

the values and aspirations of the people of the Third District of Connecticut.

Bob was well-respected among his colleagues. During his 11-terms in Congress, he served on the House Budget Committee, which he chaired for 4 years, the House Commission on Information and Facilities, and the Joint Committee on Intelligence. Bob also served on the House Appropriations Committee, and its subcommittees on Department of Defense, District of Columbia, Treasury Postal Service and General Government, Legislative Branch, and Housing and Urban Development. Bob was an inspiration to his colleagues and the people he represented.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me today in honoring the life of Robert N. Giaimo. Bob's legacy lives on in this Nation and among his family. My thoughts and prayers are with Bob's wife, Marion Schuenemann Giaimo, his daughter Barbara Giaimo Koonen, and his granddaughter, Tracy Elizabeth Phillips. Today, we lost a tremendous person who worked hard to improve the well-being of this country and the state of Connecticut.

TRIBUTE TO LAWRENCE E.
HORNER

HON. BRAD SHERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 25, 2006

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Lawrence E. Horner for his civic and philanthropic service to the residents of the Conejo and San Fernando Valleys. Seventy-six years young, Larry is a proud veteran, an accomplished businessman, and dedicated public servant.

Larry has served as my senior district advisor since November 1997, and will be retiring at the end of this month. He has been an invaluable asset to me and to my constituents. His knowledge of issues ranging from economic development to military and veterans affairs has been crucial to helping me better serve my constituents. I will miss his depth of experience, leadership, and personal charm.

Larry's extensive knowledge of the Conejo Valley has been an invaluable asset. I consulted extensively with Larry when working to protect and expand the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreational Area. His advice and experience were critical to my successful efforts to defend this irreplaceable natural resource.

Mr. Speaker, Larry received his bachelor's and master's degrees in Science from Indiana University. His studies were interrupted while he served in the United States Army during the Korean War.

In 1954, Larry was discharged from the Army and met and married Betty Thurman. Happily married for more than 50 years, they have raised three children and contributed countless hours volunteering in their community.

In 1960, Larry and Betty moved to Southern California where he worked in the aerospace and defense industry for Lockheed, Litton, and finally as a Vice-President of Northrop in Newbury Park.

In 1973, Larry began his career in politics by winning a seat on the Thousand Oaks City Council. He served on the Council for more

than 16 years. During that period, his fellow Council Members asked him to serve as Mayor for an unprecedented five terms.

While serving as Mayor and Council member, Larry helped solidify a sound economic base for the city. He also established senior citizen facilities, teen programs, increased the city's supply of affordable housing and helped lower the crime rate. All of his efforts resulted in an improved quality of life for Conejo Valley residents.

Mr. Speaker, all of us in this House are dependent on the dedication and hard work of our staffs. When I was elected to represent the 24th Congressional District in 1996, I knew I would need an outstanding and popular leader in the Conejo Valley to head my Thousand Oaks office. Larry accepted the challenge and was instrumental in ensuring that my constituents received the quality services they needed and deserved.

Larry's hard work and dedicated service in that office and, following redistricting and the 2002 elections, as a member of my Sherman Oaks office staff, have been exemplary.

Larry's accomplishments in business, politics, government, and community service are an impressive legacy. I will miss his service, but I look forward to his continuing friendship.

TRIBUTE TO LENCHO RENDON

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 25, 2006

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, this month Capitol Hill saw the departure of one of the most talented people in Texas politics today, my just-retired Chief of Staff, my former Chief Deputy Sheriff in our other lives, my campaign advisor, my little brother, my best friend—some have even called him my "alter ego" Lencho Rendon.

Lencho is a legend in the House of Representatives and counts many, many friends here in this Chamber . . . friends he will remain close to in this next chapter of his life. Several of them join me in bidding our friend and counselor farewell, but not goodbye.

Lencho and I met not too long after I was elected Nueces County Sheriff in South Texas in 1976. He was working for the Webb County Sheriffs office and a DEA Task Force; and he was beginning to make a reputation for himself as one of the absolute best at finding the druggies and getting evidence on them.

He was a master at that, and his detective and undercover work were monumentally dangerous just about every day. By the grace of God, Lencho lived to talk about—or not talk about—the everyday danger of living undercover to catch the bad guys.

He ran my first campaign for Congress, a task he took on each election cycle—and he remains my campaign chairman. In Texas, Lencho is the guy you go to when you want to hear the straight scoop.

He can find the bottom line . . . and see around the corners . . . and strategize a way to get you where you want to go. He works on numerous campaigns in South Texas during election season, and he understands the precise—yet nuanced—intersection of politics, policy, people, and the art of the possible.

Here on the Hill and in the international community, Lencho has made more friends

than we can count. He employs the same skills on Capitol Hill he learned and practices in South Texas: figure out where you want to go, and he can find a way to get you there. He is widely respected by both Members of Congress and Capitol Hill staff members.

