

HONORING DENVER PUBLIC
SCHOOLS SUPERINTENDENT
JERRY WARTGOW

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 10, 2005

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Denver Public Schools (DPS) Superintendent Jerry Wartgow, an exceptional leader in our Colorado education community. Dr. Wartgow will leave his post as superintendent on June 1st of this year.

For four years, Superintendent Wartgow has worked tirelessly to improve education in Colorado by closing the achievement gap between minority and non-minority students, raising accountability standards, promoting innovative reform and building a strong relationship between the school district and the city.

Before coming to DPS, Dr. Wartgow was President Emeritus at Colorado Community College and Occupational Education System. He was also the President and Chief Executive Officer for International Training and Education Alliance. Dr. Wartgow holds a PhD from the University of Denver, a Masters Degree of Education from the University of Hawaii, a Bachelor of Science from the University of Wisconsin, and has done post-doctoral work at the East-West Center in Honolulu and Harvard University in Boston.

Denver Public Schools is the second largest school district in Colorado—with an extraordinarily diverse student body—and with a long history of serious challenges that have included teacher strikes, racial and ethnic divisions and difficult budget choices. Jerry has faced each of these challenges head on with characteristic innovation and enthusiasm. Through his leadership a progressive new professional compensation plan will be brought to Denver voters in November 2005. This program, "ProComp," will give teachers financial incentives for student achievement. His vision, compassion and tenacity allowed him to forge alliances between parents, students, teachers and school districts to both raise standards for Colorado kids and to provide teachers the professional opportunities they deserve.

While certainly much work remains to be done, Jerry Wartgow's leadership throughout his tenure as superintendent of DPS has paved a formidable path for the future of education in Colorado. He is widely respected in the community and has set a high bar for his successor. I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Jerry Wartgow for his enormous contribution to the Colorado education community.

HONORING BEAUMONT, TEXAS
MAYOR EVELYN LORD

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 10, 2005

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a sterling individual in my Southeast Texas District—the Mayor of Beaumont—Mrs. Evelyn Lord.

Following an over-two-decade-long tradition of service to Jefferson County, she will step down from office on May 17th. Through the

years, Mayor Lord has left an indelible imprint on the Beaumont community and while she is entitled to a well-deserved break, she undoubtedly will be missed.

Mayor Lord began her legacy in local government in 1980 when she was elected to the first of two terms on the Beaumont City Council. Her plans to run for office in 1984 were cut short when her husband and close confidant, Sam, was transferred to Northern Ireland by his employer. Towards the end of 1988, however, she returned to Beaumont and was elected mayor two years later. Mayor Lord then served two successful terms and retired in 1994.

At a critical juncture in the City's history, she was encouraged to return to public life and in 2002 was once again elected to the mayorship. Only when she was certain that the City was on the path to healing did she decide to forego a fifth term as Mayor.

During her tenure, Mayor Lord remained keenly aware of the unique threats that the Beaumont area could face in a post-September 11 environment. Accordingly, she shepherded the efforts to develop a distinct homeland security plan for Southeast Texas, which has served as a model state-wide. And, realizing that quality of life issues are often the basis for community revitalization, she spearheaded the creative charge to improve Beaumont's park system through public-private partnerships.

Demonstrating the high regard in which she is held among her peers, Mayor Lord was elected to the Board of Directors of the United States Conference of Mayors and served in such key positions as Chair of the organization's Arts and Recreation Standing Committee and as a member of its Homeland Security Task Force.

Even before she came to Beaumont, Mayor Lord was a committed public servant wherever Sam's career opportunities led them. She was elected as a State Senator in the State of Delaware and served as an Administrative Assistant to a County Judge in Kentucky. In Beaumont, she served with distinction in many capacities, including Vice President of Texas Commerce Bank and as Chairwoman of the Texas State Spindletop Centennial Commission.

Finally, few charitable organizations in Beaumont have escaped Mayor Lord's helping hand, highlighted by her work at the United Way, Texas Energy Museum, Boy Scouts, Julie Rogers "Gift of Life" Program, Chamber of Commerce, and Community Partners for Children.

Mayor Lord's leadership at Beaumont City Hall will always be remembered and her accomplishments will be felt throughout the community for years to come. Nonetheless, I am confident that she will not disappear from public life entirely and I join all of those in Texas' Second Congressional District in wishing her and Sam the best as they enter this exciting new phase of their lives.

As Margaret Thatcher once said, "Success is having a flair for the thing that you are doing; knowing that is not enough, that you have got to have hard work and a sense of purpose." Mayor Lord . . . she has that, Mr. Speaker.

