

young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 337, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Joseph has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Joseph has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Joseph Olvera for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

**CONGRESS SALUTES BRIGADIER GENERAL MARK H. OWEN**

**HON. DAVE WELDON**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 8, 2006

Mr. WELDON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Brigadier General Mark H. Owen, Commander of the 45th Space Wing in Florida and Deputy Department of Defense Manager for Manned Space Flight Support to NASA. I congratulate him on his new assignment as Deputy Director, Strategic Security, Deputy Chief of Staff, Air, Space and Information Operations, Plans and Requirements, Headquarters United States Air Force, Pentagon, Washington, DC.

For the past 2 years, Brigadier General Owen has served as the Director of the Eastern Range, responsible for the safe and secure access to space of America's manned and unmanned space vehicles.

During this time, he was responsible for the processing and launch of U.S. Government and commercial satellites from Cape Canaveral Air Force Station.

The Eastern Range encompasses a 15 million square mile area, that includes a network of radar, telemetry tracking and telecommunication hardware operating at sites up the East Coast and in the Atlantic Ocean including detachments at Antigua Air Station and Ascension Island.

General Owen earned his commission upon graduation from the U.S. Air Force Academy in 1979. To date, he has received seven promotions and served in a variety of space and missile assignments involving missile combat crew operations, satellite command and control, space lift and test range operations and major space systems acquisitions.

During the early years of his service, his assignments included the Phillips Laboratory at Kirtland Air Force Base, New Mexico; the Space and Missile Systems Center at Los Angeles Air Force Base, California; the National Reconnaissance Office and the Office for the Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Acquisition in Washington, D.C.

General Owen has also served in staff positions at Headquarters Air Force Space Command and in the Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Space, as well as the Office of Secretary of the Air Force.

His command experience includes leading a squadron in Colorado and California, and serving as commander of the 91st Space Wing, Minot Air Force Base, North Dakota and the 45th Space Wing, Florida.

Brigadier General Owen's education accomplishments include two undergraduate degrees, one in biology/pre-med from the U.S. Air Force Academy and the other in electrical engineering from the University of New Mexico. He earned two Master degrees, one in systems management from the University of Southern California and the other in national security strategy from the National Defense University, National War College. Other education accomplishments include Squadron Officer School, Marine Corps Command and Staff from the Marine Corps Institute, Defense Systems Management College, Program Management, distinguished graduate from Air Command and Staff College and National Security Management Fellow from Syracuse University.

Brigadier General Owen's awards and decorations include the Legion of Merit with oak leaf cluster, Meritorious Service Medal with three oak clusters, Air Force Commendation Medal, Air Force Achievement Medal with oak leaf cluster, Combat Readiness Medal, and the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal.

I am honored to rise in support of General Owen's service to our Nation and I am proud of his commitment to the cause of liberty and freedom. I wish him every success as he continues to serve this great Nation in the United States Air Force.

**TRIBUTE TO EMIL EISDORFER**

**HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 8, 2006

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Emil Eisdorfer, a constituent of mine as well as a friend to the Bronx community for his years of public service.

On June 8, 2006, Mr. Eisdorfer will be honored by the Beth Jacob-Beth Miriam School in recognition of all the hard work and his dedication to the Bronx community. He has taken the word community service above and beyond in an effort to serve not only his community but my constituents as well.

Mr. Eisdorfer was born in a small town in Ukraine called Mukachevo, known for its rich Jewish history up until World War II when the Nazi's genocide machine took the lives of many of his relatives, including his grandparents.

Mr. Eisdorfer's life is a real example of the American Dream. Immigrating to the United States with his wife in 1974, Mr. Eisdorfer, using his knowledge of watch making opened a small business in the Pelham Parkway neighborhood of the Bronx. While he worked to provide for his wife Elena and his two kids Jacob and Sharon, he never forgot where he came from and how he got to America. He used his standing in the Bronx community and knowledge to assist arriving immigrants from the former Soviet Union in job placement and counseling.

In addition to helping immigrants here in the United States, Emil also used his 30 years of experience in business, economic development, and retail sales to help create the Business Improvement District, in the Bronx. Emil was always willing to help around the community.

Additionally, Emil served on numerous community boards including Vice Chairman of

Community board 11 and President of the Jewish Community Council of Pelham Parkway. Under this role he helped expand the council's membership, funding, and improving its services to the community.

Emil currently works as a staff-member in the New York City Council, while his two children finish up their advance degrees.

Needless to say, the work of this man has no boundaries. I am pleased that Beth Jacob-Beth Miriam School is honoring Emil, and I join with them in extending my appreciation to him for his service to his community.

