

Repeatedly, Yousify would travel at his own expense back to Seattle when CIS requested new fingerprints again and again and he once risked his life in Iraq to have fingerprints taken there. He was sworn in as a citizen last October and is now able to continue serving with the Northwest Medical Teams.

A neurologist from China who specializes in treating patients with multiple sclerosis contacted my office. This young doctor was trying to teach medicine in this country but was having trouble working with CIS. We tracked down her work authorization and it was sent to her and she is now poised to begin teaching medicine at Stanford.

Wade Bain from Trinidad wanted to join American Special Forces but couldn't get the national security check completed in order to do so. We were able to help him and he received his citizenship, allowing him to join Special Forces.

These individuals didn't want to become Americans for personal gain; they wanted to become Americans to serve others. They embody the American ideal of helping others regardless of personal cost.

It is vitally important that we implement immigration reform. We need a bill that strengthens our borders and protects this nation, but that also makes it simpler for good people to become Americans. We need a bill that provides a way for immigrants who are in this country illegally to register and become documented, lawful immigrants. There must be penalties for individuals who've violated American immigration laws. However, we must encourage undocumented individuals to "get right" with our government and register.

We must face the reality of immigration in this country. In Washington State, the immigrant population has grown by 42 percent in the five years between 2000 and 2005—which is an increase from 8 percent to 10.6 percent of the overall population—and the jobless rate in the state has hit a 6 year low. Immigration is not just compatible with but is a necessary component of economic growth. Going forward, as we work to strengthen our border in the interests of homeland security, we must also recognize the economic importance of immigration reform. I look forward to voting for a bill that appreciates the importance of both when safeguarding the security and economic future of this country.

CONGRATULATING NANCY AMOS

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 4, 2006

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Nancy Amos for being named the 2006 Woman of the Year by the Dallas-Fort Worth Chapter of Women in Transportation.

Ms. Amos attained her Bachelors in Business Administration from Texas Wesleyan University. She then went on to receive her Masters Degree from the University of Texas at Arlington. Ms. Amos is an avid member of the American Heart Foundation, the Fort Worth Chamber's Foundation Board, and the founding member of UTA Fort Worth's Advisory Council. She and her husband Charley reside in Arlington, Texas and have two children as well as two grandchildren.

Through her remarkable clout and ingenuity in her twenty-five years in the field of public transportation, Ms. Amos has definitely raised the bar for the advancement of women in this area. One of Ms. Amos' many highlights was her active involvement in the introduction of the Trinity Railway Express to the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex as the coordinator for the acquisition of the Rock Island and Pacific freight railroad. This laid the groundwork for the only commuter rail in Texas.

Mr. Speaker we are truly fortunate in my community to have the type of dedicated professional that Nancy Amos personifies, and I wish her every success during the continuance of her future endeavors.

CONGRATULATING BOB RUTLEDGE ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT AS HEADMASTER OF ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL SCHOOL

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 4, 2006

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, it is a real pleasure to rise today to honor Mr. Bob Rutledge, a man who has devoted practically all of his adult life to the benefit of literally thousands of young men and women who live in Mobile, Alabama. In just a few days, Bob will be stepping down as headmaster of St. Paul's Episcopal School in Mobile.

For the past 33 years, Bob has been an integral part of the school's history and development, and he leaves behind a rich legacy that has helped to make St. Paul's one of the finest schools in Alabama.

Bob began his career in education in the Florida public school system where he served as a teacher and coach of both the football and track teams. In 1971, he moved to Jackson, Mississippi, where he served at St. Andrew's Episcopal School as the director of the upper school, director of athletics, and varsity football coach.

In 1973, he joined the staff of St. Paul's, initially serving as the school's head football coach and athletic director. In no time, it became apparent that Bob Rutledge's influence and leadership extended far beyond the athletic field.

In 1984, Bob assumed the role of upper school director, and a few years later, he was tapped assistant headmaster as well as admissions and alumni director. And in 1994, the Board of Trustees appointed Bob headmaster, making him only the sixth person to hold this important position in the school's rich history.

Mr. Speaker, without a doubt, Bob Rutledge has worked tirelessly to help transform St. Paul's into one of the premier college-preparatory schools in the southeast. Moreover, he has worked hard to build a school that is recognized throughout the state for its top-notch staff and first-rate faculty.

Without question, Bob Rutledge is an outstanding example of the quality of individuals who have devoted their entire life to the field of education. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join with me in congratulating Bob on his remarkable career and his many, many contributions. I know his lovely wife, Martha, as well as his family, friends, and the entire St. Paul's community join with me in praising

Bob for his accomplishments and extending our sincerest thanks to him for his many efforts over the years on behalf of the young men and women who have been a part of St. Paul's Episcopal School.

