

In addition to his service to the community, Mr. Miller has been a devoted and loving husband to his wife Rosella of 37 years and father to his two children Melissa and Kevin. It is with pleasure that I recognize Mr. Michael Miller for his significant contributions and noteworthy dedication and service to his community.

TRIBUTE TO GAIL JOYCE BEAGLE

**HON. CHARLES A. GONZALEZ**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 18, 2005*

Mr. GONZALEZ. Mr. Speaker, my distinguished colleagues; it is a special honor that I pay tribute today to a great American and civil rights activist since the 1950's, Gail Joyce Beagle, who celebrates her 70th birthday on November 25th.

Gail, who I have known and counted as a friend for at least 46 years, had a long and distinguished career in appointive public service, but since her retirement, continues to work for the public good in a variety of capacities.

Born in Beaumont, Texas on November 25, 1935, she was reared at Nederland on land her maternal grandfather, Martin Block, had earlier farmed for many years. Upon graduation from high school, she entered Texas Woman's University at Denton where she graduated with a bachelor's degree in journalism in 1958. At TWU she held various positions, including Day Editor, on the campus newspaper, the Daily Lass-O. Her academic standing in journalism resulted in her selection for membership in the honorary fraternity for women in journalism called Theta Sigma Phi (now called Association of Women in Communications). (At the turn of the last century women were not allowed in the then all-male journalism societies so it was necessary to establish a separate journalism fraternity for women—with its beginnings at the University of Washington at Seattle.)

When Gail's journalism professors in 1957 told her she could not editorialize in the campus newspaper as to why TWU accepted young women as students from all over the world, but no black women were at the State institution of higher learning, she, in turn, posed this question in an editorial in the Methodist Student Movement's newsletter as to why there were no black women at TWU. During that time she was president of the Methodist college group for both TWU and North Texas State University.

As the result of this effort, the TWU president and a few of his advisory committee faculty members were not happy with her, but she weathered the storm, and continued her integration effort. While working in 1959 for my father, the late Henry B. Gonzalez, then a State senator, who represented San Antonio at Austin, she got a nice telegram from a TWU history professor, congratulating her and telling her that TWU was to accept its first black female students in the fall of 1959.

During the summer of 1957, she was a Texas Daily Newspaper Association intern on the San Antonio Light newspaper, but after college graduation, she did not immediately return to San Antonio, but landed her first job in Austin in late summer 1958. Earlier that

summer, working out of her parents' home, she had a brief stint as Jefferson County volunteer campaign manager for my father's unsuccessful bid to be Governor of Texas.

In the Fall of 1961, she returned to San Antonio as a permanent resident and campaigned in my father's bid to be the first Hispanic from Texas to be elected to Congress where he served in the House for 37 years, and for the most part of those years, Gail served him and the 20th Congressional District of Texas as the Chief of Staff and Press Secretary in Washington, returning home to San Antonio from time to time. Among many achievements for the people, as well as for my father, she was instrumental in his decision to be the first Member of Congress, south of the Mason Dixon line, to hire the first black congressional staff member. The staff member was the late Cora Faye Clayton, a graduate of Our Lady of the Lake University in San Antonio, who served for 30 years, first in Washington and then in San Antonio, with honor and distinction. Additional milestones for Gail included completion of a Master of Arts degree in Legislative Affairs (MALA) from George Washington University.

Earlier in Austin, Gail had served on the State Executive Committee of the Young Democrats of Texas and was involved in many civil rights demonstrations in 1959–61, including several at a University of Texas campus area movie house which would not sell tickets to blacks, even if they were students at UT. Further, the restaurants there would not serve blacks unless they had a UT student ID card. Gail says a State senator one time got out of his car, walked down the line observing the young demonstrators at the movie house, and then harassed them, as he walked away denouncing them, under his breath, as a "bunch of communists." When Gail came to Washington with my father in late 1961, she, as well as other women, was denied membership in several organizations, including the Texas Breakfast Club, a Washington discussion group. It took years for those barriers for women to come down!

Currently, Gail is president of the Henry B. Gonzalez Foundation for Inspiring Public Service which seeks to establish, at the downtown campus of the University of Texas at San Antonio, a center, named for my father, for Public Service, Integrity and Courage. She is also the Democratic chair for my precinct, and is active in many social, religious, and public service endeavors. For a few months she was the interim director of the Guadalupe Community Center that serves a poor neighborhood in my district.

Gail, your record of service and achievements could fill a book. I congratulate you and wish you a happy and healthy 70th birthday, with many more to come!

