

Deputy Claborn and 13 other Texas Law Enforcement Officers will be honored at the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial in Washington, DC, on May 15, 2005.

Deputy Claborn's wife of 16 years, Paula Claborn and her 11-year-old son Tanner will remember a husband and father whose devotion and love of family was unsurpassed.

Paula's father, David Hill, the highly respected and loved constable for Montgomery County Precinct 5, told a reporter in the days following the accident that, "He (Scott) was one of the best fathers I have ever seen. I could not have handpicked a better son-in-law."

Praise for Claborn also came from his fellow officers and colleagues, some of whom he had worked with for 14 years. One remarked that he was very kind, never complained, and always had a smile on his face.

Like many law enforcement officers Claborn worked extra jobs to supplement his regular income. His son, Tanner has juvenile diabetes. The extra work, like escorting the construction vehicle the night he was killed, helped augment the cost of the \$6,000 insulin pump Tanner needed. Tanner, bright and popular young man, was released from the hospital just 3 days before his father lost his life. The drunk driver had a blood alcohol level three times over the legal limit.

Deputy Claborn's sacrifice touched many lives in the Houston region. The 100 Club of Houston pledged \$10,000 as a college scholarship for Tanner. The Harris County Precinct 4 Constable's Victims Assistance Unit set up a memorial fund to help pay for medical bills and other expenses. The Magnolia Community has rallied to the family's side.

The Claborn family and hundreds of others will gather in our Nation's Capital to honor the lives and memories of the men and women who devoted their careers and laid down their lives to make our communities safer.

It is so fitting that a memorial to these officers, like Scott Claborn, who patrolled neighborhoods and safeguarded communities from across the country be located in Washington. It is because of their faithful duty that American citizens enjoy the liberties and freedoms others are left only to dream about.

Mr. Speaker, I know this family. They are wonderful people who love their family, their God and their Country. I ask you to join me in saluting the thousands of law enforcement officers on patrol every day on our streets and consider the sacrifice they and their families routinely render.

EXPRESSING CONDOLENCES TO THE FAMILY OF LATE CONGRESSMAN PETER W. RODINO, JR.

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 10, 2005

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express our heartfelt condolences to the family of the late Congressman Peter W. Rodino Jr. of New Jersey and my sorrow on his passing.

A man of integrity and humility, Congressman Peter Rodino was a great American who served our nation with great dignity and honor. He was truly a historic figure and consequen-

tial leader who changed the course of our history for the better.

By conducting the Watergate impeachment hearings with fairness, Peter Rodino ensured that the rule of law prevailed during one of the gravest Constitutional crises in our history.

As the Washington Post noted, he spoke before this House when the Watergate impeachment hearings began and said: "Whatever the result, whatever we learn or conclude, let us now proceed with such care and decency and thoroughness and honor that the vast majority of the American people, and their children after them, will say: 'That was the right course. There was no other way.'"

He did all that and more. His contribution was inestimable.

Americans will be forever grateful for his courage and for his defense of the Constitution.

Though most renowned for the service he rendered during the Watergate impeachment hearings, Peter Rodino also left a lasting imprint as a distinguished Chairman of the House Judiciary Committee and author of significant legislation, ranging from civil rights to immigration reform to protecting consumers.

He was a main sponsor of the Civil Rights Act of 1966 and authored the extension to the Voting Rights Act in 1982. He reformed immigration quotas and promoted fair housing laws. And he was one of the authors of the Hart-Scott-Rodino Act that protects consumers by preventing anticompetitive mergers.

He was a legislative and legal giant whose work continues to have a profound impact on the lives of Americans.

Peter Rodino's 4 decades of service in Congress can be exemplified by the words of the Constitution that he did so much to protect and defend: "to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice . . . and secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity."

Peter Rodino's passing is a personal loss to me. I was honored to have served with him, and he was always very kind to me.

He was a great source of pride and inspiration to all of us in the Italian-American community.

I hope his wife Joy and his children take comfort in the prayers and thoughts of the many whom he inspired and served. We will miss him greatly.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF LISA DELAND, TOBIAS INTERNATIONAL 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 Lisa DeLand, Tobias International Elementary School Teacher of the Year.

Lisa DeLand became a teacher nine years ago, after obtaining a Bachelor of Science and Associates Degree in foreign language at the University of Texas at Austin. To this day, she says she still considers it "going to school" instead of "going to work."

Throughout her tenure, Lisa has worked on several district and campus committees, served as liaison between campus and super-

intendent's office, been a member of the campus leadership team, and acted as PTA representative.

