

THANKING MR. PHIL NICHOLS FOR HIS SERVICE TO THE HOUSE

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, on the occasion of his retirement this month, I rise to thank Mr. Phil Nichols for his long career of outstanding service to the U.S. House of Representatives.

Phil Nichols has been an employee of the House for 31 years. During that time, he has earned the respect and admiration of his fellow co-workers. Phil is a person of great character and will leave behind a legacy of professionalism, hard work and dedication to this institution. His list of accomplishments is far too lengthy to include in this tribute.

However, one major accomplishment of Phil's was his contribution to the team that upheld the two chairs used by the Vice President of the United States and the Speaker of the House for every State of the Union speech.

Phil's retirement is bittersweet. The House will lose an individual who from day one of his employment made a long term commitment to excellence. His performance has always been exceptional and above and beyond expectations. His legacy will live on in the Chamber of the U.S. House of Representatives as we wish him many wonderful years of happy retirement.

IN HONOR OF PRIVATE FIRST CLASS JOSHUA G. ROMERO, UNITED STATES ARMY

HON. KAY GRANGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Ms. GRANGER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the courage of a brave and dedicated hero of the Fort Worth community and of our Nation.

PFC Joshua G. Romero was a proud United States Army soldier and a true American hero who gallantly gave his life for his country on May 18, 2007, during combat operations in Tahrir, Iraq.

Assigned to the First Cavalry Division of Fort Hood, Texas, Joshua enlisted during time of war, which speaks volumes about his character, bravery, and clear sense of patriotism.

Joshua is survived by his wife, son, father, mother, step-mother, and all of his sisters and brothers.

Our thoughts and prayers are with them and all his family and friends.

Our community and Nation honor Joshua's memory and we are grateful for his faithful and noble service to our country.

PFC Joshua G. Romero will never be forgotten. His memory lives on through his family and the legacy of selfless service that he so bravely imprinted on our hearts.

RECOGNIZING MOBILE AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE PRESIDENT WIN HALLETT AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT VICE PRESIDENT BILL SISSON FOR THEIR ROLE IN RECRUITING THYSSENKRUPP TO ALABAMA

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, today I rise to congratulate Mobile Chamber of Commerce President Win Hallett and Economic Development Vice President Bill Sisson for their efforts in recruiting Thyssen Krupp to build a new steel mill in southwest Alabama.

Both Win and Bill worked tirelessly over the past 2 years to recruit this world class steel company to Alabama. In an unprecedented way, leaders from across Alabama and the region came together to promote the Alabama site.

Over a century ago, steel was Alabama's "cash crop" and steel manufacturing played a major role in Alabama's industrial revolution. Now in 2007, Alabama is one of the leading producers of automobiles in the United States. ThyssenKrupp's announcement brings Alabama's steel legacy full circle.

The impact of this new steel mill will be profound. ThyssenKrupp's new steel mill promises at least 2,700 new permanent jobs, paying upwards of \$50,000 a year. Construction will require almost 30,000 employees who will earn \$40,000 to \$50,000 a year. Such benefits would not be possible without the outstanding leadership of the Mobile Area Chamber of Commerce, who in recent years has also played a lead role in other development projects including: Northrop Grumman/EADS choosing Mobile as the home for its plant to build tankers for the Air Force should the team be awarded the contract; investors choosing Mobile County as the future home of the \$600 million Alabama Motorsports Park, A Dale Earnhardt Jr. Speedway; and the RSA Battle House Tower, which is the tallest building along the Gulf Coast.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you and my colleagues to join me in honoring Mobile Area Chamber of Commerce President Win Hallett and Economic Development Vice President Bill Sisson for their outstanding accomplishments. I would like to offer each of them my heartfelt thanks on behalf of the First Congressional District for their continued contributions to the great State of Alabama.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO DONNA VOLNER

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mrs. Donna Volner, who is retiring from Clark County after 15 years of distinguished service.

Donna, who is from Los Angeles, CA, began her career in Missouri where she ini-

tially served as a clerk/typist for Missouri State Welfare. During her tenure with the Missouri State Welfare, Donna exhibited her tireless dedication and her great abilities and by the end of her 14 years of service. As a result of her commitment and dedication to serving others, Donna was named County Director.