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. JEFF FORTENBERRY**

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 18, 2005*

Mr. FORTENBERRY. Mr. Speaker, on Thursday, November 17, 2005, I was unavoidably detained due to a death in my family and thus missed rollcall vote No. 600. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

HONORING THE CEDAR CREEK  
ROTARY CLUB

**HON. JEB HENSARLING**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 18, 2005*

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, today, I would like to help celebrate two significant anniversaries of Rotary International. This year, Rotary International celebrated its 100th anniversary. From its humble roots in Chicago, Illinois, Rotary has grown into a worldwide organization of business and professional leaders who provide humanitarian service, encourage high ethical standards in all vocations, and help build goodwill and peace in the world. Since 1943, Rotary International has distributed more than \$1.1 billion to combat Polio, promote cultural exchanges and encourage community service.

I also want to recognize the Cedar Creek Rotary Club for their 19 years of service to Henderson County. Throughout its history, the Cedar Creek Rotary Club has achieved great success in carrying out the mission of Rotary International.

The Cedar Creek Rotary Club has raised money to provide scholarships for local youth, exchange programs, and faculty and student luncheons. Their support in the community can be seen through their involvement in local organizations. They helped start the Genesis Center for abused women. In addition, they strongly support organizations, such as the Rainbow Room, Toys for Tots, local school programs and the YMCA.

Through these initiatives, the Cedar Creek Rotary Club exemplifies the values of service and charity that lie at the heart of American society. As the Congressional representative of the members of this outstanding organization, it is my distinct pleasure to honor them today in the United States House of Representatives.

HONORING RETIRING ERIE COUNTY  
LEGISLATOR TIMOTHY  
WROBLEWSKI

**HON. BRIAN HIGGINS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 18, 2005*

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor a friend and fellow public official whose service has been exemplary and whose commitment to the residents and taxpayers of the towns of West Seneca and Cheektowaga, and the residents of the county of Erie at large, has been commendable. Today, I wish to honor the service of retiring Erie County Legislator Timothy Wroblewski.

Tim Wroblewski began his career as an elected official as a member of the West Seneca Town Board. During that service, Tim worked with local officials to make West Seneca's government among the most efficient and effective local governments in New York State—forging relationships across party lines and working cooperatively with civic, government and community leaders to make West Seneca government the envy of local governments statewide.

With an open-seat election for the ninth legislative district seat available in 2004, Tim

Wroblewski entered the race for the County Legislature and took office in January 2004. Since his election to the legislature, Tim served as a strong voice on behalf of Erie County's taxpayers. Tim's commitment to his constituency was admirable, and I have always valued his friendship, both on a personal as well as a professional level.

The residents of the towns of West Seneca and South Cheektowaga are better for the service provided to them by Tim Wroblewski, and I want to thank you, Mr. Speaker, for this opportunity to recognize the accomplishments of a responsible and effective public official.

TRIBUTE TO MS. JORDAN ROWAN

**HON. DONALD M. PAYNE**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 18, 2005*

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to rise today to congratulate an extraordinary employee of mine who is unfortunately leaving our office this Thursday, November 17, 2005. Ms. Jordan Rowan will be leaving our office to join her future husband, Mr. Coleman Fannin, in Dayton, OH, as well as to pursue other professional opportunities.

Jordan joined my office in fall 2003 as an intern and through her hard work, she advanced to legislative assistant. Among her many areas, she handled environmental issues for me. We share a great love for the environment and for its preservation. Therefore, she has been an indispensable asset to me as the Congress has debated many critical environmental bills this year.

Over the 2 years that she has worked for me, she also has gained the necessary skill of deciphering my cryptic questions with even vaguer clues. Any time I needed her to find an obscure factoid, I could readily rely upon her.

She has a big empathetic heart that, many times, has helped to ground myself and others in my office when a larger perspective was greatly needed. In fact, when most other brides choose to register for wedding gifts to supplement their new lives, she wanted to help others by registering with Heifer International, an organization that provides livestock to families in developing countries. Like Heifer International, she believes in giving but giving with the purpose of empowering others to better themselves economically and socially.

Mr. Speaker, I invite my colleagues here in the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in congratulating Ms. Jordan Rowan as she moves on to the next important stage of her life. While exemplifying professionalism and integrity, Jordan has not only brightened my office but also has assisted me legislatively on many important issues. I am proud to have had her work in my office and wish her never-ending success in her future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO DETECTIVE MIKE  
METZLER

**HON. JOHN SHIMKUS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 18, 2005*

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Detective Mike Metzler of Alton, Ill. De-

tective Metzler, a 10-year veteran of the Alton Police Department, was recently awarded the Pastor Paul-Gerhard Braune Award for his work on the department's Crisis Intervention Team, CIT. This State-level award is from the National Alliance on Mental Illness of Illinois.

