

There is no doubt that Cherry Fitch has positively influenced thousands of students during her time at Gulf Breeze High School. Her love of community and school has been apparent throughout her career. It is fitting that in her last year at Gulf Breeze High School that Mrs. Fitch is recognized with this great honor for all her dedication. Under her leadership, Gulf Breeze High School has been the recipient of numerous accolades including being named an A+ school for the past 4 years.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I would like to offer my sincere congratulations to an educator who could serve as a role model to us all. Over three decades of service to education is something to truly be admired, and I am thankful for her commitment to Gulf Breeze High School.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. STEVE KING

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 20, 2005

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent due to illness during rollcall votes 521 and 522.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on 521 and 522.

RECOGNIZING THE MILITARY AND COMMUNITY CONTRIBUTIONS OF COLONEL JAMES DOTY AS COMMANDER OF FORT HUNTER LIGGETT AND PARKS RESERVE FORCES TRAINING AREA

HON. ELLEN O. TAUSCHER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 20, 2005

Mrs. TAUSCHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Colonel James Doty for exceptional service to the military and to our community in forming the U.S. Army Combat Support Training Center in northern California.

Between June 2003 and October 2005, Colonel Doty led an ambitious, successful effort to create a free-standing installation that supports training for both Active and Reserve Components.

Colonel Doty unified four individual sites under one command in creating the Training Center, a truly remarkable feat. At the Parks Training Area, he managed a historic Army Real Property Exchange to permit replacement of aging structures decades beyond their useful life with over \$200 million worth of critical support facilities. He prepared Fort Hunter Liggett for implementation of Defense Secretary recommendations to make it the Training Support Headquarters for the 91st Division. Furthermore, he overcame significant obstacles to preside over the development of more than 300 housing units at the Parks site and at Moffett Federal Airfield across the San Francisco Bay in Sunnyvale.

No less remarkably, Colonel Doty accomplished these achievements in a characteristically affable, engaging, and sincere manner. His intelligence, tireless energy, and commitment to success are enhanced by his personal

integrity and genuine regard for those in his command and in the larger community affected by his leadership.

Mr. Speaker, I wish much satisfaction and success to Colonel Doty in his well-earned, exciting new assignment. He, his wife Charlotte, and their family have endeared themselves to everyone who knows them in the Tri-Valley region. They will be remembered fondly and sorely missed.

UNDERAGE DRINKING

HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 20, 2005

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus to highlight the issue of underage drinking.

According to the National Institute on Drug Abuse, the first use of alcohol typically begins at age 12. Additionally, research tells us that the majority of kids are accessing the alcohol they drink from family and friends. According to Teenage Research Unlimited, 51 percent of 13–15 year olds say they will be faced with making a decision regarding alcohol in the next three months.

The good news is that parents are the leading influence on kids' decision not to drink alcohol. It is critical that parents and other trusted adults initiate conversations with kids about underage drinking well in advance of the first time they are faced with a decision regarding alcohol.

Yesterday, the Congressional Hispanic Caucus teamed up with The Century Council and Nickelodeon to launch Pregunte, Escuche, Aprende: ¡Los niños y el alcohol no mezclan! The program was developed in collaboration with LULAC, Aspira Association, the National Latino Children's Institute, National Hispanic Medical Association and MANA, among others and is an adaptation of the English program, Ask, Listen, Learn: Kids and Alcohol Don't Mix.

The program is designed to reduce underage drinking, particularly among children ages 9–13. The information is useful for parents, other trusted adults and kids and includes strategies to help facilitate conversations about the dangers of underage drinking.

I commend The Century Council and Nickelodeon for giving Latino parents and children across the Nation such a valuable communications tool to initiate those critically important discussions regarding alcohol.

EULOGY OF THE COMMON SOLDIER

HON. RALPH REGULA

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 20, 2005

Mr. REGULA. Mr. Speaker, I would like to submit the following poem "Eulogy of the Common Soldier" for inclusion in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. The poem was written by U.S. Army First Lieutenant Aaron Seesan when he was in his senior year at Washington High School in Massillon, Ohio. Aaron was killed in Iraq on May 22, 2005 while serving his country.

All mortal beings, which God brought forth,
die the same, man is not exempt.

All will inevitably end as the dust from
whence we came, it matters not of age.

Do not mourn me if I should fall in a foreign
land, think this of my passing.

In a far off field a finer soil mixed with the
foreign sand, a dust that is American.

A dust that laughed, cried, and loved as an
American, on this plot there shall be.

