

of airport facilities to incorporate in-line baggage screening systems. The TSA has issued 8 LOIs to cover the costs of installing systems at 9 airports for a total cost to the federal government of \$957.1 million over 4 years. The GAO reports that TSA has estimated that in-line baggage screening systems at the 9 airports that received LOI funding could save the federal government \$1.3 billion over 7 years. TSA further estimated that it could recover its initial investment in the in-line systems at these airports in a little over 1 year.

In total, the GAO reports that 86 of 130 airports surveyed are planning or are considering installing in-line baggage screening systems throughout or at a portion of their airports. Moreover, GAO reports that TSA officials have identified 27 additional airports that they believe would benefit from receiving LOIs for in-line systems because such systems are needed to screen an increasing number of bags due to current or projected growth in passenger traffic. TSA officials stated that without such systems, these airports would not remain in compliance with the congressional mandate to screen all checked baggage using EDS or ETD. Yet, the TSA has also acknowledged that it currently does not have sufficient resources in its budget to fund any additional LOIs. While \$650 million is authorized for the installation of in-line baggage screening systems, annual appropriations have not allowed for any new LOIs to be signed.

Our bill will ensure funding for the screening technology we need. We're collecting over \$1.5 billion a year from the passenger security fee. Our bill will put a portion of that fee into two funds that will guarantee that TSA will spend the authorized amount of \$650 million a year and \$250 million for the installation of in-line baggage screening systems and passenger checkpoint explosive detection respectively.

Mr. Speaker, there is overwhelming evidence in the recommendations, findings and statements of the 9/11 Commission, the DHS IG, GAO and TSA that technology is sorely needed to improve security at our airports. We can no longer plead ignorance nor stand idly by and criticize airport screeners working the front line defense in the war on terror. We must demonstrate the leadership and the political will to do what we know is right and deploy technologies that will help our screeners get the job done, and keep the American public safe and secure. I urge my colleagues to join me in working to pass this important legislation.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF DONNA WILLIAMS OF CANYON HIGH SCHOOL

**HON. HENRY CUELLAR**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 26, 2005*

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the numerous accomplishments of Donna Williams, Canyon High School Teacher of the Year.

Donna Williams earned both her Bachelor's and Master's degrees from Texas State University in San Marcos. She currently works as an Algebra II and Precalculus teacher in the Comal Independent School District.

Donna Williams believes that creative teaching methods work best for teaching math, especially in grades nine through twelve. Her approach is self-described as "open, loud and fun," allowing for an atmosphere that is friendly and conducive to learning.

She also spends her time teaching leadership skills and sponsoring the Student Council. Leadership and mathematics are two of the most important skills for success in later life, and Donna Williams works hard to ensure that our kids get the education that they need for success.

It is an honor to recognize the accomplishments of Donna Williams, Canyon High School Teacher of the Year. Her unique perspective on learning helps to make Comal Independent School District a better place for our students to learn.

CONGRATULATING THE NORTH SHORE MUSIC THEATRE

**HON. JOHN F. TIERNEY**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 26, 2005*

Mr. TIERNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the North Shore Music Theatre at Dunham Woods in Beverly, Massachusetts, which this year is celebrating its fifty-year anniversary.

The North Shore Music Theatre has been entertaining local audiences and visitors since 1955, presenting both classic and innovative musicals in its unique theatre-in-the-round style. When the Theatre first presented *Kiss Me Kate* in the summer of 1955, the audience sat outdoors in canvas seats. Today, theatergoers are entertained in a modern 1,800 seat facility.

For nearly half of its existence, Artistic Director and Executive Producer Jon Kimball has been at the Theatre's helm. In partnership with his dedicated staff and Board of Trustees, Mr. Kimball has turned the North Shore Music Theatre into a nationally-recognized venue, both in terms of its size and the quality of its productions. The theatre was named by *Boston Business Journal* as the 2nd largest performing arts organization in the state for three consecutive years.

As a non-profit organization, the North Shore Music Theatre's mission is to increase the awareness, significance and celebration of musical theater and the performing arts through superb entertainment and educational programs. Each year, the Theatre welcomes 400,000 patrons to its six musical subscription series, an original musical production of *A Christmas Carol* and an acclaimed celebrity concert series. In addition, its award-winning Theatre Arts Academy reaches over 100,000 young people annually, through workshops, outreach and youth performances.

It is appropriate that the House recognize this half-century milestone for the North Shore Music Theatre, which has become one of the anchors of arts and culture in our region. Its contribution to the quality of life for the people of the North Shore and beyond cannot be underestimated.

Congratulations to the North Shore Music Theatre for fifty years of entertainment and education. I'm sure I can speak on behalf of my constituents and neighbors when I say that

we all look forward to sharing in the Theatre's bright future.