Lisa works with a wide variety of students: some average learners, some gifted students, and some with special needs. This has compelled her to find a common thread with which to tie together the learning process in her classroom. Her own curiosity and love of learning have enabled her to bring a level of fun to the classroom that allows all of her students to participate in the learning process.

I am honored to recognize Lisa DeLand as the Tobias International Elementary School Teacher of the year. Her love of learning and dedication to her students are a true asset to both the school and the community.

IN SUPPORT OF THE FAIR CURRENCY PRACTICES ACT OF 2005

HON. DONALD A. MANZULLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 10, 2005

Mr. MANZULLO. Mr. Speaker, a country that manipulates its currency for the purposes of gaining an advantage in foreign markets violates many of the basic rules of the international monetary system established after World War II. However, despite repeated evidence that numerous countries are not letting market forces determine the value of their currency, our nation's laws set an extremely high threshold for us to take any effective action against other nations that intervene heavily in currency markets. The main purpose of the Fair Currency Practices Act of 2005 is to give our government agencies the tools they need to effectively combat illegal foreign government intervention in the global currency markets, particularly those efforts that are specifically designed to boost their local economy at the expense of the workers of the United States.

The Fair Currency Practices Act of 2005 has three key provisions. The first would alter the criteria by which the Treasury Department is required to enter into negotiations with foreign countries that it labels as currency manipulators. The second would further clarify the working definition of manipulation under the Exchange Rates and International Economic Policy Coordination Act of 1998. Finally, the Fair Currency Practices Act of 2005 would instruct the U.S. Treasury Department to undertake an extensive examination of China's trade surplus, with particular attention paid to China's suspect trade data, and report on its findings.

Current law requires that Treasury regularly make a determination of whether countries are manipulating the rate of exchange between their currency and the U.S. dollar for purposes of preventing effective balance of payments adjustments or gaining an unfair competitive advantage in international trade. If The Secretary of Treasury considers that such manipulation is occurring with respect to countries that (1) have material global current account surpluses and (2) have significant bilateral trade surpluses with the United States, the Secretary is required to take action to initiate negotiations with such foreign countries on an expedited basis. The Fair Currency Practices Act of 2005 amends the 1988 Omnibus Trade

Act by eliminating the necessity that a country has both a significant bilateral trade surplus with the United States and a material global current account surplus, before the Secretary of the Treasury is required to enter into negotiations with the offending country to end its unfair practices. The change requires such negotiations if there is either a significant bilateral trade surplus with the United States or a material global current account surplus.

Under current law, even if manipulation is found, Treasury is not required to act unless the offending country has both a significant bilateral trade surplus with the U.S. and a material global current account surplus. Treasury repeatedly fails to make a determination that certain countries, most notably China, are manipulating their currency. The 1988 Trade Act unfortunately does not specifically define "manipulating." The Fair Currency Practices Act of 2005 clarifies that a country engaged in "protracted large-scale intervention in one direction in the exchange market" is manipulating its currency. However, the Fair Currency Practices Act of 2005 does not preclude the Secretary of Treasury from finding a country to be manipulating its rate of exchange based on any other factor or combination of factors.

Finally, the bill addresses a problem with the way Treasury determines China's global current account and trade balances. Currently, the U.S. Treasury Department and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) use official Chinese statistics, which differ markedly from the aggregate statistics of its trading partners. This results in an inaccurate depiction of China's true surplus, which is presumably much larger than reported by China. The Fair Currency Practices Act of 2005 requires that Treasury undertake an examination of China's trade surplus and report to the Congress on why China's reported trade surpluses differ from those reported by its trading partner countries.

Mr. Speaker, all nations, most particularly China, must let the free markets determine the value of their currency, not use government resources to artificially depress the value of a nation's currency to boost their economic growth. This scheme costs U.S. manufacturers billions of dollars in lost exports and decreased market share in the U.S. each year while putting American workers on the unemployment lines. We all know the specific problems in dealing with China—in 2004, the U.S. trade deficit with China reached a record level of \$162 billion, the highest with any country in U.S. history. Yet, while China's economy has certainly grown and strengthened in recent years, China's currency has been tightly pegged to the U.S. dollar ever since 1994. Most economists believe that China's currency is overvalued at between 15 to 40 percent, making U.S. goods much more expensive in China and Chinese goods in the U.S. much more attractive to buy (at the expense of similarly-made U.S. products), contributing to as much as 25 percent of our bilateral trade deficit. China is long due for a correction in its currency value to reflect its global economic prowess. Americans stand ready to compete with anyone in the world. But the competition must be fair. The Fair Currency Practices Act of 2005 will give our government the tools necessary to hold all nations of the world accountable for currency manipulation (not just China) and level the playing field for our workers.