A little piece of America, a patch for the free
man, which no oppressor can take.

From this soil grows grass shimmering a lit-
tle greener, brilliant emerald ramparts.

A Breeze whispering White Poppies with a
scent a little sweeter, flowers towards
Heaven.

Mourn not my terrible death but celebrate
my cause in life, viewed noble or not.

I would have sacrificed and gave all that I
had to give, not to make man good, but
only to let the good man live.

MOURNING THE LOSS OF ANTHONY A. LEON GUERRERO

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 20, 2005

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my deepest sympathies and condolences to the family of Mr. Anthony A. Leon Guerrero who passed away on October 10, 2005. He was born on Guam on June 19, 1952 Throughout his life, Mr. Leon Guerrero made numerous contributions to the island of Guam, most notably serving as the president, the chief executive officer, CEO, and chairman of the Bank of Guam. He attended the London School of Economics at the University of London, majoring in Monetary Economics in 1976. He earned his masters of Business Administration at Stanford University's Sloan Program in 1985. At the Bank of Guam, which was founded by his father, the late Jesus S. Leon Guerrero, Tony served with a professionalism that sets a standard for senior executives on our island. Mr. Leon Guerrero served in various positions at the Bank of Guam, rising from commercial loan officer in 1974 to chairman of the board, president and CEO in 2002. Under his stewardship, the Bank of Guam and its 14 branches strengthened its position as the leading financial institution in the Western Pacific region. He was a true visionary in Guam's business community, launching online banking services for the island. Through his leadership, the Bank of Guam became the first local company to go public when its stock was offered for trading on the Pacific Exchange in August of 2000.

Mr. Leon Guerrero's public service includes tenures as chairman of the Guam Economic Development Authority and the Guam Council on the Humanities. He served on various government boards and commissions including the University of Guam Board of Regents, the Guam Political Status Commission, the Guam Waterworks Authority, the Hagatna Restoration and Redevelopment Authority, the Pacific Islands Development Bank Board of Governors and the Micronesian Regional Tourism Council. He served on civic boards and organizations including the Guam Chamber of Commerce, the Guam Bankers' Association, the Catholic Education Council Board of Trustees, the American Cancer Society, Goodwill

Industries, the Agana Restoration and Redevelopment Corporation, the Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute, Pacific Islanders in Communication, the Young Presidents' Organization and the Financial Services and Information Technology Committee, Saipan.

Tony Leon Guerrero was truly a leader in the business community. Although he was an innovator and consummate entrepreneur, the island spirit in him never changed. Despite his many accomplishments, he was still just "Tony" to those who knew him best. The respect that people felt for him in his professional life was equaled only by the love they felt for him in his personal life. He was dedicated to the island in which he lived and worked. The Bank of Guam is often referred to as "The People's Bank," and Tony was a leader in the business community and a conscience for social activism. He understood that with great talent comes great expectations, and he exceeded the expectations of his father and his business associates as the Bank of Guam grew and prospered under his watch. Tony was an advocate in the community for the revival of pride in the Chamorro culture and the cultures of the indigenous peoples throughout Micronesia. His bank invested in indigenous arts and crafts and the bank's branches are themselves centers for the display of Pacific cultures. As chairman of the board and CEO, Tony ensured that the Bank of Guam lived up to its commitment to our island's development and steered the bank through the difficult years of an economic recession. The bank's solid performance and success is a testament to his business acumen and his vision. The sense of loss in our island and throughout our Pacific region is a testament to a great humanitarian and community leader.

I am deeply saddened by this loss and know that the many people on Guam and throughout the Pacific are mourning as well. My thoughts and prayers are with his mother Eugenia A. Leon Guerrero, his wife Mari Flor Herrero, and his three children, Maria Eugenia, Alexandra and Jesus. My condolences also go to his brother Jesse A. Leon Guerrero and his wife Deirdre, his sister Senator Lou Leon Guerrero and her husband Jeff Cook, their families, and the entire Leon Guerrero extended family. Although he will be missed by his family, friends and business associates throughout the Pacific, his legacy of service will live on in our community.

ON THE RETIREMENT OF MRS.
CHRISTINE KENNEDY

HON. DON YOUNG

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 20, 2005

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Christine Kennedy, the Administrator and Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. Mrs. Kennedy has served the House of Representatives with distinction since 1972. Unfortunately, Mrs. Kennedy will be retiring at the end of this year and will be starting a new and I am sure equally rewarding private life. I know that she is looking forward to spending more time with her daughter, Lauren.