RECOGNIZING AMANDA BLAKELY

HON. JEB HENSARLING

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 10, 2005

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, today, I would like to recognize the outstanding achievement of Amanda Blakely of Crandall, Texas, who was recently named the winner of the 37th Annual Robert F. Kennedy Journalism Award.

Amanda, who is a graduating senior from Crandall High School is the High School Print Winner for her work, "Ms. Mary and the Big Blue House." Her work takes readers into the home of foster parents Mike and Mary Brooks through moving interviews with three teenagers who have been placed in their care by the Texas Children's Protective Services.

The Robert F. Kennedy Journalism Awards honor outstanding reporting of problems of the disadvantaged. RFK Journalism Award winners have covered such diverse issues as child abuse, juvenile crime, bank redlining and discrimination against people living with AIDS. Past winners of this prestigious award include Diane Sawyer of ABC, The Chicago Tribune, The Washington Post, National Public Radio, and CBS's "60 Minutes."

This is the second major national journalism award for Amanda. In November 2003, Bob Scheiffer presented Amanda with the Ryan White Foundation National Journalist Award at the Journalism Educators Association Convention in Washington, DC. Amanda has also received national honors from the Los Angeles Times in August of 2004.

Award-winning work and journalism must run in Amanda's genes. In 1988, her late grandmother, Jannette Cox, of Athens, Texas, was honored by both the Texas House and Senate as well as by United States Congressman Jim Chapman for her work with the Athens Creative Center. Amanda's grandfather, John H. Cox, now a journalist for the Cedar Creek Pilot, once was assigned to cover former Texas Governor, now President, George W. Bush for the Jacksonville Daily Progress.

As Congressman for the Fifth Congressional District of Texas, I would like to recognize Amanda and congratulate her grandparents, along with her parents Gerald and Lynda Blakely, for her outstanding accomplishment.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING
LIZZY RATNER ON HER 30TH
BIRTHDAY

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 10, 2005

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker: Whereas, Lizzy Ratner is celebrating her 30th Birthday today; and

Whereas, Lizzy Ratner has been and continues to be a positive influence on all persons fortunate to meet her; and

Whereas, Lizzy Ratner has shown love for her family and friends and must be commended for her dedication to these relationships.

Therefore, I join with the residents of the entire 18th Congressional District of Ohio in congratulating Lizzy Ratner as she celebrates her 30th Birthday.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF PAIGE COLLIER HEMPHILL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL TEACHER OF THE YEAR

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 10, 2005

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the many accomplishments of Paige Collier, Hemphill Elementary School Teacher of the Year.

Paige Collier did not always know she would be a schoolteacher. She took a personality test at the age of seventeen that told her that her ideal career would be as a motivational speaker. She doubted this was right for her, but, at the assurance of her friends, she realized she did possess an ability to inspire others.

Paige has since used this ability to be an outstanding elementary school teacher. She cites several elements that contribute to her teaching ability: a passion to love and serve people, a devotion to putting children first, and the desire to continuously learn and grow.

Paige contributes to her school community in many ways. She organizes an annual Storybook Festival and mentors her fellow teachers, caring for their students as if they were her own. Yet her greatest accomplishment remains the connections she establishes within her own classroom.

I am honored to recognize Paige Collier as the Hemphill Elementary School Teacher of the Year. Her dedication to her students and her passion to serve her community are a shining example to all teachers.

Mr. Speaker, the General Counsel to SERB has many responsibilities. One must provide legal support for the Board, draft and issue unfair labor practice complaints, oversee the Investigations Section, supervise the Hearings and Representation Sections, and assist Board members in the preparation of opinions and orders. Under his leadership, decisions were seldom appealed and rarely reversed. In addition to serving as General Counsel, on two occasions J. Russell Keith also lent his formidable management skills as Acting Executive Director of SERB. While his responsibilities have been substantial, Russ has performed superbly and served the people of the State of Ohio admirably.

Throughout Russ's accomplished career, he has enjoyed a broad range of legal experiences. After graduating from Capital University Law School, Russ served as an Attorney/Law Clerk for Ohio's Fourth District Court of Appeals. Later, Russ quickly became Chief Legal Counsel to the Ohio Bureau of Employment Services where he directed a legal program affecting nearly 230,000 Ohio employers.

