

Services, a state agency that educates and trains disabled and developmentally challenged persons to obtain meaningful jobs.

Mr. Speaker, Sheriff-elect Byers has a superb record as an officer of the law, and is dedicated to making Rutherford County a safe and peaceful place in which to live. Combating the methamphetamine epidemic is a perfect example of his leadership for the county. He is an excellent choice for this position, and I congratulate him on this great honor. I thank Sheriff-elect Byers and his wife Sheila for their dedication to the community and look forward to his service as Sheriff of Rutherford County.

HONORING THE ASTUTE LEADERSHIP OF JAMES T. WILLERSON, M.D., PRESIDENT OF THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS HEALTH SCIENCE CENTER AT HOUSTON (UTHSC-H) FOR UTHSC-H'S RESPONSE TO THE CRISIS BROUGHT ABOUT HURRICANE KATRINA

HON. KEVIN BRADY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2005

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Dr. James T. Willerson, President of the University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston (UTHSC-H).

On September 1, 2005, Dr. Willerson, along with UTHSC-H Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer Michael D. McKinney, M.D., was given the task by Houston Mayor Bill White to transform a portion of the George R. Brown Convention Center (GRB) in Houston, Texas, from a convention center to a medical triage center, adjacent to the shelter created for more than 5,000 Hurricane Katrina survivors.

The UT Health Science Center acted quickly to design, organize and prepare clinic space to serve evacuees at the George R. Brown Convention Center, which opened as an additional safe haven to Houston's Astrodome, which quickly achieved capacity within a day of opening. Over about three weeks, more than 6,000 volunteers operated the UT Clinic and managed more than 9,000 patient visits. The volunteers included UT physicians, nurses, dentists, public health professionals, students and administrative staff as well as spouses of these professionals. The clinic also included other volunteers and health professionals from Texas Medical Center institutions and individuals from across the country who answered the call to help in the aftermath of this national crisis. These volunteers worked tirelessly to ensure welcome, comfort and care for our neighbors in need. Services provided with expertise and compassion in the UT Clinic included: emergency aid, pediatric care, immunizations, obstetrics and gynecology, internal medicine, pharmacy, laboratory services, imaging and vision components, dental care and mental health services.

Several dedicated professionals from the UT Health Science Center worked to ensure that healthcare concerns at the evacuee sites were communicated with state and local officials. Scott Lillibridge, M.D., the Director of the Center for Biosecurity and Public Health Preparedness, provided critical technical assistance

and general epidemiology support at numerous evacuee facilities. Faculty and staff conducted rapid health assessments daily at evacuee sites. This information allowed Dr. Ward Casscells, the John Edward Tyson Distinguished Professor of Medicine and Vice President of Biotechnology at the Health Science Center, and Dr. Lillibridge to continually inform public health officials of evacuee health status and coordinate efforts with FEMA, CDC, the Red Cross, the City of Houston, Harris County, and the Texas Commissioner of Health.

Each of the UT Health Science Center's six schools—contributed in one way or another to the Hurricane Katrina response. Dr. Willerson encouraged his deans to seek every possible avenue to help during this time of crisis. He approved of the placement of students from Tulane Medical School and allocated space for the displaced Tulane faculty for their medical education, resident training and research at the UT Medical School. The medical school is also hosting 37 residents from Tulane so additional interruptions to their education will not occur.

Dr. Willerson is an exemplary leader who through his actions in this most recent crisis was able to show compassion in the midst of quick decision-making. With the help of a superb leadership team, headed by Dr. McKinney, the staff performed to the highest standards of professionalism and compassion. With the encouragement, support and guidance of Dr. Willerson, the University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston responded in countless ways as health professionals, lay volunteers, concerned citizens and caring friends.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. Willerson and the hundreds of UTHSC-Houston professionals who answered the call to aid and assist their fellow Americans deserve the acclaim and gratitude of the Nation.

COMMENDING DR. ANNE HARLAN ON HER OUTSTANDING SERVICE TO HER COMMUNITY AND NATION

HON. FRANK A. LOBIONDO

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2005

Mr. LOBIONDO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Dr. Anne Harlan on her long and distinguished service to her community and country, and congratulate her on her upcoming retirement as director of the Federal Aviation Administration's William J. Hughes Technical Center in Pomona, N.J.

During a career that has spanned more than 20 years, Dr. Harlan has been an unwavering advocate for improving the safety and security of our Nation's skies. Since 1995, she has led the FAA's Technical Center and oversaw the research and development of new aviation safety and security technology. She has been a tremendous leader for the center, effectively managing and motivating over 1,000 outstanding employees who have given her their complete confidence. She has worked tirelessly to expand the center, while keeping the growing community cohesive and working as a team.

