

our coal mines, we depend on those level-headed, brave individuals who do the best they can at the scene to save lives and manage the disaster.

While we sort out the lesson of the Darby mine tragedy, we must also recognize those who had little time to study, deliberate and analyze what to do. They acted.

And because they did, someone lived. I commend these three individuals for answering the most important call any of us could ever get—and having the courage that now provides some solace where there would otherwise be none.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TIMOTHY V. JOHNSON

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 21, 2007

Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois. Madam Speaker, May 17, 2007, I was unable to cast my votes on the following amendments to H.R. 1427.

Had I been present for rollcall No. 378 on the amendment offered by Rep. BACHUS, I would have voted "nay."

Had I been present for rollcall No. 379 on the amendment offered by Rep. HENSARLING, I would have voted "nay."

Had I been present for rollcall No. 380 on the amendment offered by Rep. MCHENRY, I would have voted "nay."

Had I been present for rollcall No. 381 on the amendment offered by Rep. KANJORSKI, I would have voted "aye."

Had I been present for rollcall No. 382 on the amendment offered by Rep. ROSKAM, I would have voted "nay."

Had I been present for rollcall No. 383 on the amendment offered by Rep. GARRETT, I would have voted "nay."

TRIBUTE TO 34TH ANNUAL NATIONAL EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES WEEK

HON. KEVIN BRADY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 21, 2007

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of the 34th Annual National Emergency Medical Services Week, designated this year May 20–26, 2007. It is truly a privilege to honor these brave men and women who provide essential lifesaving services to our communities throughout the Eighth Congressional District.

EMS Week serves as a time to honor and celebrate our medical emergency personnel. These men and women respond to tragedies and situations we pray never come to us or our loved ones. They respond at a moment's notice to people caught in unimaginable circumstances and work tirelessly to provide emergency treatment and offer hope.

As children we all learned the value of stop, drop, and roll. Today our children learn those lessons and more that help keep them safe. From paramedics and EMTs to police officers and fire fighters, each serves a crucial role in keeping our communities educated and prepared to prevent future emergencies.

As we observe EMS Week this year let us not forget those who have made the ultimate sacrifice while performing their duty. These great men and women who have dedicated

themselves to protecting and saving the lives of our loved ones should not be forgotten. The safety of our friends and families depends on individuals like them who arrive to work every day prepared to respond, protect, and save lives.

As we celebrate this week I salute every hardworking American for their role in ensuring the safety of our communities. I also encourage you as residents to become aware of health and safety issues and familiarize yourself with emergency procedures. Let's all chip in and do our part to ensure our neighborhoods and streets remain safe for all to enjoy.

HONORING EDITH DUPIN

HON. RON LEWIS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 21, 2007

Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Edith Dupin, a constituent and good friend, retiring next month from the Elizabethtown Chamber of Commerce after twenty years of service.

Ms. Dupin has overseen a vast expansion of the Hardin County Chamber of Commerce over the course of the last two decades. Upon her arrival, the Chamber had fewer than 200 members. She leaves the Chamber with more than 700 members. During her tenure she has helped develop several local events that have become staples to the Hardin County community including the Heartland Festival, Leadership Elizabethtown, and the holiday favorite, Christmas in the Park.

Always a straight talker, she has found many friends in the community. Through her tenacity and straightforwardness, she has been able to accomplish many positive objectives for the Chamber and the Elizabethtown community. Her legacy is evident through, among many other things, the local farmers market, numerous job fairs, and laying the groundwork for a possible return of commuter flights to Addington Field.

I would like to congratulate Edith for her service to the Elizabethtown community. I join countless neighbors from the Hardin County community in wishing her well in her future endeavors.

It is my great privilege to recognize my friend, Ms. Edith Dupin today, before the entire House of Representatives, for her service to Hardin County. She is an outstanding American worthy of our collective honor and appreciation.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE HIGH SCHOOL FOR ENTERPRISE, BUSINESS AND TECHNOLOGY (EBT)

HON. NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 21, 2007

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize The High School for Enterprise, Business and Technology (EBT), of Williamsburg, Brooklyn in celebration of their 10th anniversary.

EBT's history has been one of hope, growth and a commitment to quality education for our community. More than ten years ago, the majority of local Williamsburg high school students attending the then Eastern District High

School had bleak prospects of graduating from high school. Thanks to the leadership of concerned education advocates, Eastern District was replaced by three new high schools, EBT being one of those entities. The school has evolved into one that has fostered educational growth and training to students throughout Brooklyn.