The consummate professionalism with which J. Russell Keith has served the people of the State of Ohio by crafting evolving state labor decisions, primarily on issues of bargaining, deserves the highest commendation. His proficiency as General Counsel, leadership as Acting Executive Director, and compassion as a friend of all Ohioans will be sorely missed upon his departure from the State Employment Relations Board.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying special tribute to J. Russell Keith in recognition of his superlative administrative service to Ohio's State Employment Relations Board. On behalf of the people of the Fifth District of Ohio, I am proud to recognize his many accomplishments. We wish Russ and his family all the best as we salute one of Ohio's finest citizens.

REMARKS ON WILLIAM CLAY FORD, SR'S RETIREMENT FROM FORD MOTOR COMPANY'S BOARD OF DIRECTORS

HON. THADDEUS G. MCCOTTER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 10, 2005

Mr. MCCOTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor William Clay Ford, Sr. for 57 years of dedicated service as a member of Ford Motor Company's Board of Directors. He has served on the Board with distinction for over half of Ford Motor Company's history of almost 102 years. As the only surviving grandson of the late Henry Ford and father of the current chairman, he uniquely links Ford's past and future.

Mr. Ford has had a long and distinguished career of service to Ford Motor Company. He was elected to the Board in 1948, a year before his graduation from Yale University. When the Design Committee of Ford's Policy and Strategy Committee was formed in 1957, Mr. Ford became its first chairman, a post he held until 1989.

In 1978, Mr. Ford was elected chairman of the Executive Committee and appointed a member of the Office of the Chief Executive. From 1980 until 1989, he served as vice chair-

man of the Board. From 1987 until 1995, he served as chairman of the Finance Committee, one of the most vital positions on the Board.

Mr. Ford served the Company as an employee from 1949 until 1989. He held a variety of executive positions including vice president and general manager of the Continental Division. In 1956, Mr. Ford assumed responsibility for corporate product planning and design. Throughout his career, he oversaw the design and development of a number of classic vehicles, including the Continental Mark II, a worthy successor to the Continentals designed by his father, Edsel Ford. The Mark II is considered by many to be one of the most beautiful personal luxury cars ever built.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Mr. William Clay Ford, Sr. as he retires from the Ford Motor Company Board of Directors and in wishing him the best of luck as he becomes Director Emeritus.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF SHERRY FRANCE, BARTON MIDDLE SCHOOL TEACHER OF THE YEAR

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 10, 2005

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the accomplishments of Sherry France, Barton Middle School Teacher of the Year.

Sherry France was inspired to teach by her grandmother, who taught grades one through twelve in a one-room school house in rural Virginia. A high school art teacher sparked her interest in teaching art, and after attending Radford College, she began her career.

Some of Sherry's fondest memories come from former students who have since become architects, designers, and artists. Sherry has set up a website that is updated regularly with samples of her class projects. The site offers students a chance to have their work available for their families and friends to see.

Sherry France strives to teach her students how to see what is beyond the surface. She believes that if you expect the highest quality, your students will surprise you.

It is my privilege to acknowledge Sherry France, Barton Middle School Teacher of the Year. Her passion and love of teaching have been a blessing to her community.

HONORING THE LIFE OF HARRIS COUNTY PRECINCT 4 CONSTABLE DEPUTY FRANK "SCOTT" CLABORN

HON. KEVIN BRADY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 10, 2005

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and memory of Harris County Precinct 4 Constable Deputy Frank "Scott" Claborn who was killed by a drunk driver while escorting a road construction truck in Harris County, Texas on February 19, 2004. Claborn and his family reside in Magnolia, Texas in the Eighth Congressional District.

A SPECIAL TRIBUTE TO J. RUSSELL KEITH IN RECOGNITION OF HIS SERVICE TO OHIO'S STATE EMPLOYMENT RELATIONS BOARD

HON. PAUL E. GILLMOR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 10, 2005

Mr. GILLMOR. Mr. Speaker, it is my great pleasure to pay special tribute to a friend and ally of the public employers and employees of the State of Ohio. Since 1994, J. Russell Keith has served as General Counsel for the State Employment Relations Board. As he prepares to depart the Board after nearly eleven years of dedicated service, the many state employers and employees of Ohio's Fifth Congressional District offer our thanks.

As General Counsel, J. Russell Keith has provided legal direction to SERB as its members work to protect the rights of the public sector, which includes nearly 365,000 public employees under Ohio Revised Code 4117. For more than a decade, Russ has worked tirelessly to craft thoughtful and fair labor law for Ohio's public sector. As an accomplished attorney, Russ has been a determined advocate for the people of Ohio.