CONGRATULATING IRVIN LEVIN
ON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. PATRICK J. KENNEDY

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 10, 2005

Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island. Mr. Speaker, today I rise with my Rhode Island colleague, Congressman JIM LANGEVIN, in recognition and tribute to a distinguished Rhode Islander, Irvin Levin. Many of Irv's colleagues in the real estate and insurance business will miss him as he retires, and Rhode Islanders all over the state have been touched by his leadership in the business community, in government, and in his community.

Irvin Levin was born on July 21, 1915 in Providence, Rhode Island and is truly a member of our nation's Greatest Generation. He lived through the Great Depression, served his country honorably with the Army during World War II, and came back to help build America to the great country and society it is today.

Receiving his real estate license in 1959, Mr. Levin's practice was widely respected by his colleagues and valued by his clients, as his numerous honors and awards can attest. He was twice recognized as Realtor of the Year by the Greater Providence Board of Realtors, and he was honored as the Rhode Island Realtor of the Year in 1993. His colleagues elevated him to the President of the Rhode Island Association of Realtors in 1990.

Yet even while managing a successful real estate practice, Irv still found time to represent his community and fight for a better Rhode Island. Irv represented Cranston and the citizens of the 27th District of Rhode Island for 20 years. While in the General Assembly, Irv was Vice Chairman of the House Corporations Committee. Drawing upon his own record of military service and insights as a veteran, Irv chaired the Joint Committee on Veterans Affairs. In 1991, Irv retired from the Assembly as its Dean, the longest serving Member, but he continued his work in public service.

Irv later served as President of the Greater Cranston Chamber of Commerce. Irv continued to fight for his fellow veterans: serving on the Rhode Island Advisory Board of Veterans Affairs, leading the advocacy efforts of the Jewish War Veterans, and later serving as President of the United Veterans Council of Rhode Island.

I'm deeply honored to have served with Irv Levin during his years in the Rhode Island General Assembly and to honor him today on the floor of House of Representatives as he retires. His combination of community involvement, civic leadership, and business acumen sets of model for others to follow in the future and Rhode Island is deeply grateful for his years of service.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS
OF ELM GROVE ELEMENTARY
SCHOOL TEACHER OF THE YEAR
CATHERINE S. ROGERS

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 Catherine S.

Rogers, Elm Elementary School Teacher of the Year.

Catherine Rogers first realized she wanted to be a teacher when she was a student in the second grade. She stapled her finger while hanging papers on the bulletin board, trying to be just like her teacher. Catherine was a teacher's assistant while in high school, volunteered in low-income schools while in college, and later served as a Teaching Fellow while getting her Masters in Education at Texas State University.

Catherine credits her mother with teaching her the importance of putting her heart and soul into the school and the students. She feels that teaching is more than lectures and homework; teaching requires a willingness to become an important part of the life of each student.

Catherine says that teaching is her "heart and soul," and she loves learning new things from her colleagues, parents, and students every day.

I am honored to recognize Catherine S. Rogers as the Elm Grove Elementary School Teacher of the Year. Her enthusiasm and joy for teaching are invaluable to both her school and her community.

RECOGNIZING THE BUFFALO DRUG
TREATMENT COURT

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 10, 2005

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, in December 1995, the Buffalo Drug Treatment Court was established. The Buffalo Drug Treatment Court is recognized as a national mentor court and training site, providing the focus and leadership for community-wide, anti-drug systems, bringing together criminal justice, treatment, education and other community partners in the fight against drug abuse and criminality. The Honorable Thomas P. Amodeo, Buffalo City Court Chief Judge, and the Honorable Robert T. Russell, Jr., Presiding Judge of the Buffalo Drug Treatment Court are dedicated to the principle of restorative justice. They, along with their community partners in treatment and rehabilitation services, recognize the value of fair justice for the non-violent substance abuse offenders. The Buffalo Drug Treatment Court combines intensive judicial supervision, mandatory substance abuse treatment, on-site drug testing and escalating incentives and sanctions to break the cycle of drug addiction and its concomitant crime and societal harm. The Buffalo Drug Court Alumni Association is composed of graduates of the Buffalo Drug Court Program who provide ongoing exchange, support, assistance and volunteer service for those who have successfully completed the Drug Treatment Court. In recognition of all Buffalo Drug Court Graduates, the Buffalo Drug Court Alumni Association and the Buffalo Drug Treatment Court are coming together to sponsor a luncheon honoring the Treatment Counselors and Community on May 12, 2005. This celebration of Buffalo Drug Court is symbolic of the care, compassion and spirit of Buffalo, and the hope we have for our community and our citizens.