

Rick is a management consultant with unparalleled expertise in how to provide management and leadership assistance in the unique environment of Congress. He conducts organizational assessments for individual offices, committee offices, leadership organizations and ultimately for Congress itself. He prepares and conducts surveys in support of change processes for congressional organizations; facilitates strategic planning sessions and develops written organization plans; facilitates group problem solving for House and Senate offices; and provides individual assessment and coaching to senior managers and Members of Congress. During his tenure at CMF, Rick has delivered dozens of training programs to address the needs of legislative and support staff. He has authored and supervised the production of several books and reports, including the biannual House and Senate Staff Salary Surveys, Frontline Management, a guide for state office staff, and Setting Course, A Congressional Management Guide, which most new members of Congress find an absolutely indispensable tool as they face the daunting task of setting up their offices after being elected. Most recently, Rick and CMF have gotten deeply involved in information technology related issues, such as website design and managing internet communication.

Mr. Speaker, CMF is not a large institution, nor is it a well-endowed one. It is, in fact, a small group of dedicated people whose sole goal is to help Congress become a more productive and effective institution through good management practices. There is a great deal of work to be done toward that end, and the staff at CMF, led by Rick, works very hard at reaching that goal. Under Rick's leadership, the range and quality of services CMF provides has grown significantly, and the institution of Congress has benefited greatly from this growth.

Mr. Speaker, for 16 years, Rick has worked tirelessly with staff on both sides of the aisle to improve the management of Congress. I believe that his contribution to the functioning of this body has been extraordinarily valuable, and my purpose in rising today is to express my appreciation for his years of good work.

Mr. Speaker, it is a great honor for me to recognize one of the most important contributors to the effective management of Congress, Mr. Richard H. Shapiro.

CONGRATULATING POLICE CHIEF
JERRY DYER

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2005

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Police Chief Jerry Dyer of Fresno, California for receiving the 2005 Excellence In Public Service Award. The Fresno Bee, The Fresno Business Council and the Maddy Institute at California State University, Fresno, sponsor this prestigious award.

A dedicated advocate of justice, Jerry Dyer has devoted his entire professional career to safeguarding his community. The honor of receiving recognition for public service is long overdue and well deserved.

Mr. Dyer received his Bachelor's Degree in Criminology from California State University,

Fresno and his Master's Degree in Management from California Polytechnic University at Pomona. He is a graduate of the California Command College, where his peers chose him as the Most Inspirational Student.

Chief Dyer has served with the Fresno Police Department for 26 years. His hard work and dedication to public safety did not go unrecognized and on August 1, 2001 he was named Chief of Police. During his tenure as Police Chief, the Fresno community has experienced three consecutive years of a decrease in crime, which resulted in a 33-year-low in crime for the year 2004.

Traffic safety has also been made a top priority of the Fresno Police Department since the appointment of Mr. Dyer as the Chief of Police; guided by the wisdom of Chief Dyer, the Fresno Police Department has received national and state recognition for its traffic safety efforts, which include the prestigious California Highway Patrol Commissioner's Award. The department has also received many other honors, such as first place in the International Association of Chiefs of Police "Law Enforcement Chief's Challenge" and "Impaired Driving Enforcement Award," as well as three consecutive first place awards in the "California Law Enforcement Chiefs Challenge."

Chief Jerry Dyer has worked tirelessly to make the Fresno Police Department one of the state's outstanding law enforcement organizations. He has initiated rigorous processes to have the Department nationally accredited through the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies. In 2005 the Fresno Police Department was awarded accreditation status; less than 4 percent of law enforcement agencies in the United States have achieved this honor.

Chief Jerry Dyer personifies a hero in every aspect of the term. His sacrifices and belief in justice are admirable. The community of Fresno is honored to have a loyal, honest, and trustworthy leader of our police force and we applaud his dedication to providing a safe environment for our community.

CONGRATULATING THE CONCORD
HIGH SCHOOL MARCHING MINUTEMEN
ON THEIR SECOND IN
THREE YEARS CLASS B STATE
BAND CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. CHRIS CHOCOLA

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2005

Mr. CHOCOLA. Mr. Speaker, I usually am not one to experience *deja vu*, but today I find myself in a familiar situation.

Two years ago, I rose to congratulate the Concord Marching Minutemen on their 2003 Class B Indiana State School Music Association Championship.