RECOGNIZING BOB MANSANARES

**HON. MARK UDALL**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 26, 2005*

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Bob Mansanares, one of my fellow Coloradans on the occasion of his retirement from government service. For 32 years Bob has been one of our State's most dedicated public servants.

He began his Federal career in 1973 as a claims representative for the Social Security Administration and went on to become the Regional Director of the Office of Workers' Compensation Programs. At the time of his retirement and since July 2001 he has directed the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program.

Bob, born in Del Norte, Colorado, to Martin and Ernestine Mansanares, is the oldest of four siblings. Money was scarce in his home but there was always food, clothing and a roof over his head. Above all he had the things that money cannot buy, love and the support of his family and friends. So while Bob grew up poor he never considered himself a victim or disadvantaged. One of his fondest childhood memories is fishing the streams of the valley with his father. Del Norte is an agricultural rural community and Bob and the family did farm labor as a child, picking potatoes and picking peas for a penny a pound to make ends meet. It was there that Bob acquired his work ethic and his unshakable faith in the working men and women of this country. He went from those humble beginnings to be the first in his family to go to college. In 1968 he was recruited by the Migrant Action Program to attend the University of Colorado at Boulder earning his degree in 1972.

While he was a student in college, Bob was torn between making a lot of money and devoting his life to public service. Fortunately for us, he chose the latter and has spent his entire Federal career in programs that focus on workers benefits and entitlements. He chose to repay in some small measure the debt he felt he owed to the community and to those less fortunate than he. As a former farm worker he became keenly aware of the working poor who had little or no knowledge of the benefits and entitlements available to persons who suffered from work related injuries or disabilities.

Over the course of his 32 year career his work philosophy has always been to make the process easier, to avoid acronyms and technical terminology which many find difficult to understand. Under his purview the process has become more user friendly. This lay approach to claiming benefits has been the key to his many successes. Another of Bob's notable achievements is serving as Commissioner on the Veterans Claims Adjudication Commission to review and write the report of findings, conclusions and recommendations for the disposition of claims to the VA.

The joy of his life has been Mary, his wife of 34 years, and their four children, Nick, Elissa, and David. His oldest daughter, Christie, died tragically in an automobile accident in 2001.

Bob has always been a modest man, avoiding the limelight and the accolades he so richly deserves. That is why I chose to honor him now for a lifetime of service, particularly those who might otherwise get lost in the federal bureaucracy.

Bob's simple philosophy includes "taking it one day at a time," and that is what he plans to do. Bob's mother passed away in 2001 and since then he has been telling his father that if he waited until he retired they would spend many days fishing the streams of his youth in his beloved San Luis Valley. Bob, good luck to you and Martin, may the fish always bite and may the sun always be at your back, as you "take it one day at a time."

Enjoy your retirement.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS  
OF STEF PARAMOURE, CANYON  
MIDDLE SCHOOL TEACHER OF  
THE YEAR

**HON. HENRY CUELLAR**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 26, 2005*

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Stef Paramoure, Canyon Middle School Teacher of the Year.

Stef Paramoure received her Bachelor's degree in Multidisciplinary Studies from Texas Lutheran University in Seguin Texas. She is a bright young star in the Comal Independent School District, having taught for only three years before receiving the prestigious Teacher of the Year award.

Working as a seventh grade science teacher has its challenges, but Stef Paramoure is ready to embrace each new day with optimism and enthusiasm. Putting the students first, she works hard to give them the quality of education that they deserve.

She believes strongly in taking a practical approach to learning science. Ms. Paramoure strives to connect the personal lives and experiences of her students to the subject that she is teaching. Though concentrating on a personalized approach, she is able to make science applicable, useful, and understandable to her students.

I am proud to have this opportunity to recognize the skill and accomplishments of one of Comal Independent School District's newest stars. Her recognition as Teacher of the Year is an excellent start to an already distinguished career.

IN MEMORY OF V.G. STRONG

**HON. RALPH M. HALL**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 26, 2005*

Mr. HALL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an outstanding citizen of the Fourth District of Texas, Vilo Glen (V.G.) Strong of Mt. Pleasant, who passed away recently after living 92 wonderful, happy years. V.G. was an active and beloved member of his community and will be missed by all those who knew him.

Born in Nebraska to Walter and Mary Schneider Strong, V.G. received his Bachelor of Science degree at Colorado College and

taught high school in Eckley, CO. After marrying Doris Wells in 1938, he returned to college to receive his Masters degree in 1941. During World War II he was a civilian chemist with the War Department in Pine Bluff, AR, and moved to Mt. Pleasant, TX, in the late 1940s to work for the Cotton Belt Railroad. When offered a promotion with the Cotton Belt in another state, V.G. turned down the opportunity and found a new career as a chemical engineer at Lone Star Steel, where he worked twenty years before retiring.