Before she came to the Technical Center, she served for 11 years in FAA's New Eng-

land Region where she held positions in the divisions of Flight Standards, Civil Aviation Security, and Human Resources. Dr. Harlan has also dutifully served as a special assistant to two deputy administrators during her multiple Washington assignments over the years.

Dr. Harlan has been willing to share her expertise over the years as she was on the faculty at the prestigious Harvard University Graduate School of Business where she taught in the MBA and doctoral programs. Those students who were fortunate enough to learn from her are certainly better off today having her insight and experiences passed down to them.

Throughout her distinguished career in public service, Dr. Harlan devoted herself to safeguarding the country, while preparing us for our future's challenges. I would like to personally congratulate and thank her on behalf of the flying public and all Americans. I hope she enjoys every bit of her retirement, she certainly deserves it.

A TRIBUTE TO SAN BERNARDINO NATIONAL FOREST SUPERVISOR GENE ZIMMERMAN

HON. JERRY LEWIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2005

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a dedicated public servant who has spent 42 years helping preserve our forests and wildlands for future Americans, want to particularly commend Gene Zimmerman for the past 15 years he has spent as supervisor of the San Bernardino National Forest.

Even as a boy growing up in eastern Oregon, Gene heard the call of the great outdoors. He spent his time camping, fishing and hiking in the Umatilla National Forest, and worked for a timber company in the summer. While attending Oregon State University, he spent his summers working for the U.S Forest Service, and began his full-time career there when he graduated in 1964.

Supervisor Zimmerman worked as a ranger in a number of forests in Oregon, and began honing his skills in volunteer organization and partnership building while working as district ranger in the Columbia Gorge District. He continued to develop an expertise in this area when he came to the National Headquarters in Washington, DC, to oversee legislation on recreation issues.

The experience Gene Zimmerman gained on how to help people enjoy National Forests without damaging them paid off when he was appointed supervisor of the San Bernardino National Forest. I have proudly represented this area throughout my years in Congress, and I can safely say that there is no more heavily used and urbanized forest in the United States.

Imagine a forest nearly surrounded by the largest urban area in the Nation—the cities of Southern California—and sharing a mountain territory with tens of thousands of homes whose values range into the millions of dollars. The main ski resort area of southern California is within the San Bernardino National Forest, and millions of people go there for recreation each year. For millions of children

in southern California, this is the only place to go to play in the snow or hear the wind whispering through the pines.

The supervisor of this forest spends as much time dealing with urban issues as many mayors. He must deal with water quality, roads, development and emergency services as often as he deals with tree health and animal habitat protection. Gene Zimmerman has become the most familiar face in the San Bernardino Mountains in this role over the past 15 years.

It has been my pleasure to work with Gene on developing services for visitors—the Big Bear Discovery Center is one of the most heavily used visitor centers in any forest in the Nation. The San Bernardino National Forest Association, which Gene organized to help raise funds for visitor services, has become a unifying force throughout the mountain communities.

The need to forge a unified approach between the forest and the surrounding communities became deadly serious in recent years, when drought and an infestation of pine bark beetles left millions of trees dead and just waiting for a spark to become a terrible disaster. Gene rose to this challenge, as well, organizing the Mountain Area Safety Task Force. These Federal, State and local officials developed a plan to evacuate nearly 50,000 people, and when the inferno of the Old Fire struck in 2003, not a single life was lost to the fire even though nearly 1,000 homes burned.

My work with Gene has continued in the past 3 years as we have sought ways to reduce the fire danger and restore the forest. It is my hope that this can be accomplished with the help of the recovery plan Gene has set in place. He will now hand off the implementation of that plan, as he has decided to retire at the beginning of 2006.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that the mountain residents in my district owe a debt of gratitude for the dedication shown by Supervisor Gene Zimmerman. I would ask you and my colleagues to join me in thanking Gene for his four decades of public service and in wishing the best to Gene and his wife Anne in all of their future endeavors.

IN RECOGNITION OF GERALD AND
JULIA GEIER

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2005

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker I rise today to pay special recognition to Gerald and Julia Geier, who will be celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary tomorrow, December 17, 2005. In fact, they intend to renew their vows at a celebration being held at Saks Baptist Church in my hometown of Anniston, AL.

I attend church with this fine couple. It is wonderful to see two people who still care so much about each other after all these years. Their commitment is an inspiration to everyone who knows them.

