 1981–1989

League is not interested re-fighting the war or placing blame; we just want answers for the families, not recriminations, on all possible cases, and we base our expectations on USG intelligence and logic.

We're also deeply concerned over Mr. Jennings' handling of the U.S.-Russia Joint Commission on POW/MIA Affairs, a presidential commission that has been reduced in stature and effectiveness, despite having extremely talented staff within DPMO, the Joint Commission Support Directorate, or JCSD.

The league has great confidence in JCSD's abilities, plus has been working hard to get active Senate and House replacements for vacancies or positions held by inactive Members of the House and Senate.

We just succeeded in convincing Senator Saxby Chambliss to accept the Senate Republican position, but the Democrat Senator position is held by Senator John Kerry who has not participated at all in plenary or internal U.S. sessions.

The House Democrat position is held by Rep. Lane Evans, but we understand his tragic illness impeded active participation, and we need active committed Members to signal the Russians that the U.S. is serious.

Recently, Mr. Jennings' was reportedly appointed by the White House to assume the role of U.S. Chairman, an appointment that is too low level and without the prestige required for the Russian Government to take it seriously; they stated this fact to U.S. officials.

Mr. Jennings was the Commissioner representing DOD, and that was fine, but he is not the appropriate level to be a Presidential Envoy serving as U.S. Chairman; thus, we also oppose him in this second position.

The League has received countless complaints from DPMO staff members and we are VERY concerned about internal disruption, even implosion, of this organization that would not exist if were not for the League's efforts over the years that raised the priority.

We've been informed that there are at least six official complaints against Mr. Jennings for hostile workplace environment, including one for sexual harassment, that are now under investigation by the DOD Inspector General's office.

Our Executive Director Ann Mills Griffiths was interviewed a couple of weeks ago, and the Chairman of the Korea/Cold War Families of the Missing was reportedly being called today; we strongly oppose Mr. Jennings continuing as DPMO Director, his third position.

Our objections to Mr. Jennings are focused 1st on policy weaknesses and the manner in which he develops policy without substantive interagency integration and dismisses Vietnam's ability to provide answers, 2nd on his hostility toward the families, and 3rd his attempts to take total control of our annual meetings AND operations of the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command and all DOD-related organizations.

Mr. Jennings plan is increasing DPMO control over operations, and he has several senior personnel assigned to this task, already having published an innocuous-sounding Strategic Plan, but the real agenda is fussy in its portrayal.

Close attention by Congress is his greatest fear, as careful scrutiny would reveal greater intrusion into operations, inappropriate behavior toward DPMO staff and employees, mismanagement of tax-payer funds allocated for the POW/MIA accounting effort, implementing plans to circumvent GS guidelines and attempts to subvert the League and other nonprofit, humanitarian organizations.

Our Board of Directors unanimously voted NO CONFIDENCE in DASD Jennings and the current leadership of DPMO; we are joined by unanimous vote of the Korea/Cold War Families of the Missing Board of Directors, headed by Irene Mandra, New York.

Both have provided our separate views to Dep. Sec. of Defense Paul Wolfowitz and Assistant Secretary, International Security Affairs, Peter Rodman, as has The Chosin Few, the organization of Korean War veterans who survived the horrible battles at the Chosin Reservoir; their vote was straightforward—to seek Mr. Jennings' removal.

DPMO staff were directed to revise their charter documents to ensure that DPMO is the sole USG organization to negotiate with foreign governments, speak to Congress, the media, the veterans' community and the families on the issue, take control of all field operations worldwide, and to find a way to control and take over all annual meetings of POW/MIA families.

They cite one provision of the DOD regulations pertaining to the ethics code to back their plan to take control of the League's annual meetings, but ignore the provision that allows all DoD elements to respond to invitations to participate in non-government conferences and events, as they routinely do for the Legion, VFW, DAV and countless other community groups, never seeking to control them, or their agenda and program.

In S. 1245/H.R. 2996, the Defense Authorization Bill of 1983, Congress amended 157 of title 10, U.S. Code, to "authorize the Sec. of Defense to provide transportation for next-of-kin of certain persons who are unaccounted for to attend annual national meetings sponsored by the National League of Families of American Prisoners and Missing in Southeast Asia.

That authorization was amended by the 107th Congress to include the Korea/Cold War families by noting families of American military and certain civilians unaccounted for since the end of World War II, are entitled to DOD transportation to attend the annual meetings (plural).

When we raised this to Assistant Secretary for International Security Affairs Peter Rod-

man, Mr. Jennings, who had joined the meeting, stated that "Congressional intent is irrelevant."

