

Sasakawa International Environmental Prize; and the Association of American Geographer's Lifetime Achievement Award. He was also presented with an honorary doctorate from CU-Boulder in May of 2006.

Dr. White's legacy derives from the programs he helped implement. His contributions will continue to keep communities safer and protect the environment while making smart investments in mitigation activities at all levels of government. We all owe this great man a debt of gratitude and respect. I ask my colleagues to join with me in celebrating and remembering this life of service.

IN HONOR OF GENE ARDEN
VANCE, JR.

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 5, 2006

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an American hero, Army SSG Gene Arden Vance, Jr. Staff Sergeant Vance was tragically killed in action while serving in Afghanistan in 2002. Though I never had the honor of meeting Staff Sergeant Vance, I am saddened by his loss and want to share my own condolences and those of this House with his family, friends, and comrades.

Staff Sergeant Vance, Jr. was born on 30 November, 1963, in Frankfurt, Germany, the son of an Army Special Forces officer. He enlisted in the Army in 1981, after graduating from Oceana High School in Oceana, West Virginia. He served in a variety of posts from Germany to Monterey, finally leaving active duty in 1990. In 1992, he enlisted in the West Virginia National Guard, and graduated from the Defense Language Institute's (DLI) Persian-Farsi Basic Course in 1998. He reentered active duty immediately following September 11th, 2001, and he deployed to eastern Afghanistan with the 2nd Battalion, 19th Special Forces Group (Airborne) in February 2002.

On 19 May, 2002, Staff Sergeant Vance's patrol was ambushed by Taliban fighters in the province of Paktika, Afghanistan. Although critically wounded in the initial attack, Staff Sergeant Vance continued to translate battlefield intelligence for Afghan forces in the area, directing them out of danger. His calm actions and command of the situation saved the lives of two fellow Americans and as many as 18 Afghani soldiers, and helped to defeat the enemy ambush. For his actions, Staff Sergeant Vance was awarded the Bronze Star Medal with a "V" for valor in combat, the Purple Heart Medal, and the West Virginia Distinguished Service Medal.

His actions in combat represented the highest level of bravery and professionalism of the American soldier. His actions also represent the unique heroism of the military linguist. In the conflicts that our nation now finds itself in, languages and their key role in understanding and influencing the cultures that they speak for, are essential to our national security. That is why I feel it is so fitting that the Army has dedicated a new barracks building at the DLI in honor of Staff Sergeant Vance, where his service can stand as an example to the current generation of linguists who are the key to prevailing against the terrorism and instability that threaten America.

On a personal note, I am doubly touched because as the Member of Congress who represents California's Central Coast, I worked hard to secure the funding to construct the barracks building that will bear Staff Sergeant Vance's name. At the time, I was simply working with the DLI leadership to help improve the living conditions for their students. I can't overstate now how proud I am that this building will now bear witness to the heroism Staff Sergeant Vance and in his name, all military linguists who will serve in the global war on terrorism.

HONORING BARB MILES

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 5, 2006

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Ms. Barb Miles for her years of service as the Carroll Town Clerk. Ms. Miles served her community well during her tenure in office.

Public Service is a difficult path to take. Any person with a dream may enter but only a few are able to reach the end. Ms. Miles traveled that path with her head held high and a smile on her face throughout her tenure. I have no doubt that her kind demeanor left a lasting impression on the constituents of Carroll.

Chautauqua County is blessed to have such strong and dedicated public servants with a desire to make this county the wonderful place that we all know it can be. Ms. Miles is one of those people and that is why, Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor her today.

STAFF TRIBUTE

HON. ROB SIMMONS

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 5, 2006

Mr. SIMMONS. Mr. Speaker, in the closing days of the 109th Congress, Members will rise to acknowledge the departure of their colleagues. Some are retiring of their own volition while others, such as me, are leaving as a consequence of the November elections.

While my colleagues deserve all of the accolades they will receive, I would like to devote just a few minutes to the loyal and capable men and women who have made my six years here in Congress so productive and rewarding. I would like to thank my wonderful staff.

My staff has shared in every success and victory we have had over the past six years. They have also shared in the personal disruption and professional disappointment of leaving this place before our important work is done.