Today, I rise again to congratulate them on winning their second ISSMA championship in the past three years. On October 22, 2005, these young men and women won the 2005 Class B state marching band championship, edging out nine other competitors.

This is the band's third championship, and in 2002 and 2004, they were state runner-up.

The "All Aboard," train-themed program included "Tempered Steel" by composer

Charles Young, and classic jazz hits "Take the 'A' Train" and "Happy Go Lucky Local" from Duke Ellington and Billy Strayhorn.

I'd like to congratulate drum majors Ashley Hardy, Jeremy Parker, and Laura Pauwels for leading their band to victory.

The 2005 Class B champs include: Flutes: Kelly Aaron, Kelsey Beabout, Kylie Bontrager, Jessica Cuzzocrea, Stephanie Czarnacki, Kari Dehart, Ashlee Field, Addie Hall, Anita Kaoma, Amanda King, Courtney Laughman, Jaymi Lechlitner, Krista Mevis, Erica Moskowitz, Colleen Nissley, Luke Overton, Caitlin Parker, Audrie Pressler, Rachel Pressler, Joseph Reed, Julie Richards, Elizabeth Robbins, Maria Rodriguez, Megan Rump, Allison Smart, Megan Vail, Brittany Victor, Kim Yoder; Piccolos: Cassie Rhude, Libby Watson; Clarinets: Audrey Acosta, Marisa Amos, Katy Bail, Dani Baugher, Maria Bernal, Lacey Conwell, Adilene Corona, Rachel Davis, Julie Elmore, Conor Gavin, Megan Gunn, Jenni Hillyer, Kylie Kern, Kayla Killian, Amber King, Tim Koscielny, Meredith Loucks, Catie Lynch, Nici Lynch, Holly Meyers, Jessica Miller, Krysta Miller, Molly Miller, Halie Murray, Jessica Partin, Brittany Price, Stephanie Quick, Jordan Reyes, Alison Roberts, Brooklyn Rogers, Nicole Smith, Tony Templeton, Chelsey VanAcker, Brooke Victor, Kayla Yoder, Sean Zimmerle; Bass Clarinets: Iris Bock, Craig Bone, Logan Bourdon, Mandy Himes, Jon Rhoades, Ana Rodriguez, Brian Zimmerman, Nathan Nelson; Alto Saxophone: Brent Boehner, Paige Conwell, Deb Elliott, Lizzie Fish, Ben Gooding, Lon Hambrice, Manuel Herrera-Inchima, Becca Hinson, Dustin Knight, Mike Koscielny, Alex Lung, Krystal McKenzie, Brandon Miller, Brandon Pollock, Matt Schmucker, Jared Schooley, Courtney Wallis, Chad Wegrecki; Tenor Saxophone: Tyler Bourdon, Andrew Fischer, Shane Collins, Keith Doyle, Rachelle Fox, Courtney Hemminger, Abigail Miller, Kayleigh Shurtz; Trumpets: Blake Baker, Donielle Bibby, Peter Bone, Mark Brown, David Campbell, Andrew Christophel, Benjamin Clark, Ryan Detwiler, Rayna Dimitroff, Colin Doherty, Jarod Eastham, Daniel Fischer, Tanner Free, Veronica Hill, Amanda Himes, Phil Jones, Bradley Kime, Matt Kinsman, Crystal Martinez, Kenny Mashala, Carl McAfoos, Jason Miller, DJ Mumaw, Kelly Schaffer, Laurie Schalliol, Jim Schoeffler, Steve Trout, Renee Wagner, Ryan Weaver; Flugelhorn: Thomas Davidhizar, Andrew Davis, Caine Espinoza, Mike Lakner, Julie McCarty, Andrew Smole; Mellophones: Kylie Eckmyre, Melanie Gingerich, Genni Housman, Stephen Kauffman, Kathy Lambright, Samantha Nagy; Trombones: Robyn Bortner, Mike Campbell, Sean Emmons, Chad Hoen, Matt Izak, Brandy Jackson, Steven Karanja, Jordan King, Kevin Lipp, Veronica Meade, Torey Miller, Jordan Parker, Brandon Schenk, Dustin Simmons, Tyler Stevens, Andrew Stout, Eric Wilsey, Teneen Zimmer; Baritone: Justin Alwine, Kris Baker, Chris Dean, Bryan Eichorst, Andy Ha, John Kauffman, Matt Lanouette, Robert Stout; Tubas: Travis Cox, Chris Crawford, Chris Holcomb, Suzanne Holcomb, Matthew Miller, Jeremy Rowe, Morgen Smith; Percussion: Cory Allison, Darlene Bennett, Matthew Bennett, Jen Bollero, Bryce Canen, Sarah-Jane Cikara, Amy Clark, Emma Cooper, Dylan Dufour, Giovanni Echeverria, Michael Johnson, April Mascola, Dustin McLain, Justin Miracle, Kelsey Prieshoff, Bryant Quist, Sarah Runswick, Allie Sawyer, Matt