I have known Chris since I came to Congress. Chris started her career with the Federal Government in 1972 as a clerk at NASA. She joined the staff of the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs in 1974 becoming the Administrator and Chief Clerk in 1995 of the Committee on Resources which was the successor Committee to the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs.

When I moved from the Chairmanship of the Committee on Resources to the Chairmanship of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, I asked Chris to take the position of Administrator and Chief Clerk of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. Thank goodness, she agreed to do so.

Chris is one of those people who often is unheralded and unseen but who is essential to the workings of this institution. She is one of the most organized and efficient people I know. You know that if Chris is on the job, the job will get done and will be done well. She is thorough and has a detailed knowledge of the procedures and processes that keep the Committee operating.

In addition, she is loyal and generous to her colleagues, her friends, and to myself and my wife, Lu. We have relied on her in so many ways over the years to insure that our work with Committee, including the many codels and field hearings conducted by the Committee have been done in full accordance with the Rules.

I want to express to her my deep appreciation for her hard work and for her support of my efforts as Chairman of two Committees. Without her efforts, our Committees would not have a record of accomplishment that is unmatched by any Committee.

I know that I speak for my wife, Lu and for the Members and Staff of the Committee and for the many friends that she has made as a member of this Congressional family in wishing her all the best and many years of happiness in her new life.

She will be missed in so many ways, but we expect that she will continue to be a member of our Congressional family in the years to come. Best wishes to a good friend and an outstanding staff member.

TRIBUTE TO THE 75 YEARS OF
SERVICE THE DEPARTMENT OF
VETERANS AFFAIRS HAS PROVIDED

HON. JIM GIBBONS

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 20, 2005

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to commemorate the 75 years of service the Department of Veterans Affairs has provided to the servicemen and women of this great Nation.

May we never forget, and continue to honor, those who made a commitment to protecting the security of our Nation by joining the Armed Forces. We owe our veterans a tremendous debt of gratitude for this commitment, and commend the VA for their pledge to ensure that they continue to receive support and assistance.

The men and women of the VA are dedicated each and every day to meeting the needs of the millions of veterans who have defended our Nation's freedom.

Nearly a quarter of a million veterans reside in our great State; a number that continues to grow. The VA ensures that these men and women, who were dedicated to defending our Nation, receive the services they rightly deserve. As a nation, we owe these great Americans a debt of gratitude for their sacrifice for our Nation's freedom and security.

With an ever growing population of veterans, may we always be reminded of Abraham Lincoln's philosophy and principles that guide the Department of Veterans Affairs: "To care for him shall have borne the battle and for his widow and his orphan."

I join in thanking the Department of Veterans Affairs for their continued work and service for 75 years to our Nation's heroes.

May God bless Nevada, America, and our veterans.

RECOGNIZING THREE FALLEN
SOLDIERS SERVING IN IRAQ

HON. ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 20, 2005

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to three fallen American soldiers who sacrificed their lives while serving our country.

On October 14, 2005, while conducting convoy operations in the Al Taji area in Iraq, three Maryland Army National Guardsmen, 20-year-old Specialist Samuel M. Boswell, 23-year-old Specialist Bernard L. Ceo, and 36-year-old Sergeant Brian R. Connor, were tragically killed when their Humvee was accidentally hit and caught fire.

Assigned to the 243rd Engineer Company based in my district of West Baltimore, these remarkable young men had only been stationed in Iraq since mid-August. They were the first Maryland National Guardsman to be killed while serving their country overseas since World War II.

Words cannot express the sense of loss felt by the Maryland community when not one, but three of our own is taken from us in an instant. I offer my deepest condolences to the Boswell, Ceo, and Connor families during their difficult time.

Although each of these brave soldiers took different paths to arrive in the Army, they all shared great intellect, vigor, and a true commitment to serve their country. These attributes coupled with their youth makes it even more difficult to accept each soldier's fate. We all must now face the burden of uncertainty—never knowing what the future would have held for them.

Specialist Samuel Boswell of Elkridge, graduated from the technology magnet program at River Hill High School in Clarksville, Md. in 2003. He was a computer whiz with aspirations of receiving his college degree. However, as the violence in Iraq escalated, Spc. Boswell was compelled to volunteer his service and join the Army shortly after his high school graduation. On the day of his death, Spc. Boswell was on his way to meet his brother Michael, who was a civilian contract worker based in Baghdad. That reunion never took place.

Specialist Bernard Ceo of Baltimore was raised in a military family. His ambition was to