Donna's work for Clark County began in the early 1990s, when she accepted a position as an eligibility worker for Clark County Social Services. In 1995, Donna transferred to the Neighborhood Justice Center, where she served the community for 12 years. After retiring from Clark County, Donna plans to continue her service to the Clark County Community as a volunteer for Clark County Social Services and at the local Ronald McDonald House.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor Donna Volner. Her tireless work for Clark County has improved the lives of countless people. I thank her for her dedication and commitment to the community and wish her the best in her future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO MR. TEX BJORKLUND

HON. BILL SALI

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Mr. SALI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the accomplishments of Mr. Tex Bjorklund.

During the 1950's, Tex Bjorklund was a police officer with the Los Angeles Police Department. While on patrol, he received a call to respond to a shooting at a nearby location. Upon arriving at the scene Mr. Bjorklund discovered the body of a 7-year-old girl who accidentally had shot and killed herself with a handgun found in the glove compartment of a car.

Deeply moved, Tex began working on a way to help prevent this kind of tragedy from recurring. As a result, he invented a device that would not only allow Americans to retain their right to keep and bear arms but also keep children from hurting themselves by using firearms. In fact, Tex was one of the first people to devise what we call today a "trigger lock".

Unlike advocates of sweeping gun restrictions, Mr. Bjorklund realized gun-related problems were not the weapons themselves but rather those who misuse them. In the wrong hands a weapon can be misused by those too young to understand the deadly force guns possess or by those who mean to do us harm.

Tex saw the need for a device that would ensure firearms are operated only for their intended use. Subsequently, Mr. Bjorklund began a quest to invent such a product. Today there are hundreds of different models of locks for many models of firearms.

We will never truly know how many lives Mr. Bjorklund saved, but it is fitting we honor him today for his invention.

IN HONOR OF THE STUDENT GRADUATES OF PARAMUS' D.A.R.E. PROGRAM AT VISITATION ACADEMY

HON. SCOTT GARRETT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, next week, the Paramus Police Department will hold its D.A.R.E. graduation ceremony with the students of Visitation Academy. More than 40 students are participating in this important program that gives young people the support they need to say no to drugs, underage drinking, and gang violence.

Drug Abuse Resistance Education, or D.A.R.E., began as a small program in Los Angeles in 1983. Today, it is implemented in more than 75 percent of our Nation's school districts and in more than 43 other nations. It uses positive peer pressure to help children defeat the negative cultural influences that bombard them daily.

I am proud of the young boys and girls who participated in this program at Visitation Academy, and I would like to recognize them all for taking this step toward positive citizenship:

Robert Aparri, Daniela Chavez, Christen Connelly, Anthony De Ceglie, Nicholas Deutsch, Atene Di Luca, Annemarie Emmert, Thomas Frey Philip Garip, David Gerald, Laiba Khan, Rosanna Luna, Joseph Maliani, Alexander Marskorian, Jesse Mills, Christopher O'Byrne, Charles Overholser, Rene Polio, Tiffany Tramontana, Joshua Victoria, Dominique Balbin, Kris Daniel Berreta, Joseph Besserer, Cassandra Di Giovanni, Patrick Estanbouli, Marco Fontana, Kathleen Forero, Samantha Frey, Alexandra Garip, Carlyn Haynes, Chanel Jhin, Eric Joseph, Seung "Ian" Lee, Melisa Ljekocevic, Adrian Luna, Santino Manocchio, Raquel Massoud, Michael Munafo, Sina Nikmaram, Dominick Paiotti, Cammy May Redling, Christina Rubino.

HONORING ANDREW BARTLETT

HON. MARILYN N. MUSGRAVE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Mrs. MUSGRAVE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Andrew Bartlett who was chosen as one of the 10 national winners in a Risk Management Agency sponsored essay contest for FFA members. Andrew is a member of the Merino, Colorado Future Farmers of America Chapter and he has recently been elected President of the Merino FFA Chapter and President of FFA South Platte District for the 2007–2008 school year.

Andrew's parents are Charlie and Patty Bartlett and he is following the footsteps of his father who has been a farmer all of his life. Being a successful farmer today requires business and marketing skills, knowledge of advanced technology, and knowledge of crop and soil science. Farmers face the challenge of providing consumers with the safest, highest quality food at the lowest price. Andrew demonstrated his understanding of the demands and requirements of becoming a successful farmer in his essay detailing his farming experiences.

