

Today, I am also introducing H.R. 2370, the "In Memory Medal for Forgotten Veterans Act". There are two groups of veterans who I believe need recognition beyond what they are currently receiving. The first are veterans who have died as a result of their service in the Vietnam War but who do not meet the criteria for inclusion on The Wall of the Vietnam War Memorial in Washington, DC.

The Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund has a program called "In Memory" which has raised money for a plaque that has been placed near The Wall. The plaque honors "those who served in the Vietnam War and later died as a result of their service." No names are on the plaque, but all names are kept in a "In Memory Book" at a kiosk near The Wall, and families can order a copy.

My bill adds to this fine recognition by presenting the families of these veterans with a medal, to be known as the "Jesus Chuchi Salgado Medal" to be issued by the Secretary of Defense. Chuchi Salgado was an outstanding individual, living in my Congressional district, whose exposure to Agent Orange ultimately led to his death. I would like to recognize his wife, Carla Salgado, as well as and Dan Santillan, who live in my Congressional District in California. Dan suggested the appropriateness of this bill.

The second group of veterans deserving of the "Jesus Chuchi Salgado" medal are those who were exposed to chemical agents, ionizing radiation, or chemical and herbicide agents during their service in the Armed Forces. The medal would be presented to veterans who are still living or to their families if they have died. Thomas Barnes of Whittier, California requested that action be taken to commemorate and honor such veterans.

I urge my colleagues to join with me in cosponsoring and passing H.R. 2369 and H.R. 2370. It is critical that we honor and remember those who have fought so gallantly for our freedom!

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF TEXAS POLICE OFFICERS KILLED IN THE LINE OF DUTY THIS YEAR

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 16, 2005

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I am here today to recognize the extraordinary contributions of the following Texas Police Officers killed this year in the line of duty:

Sergeant John Maki, Celeste Policy Department; Deputy Constable Frank "Scotty" Claborn, Harris County Constable's Office; Police Officer John Logan, Huntington Police Department; Police Officer Frank M. Cantu, Houston Police Department; Trooper Kurt David Knapp, Department of Public Safety; Police Officer Darren Glen Mdelin, Grapevine Police Department; Sergeant Gregory Hunter, Grand Prairie Police Department; Police Officer Nathan Laurie, River Oaks Police Department; Sergeant Mike Lane, Beaumont Police Department; Police Officer Angel Barcena, El Paso Police Department; Police Officer Christopher Jerome Sobieski, Prairie View Police Department; Deputy Sheriff Dirk Kneare, Chambers County Sheriff's Department; Lieu-

tenant Rover "Bob" Haley, Comanche County Sheriff's Department; and Police Officer Amy Donovan, Austin Police Department.

Each of these Officers provided their community with tireless, courageous, and gallant service of the highest caliber. They worked to preserve our rights, our homes, and in many cases, our lives—keeping our cities and towns safe for the sake of our children and families. These men and women were committed to excellence in leadership, developing community partnerships and always building for a better future.

It is a great honor to pay tribute to such amazing and exemplary individuals. Their selfless efforts and noble service will never be forgotten.

IN HONOR AND RECOGNITION OF BRIAN DAVIS, EXECUTIVE DI- RECTOR NORTHEAST OHIO COA- LITION FOR THE HOMELESS

HON. DENNIS. J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 16, 2005

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of Brian Davis, executive director of the Northeast Ohio Coalition for the Homeless (NEOCH), for his activism and dedication on behalf of the homeless women, men and children of our community.

For the past decade, Mr. Davis has fought in the interests of justice and hope for Northeast Ohio's most vulnerable citizens living on the streets. Mr. Davis' unwavering energy, compassion and focus has given a voice to those whose voices have been silenced by poverty and hopelessness. For the past ten years, he has edited *The Grapevine*, a publication that has provided an income and a communications medium for hundreds of homeless people.

Under Mr. Davis' leadership, NEOCH has helped obtain permanent housing for more than 425 people; provided 150 voice mailboxes for homeless individuals; provided legal assistance for nearly 900 people; and provided 5,800 people social services and empowerment through the Homeless Stand Down.

Beyond Cleveland's local scene, Mr. Davis has been a powerful voice for the homeless on Capitol Hill and at the State House in Columbus. He testified before the Government Reform Committee at my request to speak of the need for the Passport program for homeless men at a time when its funding was threatened. Mr. Davis was a guiding force and active participant in my Homelessness Summit, an advisory group with more than 200 Cleveland area activists working to end homelessness and advise me on legislative proposals. His energy extended to Columbus, where he worked with a state coalition to secure a revenue source for the Ohio Housing Trust Fund.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honor and recognition of Brian Davis, the tireless leader of the Northeast Ohio Coalition for the Homeless. His advocacy on behalf of the homeless citizens, the formerly homeless, and those at risk in the community continues to offer protection, guidance and empowerment. Because of the dedication and focus of

Mr. Davis, the lives of hundreds of homeless people have been lifted into the light of positive change and hope for a brighter tomorrow.