I salute Gerald and Julia Geier on their 50th anniversary and join their family in honoring them on this special occasion.

RECOGNITION OF LORETTA E.
REARDON'S SERVICE TO FORT
MONMOUTH ARMY GARRISON

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2005

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I proudly rise today to pay tribute and express my deeply felt gratitude to the service of Loretta E. Reardon, who serves as the staff advisor and special projects officer/coordinator for the Deputy to the Commanding General at Fort Monmouth Army Garrison in Eatontown, NJ.

Ms. Reardon has proudly served our government for nearly twenty-seven years. Throughout her career she has shown a total dedication to her mission. Ms. Reardon has been a mentor to employees and has always been an energetic team player.

She has selflessly served Fort Monmouth as liaison to industry organizations on issues involving the command as well as Congressional offices on all federal matters.

She has always quickly responded to special inquiries generated by my staff, and my colleagues in the New Jersey Congressional Delegation, and myself on a myriad of issues pertaining to Fort Monmouth such as Appropriation and BRAC issues.

She was the eyes and ears for the command through multiple rounds of Base Realignment and Closures. She has been a steady and guiding force keeping Victor J. Ferlise, the Deputy to the Commanding General U.S. Army Communications—Electronics Command, on the right track for a number of years.

In closing, her retirement marks a new chapter in her life. It also represents the loss of a member of the Fort Monmouth family. It will be impossible to replace her work ethic, her exceptional standards, her unparalleled skill, and her ability to make everyone she touched feel special.

I want to thank Loretta E. Reardon for all she has done for Fort Monmouth, for the State of New Jersey, and for our country.

I ask my colleagues to recognize the tremendous contribution that Loretta E. Reardon has made throughout her impressive twenty-seven year career.

INTRODUCTION OF H.R. 4560, THE
"CLEAN WATER TRUST ACT OF
2005"

HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2005

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, I have introduced the "Clean Water Trust Fund Act of 2005."

We are all well aware that our national water infrastructure is aging, deteriorating, and in need of repair and replacement. The American Society of Civil Engineers recently graded the condition of the infrastructure throughout our country. Wastewater infrastructure received a "D-." Nearly half of the sewer pipes in American cities are over 50 years old. Some are over 100 years old. Treatment plants built in the 1970s need to be upgraded.

New mandates to manage municipal stormwater runoff have gone into effect. And water quality must be improved.

As a nation, we are not investing enough in our wastewater treatment infrastructure to ensure that we will continue to keep our waters clean. Unless we act, we could lose the significant gains in water quality that have been achieved over the last 30 years.

The Congressional Budget Office, EPA, and the Water Infrastructure Network have estimated that it could take over \$400 billion to address our Nation's clean water infrastructure needs over the next 20 years, twice the current level of investment by all levels of government. We can help reduce the overall cost of water infrastructure with good asset management. Innovative technologies, increased water efficiency, and regional approaches to water pollution problems also will help reduce costs. But, these things alone will not close the large funding "gap" that now exists between water infrastructure needs and current levels of spending. Increased investment also must take place.

A recent survey by the Luntz Research Companies found that most Americans believe clean and safe water is a national priority, and are willing to pay more to get it. The survey also found that most Americans want a sustainable, dedicated source of funding for water infrastructure projects, and would support the creation of a sustainable trust fund for wastewater infrastructure.

The "Clean Water Trust Act of 2005" addresses these issues by:

Establishing a Clean Water Trust Fund to provide an assured source of funding to help the nation meet its water infrastructure needs.

Authorizing over \$37 billion over five years from the Clean Water Trust Fund for increased investment in critical water infrastructure, improvements in technology and infrastructure management, addressing water quality issues in critical regional waters, and improving and protecting wetlands and fisheries uses.

Encouraging innovative and alternative approaches to solving water quality problems and financing infrastructure improvements;

Encouraging appropriate management of infrastructure assets, including planning for the payment of the costs of repair and replacement; and

Increasing support for rural and small communities through technical and funding assistance.

In crafting this bill we have looked at the national goal of improving water quality, establishing an assured source of funding to help the nation meet its water infrastructure needs, and the responsibilities of local communities to provide municipal services and maintain their local wastewater systems.

The "Clean Water Trust Act of 2005" embraces innovative solutions for these interests and I urge Members to support this legislation.

TRIBUTE TO DR. JOSEPH E.
LOWERY

HON. ROBERT E. (BUD) CRAMER, JR.

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2005

Mr. CRAMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Reverend Dr. Joseph E.