But it has been me and my staff members—here and in Texas—that have felt his absence most abruptly and most profoundly. We haven't missed a beat in our work for South Texans, but we have missed the presence of the man that we all respect and we all love. You grow so close to people with whom you stand in campaigns.

Lencho is unbelievably talented on so many levels, and has a deep and abiding compassion for people and families. It's an old rule of politics: people that campaign together will always be there for each other. That is certainly true for me and my organization, but it's true for most every political organization.

And so it will be—Lencho remains a trusted member of my family, and I will always seek his counsel on matters political and personal. I know he remains a trusted member of this Capitol Hill family.

HONORING MORRIS "MORRIE"
TURNER

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 25, 2006

Mr. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary life and work of Morris "Morrie" Turner, a native of Oakland, California. Morrie Turner is known not only for his legendary talent as a nationally-recognized cartoon artist, but has contributed greatly to our country through his use of art to advocate for social equality and community awareness. On Wednesday, May 31, 2006, the East Bay Community will come together to celebrate Morrie's outstanding career and immeasurable contributions to our society.

Born in 1923 in Oakland, California, Morrie assumed his nickname at an early age, always preferring it above the name Morris. He attended Cole Elementary and McClymonds High School in Oakland, and ultimately graduated from Berkeley High School in June 1942. Morrie began drawing caricatures around the age of 10, and by the time he finished his secondary education he was comfortable with his drawing technique. After graduation, which was in the midst of World War II, he enlisted in the U.S. Army Air Corps, and continued his drawing while on guard duty. This eventually led to his first series, a strip called Rail Head, which was based on his experiences in the war and which appeared in Stars and Stripes.

Following the war Morrie returned to the Bay Area, where he began working as a clerk for the Oakland Police Department, but continued drawing on a freelance basis. During that time, and at the encouragement of his mother, he began sending his drawings to magazines. After sending out thousands of drawings, he achieved his first national publication in 1947, which was in a baking industry publication called Baker's Helper, and which earned him a check of \$5. After several publications of his work on roughly the same scale, Morrie got his first big break when Better Homes & Gardens bought one of his cartoons for \$75.

Throughout his many years of drawing, Morrie had received no formal art training and so he sought advice and encouragement from other professional cartoonists. In that process, he began to question why there were no artists from communities of color working as professional cartoonists, particularly among those who were publishing national pieces. In response, his mentor Charles Schultz, creator of the infamous Peanuts strip, suggested that Morrie create one. In the early 1960s he did just that, creating Dinky Fells, the strip that would later evolve into the hugely successful Wee Pals, a strip that takes place in a world without prejudice and that celebrated ethnic, racial, cultural and other differences in our society. In 1965, the series became the first multi-ethnic cartoon syndicated in the United States. Wee Pals went on to appear in over 100 newspapers worldwide, and has also featured a weekly additional panel called Soul Corner, in which the life of a famous person from a community of color is detailed.

Wee Pals also carries special significance in my district, because it later became the cornerstone of an Oakland Police Department crime prevention and safety program. Through this effort, Morrie's message of open mindedness, equality and cultural embrace was coupled with one of public safety and community service, thereby impacting the lives of countless young people and families in the 9th Congressional District and beyond.

Morrie's outstanding work in periodicals has been recognized by the public on numerous occasions, as have his published children's books, whose titles include *The Illustrated Biography of Martin Luther King, Jr.* He was honored in 2000 by the Cartoonist Society with their Sparky Award, has been introduced into the California Public Education Hall of Fame and has also been recognized by Children's Fairyland in Oakland; he is also the subject of a film called *Keeping the Faith with Morrie*.

On May 31, 2006, the friends, family and colleagues of Morrie Turner will come together to celebrate the career and immeasurable contributions of Morrie Turner to our community. On this very special day, I join all of them in thanking and saluting Morrie for his invaluable service to our community, and for the profoundly positive impact his work has had on countless lives here in California's 9th U.S. Congressional District, across our country and throughout the world.

ENCOURAGING COMPREHENSIVE INVESTIGATION INTO THE HEALTH EFFECTS OF AGENT ORANGE EXPOSURE

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 25, 2006

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 4259. This important legislation would create the Veterans' Right to Know Commission, an investigative body comprised of distinguished veterans of the United States Armed Forces and honorable citizens of our great Nation. The Commission would be delegated the task of comprehensively investigating the usage of chemical and biological agents employed by the U.S. military during

wartime and their effect on the men and women of our Armed Services. I am a co-sponsor of this bill because I believe we require comprehensive knowledge regarding the health effects of various chemical and biological agents carried out under Project 112/SHAD, so that we can more fully understand what exposure to them means for our veterans.