**HONORING THE LIFE OF MAYOR EMERITUS VINCE WHIBBS**

**HON. JEFF MILLER**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 8, 2006

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart but also with a tremendous sense of pride that I rise today to recognize and remember a beacon for civil service, Mr. Vince Whibbs. Vince left us Tuesday, May 30th. He was 86 years old. Vince was an incredible man and his absence will leave a void in Pensacola that will not soon be filled. Vicki and I grieve with the rest of the area at the passing of such a pillar of society. Our thoughts and prayers remain with Anna, his wife of 63 years, their seven children, 26 grandchildren, and 22 great grandchildren.

Mr. Whibbs was a native of Buffalo, New York and attended the University of Buffalo before becoming an "office boy" for the Pontiac Motor Division of General Motors in 1940. As the Nation was in the grips of World War II, Vince left Pontiac to attend the Army Air Force Pilot Training where he became a fighter pilot and eventually became a flight instructor for the Army Air Corps.

He left the military as a captain in 1946 and returned to the Pontiac Motor Division, rising to the position of zone manager. In 1958, Pensacola was unknowingly blessed when Vince moved his family to the area to take over a local Pontiac dealership.

Friendly, outgoing, and charming, Vince had a love for Pensacola that was overshadowed only by his love of God, country, and family. He was constantly giving back to the community through his involvement in local organizations including the Chamber of Commerce, the Pensacola chapter of the Navy League, the Fiesta of Five Flags, the United Way, Rotary Club International, Junior Achievement and Project Alert.

Mr. Whibbs also gave generously of his time, serving the community in multiple leadership roles, earnestly working to make Pensacola an even better place to live. In 1963, he was elected to the City Council where he served for two years. In 1974, he was selected to head the Pensacola Chamber of Commerce.

In 1978, he was appointed to a two-year term as mayor of Pensacola but did such a great job that he ended up serving through June of 1991. Mayor Whibbs was Pensacola's longest-serving mayor and even after he left the position in 1991, maintained the title of mayor emeritus. During his tenure, Pensacola experienced tremendous growth including the building of the current City Hall, the expansion

and revitalization of the Pensacola Regional Airport, and the building of the new Pensacola Police Department.

In 1991, Mayor Whibbs was honored on the House floor by Congressman Earl Hutto, who accurately described him by saying, "Vince's real strengths lie in his basic personality and his never-ending promotion of the city's goodwill. Vince Whibbs is known nationwide, and everyone who knows him breaks into a spontaneous smile when his name is mentioned. In other words, no one doesn't like Vince Whibbs."

The Pensacola News Journal stated that "his mind worked so rapidly that his words tumbled out at you to the point that you'd want to call for backup. He spoke from a golden throat with a silver tongue, ever the diplomat representing Pensacola."

Vince was well known for a rapid-fire delivery of this speech he recited for visiting dignitaries:

On behalf of our elected City Council, those 10 masterful men who manage our magnificent municipality; and on behalf of the chairman of our county commission and his four commissioners who constantly deal with the changing, challenging conditions of our county; and on behalf of our wonderful people who populate the Northwest Florida area, it is my privilege and pleasure as mayor to welcome you to Pensacola, the western gate to the Sunshine State, where thousands live the way millions wish they could, where the warmth of our community comes not only from God's good sunshine, but from the hearts of the people who live here. Welcome to Pensacola, America's first place city and the place where America began.

Vince remained a champion for the Pensacola Bay Area all of the way up to his last moments. He passed after dressing for a television appearance to promote a proposed Community Maritime Park on the waterfront of downtown Pensacola. Vince campaigned endlessly for downtown redevelopment and was a staunch believer in making a good city a great place to work and live. His son Mark Whibbs put it best when he said about his father, "He loved this city, and he became a big part of it from the moment he moved here. And he never stopped."

He was a friend of Pensacola, a friend of the military and a personal friend of mine. His enthusiasm was contagious, his integrity inspiring. Pensacola has lost a great man. Vince Whibbs will be sorely missed.

#### RECOGNIZING JIM WEIDINGER

##### HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 8, 2006

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Jim Weidinger. Jim is retiring after over 30 years of service to the United States Department of Agriculture in Rural Development. A lifelong Missourian, Jim was born and raised on a farm in Vienna, Missouri, then after the completion of high school attended the University of Missouri in Columbia, Missouri.

Jim began his career with Rural Development on February 11, 1975 as an Assistant Emergency Loan Supervisor in the Union, Missouri, office. His career spanned 30 years at

various offices and levels within the Rural Development Department. Toward the end of his tenure, Jim was crucial in the process of obtaining grants that have been critical to the growth and development of northwest Missouri.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in recognizing Jim Weidinger of St. Joseph, Missouri. Jim's commitment to excellence is remarkable, and I am honored to represent him in the United States Congress.