CIT officers, like Detective Metzler, respond to situations concerning people in a crisis. Detective Metzler has used his training at a CIT office to prevent individuals from committing suicide and has also helped to bring calm to other dangerous situations.

Aside from his work as a CIT officer, he also serves as the Alton public school police-school liaison. As well, he travels to other States to train officers about crisis intervention.

I am pleased to thank Detective Metzler for his outstanding work. I congratulate him on his award.

HONORING SUEY GEE

**HON. BARBARA LEE**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 18, 2005*

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary life and achievements of World War II veteran Suey W. Gee of Oakland, CA. This weekend Mr. Gee celebrates his 79th birthday, his 80th birthday according to the Chinese lunar calendar. On this special occasion his friends and family will gather to honor him for the immeasurable contributions he has made not only to their lives, but also to our country.

Suey W. Gee was born in Canton, China on November 19, 1926. As a youth, he emigrated to the United States with his father to find work and help support his family back in China. In March 1945, at the age of 19, he enlisted into the U.S. Army to aid his newly adopted country during World War II. He served in the 128th infantry and trained as an anti-aircraft gunner. His unit was ultimately deployed to Hiroshima, Nakasaki and Okinawa following the atomic bombings that destroyed those cities, where he served as part of the occupation army and helped to facilitate the disarmament of Japan.

Mr. Gee was honorably discharged from military service on November 22, 1946. Though Mr. Gee was awarded the World War II Victory Medal, the Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal and the Army of Occupation Medal under President Franklin D. Roosevelt, due to the metal shortage during the war era, in addition to the fact that he moved around frequently in search of work, he did not receive his medals at that time.

In 1948, Mr. Gee traveled back to China where he married Sue King Gee, and they subsequently returned to the U.S. together. Mr. Gee became a proud citizen of the United States of America on September 18, 1957, and Mrs. Gee became a citizen soon after.

Like many immigrant families who come to America, Mr. and Mrs. Gee faced many obstacles, overcoming poverty, hardship and discrimination as they persevered toward achieving their dreams. They worked in the food service, cannery and sewing industry for over 55 years, remaining steadfastly committed to providing greater opportunities for their children than what they had themselves. Married

for over 58 years, Mr. and Mrs. Gee have three daughters and one son, all of whom are currently living or working in the city of Oakland as active and productive members of our community.

Mr. Gee is retired now and spends his time keeping up with local and national politics. At almost 80 years old, he still votes regularly and remains civically engaged in the country that he served in the U.S. Army more than 60 years ago.

On this very special occasion, Mr. Gee's friends and family will come together not only to celebrate his birthday, but to present him with his hard-earned and well-deserved military service medals over six decades after his honorable discharge. On behalf of California's Ninth Congressional District, I would like to take this opportunity to salute and thank Mr. Suey W. Gee for his brave service to our country, and for his invaluable contributions to our community.

RECOGNIZING MR. BENJAMIN S.  
WONG

**HON. HILDA L. SOLIS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 18, 2005*

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Benjamin S. Wong of West Covina, California. Mr. Wong was first elected to serve the citizens of West Covina in April 1992 and served as mayor from 1997–1998. He is currently the mayor pro tempore and is completing his service to the city as an elected official this December.

Ms. Wong has a long history of service to the community with membership to various organizations and boards. He is a member of the West Covina Lyons (1981–1994); Board of Directors and former President of the Chamber of Commerce; the Queen of the Valley Foundation; the Queen of the Valley Men's Club; the Intercommunity Medical Center Men's Club, member of the 2100 Club; and First Federal Savings and Loan of San Gabriel Valley Board of Directors, 1991–present.

Mr. Wong's service to the residents of West Covina includes a broad spectrum of boards and municipal organizations, all of which address issues of commerce, urban development and revitalization. This service includes the Redevelopment Agency Relocation Appeals Board; Citizens Committee on Public Services and Facilities; Police Commander Interview Board; San Gabriel Valley Commerce and Cities Consortium Board Member, 1992–present; vice president from 1993–1994; and Foothill Transit Executive Board Member, 1994–present.

In addition to his service to the community, Mr. Wong is a devoted and loving husband to his wife Deborah of 26 years and father to his three children: Courtney, Justin and Adam. It is with pleasure that I recognize Mr. Benjamin S. Wong for his significant contributions and noteworthy dedication and service to his community.