

of municipal representation for the City of New Braunfels by providing representation and legal advice to the City Council, city employees, and 27 boards and commissions.

Before graduating from Southwest Texas State University with a Bachelor of Business Administration in Economics and Finance, Mr. Zech was a member of the United States Navy. He went on to receive his law degree from St. Mary's University School of Law. Attorney Zech is licensed to practice in all County and District Courts of Texas, the Texas Supreme Court, and the United States District Court.

He is a member of the Texas Bar Association, the San Antonio Bar Association, the Comal County Bar Association, and the Phi Alpha Delta International Legal Fraternity.

As an active member of the Board of Directors of the Texas City Attorney's Association and the chair of the ethics section of the International Municipal Lawyers Association, it is obvious that Mr. Zech plays an active role in the legal community.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to have this opportunity to recognize New Braunfels City Attorney Charles Zech for his dedication and contributions to the community and his service to our Country.

CONGRATULATING THE PRESIDENT OF THE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY, DR. JAMES A. HEFNER, ON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. JIM COOPER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 13, 2005

Mr. COOPER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the extraordinary contributions of Dr. James A. Hefner, President of the Tennessee State University, and to congratulate him on the occasion of his upcoming retirement on May 31, 2005.

During 14 years of leadership as President of TSU, Dr. Hefner has operated under the motto that "a passionate faculty are the most important instruments of change in the academic environment." He is indeed "passionate" about encouraging students to reach higher academic heights and he is a strong advocate for excellence in education.

Dr. Hefner has helped countless students realize their educational goals and subsequent contributions to the community. Under his leadership, enrollment at TSU has grown from 7,405 in 1991 to 9,100. Dr. Hefner has elevated the standing of TSU to the extent that, for the past 11 years, the University has been consistently recognized in the U.S. News & World Report's "Guide to America's Best Colleges."

His rich career has spanned many areas of academia. Dr. Hefner has held positions as president of two universities, administrator, professor, writer and speaker. He credits the single common element of his success to his devotion to students. He strives to improve the education and financial conditions of minorities and is recognized as a renowned authority on minority economic issues. Dr. Hefner has authored 50 articles on economic research and authored or co-edited two books: *Black Employment in Atlanta and Public Policy for the Black Community: Strategies and Perspec-*

tives. He has served on many regional and national boards and associations dedicated to scholarship in economics, labor relations and public management. He is a consultant to the Congressional Black Caucus, the National Institute of Public Management, the Department of Health, Education and Welfare, and the Department of Transportation. In addition to numerous honors, publications and professional leadership positions, Dr. Hefner was awarded the Presidential Leadership Award from the National Association for Equal Opportunity in Higher Education (the organization's highest honor) and the Achievement Award in Research.

On behalf of the Fifth District of Tennessee, I join with Tennessee State University as they celebrate Founders Day to thank my friend and colleague, Dr. James A. Hefner, for his generosity, commitment and dedication to American scholarship and service to the State of Tennessee. I extend my heartfelt congratulations on his retirement and wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

IN TRIBUTE TO PATRICIA HAVENS

HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 13, 2005

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Patricia Havens, who has dedicated her life to preserving, researching and re-telling the history of my hometown of Simi Valley, California, and who will be honored this Saturday for her decades as a teacher, director and author in pursuit of that dedication.

Forty years ago, Pat Havens and 3 others founded the Simi Valley Historical Society. The society, largely under Pat's guidance, has been responsible for documenting and saving local buildings and antiques of historical significance. Many of them are now housed at the Strathearn Historical Park and Museum, where Pat serves as the Museum Director. The projects are ongoing.

The society is currently renovating Simi Valley's first house of worship, which opened as a Presbyterian church in 1902 and became a Catholic church 10 years later. The Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District purchased the building in 2002 and moved it to Strathearn Park, where it joins the Simi Adobe, which was built during the early days of the city's Spanish period beginning in 1795; the Strathearn family farmhouse that was built onto the adobe in 1892; the Simi Valley Library building that served the community from 1930–1962; and many other buildings and artifacts that tell the valley's story.

Preservation has not been enough for Pat Havens, however. Thirty years ago she began teaching the "History of Simi Valley" program and five years ago, in collaboration with Bill Appleton, she published through the historical society a comprehensive history of the valley, "Simi Valley: A Journey Through Time."

The City Council named Pat as Simi Valley's first City Historian while I was mayor of the city, a post she still holds.