V.G. and his wife of 66 years, Doris, have been active members of the Mt. Pleasant First Presbyterian Church for over 57 years. V.G. served as a deacon and an elder. He was also active in the Lions Club for over 50 years.

V.G. and Doris developed a passion for traveling after his retirement, visiting more than sixty countries and every continent except Antarctica. Their latest adventure was to Scotland and the Shetland Islands with their grandson and his wife just last August. Also in retirement, V.G. turned a hobby into a part-time job. His love for restoring antique lamps resulted in restoring or converting lamps for numerous East Texas antique dealers and customers.

Most importantly, V.G. had a great love for his family—his wife Doris, sons Jerry and Paul, and five grandchildren. One of his grandchildren, Katie Strong, who is director of the Congressional and Public Affairs Division of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce here in Washington, shared with me her admiration for her grandfather. Katie noted that V.G. was a man of his word who helped so many in need—social outcasts, young people who needed encouragement, young adults who needed guidance and direction.

"While his life was not extravagant, it was good, it was full, and most importantly, it was honest. We could all try to be a little more like the man his grandchildren called Pop-Pop," Katie wrote.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize this respected and beloved citizen of the Fourth District of Texas and ask my colleagues to join me in paying our last respects to Vilo Glen Strong. May the memory of his wonderful life and his legacy of kindness continue to bring comfort to his family and friends.

TAIWAN OPPOSITION LEADER  
ARRIVES IN CHINA

**HON. DAN BURTON**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 26, 2005*

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, a historic event occurred today in the history of Taiwan-Chinese relations, the Leader of Taiwan's Nationalist Party arrived in China for the first meeting between the party of Chiang Kai-shek and the Communists since the Chinese Civil War "ended" nearly six decades ago.

I know that relations across the Taiwan Straits have been much on the minds of many members of Congress in recent months, especially after the Chinese passed the Taiwanese Anti-Secession Law. Although not an official Taiwanese Government visit, the eight-day trip by Lien Chan does represent an opportunity to test the waters, and put the issue of peaceful co-existence between these two historic antagonists back into the realm of public debate.

Analysts and China-watchers disagreed on whether Lien's trip can help ease Taiwan-China tensions. Some have argued that Chen is simply being used by Communist officials to foster a schism in Taiwanese society. Others, such as Robert L. Downen, a former U.S. State Department Policy Advisor for East Asia during the Reagan administration believe that the Lien Chan can win Beijing's trust and cooperation. Mr. Downen has written an interesting Op-Ed piece supporting his position that is worth considering, and I would like to have the text of Mr. Downen's Op-Ed placed into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD following my statement.

I do not know which side of this debate is right, and I suspect that it will ultimately be left to the judgment of history to decide whether this trip accomplished anything. Nevertheless, a security crisis over Taiwan is something we all must work to avert and perhaps Lien Chen's visit can in some small way persuade the Chinese Government to reconsider their recent actions and return to the "Good Neighbor" policy that has worked so effectively for so long. The quest for peace is worth that small gamble.

BACK ON TRACK

(By Robert L. Downen)

Nearly overlooked in a recent series of pessimistic news stories about rising tensions across the Taiwan Strait is a small but important initiative. Direct, though unofficial talks between senior statesmen of China and Taiwan are about to occur after an interruption of several years. Cross-Strait talks offer a glimmer of hope in an otherwise stormy policy arena. There simply has been too long a delay in direct contact between antagonists in such a sensitive forum as this one. Face to face communication is overdue.

The set of policy actors on both sides has changed substantially since talks last occurred in the 1990s, and post-9/11 global security and political factors form a different environment. The political stalemate between the Chinese mainland and the island of Taiwan is an anachronistic relic of the Cold War demanding attention, and only direct talks will bring about an accommodation. The present leadership in Taipei seems unable to break the icy standoff, and so the opposition Nationalist Party Chairman Lien Chan a former vice president and premier of Taiwan but now a private citizen has accepted an invitation to visit China in April and will meet there with its President Hu Jintao. Lien calls his mission "a trip for peace."

After more than a half-century of deep mistrust between Beijing and Taipei, further estrangement only aggravates the situation politically, militarily, and economically. Direct talks between semi-official representatives of the two sides in the early 1990s did lead to a few practical agreements on handling postal exchanges, fishing disputes, and airline hijackings, as well as a promising agreement to disagree over the meaning of "one China." But that dialogue eventually broke down over statements by public officials and missile tests conducted by China in the Taiwan vicinity. The lapse of time since then has produced additional misunderstandings and stagnation. New governments in both Beijing and Taipei have missed opportunities for contact and occasionally provoked the situation by careless public remarks and behaviors in recent years.

In diplomacy, as in private business, if you are not moving forward you are effectively moving backwards. Inaction is equivalent to regression. Mistrust and lack of confidence on both sides has produced accusations and counter-accusations, fueling arms build-ups