For his FFA Supervised Agricultural Experience, Andrew planted, irrigated and harvested alfalfa hay, hay millet and winter wheat. In his essay, Andrew described his decision making process in determining which crops to plant in an area where 6 years of drought have posed numerous challenges for farmers. Andrew also discussed his decisions about the use of fertilizers and chemicals to eliminate risk and the importance of sound financial management and diversification of his crops and choice of crops that were intended for different markets to expand his marketing choices. He explained the importance of using specific and accurate record keeping to assist in monitoring his financial standing. He is aware of the need to carefully analyze each of his decisions. He also understands the importance of being vigilant in minimizing his costs while staying informed of local markets.

Andrew has an impressive awareness of the many factors involved in becoming a successful producer in today's market. Andrew's family and his FFA advisor, Mr. Todd Everhart, are to be commended for their efforts in supporting, encouraging and mentoring Andrew and for their part in helping him develop the knowledge and skills necessary for him to be successful in his first farming endeavor.

Andrew is the future for a way of life which honors the land while helping to feed the world. I am proud to honor Andrew Bartlett for his success as a Future Farmer of America. My heartfelt congratulations to him and his family.

TRIBUTE TO OUR NATION'S VETERANS

HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of our veterans who have served our country valiantly throughout our history.

As we approach Memorial Day, we find ourselves in the middle of wars in both Iraq and Afghanistan—wars which continue to produce more veterans every day.

Today's wars in Iraq and Afghanistan are different from others in our history.

In today's wars, insurgents launch unconventional, horrific attacks on our troops, using devices like IED's—leaving some of our troops requiring ongoing special medical attention.

It is critical that we provide our veterans with the care they need and deserve in return for their bravery and sacrifice.

When I host military mothers this week, in my district in Orange County, California, I will thank them for their sacrifices, but I will also assure them that Congress will do all we can to take care of their children.

I thank all of our Nation's veterans for their bravery, their service, and their sacrifice.

A TRIBUTE TO MR. DOCK MONTERIA BROWN, SR.

HON. G.K. BUTTERFIELD

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Madam Speaker, it is with tremendous pride that I rise today to pay tribute to a very special friend, lifelong resident of Weldon, NC, outstanding citizen, and former North Carolina State House of Representatives, Honorable Dock Monteria Brown, Sr. In almost every household in Halifax and Northampton County, Dock Brown is well known for his dedication to community service and public education. Dock is a retired principal, teacher and basketball coach. He continues to influence the lives of thousands of area residents through his tireless devotion. On this First Congressional District 3rd Annual Weldon Constituent Service Day, I am so pleased to pay tribute to Dock Brown for such exemplary service and dedication to our community.

After graduating with a masters of school administration and supervision degree from North Carolina Central University, Dock taught and coached at Eastman High School. Later, he became the Principal of Pittman High School. He was honored as the Coach of the Year in the Roanoke Chowan Athletic Conference in 1956, 1961, and 1962 and received the highest honor in the North Coastal Plain Athletic Conference in 1972, 1973 and 1974. Dock inspired his students to pursue athletics and academics while emphasizing the value of moral character and community service. Dock often reflects on how proud he feels when former students return thanking him for his guidance.

Before his election to the North Carolina State House as Representative of the District in 1992, Dock was a community leader in Weldon. His involvement in community and civic affairs is surpassed by few. For example, he was appointed to the Selection Committee for Superior Court Judges in 1983; North Carolina Drug Advisory Council from 1975 to 1976 and Halifax County Board of Commissioners from 1984 to 1992. He was Director of the Regional L Council of Commerce from 1990 to 1992; Treasurer of the North Carolina Association of Black County Officials; and Chairman of Riverstone Counseling and Personal Development. He served on the Halifax County Health Board from 1981 to 1985 and Community Based Alternative Task Force as Chairman from 1989 to 1990. Additionally, he was an active member in local political and civic organizations such as the Halifax County Democratic Party; Halifax County Board of Elections; North Carolina Power; Halifax County Coalition for Progress; the Halifax County NAACP, and the North Carolina Cooperative Extension Service State Advisory Board. In addition to his dedication to North Carolina, Dock served in the United States Army in Korea for 2 years. He received an Honorable Discharge with the rank of Sergeant.

Dock has been married for over 50 years to the former Helen L. Brooks, a retired teacher. They have a daughter and son, Ivy and Dock Jr. Their son-in-law is LTC Terence Singleton and their grandson is Terry Singleton. Dock is currently a member of the Board of Com-