#### IN LASTING RECOGNITION OF CHARLES RICHARD LIPPARD

##### HON. MIKE ROSS

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 8, 2006

Mr. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Charles Richard "Rick" Lippard of Booneville, AR, who passed away on March 9, 2006. Rick was born on May 31, 1946, and I wish to recognize his life and achievements.

A graduate of Bauxite High School, the University of Arkansas, and the University of Arkansas School of Law, Rick started a law practice in Booneville in 1970. Throughout his legal career, he served as Booneville City Attorney, Logan County Deputy Prosecutor, Public Defender, and Booneville Municipal Judge. He was also a member of the American Bar Association and the Arkansas Bar Association.

Rick was also extremely active in the Booneville community where he was President and member of the Booneville Chamber of Commerce, a member of the Booneville Parks and Recreation Commission, a Member of the USDA Committee, President, Paul Harris Fellow, and member of the Booneville Rotary Club, Booneville Little League Coach and board member of First Western Bank.

In 2003, Rick was diagnosed with Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis, ALS, and true to his nature, passionately volunteered in whatever capacity possible. He volunteered tirelessly for the Fort Smith Chamber of Muscular Dystrophy Association, MDA, and the Memphis and Arkansas Chapters of the ALS Association.

As a man of faith, Rick taught the McLean Bible Study Class at First United Methodist Church and was a devoted member of the Walnut Grove Cumberland Presbyterian Church.

Rick spent a lifetime dedicated to the community of Booneville and will be deeply missed. My deepest sympathies go to his wife, Elaine; his three daughters, Lisa, Laura and Lesley; his three sons, Billy, Justin and Kyle; and his sister, Sharon. While Rick may no longer be with us, his legacy will live on in the lives he touched.

#### TRIBUTE TO BETH ASHLEY ON HER 80TH BIRTHDAY

##### HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 8, 2006

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise with great pleasure to celebrate my friend Beth

Ashley on the occasion of her 80th birthday. Beth has enriched so many lives in Marin County, CA, through her years of accomplished writing for the Marin Independent Journal as well as for her passionate immersion in varied aspects of life in the community and around the globe.

Born in Massachusetts, Beth moved many times in her early years as the family sought financial stability during the Depression. With the help of her supportive family, she developed an interest in writing and worked on school newspapers. They moved to Marin in 1942, and, after finishing her junior year in high school, Beth entered Stanford University where she became editor of the Stanford Daily. She graduated in 1947 with majors in journalism and political science.

Beth's journalism career began in Marin at KTIM radio and included stints in southern California and Europe before her first job at the Independent Journal, IJ, as a copy editor in 1953. She soon became news editor, one of only two women with such a position in California at that time. Except for a 12-year break to raise her children and a brief foray into a public relations business, Beth has been an important fixture in several different roles at the IJ. She currently shines as a feature writer.

Raising her five sons—including two from the previous marriage of her second husband, Ross Ashley—was a role Beth also relished. She loved her years as a homemaker but returned to work when her husband died of cancer in 1971.

Another constant in Beth's life has been travel, which feeds her curiosity as well as nourishing her compassion for others. She has written movingly on topics such as the food shortages in Moscow in the early years of Glasnost to the struggles of women in Afghanistan trying to recover from years of repressive Taliban rule, and she is currently involved in Iran and its people on the ground, as well as in Darfur.

Beth has been a positive force on nonprofit boards in Marin County including the Marin AIDS Political Action Committee, Love is the Answer, the Marin Education Fund, and the Red Cross. She has won numerous awards for her community service, awards which reflect her caring and commitment. She also published a book, entitled, of course, Marin, which captures the same essence of the area that is reflected in her features.

Readers of the IJ look forward eagerly to Beth's columns which illuminate all aspects of life in Marin County as well as capturing deeper feelings about our global world and our shared humanity. Reflecting on the life of a young girl who is working in Darfur, Sudan, with Doctors Without Borders, Beth mused, "Young people today do remarkable things—eschewing personal comfort, risking their lives—to help humanity in the rest of the world.... And I felt stirrings of regret that I had never fulfilled a long-ago urge to change the work with unselfish service of my own."

Fortunately, she adds to these ruminations, "My life has been happier than I could ever have dreamed." Her happiness, caring, and concern shine through both in person and in the newspaper. Beth's writings have been a remarkable and unselfish service to the people of her community and beyond, but to Beth, her children are one of the most important legacies anyone could have.