BAHIA GRANDE'S NATIONAL COOPERATIVE CONSERVATION AWARD

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 4, 2006

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and the Bahia Grande Restoration Project's 60 partners upon their receipt of the Department of the Interior's 2005 Cooperative Conservation Award. This award acknowledges the collaboration activity among diverse agencies working to restore our environment.

The legacy we leave our children and our grandchildren is the condition of the Earth beneath our feet. Some of the most fragile—and at the same time, most important—parts of that legacy are the delicate wetlands that buffer our continent.

The project's participants have demonstrated an understanding of this delicate intersection of wetlands and our continent by finding new and creative ways to sustain the Bahia Grande wetland in South Texas.

Through their teamwork and innovativeness, the Bahia Grande partners have managed to walk the line between environmental and economic prosperity to achieve an ecologically and economically successful community. Federal, state, local and tribal governments, as well as private groups, nonprofit institutions, and nongovernmental entities have worked together on discerning a path to solve what seemed to be an unsolvable problem, further exemplifying the cooperative spirit this award honors.

The Bahia Grande suffered from the construction of the Brownsville Ship Channel in the 1930s, which blocked the natural tide action necessary to maintain the basin under water. The basin eventually dried up and began blowing clouds of dust, jeopardizing the health of nearby residents and damaging area schools.

With the help of many people, these consequences were addressed and mitigated. By allowing the Port of Brownsville to flood the Bahia Grande, the moisture will prevent the dry sand from blowing around and affecting the health of those in the area.

What was once an idle dust bowl plaguing surrounding cities has now become the largest wetlands restoration effort in U.S. history. Once completed, more than 10,000 acres of the Bahia Grande wetland system will be permanently flooded and restored.

I ask the House of Representatives to join me today in honoring the active support and involvement of those contributors in the Bahia Grande Restoration Project. Mr. Speaker, they have recognized the importance of environmental conservation on our lives; and for that, we must recognize them.

IN TRIBUTE TO ART HEITZER'S 40
YEARS OF COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP

HON. GWEN MOORE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 4, 2006

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a noted Milwaukee community leader, Mr. Art Heitzer, as his colleagues, friends, and family gather to celebrate his 40 years of activism. Throughout his life, Art has maintained an unwavering commitment to improving the quality of life for everyone in Milwaukee, while never losing sight of Milwaukee's connections to the wider world.

Art emerged as a compelling student leader while studying at Marquette University in the 1960s. As President of the Marquette Student Government, he helped organize student demonstrations that led to the creation of the Equal Opportunities Program, which provides low-income students and students of color with the academic support, tutoring and mentoring they need to succeed. A whole generation of community leaders who have since been educated at Marquette—myself included—are indebted to Art for leading this charge.

Art Heitzer is nationally known for his path-breaking work in employment law, and has attained leadership positions in state and national professional associations as a result of his success. An active citizen, he has been a noted member of the Midtown Neighborhood Association, and a committed leader of Peace Action Wisconsin. He serves on the boards of the Fourth Street Forum and Ko Thi Dance Company, and is a member of Central United Methodist church.

A true citizen of the world, Art has been a longtime advocate for changes to U.S. foreign policy toward Cuba. A strong opponent of the travel ban, he has organized religious and civic delegations to visit Cuba, and has been instrumental in developing a sister city relationship between Milwaukee and Nuevitas. He has acted out of his passionate belief that increasing connections between U.S. and Cuban citizens can only improve the state of democracy and human rights in Cuba and at home. Mr. Speaker, it is truly a privilege to pay tribute today to Art, his wife Sandra Edlund and son Franz, and to thank all of them for their commitment to improving Milwaukee and our world.

LETTER TO PRESIDENT BUSH

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 4, 2006

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, on April 14, 2006, I sent the following letter to President Bush regarding reports of United States troops conducting military operations in Iran:

DEAR PRESIDENT BUSH: Recently, it has been reported that U.S. troops are conducting military operations in Iran. If true, it appears that you have already made the decision to commit U.S. military forces to a unilateral conflict with Iran, even before direct or indirect negotiations with the gov-

ernment of Iran had been attempted, without UN support and without authorization from the U.S. Congress.

The presence of U.S. marines in Iran constitutes a hostile act against that country. At a time when diplomacy is urgently needed, it escalates an international crisis. It undermines any attempts to negotiate with the government of Iran. And it will undermine U.S. diplomatic efforts at the U.N.

Furthermore, it places U.S. troops occupying neighboring Iraq in greater danger. The achievement of stability and a transition to Iraqi security control will be compromised, reversing any progress that has been cited by the Administration.