Schnaars, Andrew Stevens, Kurt Tahara, Amber VanderReyden, Blake Varab, Mark Wyrick; Bass: Ben Jarvis; Sound Tech: Dawn Supper; Color Guard: Elise Arvidson, Marlene Arvidson, Tiffany Baker, Karen Berndt, Veronica Boggs, Heather Dean, Mikala Ellsworth, Ashley Elsasser, Laken Fordyce, DeAnna Jackson, Danielle Johnson, Leanne Johnson, Brittany Kauffman, Yolo Lopez-Perez, Alyssa Lung, Anne Lypka, Emily Mathieu, Jessica Meade, Alisa Peffley, Julie Reusser, Evanna Rodriguez, Brittany Rushing, Jessica Scott, Rachel Sirinek, Madeline Valle, Kristen Weaver, Megan Whitacre, Chellie Zou, Sara Zou.

The people behind the performers also deserve a note of congratulations. They include Director of Music Gay Burton, Assistant Band Directors Scott Spradling, Bryan Golden, April Oppenheim, and Steve Peterson, Dance & Color Guard instructor Colleen Molnar, Sound Technician Scott Preheim, and Percussion Specialist Derek Felix. Your hard work leading up to and throughout the season, planning the program, scheduling practices, and leading the band at competitions have been rewarded through their accomplishment. Shirley Dyer also deserves a note of thanks for helping make things run smoothly.

Mr. Speaker, as the parent of two teenagers myself, I would be remiss if I didn't also acknowledge the parents that help the band run efficiently. Your dedication to your children shows through on the field of competition in their award-winning performance.

Again, on behalf of very proud parents and the citizens of the Second Congressional District, I would like to congratulate the Concord Marching Minutemen on their Class B State championship.

CONGRATULATING HARRY
ARMSTRONG

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2005

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Clovis City Council member Harry Armstrong of Clovis, California for receiving the Rose Ann Vuich Ethical Leadership Award. The Fresno Bee, The Fresno Business Council and The Maddy Institute at California State University, Fresno sponsor this prestigious award.

Harry Armstrong was born in Merced, California. Upon graduation from Merced Union High School he joined the American Armed Forces and fought in the Korean War. He is married to Jeanine and has three children: Tom, an attorney; Jim a businessman; and, Megan, a teacher.

The basic characteristics to be considered as a candidate for the Rose Ann Vuich Ethical Leadership Award are integrity, strength of character, exemplary ethical behavior, ability to build consensus, serving the public interest and vision for enhancing the community. Mr. Armstrong embodies every one of these characteristics and has set a standard by which all future public servants should use as a guide in their own service to the community.

Harry Armstrong is noted as standing firm against forces that would sweep aside the freedoms and ethics of our democratic form of

government. Never did he blink or stray from his standards and beliefs in the process of public involvement in honest government. He has shown his strength of character in steadily standing by his morals and values.

A member of the Clovis City Council since 1970, Harry is the longest serving council member in the State of California. He was elected Mayor of Clovis on four occasions. Mr. Armstrong's leadership is not limited, however, to the Clovis City Council. He has also served on numerous boards and committees, President of the League of California Cities, Chair of the Fresno County Transportation Authority and the Clovis Planning Commission.

Mr. Armstrong's ability to stand up for what is right and encourage others to do the same is what has given him the continued, never straying, support of the community. His history of involvement and knowledge has created an environment for others to listen and learn.

The leadership and commitment Mr. Armstrong has shown for the community has never wavered, nor his honor in service. He personifies a man of principle and integrity. I am honored to express the gratitude the community has for Harry Armstrong and stand to show our appreciation.