They are as follows:

Todd Mitchell, Chief of Staff, and my alter ego on all issues and decisions, whose steady hand and wise counsel allowed us to assemble and manage a dynamic and productive staff over the past five years;

Erik Heilman and Lise Lynam, Legislative Directors, who energetically and faithfully pursued an aggressive legislative agenda in three committees, eight subcommittees and twenty caucuses, as well as for the District Office;

Justin Bernier, Senior Legislative Assistant, whose acute insights and dynamic energy were largely responsible for saving Naval Submarine Base New London, which in turn saved Connecticut over 31,500 jobs and \$3.5 billion in annual revenues;

John Goodwin, Press Secretary and Jonathan Martin, Legislative Assistant, whose hard work and respect for America's working families won me accolades as a "pro-labor Republican" from The Wall Street Journal;

Leigh Hightower, Senior Legislative Assistant of Mansfield, Connecticut, and Amy Pellegrino, Legislative Assistant from Westerly, Rhode Island, whose diligence and sympathy helped us to "keep the promise" to our veterans and improve health care for all Americans;

Meghan Curran, Legislative Assistant from Bolton, Connecticut, whose commitment to the education of our Nation's children resulted in important legislative initiatives, and whose respect for Teachers resulted in her eventually leaving our staff to teach;

Shauna Hewes, Legislative Assistant of Ledyard, Connecticut, whose persistent efforts and negotiating skills were instrumental in passing the Long Island Sound Stewardship Act;

Dan Hartnett, Legislative Assistant, who received, processed and helped answer over 100,000 pieces of mail and countless e-mails so that our constituents were never out of touch with their Congressman;

Emily Cantin, Scheduler of Marlborough, Connecticut, who ran a tight but happy front office, and kept me on time and on message through many busy weeks in Washington, DC; Will Cox, Staff Assistant of Mystic, Connecticut, whose cheerful demeanor and helpful habits made every visitor to the Washington Office feel welcome and important;

Mr. E.J. Chubbs, my personal Transportation Advisor, who loyally and faithfully ensured that I arrived, departed and moved about the Nation's Capitol in a safe and congenial fashion for six wonderful years;

John Bradley, former Staff Director, Veterans Affairs Health Subcommittee, whose dynamic leadership and concern for the health of our Nation's veterans resulted in a 40 percent increase in funding and numerous legislative improvements in veterans' health care;

Deron McElroy, Staff Director, Homeland Security Intelligence Subcommittee, whose insights and legislative skill were responsible for establishing a productive agenda for this important new subcommittee;

Jane Dauphinais, District Director of Groton, Connecticut, whose management skills and knowledge of municipal government made the Norwich and Enfield offices vital resources to "help the people" of the Second Congressional District's sixty five towns;

Jeff Nelson, Deputy District Director of Groton, Connecticut, who managed and implemented a hectic and sometimes hysterical schedule with calm aplomb, and shared many hours and 120,000 miles on the road in the district;

Joe Bell, Communications Director of Mystic, Connecticut, our office intellectual, who read much and wrote more than was considered humanly possible, all in an effort to educate me and to enlighten the people of the region and the Nation;

Betty Wagner, Constituent Services Director of Colchester, Connecticut, whose organizational skills and caring attitude brought aid and

comfort to the many constituents of the district, and provided tenacious advocacy for our farmers and union members;

Linda Camelio, Event Coordinator and Constituent Services Representative for Immigration of Pawcatuck, Connecticut, who helped those in need around the district and around the world, and provided an extra measure of organization and excitement to all our public events;

K. Robert Lewis, Military and Veterans Constituent Services Representative of New London, Connecticut, whose diligent and dedicated work brought medals, benefits, aid and comfort to those who had or were serving our Nation in uniform, as well as to their families, widows and orphans;

Paula Ferrara, Constituent Services Representative and "Grant Goddess" of Westbrook, Connecticut, who coordinated a highly successful effort to bring millions of our tax dollars back from Washington, DC, for the benefit of Fire, Police, Emergency Workers, Schools and all 65 towns in the district as well as helping thousands of Medicare eligible constituents with their Prescription Drug coverage and Social Security issues; and

Al Powell, Executive Office Assistant of Waterford, Connecticut, who was the smiling face and cheerful voice of the Norwich Office, who welcomed visitors and protesters alike, answered tens of thousands of calls, and processed all mail, in and out, without fail for six wonderful years.

I also thank those loyal and devoted professionals who labored long and hard in the Mystic Office: Eric Janney, Esq., of Stonington; Susan Bessette of Pawcatuck; Chris Healy of Wethersfield; Diane Generous of Sprague; Aaron McGarry of Thompson and Heath Fahle of Pawcatuck, Connecticut.

Mr. Speaker, I owe a debt of gratitude to these loyal workers for helping me to help others. They gave life to my vision of a congressional office that truly "helps people" with case work, grants and positive legislation to benefit the Second District, Connecticut and the Nation.

I thank them for a record of accomplishment, and I say thanks for the memories. Working together in a bipartisan fashion with a "gung ho" attitude, we did our best and we did well.