For the past year, the League has endured repeated attempts by Mr. Jennings and his immediate front-office staff to take total control of our annual meetings, not only the agenda during which the briefings are presented, but even selecting the hotel, setting the date, and holding Congressionally-authorized transportation as leverage to force the League to accede to DPMO's demands.

Mr. Jennings has now gone too far, insisting on total control, contracted with another hotel in Crystal City, set the date one day earlier, has distributed his plan to all Vietnam War POW/MIA families and given instructions to the Military Services about transportation.

For the good of the issue and our system of checks and balances, as well as unity in pursuing answers from what are mostly communist-controlled countries, Mr. Jennings' control mentality must stop.

The League and the Korea/Cold War Families of the Missing have called for his removal, or resignation, in the best interest of the issue, the families and the USG, particularly DPMO employees, but also JPAC and other operational organizations and the Military Service Casualty Offices.

#### A TRIBUTE TO VERNON PARKER

### HON. MARILYN N. MUSGRAVE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 21, 2005*

Ms. MUSGRAVE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Vernon Parker. Little did I know as I sat in my Colorado history class in seventh grade my teacher, Mr. Vern Parker, was an extraordinary man.

The community where I grew up was small, and everyone knew everyone else. The school in Galeton was small, too. There were 17 students in my class. When we were in the seventh grade, one of our favorite classes was Colorado History. Evidently classroom space was limited, because we met in the music room and sat on folding chairs. It seemed a little odd not to have desks but we juggled our books on our laps and managed quite well.

Mr. Parker was enthusiastic about the subject and kept us all interested. I remember one quiz that he gave us, in particular. He gave us a list of towns and instructed us to identify those that were located in Colorado. Although I'm a native of the State, I wasn't sure about some of them. When I saw "Parker" on the list, I was convinced it was a trick question. After all, it was my teacher's last name. Needless to say, I didn't get 100 percent on that quiz.

Even though one of the boys in our class was Mr. Parker's nephew, who called him by his first name, I still was in awe of my teacher and I tried to do my best. Once Mr. Parker complimented me on my performance in a talent show and his praise gave me confidence and helped me more than he could ever know.

We were unaware of the incredible experiences Mr. Parker had before he came to be our teacher. We didn't know the hero that stood before us.

Mr. Parker served in the United States Army in the special unit known as "Wolfpack", which worked with friendly South Korean troops during the Korean War, and he was struck by

lightning at Fort Riley between tours in Korea. He served from 1949 until he was wounded in 1953. During this time, he was awarded two Silver Stars for gallantry in action during a battle in which he destroyed a Communist tank using a bazooka. In that same battle, he was wounded by an exploding artillery shell and was awarded the Purple Heart.

When he went home, he married his sweetheart Sylvia Howard in 1953. Vern and Sylvia made sacrifices, and he earned his Master's degree from Colorado State College of Education in 1959. They were blessed with three children—Jim, Jerry, and Joe.

Mr. Parker began teaching school at Galeton, Colorado in 1958. He went on to become the principal of Galeton's elementary and junior high schools. He was the school Superintendent in Briggsdale, Colorado, for three years and he continued teaching in Weldona, Colorado, from 1976 to 1979.

When Mr. Parker retired he opened and ran a small business. He was a member of the Lions Club and the V.F.W., a Boy Scout leader, and a volunteer fireman. Vernon's love of teaching and working with young people has stayed with him always and he takes great pleasure in the accomplishments of his former students and scouts. He has served his community and his country well.

My classmates and I liked him a lot, and we thought he had a good sense of humor. Recently, I acquired one of the textbooks we used in his class. Every time I come across the book, it brings back good memories and I always stop and thumb through it.

I am proud to have been a student of Vernon Parker, and I know Congressman FRANKS is as well. Mr. Speaker, I'm very thankful for the positive influence Vern Parker had on my life as my teacher and I'm also very thankful as an American for the sacrifices he has made for our freedom and liberty. May God bless our teachers who positively influence young people, and may God bless our precious veterans who have made sacrifices on our behalf.

#### IN RECOGNITION OF THE COMPLETION OF THE WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE TREEHOUSE AT CRADLE BEACH CAMP

### HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 21, 2005*

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the completion of the state of New York's first wheelchair accessible treehouse at Cradle Beach Camp in Angola. This 650 square foot structure that sits among the trees eleven feet above the ground is another important chapter in Cradle Beach Camp's mission to provide rewarding and educational summer camp experience to children with disadvantages or special needs. This innovative treehouse will provide a valuable learning and recreational asset for wheelchair-bound campers.

Since 1888 Cradle Beach Camp has provided rewarding summer break fun and learning to disabled children and children who would often not be able to attend a camp. Now approximately 900 children every year are given an unforgettable experience, participating in energetic and entertaining activities