Pat's ties to Simi Valley run deep. Although born in Arkansas, she moved here as a young girl and graduated from Simi Valley High School in 1947 with her future husband, Neil. Neil Havens served as the city's postmaster

for 30 years, following in the steps of his father and grandfather, and died peacefully last year. Together they raised three children in Simi Valley, Debra, Barbara and Russ.

During Pat's lifetime, Simi Valley transformed from a farming community into a thriving suburban city of 120,000 people. Thanks in large part to her efforts, Simi Valley's past was preserved before it slipped away. Mr. Speaker, I know my colleagues join me in thanking Pat Havens for dedicating 40 years to preserving Simi Valley's history and for helping to make it relevant to our lives today.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF THOMAS C. LOPEZ OF THE SAN ANTONIO INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 13, 2005

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Thomas C. Lopez of the San Antonio Independent School District for his dedication to public service.

A long time resident of Texas, Thomas C. Lopez was born in San Antonio. He is a strong believer in his community, where he continues to work hard ensuring that our children receive the education that they deserve.

Thomas C. Lopez is no stranger to public service. He spent thirty-four years in the United States Army Reserve in active and reserve time. Having served his country, he retired with the rank of Major in 2004.

A strong believer in education, Mr. Lopez currently serves as Secretary and District 5 Trustee of the San Antonio Independent School District. He has also helped to improve our community through his involvement with the Affordable Housing Board of San Antonio Housing Services.

Mr. Lopez has striven to achieve the continued rebuilding of our inner-city neighborhoods. Because of his dedication toward education and housing, San Antonio, Texas is a better place for our families to live.

Mr. Speaker, I am deeply proud to have been given this opportunity to recognize Thomas C. Lopez of the San Antonio Independent School District for his dedicated service to his community.

HONORING THE LIFE AND ACHIEVEMENTS OF HIS HOLINESS POPE JOHN PAUL II AND EXPRESSING PROFOUND SORROW ON HIS DEATH

SPEECH OF

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 6, 2005

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor His Holiness Pope John Paul II.

As the first non-Italian pope in 455 years, Karol Wojtyla would have drawn distinction no matter what his papacy held. However, his 26-year reign as the 264th pope has proven to be a remarkable and historic papacy.

Perhaps it was the very nature of the Holy Father's upbringing—the personal tragedies he underwent as a youth, as well as his firsthand experiences with the totalitarianism of Nazism, then Communism—that shaped his world view and enabled him to serve as pope with such zeal and commitment.

His was a lifespan that began in a world of biplanes and horse-drawn carriages, saw the advent of spaceflight and nuclear bombs, and ended in a "global neighborhood" made possible by personal computers and instant communications. Perhaps only someone with these experiences could have appropriately taken on the challenges of the 21st Century in such a dynamic and tireless manner.

His worldwide travel, where he gained the attention of people of many faiths and embraced Catholics on all continents, will constitute a lasting legacy. Many Americans witnessed, first hand, the strength of his conviction and dedication to his mission during the Holy Father's 7 historic visits to the United States. In 1987 he honored my home city of Los Angeles with a visit that Angelinos still talk about. Those arduous travels, even during his years of declining health, demonstrated the importance of perseverance and faithful struggle.

Pope John Paul II was an inspiration to all generations throughout his 26-year reign. He inspired in us a sense of hope and self worth that encouraged us to live better, fuller lives. He reached out to the world's youth and taught them the value of integrity, courage, honesty, and forgiveness.

And despite the many challenges the Church faced during his papacy, he was admired for his resoluteness, even as Catholics around the world reacted in numerous ways to his direction of the church.

John Paul II was not just the leader of the Roman Catholic Church, however, he was a world leader, and he actively shaped world affairs including negotiating peace treaties and helping ensure the end of European Communism. He reasserted the Church's role on the world stage and was a global champion on issues of conscience, social justice, and peace. The tremendous outpouring of genuine sorrow throughout the world since the Pontiff's death is a testament to the impact his ministry had on people of all continents and all faiths.

Mr. Speaker, the "Shoes of the Fisherman" are empty, and I extend my sincere sympathy to my constituents, including Roger Cardinal Mahoney, all Los Angeles-area Catholics and all people of good will who mourn the Pontiff's passing.

Pope John Paul II's life of service was a life well lived, and it will be remembered in the hearts and minds of the people he touched around the globe for many generations to come.

NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL MOCK TRIAL CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. STEVEN R. ROTHMAN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 13, 2005

Mr. ROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the Board of Directors of the National High School Mock Trial Championship for their commitment to a competition that is

all-inclusive and sensitive to religious minorities.

The National High School Mock Trial Championship is a prestigious event that requires a tremendous amount of preparation, skill, and dedication on behalf of those students who are competing, and is looked upon with distinction by institutions of higher learning. The Torah Academy from Teaneck, New Jersey, located in my Congressional District, won the New Jersey State Bar Foundation competition, and advanced to the national championship, which is to be held on May 4–7, 2005 in Charlotte, North Carolina.

The members of the mock trial team from Torah Academy observe the Sabbath, in accordance with their practice of Orthodox Judaism, and will therefore not be able to participate in any National High School Mock Trial Championship competition from sundown on Friday, May 6 through sundown on Saturday, May 7, 2005. After much discussion between the school, the national organizers, the New Jersey State Bar Foundation, and me, the Torah Academy will now be able to participate fully without being forced to violate its members' religious beliefs. The national organizers of the event have agreed to rearrange the schedule of the tournament to accommodate students of all religious faiths.

I thank the Board of Directors of the National High School Mock Trial Championship for their willingness to change the schedule to allow all students to fully compete in this competition. This is fundamentally a question of equal access and the right of religious minorities to participate in a competition open to students from every walk of American life, and I encourage the national organizers to restructure the schedule of competitions in future years with this in mind.

HONORING THE EXEMPLARY WORK OF THE PLEASANTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 13, 2005

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the exemplary work of the Pleasanton Police Department of Texas. They have shown outstanding dedication and commitment to the community for 53 years.

The Police Department was founded in 1952 and the first Chief of Police was Joe Sanders. Since 1952 there have been eight chiefs of police, and today the police department is made up of 16 commissioned officers, 5 communications operators and 1 data entry clerk.

The Pleasanton Police Department officers are devoted to performing their jobs in a professional manner while they are serving the community and the surrounding areas. The police department encourages all of its members to engage in community-building practices in order to provide quality service to all residents of the Pleasanton community.

The Pleasanton Police Department always strives to provide the highest quality service, preserving human rights, lives and property, while achieving the goals of the department serving the city and community. Currently holding the position of Chief is Gary Soward and Assistant Chief is John Eric Rutherford.

The men and woman of the Pleasanton Police Department are committed to excellence in leadership, providing progressive and proactive services that help to develop community partnerships and building for a better future.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to have had this opportunity to recognize the noble service of all the officers at the Pleasanton Police Department.

HONORING THE LIFE OF FORMER CONGRESSMAN WILLIAM LEHMAN

SPEECH OF

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 12, 2005

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a great man, Congressman William Lehman of Florida. In his passing, I have lost a dear friend, Congress has lost a role model, and the Nation has lost a brave leader and national hero.

Congressman Lehman was, above all, a true liberal, dedicated to equality among races and classes. He opened his used car dealership in a black neighborhood, and was one of the few dealers in the 1940's and 1950's—white or otherwise—who would finance cars for black customers. He supported issues that were important to poor communities, fighting against highways that divided and ruined communities, and bringing home more than \$800 million for a Metrorail system in Miami, providing multiple ways for the poor to get to and from work.

He was also a gifted politician, inspiring loyalty in his committee members and his party. He neither dictated policy, nor ran his subcommittee overseeing highways, seaports and mass-transit systems with an iron fist, but by striking a perfect balance between offering incentives to cooperate and promising consequences to those who didn't. He knew all the legislative routes, and successfully steered bills he believed would benefit his constituents and the country around the road blocks and land mines in the House. If he was defeated on the House floor, he would work tirelessly in the conference committee to ensure the soundest legislative policies were written into law.

Bill was respected on both sides of the aisle, and had friends in both parties and all over Capitol Hill. He conducted himself with dignity, and he showed others that he believed in the issues he fought for, and wasn't merely supporting them for political purposes. When you hear people describe him, they almost always include the words "honest" and "moral", attributes that are rarely connected with politicians in this day and age, but which truly fit Bill.

Even after becoming one of the more influential members of Congress, he never lost touch, with his roots. He maintained his southern accent and his unpolished yet powerful manner of speaking throughout his career, and continued to dine and spend time in his old neighborhood.

One would be hard pressed to find a Congressman who took more risks, and for more noble reasons, while in office. In 1988 he chartered a plane to Cuba and successfully