FREEDOM FOR RICARDO RAMOS
PEREIRA

HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2005

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about Ricardo Ramos Pereira, a political prisoner in totalitarian Cuba.

Mr. Ramos Pereira is a member of the November 30 Democratic party and a member of the pro-democracy opposition in totalitarian Cuba. Unfortunately, those who believe that freedom, liberty, and the right to worship are the birthright of all men and women are targeted by the tyrant's machinery of repression.

According to an article for the Information Bridge Cuba Miami (IBCM), Mr. Ramos Pereira was arrested on January 25, 2002 for participating in a mass offered on behalf of all the political prisoners in Cuba. IBCM also reports that on February 28, 2002, Mr. Ramos Pereira was arrested for simply participating in a civic activity at the Catholic Church of the Passionists. More than 2 years later, in a sham trial, he was sentenced to 5 years in the totalitarian gulag.

Let me be very clear, Mr. Ramos Pereira is currently languishing in the deprived conditions of the totalitarian gulag for his belief in freedom. The U.S. State Department describes the conditions in the gulag as, "harsh and life threatening." The State Department also reports that police and prison officials beat, neglect, isolate, and deny medical treatment to detainees and prisoners. It is a crime of the highest order that people are imprisoned in these nightmarish conditions simply for their belief in democracy and freedom of religion.

Mr. Ramos Pereira is one of the many heroes of the peaceful Cuban democratic movement who are locked in the dungeons of the dictatorship for their beliefs. They are symbols of freedom and democracy who will always be

remembered when freedom reigns again in Cuba. President Bush addressed those brave men and women who spread the light of freedom in the darkest corners of the world when he said, in his second inaugural address, "Democratic reformers facing repression, prison, or exile can know: America sees you for who you are: the future leaders of your free country."

Mr. Speaker, it is a profound embarrassment for mankind that the world stands by in silence and acquiescence while political prisoners are systematically tortured in totalitarian gulags. My Colleagues, we must demand the immediate and unconditional release of Ricardo Ramos Pereira and every political prisoner in totalitarian Cuba.

A TRIBUTE TO SGT. 1ST CLASS
JAMES "JIM" S. OCHSNER

HON. MIKE MCINTYRE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2005

Mr. MCINTYRE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Sgt. 1st Class James "Jim" S. Ochsner of Hope Mills, North Carolina, for serving his country valiantly with the 2nd Battalion, 3rd Special Forces Group (Airborne) at Fort Bragg, NC in Operation Enduring Freedom. On November 15, 2005, Sgt. 1st Class Ochsner sacrificed his life when an improvised explosive device was detonated while traveling near Lawara, Afghanistan. He was courageously serving his fourth tour of duty in Afghanistan, and our prayers and heartfelt thanks go to his family in this time of grief.

At an early age, Jim had a desire to serve in the military. His father was a Green Beret who served two tours of duty in Vietnam. Jim was proud of his father's service and commitment and strived to be just like him. In 1987, he enlisted in the U.S. Army as an artilleryman and served three years in Bamberg Germany with the 2nd Battalion 14th Field Artillery. Jim later served in the 82nd Airborne and completed a tour in South Korea before serving as a Special Forces Soldier. In 2004, he graduated from the Special Forces Operations and Intelligence Course and served as an intelligence specialist with the 2nd Battalion, 3rd Special Forces Group.

Jim is a highly decorated soldier, receiving the Bronze Star Medal with oak leaf cluster, the Army Commendation Medal for valor, the Army Commendation Medal for service, the Army Achievement Medal, the Good Conduct Medal and the National Defense Service Medal. In addition, he received the Afghanistan Campaign Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Medal, the Korean Defense Service Medal, the NCO Professional Development Ribbon, the Army Service Ribbon, the Overseas Service Ribbon, the Kuwait Liberation Medal (Saudi Arabia), the Kuwait Liberation Medal (Kuwait), the Combat Infantryman Badge, the Expert Infantryman Badge, the Parachutist Badge, the Air Assault Badge, the Driver and Mechanic Badges, and the Special Forces Tab.

Jim loved his family, and he is survived by his wife Ann, son Nicholas, and daughter Megan, who heard from him often during his deployments. He is also survived by his parents, Robert and Sandra, of Beach Park, Illinois, and his brother MSG Robert Ochsner II.