HONORING DR. JUDITH RODIN

HON. CHAKA FATTAH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 5, 2006

Mr. FATTAH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Judith Rodin, a native Philadelphian and former President of the University of Pennsylvania, and to congratulate her on receiving the 2006 Gold Medal Award from the Pennsylvania Society. In her decade long tenure leading the University, Dr. Rodin demonstrated a strong commitment to the Greater Philadelphia region and the West Philadelphia neighborhood in which the University is located. She has proven herself not only an asset to the academic community but more broadly to the City of Philadelphia.

As an established social psychologist, Dr. Rodin has contributed much to our knowledge

of pressing social issues and has been instrumental in bringing women's health concerns and behavioral health issues more generally to the forefront. The first female president of an Ivy League institution, she has opened doors for young women across the country and it is with Dr. Rodin's leadership that Penn saw a period of remarkable growth and development strengthening and transforming the University's academic core.

In keeping with her commitment to the common good, she currently serves as President of the Rockefeller Foundation and works to advance that organization's mission of alleviating global poverty. It is a privilege for me to recognize Dr. Rodin and her work. I congratulate her on the receipt of this prestigious honor.

TEMPORARY DUTY SUSPENSION FOR UMBRELLAS

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 5, 2006

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing a temporary duty suspension for certain umbrellas. These include golf umbrellas and fashion umbrellas with non-collapsible shafts for use by men, women and children. The current duty rate on these umbrellas is 8.2 percent, while the duty rate on similar umbrellas with collapsible shafts is 0 percent. There appears to be no purpose for this disparity; and yet it drives up the cost of the non-collapsible umbrellas for U.S. consumers.

This measure is supported by Essex Manufacturing, Inc. whose headquarters are in my district. It also is supported by other leading umbrella producers, including Peerless Umbrella Co. in Harrison, New Jersey; Shedrain Corporation in Portland, Oregon; and Totes in Cincinnati, Ohio. I look forward to working with my colleagues on this measure next year.

IN RECOGNITION OF ERIC VOIGHT

HON. MARK GREEN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 5, 2006

Mr. GREEN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor and pleasure to recognize before this House Eric Voight who was recently awarded Hometown Radio's Employee of the Year honors for his extraordinary service.

Hired straight out of college, Eric Voight had a dream of being in radio programming one day. In just four short years, Voight worked his way up the ladder of success at Hometown Radio, first as a member of the sales team, to sales manager, and now as operations manager. In fact, because of his hard work, Voight is now responsible for the sound of the entire four station cluster operated by Hometown Radio.

Those who know Eric Voight appreciate the little things that make him so deserving of the Employee of the Year award. His motivation, proud Wisconsin work ethic and dedication got him where he is today and I'm sure this is just the beginning.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Mr. Voight on receiving this outstanding honor, and wish him continued success in the years to come.

HONORING DR. TED VICK FOR 55 YEARS OF LEADERSHIP THROUGH EDUCATION

HON. JERRY LEWIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 5, 2006

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Dr. Ted Vick, a long-time public servant who is retiring after a 55-year career in leadership through education.

Dr. Vick has proven his dedication to educational pursuits by earning his bachelor's degree in elementary education at the University of California at Santa Barbara and a Ph.D. in Education from the University of California at Riverside. His desire to serve in public education led to his service as a principal and vice principal in various school districts throughout his career, including 12 years spent as the superintendent of Adelanto School District. His proven leadership led to 20 years of service on the San Bernardino County Board of Education, and his enthusiasm was quickly noticed by other local organizations. While Dr. Vick dedicated his time to the county board of education, the Needles Unified School District asked for his service when they required another member to join their local district board.

Aside from teaching, Dr. Vick strove to influence others by holding several leadership positions in educational and community organizations. His list of distinguished posts includes the California School Boards Association Delegate Assembly, and the board of directors on the California County Boards of Education. His interest in the needs of the local community is prevalent through his time with the Adolescent and Family Service Center, and while serving on the board of directors for Desert Communities United Way. Dr. Vick's remaining time has been spent devoted to the First Christian Church in San Bernardino, serving as chairman of the board, elder, and deacon.

This relentless involvement in the lives of his fellow citizens has made Dr. Vick an important influence in the community, earning him the well-deserved San Bernardino County School Board Association's 2005 Distinguished Service Award. Although the appreciation of the community is shown on the faces of those whom he has instructed, it was most notably visible in 2005 when Adelanto School District named a local school in his honor; the Theodore Vick Elementary School.

Mr. Speaker, after 55 years of public service, Dr. Vick will retire from his teaching and leadership posts. Although Dr. Vick's presence in the community will be greatly missed, his zeal for leadership and education will continue to inspire the students and adults who have crossed his path. On behalf of the people of San Bernardino County, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in thanking Dr. Vick for his work and in wishing him well in his future pursuits.