Since its inception in 1996, EBT has worked diligently to develop a solid learning and professional foundation, creating a wealth of opportunities for its students. The specialized curriculum serves as the school's cornerstone, offering our community's children an opportunity to pursue studies in areas, including: hospitality/tourism, computer science/networking, and business/finance. Through a classroom environment that emphasizes academic engagement, EBT has fostered the personal progress of countless residents.

The High School for Enterprise, Business and Technology's dedicated staff has been successful in nurturing the intellectual development of hundreds of Brooklyn's children. Their commitment to promoting academic opportunities has strengthened the institution's programs thereby enabling comprehensive support services and encouraging parent participation. Through the exceptional leadership of Principal Juan Mendez, this remarkable high school has effectively increased both the graduation as well as the college placement rate, resulting in socially-minded young adults devoted to the interests of Williamsburg—and our nation at large.

Therefore, Madam Speaker, I rise with my colleagues in the House of Representatives to honor The High School for Enterprise, Business and Technology. I would like to express my sincerest congratulations in commemoration of its 10th anniversary and express best wishes for a successful future.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 21, 2007

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, I was absent from the chamber during the evening of Thursday, May 17, 2007. Had I been present for six rollcall votes taken that evening on amendments to H.R. 1427, the Federal Housing Finance Reform Act of 2007, I would have voted as follows: "no" on rollcall No. 378; "no" on rollcall No. 379; "no" on rollcall No. 380; "no" on rollcall No. 381; and "no" on rollcall No. 382; and "no" on rollcall No. 383.

IN RECOGNITION OF COLONEL ROBERT W. GATES, UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 21, 2007

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, it is an honor for me to rise today in recognition of the life and dedicated service of Robert W. "Bob" Gates.

Robert Gates served this country for 31 years in the United States Air Force. Across three wars he flew in hostile skies from D-Day over France to the jungles of Vietnam. Colonel Gates was decorated with two Legions of Merit, two Distinguished Flying Crosses, the Silver Star, the French Croix-de-Guerre, eight Air Medals and a Presidential Citation from President Roosevelt. He was the first Commander of the 1st Special Operations Wing, Hurlburt Field, FL. He commanded Project "Ice Skate," and successfully built a permanent base with a 5000-foot runway on a floating island (called T-3) near the North Pole. Additionally, Colonel Gates commanded Task Force HIRAN, which established the SHORAN radar tracking stations on the Greenland ice cap.

On May 18 2007, Colonel Gates will add to his lengthy roll of accolades the Spirit of Hope Award. In 1942, during Mr. Hope's first USO tour, then Lieutenant Gates was assigned to fly Mr. Hope and his troupe around the Alaskan and Pacific theaters. Multiple times during his career, he piloted Mr. Hope and other USO entertainers. Over these years, Colonel Gates and Bob Hope formed a life-long personal friendship. Mr. Hope nicknamed Bob Gates "Growing Pains," and often referred to him as his son. Bob Hope so inspired the young officer that Colonel Gates decided to dedicate his entire life, energy, and compassion to helping the spouses and family members of fallen comrades, as well as others less fortunate in the Fort Walton Beach, Florida area.

Colonel Gates was instrumental in organizing twelve USO tours to raise money for the purchase of 79 acres from nearby Eglin Air Force Base to build two world-class assisted living facilities, "Bob Hope's Enlisted Widows Village" and "Theresa Village." Bob Hope's Village includes 256 one, and two-bedroom apartments, gardening plots, a gift shop, swimming pool, nature trails, and a community center that seats over 400 people. Theresa Village has 123 units with similar facilities. In 2003, the Bob and Dolores Hope Foundation donated \$1 million to build a one-of-a-kind welcome center in honor of Bob Gates' many years of support, dedication, and selfless contributions. Colonel Gates is often consulted on future facility construction plans, such as building future nursing care facilities on the Bob Hope Village complex. Additionally, Colonel Gates is an avid contributor and supporter of the Fort Walton Beach Children's Society Golf Tournament and auction that helps raise funds to support local children's agencies.

On behalf of a grateful nation, I extend my deep appreciation to Robert W. Gates for his service to Florida and our country. As he is one of Fort Walton Beach's favorite sons, we are proud to see Bob receive the Spirit of Hope Award this year.

TRIBUTE TO CARTER CORNICK

HON. BARNEY FRANK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 21, 2007

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Madam Speaker, I rise today with Ranking Member BACHUS to recognize L. Carter Cornick III for his dedicated service at the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development.

