

HONORING THE LIFE OF TOM KOSSORIS

HON. PAUL RYAN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2007

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Madam Speaker, Southeastern Wisconsin lost a truly dedicated teacher last week—Tom Kossoris, who taught at Mukwonago High School over the past three decades. He passed away after a lengthy battle with illness brought on by a brain tumor. I would like to take a moment to honor his memory and reflect on the lessons he passed along to his students and others who knew him.

Tom taught history, political science and economics. He demanded a lot from his students—setting high standards that challenged them to excel. In an account that appeared in the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, his fellow teacher, Bruce Lammers put it well, saying: “Tom taught me to have students meet your expectations. Challenge the kids academically, and the kids rise to your standards.” Tom combined this toughness with a dry sense of humor and an unfailing commitment to his students’ education.

Every year, Tom brought students to Washington to enhance and expand on what they had learned—showing them their government in action, as well as the site of so many watersheds and debates over the course of our nation’s history. I could count on hearing from Tom, who would ask for assistance with getting tours of the Capitol or other opportunities to make his students’ trip memorable. He held himself to the same high standards he expected of others—working tirelessly to make sure students got the most out of their experience in Washington.

Over the years he retained a love of teaching, as well as an intellectual energy and enthusiasm that he passed on to others. On top of his other teaching duties, Tom became a driver’s education instructor, giving lessons before school on weekdays and on Saturdays. His sharp mind, his wit, and his determination to bring out the best in students will be greatly missed by the whole community.

HONORING CYNTHIA SIEGEL

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2007

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mrs. Cynthia Siegel for over 30 years of educational service to students in Virginia, New York, and Germany.

Originally from Long Island, Mrs. Siegel began her career in education in New York, teaching for six years on the high school level and two years for an education program at CitiBank. Mrs. Siegel’s calling as a teacher didn’t leave her because of a geographic location. As the spouse of an Army officer, she found herself in Germany and confronted with a base that lacked a teacher for the military school there. She gladly stepped up and filled that need. Upon her return to the U.S., Mrs. Siegel worked for six years at the Washington Business School of Northern Virginia. She

joined Fairfax County Public Schools in 1989, piloting the Technology Tools class for Lanier Middle School in Fairfax, Virginia. Mrs. Siegel has been a dedicated educator at Lanier for the past 21 years.

Teaching students for over three decades and on two continents, she has demonstrated her unequivocal passion for education. Over her career, Mrs. Siegel found opportunities to actively serve in different educational systems in Virginia, New York and Europe. A proud mother and grandmother, Mrs. Siegel will continue her service to young people during her retirement. She has fondly exclaimed, “my role as an educator will remain, only my title will officially shift from Mrs. Siegel to grandma.”

Madam Speaker, in closing, I would like to take the opportunity to recognize Mrs. Cynthia Siegel for her enduring service as a teacher in Fairfax County and abroad. I call upon my colleagues to join me in applauding Cynthia Siegel for her efforts and wishing her many happy years in retirement.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 2317, LOBBYING TRANSPARENCY ACT OF 2007 AND PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 2316, HONEST LEADERSHIP AND OPEN GOVERNMENT ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Ms. McCOLLUM of Minnesota. Madam Chairman, I rise in support of the Honest Leadership Open Government Act and congratulate Speaker PELOSI for taking this important step in changing the way business is done in Washington.

H.R. 2316 will bring real transparency to lobbyists’ activities in order to break the corrupting influence that has been present over the last decade in Congress. This bill requires disclosure of lobbyists’ contributions to members, doubles the frequency of lobbyists’ reporting, and establishes a searchable public database of this disclosure information. It also increases criminal and civil penalties for those who violate the Lobby Disclosure Act and bans the K street project.

The Honest Leadership Open Government Act includes new requirements for Members of Congress, including required disclosure of job negotiations for post-Congressional employment, and establishes a public database for Members’ travel and financial disclosure information.

This legislation is the second step in fulfilling the Democrats’ promise to clean up Washington. In the first 100 hours of the 110th Congress we passed new House Rules imposing the toughest ethics standards ever. These rules banned gifts, meals and trips paid for by lobbyists. The House has also voted to deny pension benefits to Members of Congress convicted of corruption.

The House of Representatives is the People’s House. In order to ensure that we are truly responsive to and representative of the people, it is critical that lobbyists’ do not have undue access to Members or influence over

the legislative process. H.R. 2316 shines a bright light on lobbyists’ activities in order to end the illegal practices that waste taxpayer dollars and bring disgrace to this institution.

Under Democratic leadership, this Congress is moving America in a New Direction. Our priorities put the interests of American families ahead of special interests. I am proud to support this legislation today and urge my colleagues to do the same.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2007

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, on June 5th, I was unavoidably detained and was unable to vote on rollcalls Nos. 426–430.

Had I been present, I would have voted in the following:

Rollcall No. 426, H. Res. 327—“aye.”
Rollcall No. 427, H. Res. 422—“aye.”
Rollcall No. 428, H. Res. 430—“aye.”
Rollcall No. 429, H. Res. 451—“aye.”
Rollcall No. 430, H. Res. 452—“aye.”

TRIBUTE TO MAJOR GENERAL PATRICK HENRY BRADY

HON. JOHN P. MURTHA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2007

Mr. MURTHA. Madam Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Major General Patrick H. Brady for his relentless and selfless service to this country. Major General Brady should be remembered for his heroic display while serving in the Republic of Vietnam, where he went above and beyond his call of duty flying multiple missions into hostile territory to evacuate severely wounded soldiers as an air ambulance pilot. It is estimated that Major General Brady may have evacuated more wounded from the battlefield than anyone in American history, over 5,000.

