

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.

Mr. Speaker, today it is my privilege to thank Beth Ashley for what she has given to us and to join with thousands of others in wishing her a happy 80th birthday.

HONORING THE CONSECRATION OF ELIZABETH CHAPEL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 8, 2006

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is with tremendous joy and celebration that I rise today to honor the consecration of the Elizabeth Chapel United Methodist Church in Chumuckla, FL, where my wife Vicki and I have been members since 2001.

Elizabeth Chapel has been a home for me; a place of solace where I can go to be closer to God and get back in tune with what is really important in my life. Likewise, the church family has acted as a true family to my wife and me, continuously offering us their support, encouragement, and kindness.

Elizabeth Chapel United Methodist Church has served a vital role in the community of Chumuckla since 1937. Originating from the marriage of two smaller churches in the late 1930s, the church has remained a quaint group of adamant believers whose moral fiber and strength is unwavering.

On September 16, 2004, Hurricane Ivan tore through the area, leaving damage, destruction, and heartbreak in its wake. The hurricane left the church building irreparable and it was soon leveled to begin new construction. Though many members of the congregation lost their homes or had significant damage to their own property in the storm, in the week that followed the hurricane, members of the church and others in the community came together descending on the church grounds to help FEMA distribute over 60,000 MRE's as well as ice and water to those in need.

In the months that followed with the glorification of God's work in their hearts, the community, congregation and other churches in the surrounding area came together to begin rebuilding Elizabeth Chapel. It has been nearly two years since Ivan devastated the Gulf Coast, and the reconstruction is complete. On Sunday, June 10, 2006, I will join in the fellowship and celebration of the consecration of the Elizabeth Chapel United Methodist Church.

Mr. Speaker, I truly represent an incredible group of people. It warms my heart that the community, congregation, and other churches have come together, through the hardships and heartache that have been prevalent since hurricane Ivan, to once again provide a house of worship to the amazingly resilient members of Elizabeth Chapel United Methodist Church.

RECOGNIZING KYLE AUSTIN SPANGLER FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 8, 2006

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Kyle Austin Spangler, a very spe-

cial young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 314, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Kyle has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Kyle 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 commanding Kyle Austin Spangler for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

IN MEMORY OF REVEREND B.J. JACKSON

HON. MIKE ROSS

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 8, 2006

Mr. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Reverend Brisco James "B.J." Jackson of Crossett, Arkansas. Reverend Jackson dedicated his life to serving others through ministry. He passed on an enduring legacy with his strong leadership, vision, and concern for others. Reverend Jackson passed away on Saturday, May 6, 2006 at the age of 83.

Rev. Jackson was born in Shelton, LA to James and Mittie Jackson and raised in Oak Ridge, LA, by his grandmother, Maggie Lewis. In 1943 he moved to Crossett, where he was employed by Crossett Lumber Co. Throughout his impressive career, Rev. Jackson joined New Bethel Missionary Baptist Church, where he served on the usher and deacon boards. He became a minister in 1949 and served as pastor at Ivory Chapel Baptist Church in Bastrop, LA, Mt. Zion Baptist Church in Monroe, LA, Rose Hill Baptist Church in Dermott, and Holly Springs Baptist Church in Pine Hill. In 1950, he became pastor of New Bethel and became full-time pastor in 1966.

Rev. Jackson's commitment went far beyond his activities as pastor; he was passionate about giving back through other community service as well. In addition to serving as pastor of New Bethel, he was moderator of the Southeast District Baptist Association for 29 years, second vice president of the Regular Arkansas Baptist Association, and instructor of the ministers' seminar in the association for over 20 years. Reverend Jackson was also president of the Williams Daycare Center board of directors, a 32nd degree Mason, a member of Exodus Lodge 403 of Crossett and Scottish Rites Angerona Lodge 78 in Pine Bluff, and a member of Eastern Star of Silver Star Lodge 306 in Crossett.

A man of great character, he returned to high school at the age of 31 and graduated from T. W. Daniel in 1959. He was also a graduate of United Theological Seminary in Monroe.

While Rev. Jackson may no longer be with us, his spirit and legacy will live on forever in the lives he touched. My heartfelt condolences go out to his wife of 62 years, Sallie Lee Jackson; their daughters Hazel Hill, Betty Levy, Bobbie Hendrix and husband John; their son Charles Jackson and wife Mary; his sister

Leola Coleman; his fifteen grandchildren; twenty-eight great-grandchildren, and three great-great-grandchildren.

TRIBUTE TO JOSEPH VERDU

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 8, 2006

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Joseph Verdu, a man who was loved and admired by many people in my hometown of Petaluma, California. Joe passed away on November 5, 2003, at the age of 69. On May 20, 2006, friends and family gathered for the dedication and renaming of McDowell Field to the Joseph F. Verdu Athletic Field.

Joe deserved this honor. He was active in youth sports in Petaluma, inspiring many young people with his warmth and commitment. He helped organize the Petaluma Youth Soccer League and served as its president for three years. He was also vice president of the California Youth Soccer Association for two years and on the board of the Petaluma Valley Little League. The City honored him with a Community Recognition Award in 1978 and the State of California with the Parks and Recreation Department Outstanding Service Award in 1979.

Born in San Francisco in 1934, Joe graduated from Lowell High School, attended UC Berkeley, and served in the United States Air Force from 1954–1958. He married his sweetheart Sylvia Magnani in 1957. The couple lived in Santa Clara until his job with Kimberly-Clark brought him to Petaluma in 1970.

Joe is survived by his wife Sylvia and their eight sons: Joseph, William, Stephen, Thomas, Mark, David, Paul, and Michael. When he died, he had 16 grandchildren; now there are 17.

Mr. Speaker, Sylvia describes her husband as "a wonderful family man" with a "magnetic personality that made him popular with everyone who knew him." I know that description rings true for me and my family. We miss Joseph Verdu's humor and spirit, and I am proud to honor him for his service to the youth of Petaluma.

MINE IMPROVEMENT AND NEW EMERGENCY RESPONSE ACT OF 2006

SPEECH OF

HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 7, 2006

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of S. 2803, the Mine Improvement and New Emergency Response (MINER) Act of 2006, to provide important Federal safety regulations for coal mines.

The number of coal miners who have died so far this year is alarming and has highlighted the pressing need to revise coal miner health safety standards to ensure miners are equipped with state of the art technologies, tracking devices, and sufficient emergency supplies of oxygen.

Our current Federal mine safety regulations are outdated. We need to act now to protect