The consequences of exposure to chemical and biological agents like Vx nerve gas, Sarin Nerve Gas and E. coli have long been debated by those in the scientific community. We already know that long-term exposure to Agent Orange, an herbicide used for 10 years during the Vietnam War to defoliate and destroy crops, increases the risk of cancer, and the Air Force and the U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs now officially recognize that exposure to this chemical plays a role in the formation of diabetes. However, some 50 years following initial exposure, the specific health effects other chemical and biological agents have on the human body are not fully understood. It is imperative to determine whether exposure to those agents, tested on unknowing military personnel by the Department of Defense between 1962 and 1974, correlate with life threatening diseases. The American people deserve answers and this Commission will help provide those answers.

Thousands of brave veterans of foreign wars reside in my district, individuals who have put their very existence on the line to defend every right, ideal and freedom that this noble country exemplifies. We owe the passage of this legislation to these men and women and to all those who have been exposed to Agent Orange and to other destructive chemicals. Just last year, Western New York native and veteran Nelson C. Hughes passed away from cancer after being exposed to Agent Orange in Vietnam. He was one of the Nation's leading advocates of Vietnam veterans suffering from Agent Orange exposure. I am troubled that in this time of prolific medical advances we are still unable to understand how some chemicals used by our own government affect the human body. Mr. Speaker, I call on Congress to honor Mr. Hughes and all U.S. veterans by passing this bill. We have a duty to make every conceivable effort in the fight to understand and to treat their ailments, many of which may be directly or indirectly related to chemical exposure our government facilitated.

REGARDING THE 2006 LAUREATES OF THE FRANKLIN INSTITUTE'S AWARDS PROGRAM

HON. CHAKA FATTAH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 25, 2006

Mr. FATTAH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate, on behalf of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the Nation, the 2006 Laureates of The Franklin Institute Awards Program. Ten brilliant individuals will be honored on April 27, 2006 in the Benjamin Franklin National Memorial at The Franklin Institute in Philadelphia, for their outstanding achievements in science, technology, business, and philanthropy. Through the outstanding leadership of The Franklin Institute, Philadelphia's

great science museum, a 182-year tradition of recognizing brilliant achievement and promoting the pursuit of science and technology for the public good continues to inspire a passion for learning in millions of people each year.

The Franklin Institute Awards Program—considered by many as the American version of the Nobel Prize—is one of the oldest and most renowned science and technology awards programs in the world. The program's distinguished history dates back to 1824, when the Institute was founded by a group of leading Philadelphians to train artisans and mechanics. Philadelphia, then the largest city in the United States, was the Nation's innovation and manufacturing center. In 1824, the Institute arranged the first of what became a series of regular exhibitions of manufactured goods and inventions.

With these exhibitions came the presentation of awards—first certificates and later endowed medals—for scientific and technical achievement. Recipients are selected by the Institute's Committee on Science and the Arts, which was founded as the Committee on Inventions with the beginning of the program. Fields recognized today include Chemistry, Computer and Cognitive Science, Earth and Environmental Science, Engineering, Life Science and Physics. Through a rigorous and unique case-prosecution process, the Committee evaluates the work of nominated individuals whose uncommon insight, skill or creativity has influenced future research or applications to benefit the public.

The newest awards, the Bower Award for Business Leadership and the Bower Award and Prize for Achievement in Science, were made possible by a \$7.5 million bequest in 1988 from Henry Bower, a Philadelphia chemical manufacturer. The Bower Science Award carries a cash prize of \$250,000, one of the richest science prizes in America.

The list of Franklin Institute Laureates reads like a canon of 19th, 20th and 21st century scientific achievement. The honor roll includes Alexander Graham Bell, Marie Curie, Rudolph Diesel, Thomas Edison, Niels Bohr, Max Planck, Albert Einstein and, more recently Stephen Hawking, David Packard, Roy Vagelos, Jane Goodall, Herb Kelleher, and Gordon Moore—to name a few. To date, 105 Franklin Institute Laureates have also been honored with 107 Nobel Prizes.

I invite Congress and all citizens of these United States to join me in congratulating the newest names to be added to this roll call of genius:

The winner of the 2006 Benjamin Franklin Medal in Chemistry, Samuel J. Danishefsky, of Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center and Columbia University, for his achievements in the art and science of synthetic organic chemistry, particularly for the development of strategies and methods for the preparation of complex natural products and related compounds, including oligosaccharide immunoconjugate vaccines, and their emerging applications in the field of cancer chemotherapy.

The winner of the 2006 Benjamin Franklin Medal in Computer & Cognitive Science, Donald A. Norman, of Northwestern University and Nielsen Norman Group, for his development of the field of user-centered design, which through the use of conceptual models, feedback, affordances, and constraints leads to the creation of interactive technologies which are easily employed by humans.