After serving nearly 5 years, an era of sorts, Mr. Cornick, the General Deputy Assistant Secretary for Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations, will return to the United States Senate as Chief of Staff to Senator JOHN WARNER. In his new role, he will once again be working for the people of the Commonwealth of Virginia, the state he loves and ever-so-proudly calls home.

During his tenure, we have had the pleasure of working closely with Mr. Cornick on many issues involving housing policy. We have relied on him to help turn some of the Committee's ideas into realities at HUD. Mr. Cornick has been helpful on several issues where it was important for us to work together.

In addition to his work as the Department's primary advocate before Congress, Mr. Cornick should also be recognized for the deep admiration he has earned within the halls of HUD. He has taken the time to learn and understand HUD's many complex programs, and has worked with and relied upon the career experts for their advice and historical knowledge of the issues.

We commend Carter Cornick for all of his tireless efforts in representing HUD before Congress, and congratulate him on his latest endeavor in public service. He will be missed.

HONORING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF JUDITH JACKSON

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 21, 2007

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the achievements of Dr. Judith Jackson, principal of Franconia Elementary School in Fairfax County, Virginia, since 1996: and a dedicated public servant for nearly 3 decades. While Dr. Jackson is retiring, she will leave behind a lasting impression of her caring nature and tireless devotion to the school she served so well.

A graduate of Marygrove College, Dr. Jackson, earned her master's degree at the University of Michigan and her doctorate in education at Nova Southeastern University. She began her teaching career as an elementary school teacher in the Detroit Public School System, and has taught soldiers in Germany, where her husband, David Jackson, was stationed with the United States Army, and ex-offenders in Pennsylvania. She arrived in the Fairfax County School system in 1980, where she rose to the rank of Assistant Principal at Woodley Hills Elementary School. In 1996, she passed through a rigorous selection process to become principal of Franconia Elementary. Dr. Judith Jackson is also the mother of 3 wonderful children, Teresa, David, and Kevin.

Throughout her service as principal, she has been ever present in the halls and classrooms of Franconia Elementary. She knows every student by name, and is involved in every aspect of life at the school. Dr. Jackson never misses an opportunity to read to the children at school events, and is unmatched in her advocacy of the development of reading and writing skills at the elementary level. As one member of her staff put it, "All she does, day after day, is tirelessly search for ways in which every student can achieve, and every student

can experience the joy of learning". Some of the innovative programs supported by Dr. Jackson to this end are the "Reading Restaurant", "Literary Lunch", "Friday Night Prime Time", and "Partners in Print", making learning, and reading in particular, fun for her students. In recognition of her efforts, the library at Franconia Elementary School has been renamed the "Judith Jackson Library."

A supporter of after-school programs, Dr. Jackson instituted Math and Science Nights, supported "CETA (Changing Education Through the Arts)", and regularly attended Parent-Teacher Association meetings that fostered dialogue with parents and teachers. She has also volunteered with the Red Cross, tutored members of the military at the United States Military Academy at West Point, and assisted with Koinonia's efforts to help the underprivileged.

The Franconia Mustangs will sorely miss her, but will not forget her any time soon. As the Ayoud triplets, second graders at Franconia put it, "We'll just have to retire too, since Franconia won't be the same without Dr. Jackson." Something tells me she won't let them.

I commend Dr. Jackson on her distinguished career in education, and wish her and her family health and happiness in her well-earned, much deserved retirement.

TRIBUTE TO THE U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS KANSAS CITY DISTRICT

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 21, 2007

Mr. SKELTON. Madam Speaker, the United States Army Corps of Engineers Kansas City District is celebrating its 100th anniversary in 2007. Over the last century, the people who make up the Kansas City District have provided meaningful services to the people of Missouri and of our nation.

In the early days, the Kansas City District's primary mission was to develop and maintain a navigational channel along the Missouri River to encourage barge traffic. Barge traffic remains a vital concern along the river. Since the early 1900's, barges have been critical to moving farm products to markets and to control railroad freight rates via competition along the river. This commitment to navigation has always been so very important to those of us who hail from Missouri.

The Kansas City District has also played an important role in taming the turbulent and braided Missouri River. The men and women of the District have built numerous river control structures that have stabilized banks and used the force of the river's own current to carve a stable channel. They have constructed canals and river cutoffs that changed the course of the river. At the same time, they have offered easier navigation, opening the stream to, use, as a highway for goods.

In the 1930s and 1940s, the Kansas City District tackled flood control concerns and helped protect property and lives along the river and its tributaries. Because of flooding and the federal government's commitment to employ Army engineer officers returning from battle in World War II, dams were constructed along the main stem of the river and on adjacent streams. The Flood Control Act of 1944