It would be hard to believe that such an imprudent decision had been taken, but for the number and variety of sources confirming it. In the last week, the national media have reported that you have in fact commenced a military operation in Iran. Today, retired Col. Sam Gardiner related on CNN that the Iranian Ambassador to the IAEA, Aliasghar Soltaniyeh, reported to him that the Iranians have captured dissident forces who have confessed to working with U.S. troops in Iran. Earlier in the week, Seymour Hersh reported that a U.S. source had told him that U.S. marines were operating in the Baluchi, Azeri and Kurdish regions of Iran.

Any military deployment to Iran would constitute an urgent matter of national significance. I urge you to report immediately to Congress on all activities involving American forces in Iran. I look forward to a prompt response.

Sincerely,

DENNIS J. KUCINICH,
Member of Congress.

CONGRATULATING REV. JOHN S.
KRAFCHAK ON THE OCCASION OF
HIS 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF OR-
DINATION TO THE PRIESTHOOD

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 4, 2006

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask you and my esteemed colleagues in the House of Representatives to pay tribute to the Rev. John S. Krafchak, pastor of St. Mary of Czesstochowa Church, Nanticoke, Pennsylvania, who is celebrating his 50th anniversary of ordination to the priesthood on May 26, 2006.

Father Krafchak was born in Old Forge, Pennsylvania, in 1931, a son of Ann Marie Potempa and John Krafchak. He graduated from St. Ann's Monastery High School in West Scranton. He attended St. Mary's College, Orchard Lake, Michigan; St. Mary's Seminary and University, Baltimore, Maryland. He was ordained on May 26, 1956, in St. Peter's Cathedral, Scranton, by then Bishop Jerome D. Hannon.

Father Krafchak was first assigned as assistant pastor at Holy Name of Jesus Church, Swoyersville, Pennsylvania. He was later transferred to St. Mary's Church, Nanticoke and then to St. Hedwig's Church, Kingston. Following that assignment, he was transferred to St. Mary's Church of the Maternity in Wilkes-Barre. In 1974, he was named administrator at St. Peter and Paul Church, Sugar Notch and, in 1983, was named pastor at St. Mary's Church in Nanticoke, where he is presently.

Over the years, he taught at Marymount High School in Wilkes-Barre and West Side Central Catholic High School in Kingston.

Father Krafchak is well known as a "people's priest" because of how intensely he has worked with his parishioners on a myriad of projects and issues.

Over the years, Father Krafchak was especially interested in building his parish's religious education programs as well as the marriage preparation and family life programs. He was also very concerned about parish restoration and expansion projects as well as stabilizing parish finances. At his present parish, he oversaw the construction of a new rectory in 1986.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating Father Krafchak on a remarkable priestly career. His devotion to his chosen vocation and his commitment to the people he served is an inspiration for others in the value of selfless service. Father Krafchak has left an indelible mark on the lives of thousands in northeastern Pennsylvania and, in the process, has earned their eternal love and respect.

TRIBUTE TO SYBYL ATWOOD

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 4, 2006

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a remarkable woman, Sybyl Atwood. For the past 40 years Sybyl has been the linchpin of the social services community in my hometown, Flint, Michigan. On May 11 she will be honored for her selfless work on behalf of the less fortunate at a dinner hosted by the Resource Center in Flint.

Relocating to the Flint area after earning her Baccalaureate Degree in Community Development from Central Michigan University, she gathered together a group of volunteers on February 14, 1966 and founded the Volunteer Bureau. Serving as the chief executive officer of the Bureau for more than 20 years, Sybyl defined its direction as an organization promoting volunteerism, grassroots community involvement and expanded delivery of social services in the Flint area. The Bureau evolved into the Voluntary Action Center in 1989 and Sybyl continued at its helm. After merging with United Way, the Voluntary Action Center became part of the Resource Center. Sybyl continues to head the Volunteer Services at the Resource Center.

Thousands of volunteers have benefited from her training and guidance. She compiled the Genesee County Community Sourcebook, a reference book listing over 400 service agencies in Genesee County. Sybyl is also responsible for assembling the information and the publishing of the "Emergency Assistance Directory," the "Youth Volunteer Opportunities Directory," and the "Reduced Income Planning Guide." She also coordinates the weekly "Volunteer Here" column in the Flint Journal and runs the Information and Referral Program. This program receives about 350 calls per month from persons seeking emergency assistance.

For her service to the community Sybyl has received the American Society of Training and Development Chapter Award for Service, City of Flint Human Relations Commission People's Award, Genesee County Bar Association