HONORING THE 20TH ANNIVER- SARY OF TROPHY CLUB, TX

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 16, 2005

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the town of Trophy Club, TX, as they celebrate 20 years as a municipality. Trophy Club, a town of roughly 7,600 residents, was built on a foundation of individuals who sought to create a unique town with less population density.

It is the passion of those like Jim Carter, Trophy Club's first Mayor, Town Manager Donna Welsh and numerous other individuals who dedicated their support, sweat and money to the incorporation of this small town which has allowed it to be so successful.

Trophy Club became the first master planned community in Texas and that foresight has allowed citizens to take hold of their community and develop the amenities and enterprises, which are wanted by their peers.

Originally designed to be a housing development circling a golf course designed by Ben Hogan, Trophy Club has come a long way from that vision, but relishes that it is the only town home to a golf course designed by that golfing legend.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I stand here today to commemorate the twentieth anniversary of a city founded on such sound principles of representation and democracy.

MILITARY RETIREES ARE WAITING—LET'S FINISH THE JOB

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 16, 2005

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker and colleagues, I rise today to introduce a bill to eliminate the Disabled Veterans Tax and to provide immediate concurrent receipt of military retired pay and VA disability compensation to all deserving disabled military retirees.

The "Immediate and Full Repeal of the Disabled Veterans Tax Act of 2005 (H.R. 2368) does exactly what it says—it eliminates the years of waiting before all disabled military retirees receive all the retired pay and compensation they have earned and deserve.

For the past several years, our Nation's veterans waged a long and determined campaign to eliminate the Disabled Veterans Tax. As my colleagues know, we were partially successful. But only partially.

The laws that we passed make veterans with a disability rating of 50 percent to 90 percent wait for ten years before their tax is completely eliminated. A great number of these veterans are elderly and, unfortunately, may not live to see that day.

Even worse, fully two thirds of America's disabled veterans, with a rating less than 50 percent, have been left behind and will continue to be taxed as before—nearly 400,000

veterans! Despite the actions of Congress last year, the Disabled Veterans Tax is alive and well.

Our Democratic Leader, NANCY PELOSI, recently stated: "On the battlefield, our soldiers pledge to leave no one behind. As a Nation, let it be our pledge that when they return home, we will leave no veteran behind. The Disabled Veterans Tax breaks that promise."

Some of the veterans left behind include:

A veteran of the Kuwait theater who had a below-the-knee amputation after being hit by a drunk driver while jogging near the Pentagon to maintain physical fitness.

A retiree who cannot work on a family farm because of pain, numbness and osteoarthritis of both feet due to exposure to cold during noncombatant military service.

A veteran who lost an eye when an air hose accidentally detached from an airplane being worked on and who cannot work as an airline pilot.

A female retiree who has weekly panic attacks and chronic sleep disturbances as the result of a sexual assault which occurred while on active duty.

My friends and colleagues, Congress did just okay by taking the first steps towards eliminating the Disabled Veterans Tax—I would give us a grade of C–, but we did not do A work.

During my years in Congress, I cannot recall more than or two other issues on which I have received so many letters, e-mails and phone calls. Our veterans have been telling us that this is an important issue to them. They deserve that we do A work.

I understand that there are costs to concurrent receipt. But I also understand that the now-disabled veterans did not hesitate when called to duty. Many have returned home with disabilities they have had to lived with ever since. How can we doubt the imperative that we keep our promise and give them what they deserve? They earned their military retired pay. They deserve their VA disability compensation.

We cannot make them wait any longer for justice to prevail!

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF BELINDA ELLIS, TOM GREEN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL TEACHER OF THE YEAR

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 16, 2005

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the contributions of Belinda Ellis, Tom Green Elementary School Teacher of the Year.

Belinda's greatest influence is her mother, who taught her that things in life don't just happen—if you want something, you need to set a goal and work towards that goal a little at a time. This advice led Belinda to become the first in her family to graduate high school, and later college at Southwest Texas.

Mrs. Ellis has pledged over 18 years to teaching, and currently teaches math and science. She believes that having the support and involvement of a child's parent is the key to her success. During her time at Tom Green Elementary, Belinda has raised close to

\$3,000 to buy new flags, outdoor benches, and trashcans for her school.

