

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

negotiated the release of three political prisoners, endearing him to the conservative Cuban community in his district. Seven years earlier he had negotiated the release of a political prisoner in Argentina, and he smuggled an artificial heart valve into the Soviet Union for an ailing 22 year old woman.

In my mind, Bill was more than a gifted colleague and a good person; he was a very close friend. I can attest that this is one of the rare cases where the statements being made about a person after his death are absolutely true. He was as good of a person in life as he is being described in death—a smart, moral, genuinely decent human being, one whose company it was a pleasure to keep.

Over the years I had the pleasure of working with Congressman Lehman a number of times. We served on the House Judiciary committee together, and in 1982 we traveled to several Latin American countries, including Nicaragua to investigate illegal arms sales. He was as much of a gentleman in the professional world as he was in the personal one.

Our country has experienced a great loss. Congressman Lehman was the kind of man who does not come around often, and we were blessed to have him in Congress. He was a role model to politicians everywhere and an inspiration to citizens all across the Nation. He will be sorely missed wherever he was known.

IN HONOR OF MICHAEL J. BENNETT'S 40 YEARS OF SERVICE TO ST. MARK'S SCHOOL OF TEXAS

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 13, 2005

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Michael J. Bennett's 40 years of teaching at St. Mark's School of Texas. I am proud to represent St. Mark's in the 32nd Congressional District of Texas.

Born four months before the German Blitz, Michael Bennett grew up "in the East End of London, not the rich part, but the tough part." He attended the East Ham Grammar School for Boys where he skipped his fifth year. As a "Sixth Former" or Senior, he was expected to specialize in an academic area to prepare for the demanding A Level exams. His father, understanding the importance technology would play in revitalizing post-war England, suggested he study Science. But as Michael recalled, while in Science class one day the Headmaster said "This is not the place for you . . ." and he was right . . . I chose the Classics and that has made all the difference."

Michael passed his A Levels and was awarded a scholarship to study at Christ Church, Oxford where he studied Classics and graduated with honors, earning both a B.A. and M.A. He would later earn another Master's Degree from the Bread Loaf School of English at Middlebury College. Michael has also studied at the Vergilian Society School at Cumae.

At the age of 22, he joined the faculty of the St. Andrew's School in Middletown, DE as teacher, debate coach, and Head of the Classics Department. Three years later, in 1965, he came to St. Mark's. During his tenure at St. Mark's he has taught Latin, Greek,

English, Debate and Fine Arts. He served as advisor for the Trivia Club, the Film Society, and the Junior Classical League. He was a member of the Curriculum Study Group and founded the Classical Society that presented plays in Latin by Roman playwrights Plautus and Terrence. In addition to teaching Latin, he currently serves as Senior Master, Chairman of the Faculty Advisory Committee, Latin Club Sponsor, Chairman of the John H. Murrell Awards Committee, Seventh Grade Class Sponsor, and President of Cum Laude. Outside school, he is the Opera critic for Northside People.

Michael is married to Dena, a freelance writer. He has two children. Sarah lives in Tacoma, WA where she is a child and family counselor. His son Paul, an alumnus from the Class of 1980 from St. Mark's is an attorney who lives in Annapolis, MD with his wife and three children, Jeffrey, Allison and Annie. Michael proudly notes that grandson Jeffrey is a straight "A" student in his Latin class.

I would like to extend my sincere congrats to Michael and his family on this great occasion and wish him additional success as he continues to teach at St. Mark's.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF McMULLEN COUNTY TAX COLLECTOR ANGELA BOSWICK

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 13, 2005

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the McMullen County Tax Collector Angela Boswick for her dedicated public service.

Angela Boswick is a proud native of Southwest Texas. She was born in Menard, Texas, where she attended Menard High School.

She began her professional life in the banking industry. During that period, she acquired the expertise and competence in finance that have stood her in such good stead during her work for the county.

Ms. Boswick has lived in McMullen County for the past 25 years. She entered public service in the tax office 15 years ago. Her hard work and competence have been repeatedly recognized by the county, and she has repeatedly been promoted, eventually rising to her current position as County Tax Collector.

Angela Boswick has been married for 10 years, and has further contributed to her community by raising two wonderful girls. She is the kind of public servant who holds our towns and cities together: hardworking, accountable, persistent and dedicated. Too often, the public servants who hold vital but low-profile positions such as tax collector do not get the recognition they deserve. For that reason, I am especially happy to have had the chance to thank Angela Boswick here today.

EXPRESSING LAMENT FOR THE GOUDSWARD FAMILY

HON. FRANK PALLONE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 13, 2005

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise on the House floor to express my deep sorrow for

Diana Goudsward Collentine and her daughters, Kristina and Jennifer, the daughter and granddaughters of James and Marjorie Goudsward. On January 4, 2002, Diana and her two daughters were walking in a school safety zone in Waldwick, NJ when they were struck by an automobile operated by a medically impaired driver. This accident resulted in the tragic deaths of all three citizens.

In this tragedy's aftermath, Doug Goudsward, brother to Diane, has dedicated himself to preventing the medically impaired driver from obtaining a valid driver's license in another State, thereby further endangering the public. To this day, his brave and persistent efforts to protect the public have unfortunately not been fruitful.

Mr. Speaker, this situation is quite tragic and it is clear that Congress should work with the National Highway Traffic Safety Agency (NHTSA) to study the complex and controversial issue of medically impaired drivers. Congress and the NHTSA should develop guidelines, which are respectful to individual drivers, while setting appropriate standards for driving privileges that ensure the safety of communities and the general public.

RECOGNITION OF SGT. KENNETH "LEVI" RIDGLEY

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 13, 2005

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life of Army Sgt. Kenneth L. Ridgley who was recently killed in action fighting for freedom in Mosul, Iraq.

Ridgley was a 30-year-old who grew up in Pearl, Mississippi. He graduated from East Richland High School in Olney, Illinois. He then went on to attend Southern Illinois University in Carbondale. He served as an Army sergeant assigned to the 3rd Battalion, 21st Infantry Regiment, 1st Brigade, 25th Infantry Division based at Fort Lewis, Washington. He was recently killed in action as a result of a combat related injury.

Sergeant Ridgley is survived by his wife, Charity Ridgley, of Steilacoom, Washington; a son, Dillon Ridgley; his father and mother, Clarence and Betty Richards, of Olney; a brother and his wife, Stan and Pam Richards, of Alhambra; and three sisters, Sonja Terry and her husband, Randy, of Willingford, Connecticut, Sher Richards and her husband, Steve Millett, of Columbus, Ohio, and Peggy Flauta and her husband, Rey, of Truckee, California I am proud of the service this young man gave to our country and the service his fellow troops perform everyday. Not enough can be said about Sergeant Ridgley. It is troops like him that are risking their lives day in and day out to ensure our freedom here at home and to others throughout the rest of the world. I salute him and my best wishes go out to his family and all the troops fighting to ensure freedom and democracy.