This past year has been extremely hard for Belinda, who has remained strong, positive, and determined to continue working as normal despite her ongoing battle with cancer. Belinda hopes her enthusiasm for teaching and sponsoring extra-curricular activities touches each of her students.

I am honored to acknowledge Belinda Ellis, Tom Green Elementary School Teacher of the Year. Her passion and dedication are cherished by all in her community.

IN HONOR AND REMEMBRANCE OF MR. MIGUEL CONTRERAS

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 16, 2005

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and remembrance of Mr. Miguel Contreras, devoted husband and father; a dedicated labor leader whose exemplary work touched the lives of many Californians.

Mr. Contreras was born and raised in Dinuba, California. The son of migrant farmworkers, Mr. Contreras went to work beside his parents and five brothers in the agricultural fields of California's Central Valley at only five years of age.

As a young man Mr. Contreras worked with the United Farm Workers of America. It was here that he found his true calling by learning from Cesar Chavez the meaning of dignity and self-worth. Mr. Chavez saw the potential of Mr. Contreras and appointed him a staff member of the United Farm Workers. It was here that Mr. Contreras learned the importance of speaking up and standing up for oneself.

With this strong foundation Mr. Contreras fought tirelessly for the rights of immigrants. He was an inspiration to many, bringing a special pride to Latino workers throughout California.

In 1993 Mr. Contreras began his work for the Los Angeles County Federation of Labor, AFL-CIO as Political Director. In 1996 he became Executive Secretary-Treasurer of the Federation, devotedly serving 345 unions with a collective 800,000 members. He held this position until his unexpected death on May 6, 2005. He will be missed greatly.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honor and remembrance of Mr. Contreras. I offer my deepest condolences to his mother Esther Contreras; his wife, Maria Elena Durazo; his two sons, Mario Salazar and Michael Contreras, and his five brothers Alex, Antonio, David, Juan and Pablo Contreras.

HONORING METROPORT MEALS ON WHEELS

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 16, 2005

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Metroport Meals on Wheels as they celebrate 25 years of service to numerous communities within the 26th District of Texas. The Metroport Meals on Wheels program grew out

of the passion of one individual, Kelly Bradley, who saw the need to aid her neighbors. It was her dedication to others and the generosity of the First United Methodist Church of Roanoke which fostered this program and allowed it to grow into its current state; bringing dignity and respect to seniors in over 19 cities in the North Texas region.

The invaluable support and outreach that Metroport Meals on Wheels provides to these Texas communities is an integral connection for those who wish to stay independent. Last year alone this grassroots organization served over 54,000 meals without the aid of State or Federal funding.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to offer my utmost thanks and congratulations to Metroport Meals on Wheels for their 25 years of service to my fellow Texans and those most in need of their support and their humble respect. The generosity of Ms. Bradley and the other volunteers at Metroport is truly making a difference in the lives of those they serve.

A SMARTER APPROACH TO THE BORDER

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 16, 2005

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, as California's Border Congressman, I rise today to deliver a simple yet important message to this Congress about how we handle affairs on our nation's southern border.

To my fellow Members of Congress, I implore you: Don't block clinics that want to help Mexican children with severe medical needs. Don't block border schools from hosting their Mexican neighbors. And don't block our tourism industry from welcoming Mexican field trips. Instead, join me in supporting the VISA Act!

Prior to September 11, 2001, the Valley Orthopedic Clinic in Calexico, California treated low-income Mexican children who suffered from cleft palates or other maladies. In fact, over forty years, they treated 125,000 children! The Port Directors at the border selectively issued humanitarian visa waivers so that these children could briefly visit the United States without paying for an unaffordable \$100 visa.

Since September 11, Port Directors have ceased issuing these visa waivers. As a result, children have been blocked from receiving specialized medical attention, participating in educational exchanges between border schools and taking field trips to tourist sites in border states.

That's why I have re-introduced the Visitors Interested in Strengthening America (VISA) Act (H.R. 2367). The bill gives Port Directors the discretion to issue humanitarian visa waivers to Mexican children making brief, pre-scheduled visits to the U.S. for medical, educational or recreational purposes.

In addition to clearing the way for American doctors who wish to provide specialized care to Mexican children, this bill would boost the economy in the border region and strengthen cultural and political understanding with Mexico.

The bill is identical to legislation that the Border Trade Alliance, National Council of La Raza, former U.S. Ambassador to Mexico Jeffrey Davidow and others supported in the 108th Congress.