Major General Brady’s gallantry and heroism has been well documented and he is the recipient of the Distinguished Service Cross, our Nation’s second highest award; two Distinguished Service Medals; the Defense Superior Service Medal; the Legion of Merit; six Distinguished Flying Crosses; two Bronze Stars, one for valor; the Purple Heart; 53 Air Medals, one for valor; and the Medal of Honor, the military’s highest decoration. While Major General Patrick Brady had a distinguished and honorable military career, I speak today not only to honor those achievements and his 34-year military career, but to recognize his service to our country while not wearing the uniform.

Soon Major General Brady will step down as the Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Citizens Flag Alliance, after more than a decade of phenomenal service. Major General Brady’s outstanding ability enabled him to organize and motivate nearly 150 organizations whose sole focus is on passing a Constitutional amendment that would return to the American people the right to protect their flag. He has testified before Congress and worked

closely with many Members of Congress to gain support for an amendment that would ban the desecration of the American flag. I commend the Major General for his work and am confident he departs knowing the mission of the Alliance will continue due in no small part to his involvement and diligence.

I extend my best wishes to Major General Brady as he turns his attention toward his family. America will be forever indebted to him for his altruistic service to this great Nation.

TRIBUTE TO MOHAMMED H. QAYOUMI, PH.D., FOURTH PRESIDENT OF CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, EAST BAY

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2007

Mr. STARK. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Mohammed H. Qayoumi, Ph.D., who assumed the presidency of Cal State University, East Bay on July 1, 2006. Dr. Qayoumi is the fourth president of the university and his formal investiture will take place at the Hayward, CA, campus of Cal State University, East Bay on June 1, 2007.

Prior to his employment at Cal State University, East Bay, President Qayoumi served as vice president for administration and finance and chief financial officer at California State University, Northridge. He was also a tenured professor of engineering management at the university.

President Qayoumi has also served as vice chancellor for administrative services and as adjunct professor at the University of Missouri-Rolla and was associate vice president for administration and an adjunct professor at Sari Jose State University. He has more than 27 years of experience in the service of higher education and industry.

He has a B.S. degree in electrical engineering from American University of Beirut, and M.S. degrees in nuclear engineering, electrical and computer engineering, as well as an M.B.A. in finance and a Ph.D. in electrical engineering from the University of Cincinnati.

When President Qayoumi came to the United States in 1978, he was first employed as staff engineer at the University of Cincinnati, where he also held positions as director of technical services, director of utilities and engineering services and adjunct professor. Prior to 1978, President Qayoumi was employed as a communications engineer in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia and as a project electrical engineer in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates.

President Qayoumi has published eight books, more than 85 articles and several chapters in various books. He has made presentations at numerous conferences across the United States and in 10 other countries on various topics in his areas of academic expertise.

He has served his native country of Afghanistan in various financial capacities, including minister of finance, and remains on several boards of directors, including the Central Bank of Afghanistan.

I am confident President Qayoumi will provide exemplary leadership to Cal State University and I join in wishing him every success.

IN MEMORY OF WAYNE STEVENS

HON. DUNCAN HUNTER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2007

Mr. HUNTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor and memory of Mr. Wayne Stevens, a proud member of the San Diego community and a fellow paratrooper who recently passed away at the age 64 from the effects of cancer.

Wayne's distinguished record of military service to this Nation is one of the finest examples of selflessness and courage. He served in Vietnam with Charlie Company, 2nd Battalion of the 503rd Infantry, 173rd Airborne Brigade, and was among the first soldiers to arrive in country from Okinawa in 1964. For his heroism in Vietnam, Wayne was awarded two Bronze Stars, a Purple Heart and the Republic of Vietnam Cross of Gallantry.

Madam Speaker, Ronald Reagan once said, "the willingness of our citizens to give freely and unselfishly of themselves, even their lives, in defense of our democratic principles, gives this great nation continued strength and vitality. From Valley Forge to Vietnam, through war and peace, valiant Americans have answered the call to duty with honor and dignity." In making these remarks, President Reagan was speaking directly to Americans like Wayne, who have so bravely and selflessly put their country before themselves and were always willing to make the ultimate sacrifice when they were needed most.

My prayers are with Wayne's devoted wife of 42 years, Donna, his daughter Jessica and two grandchildren, Sophia and Adolph, and I ask that my colleagues join me today in paying tribute to the life and memory of this true American hero.

TRIBUTE TO DENNIS CASSIDY

HON. KEVIN McCARTHY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2007

Mr. McCARTHY of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a community leader, my friend, Dennis Cassidy, on his retirement after over 30 years of serving the people of Paso Robles, CA, most currently as chief of police.

Chief Cassidy began his law enforcement career with the Paso Robles Police Department in 1974. In 1985, Cassidy was promoted to patrol sergeant and in 1988, he became Detective Bureau commander. In 1990, he was promoted to Lieutenant, and was responsible for seeking grants to further the department's Community Outreach Program through the early 1990s. His success led to the establishment of a satellite police office, in cooperation with the Housing Authority, where two officers were assigned to work full-time. The results were remarkable. Criminal activity dropped, community and police relationships strengthened, and a safer Paso Robles gave families increased peace of mind. In 1997, Cassidy was named chief of police, a position he has held since, until his retirement.

During his tenure as chief, Cassidy was instrumental in planning the new Public Safety Center in Paso Robles. This center was put to

the test after the San Simeon earthquake in December 2003. This earthquake caused massive damage to Paso Robles and took the lives of two Paso Robles residents. The center immediately served as a staging area as Cassidy and other members of the Paso Robles Emergency Services coordinated initial rescue and recovery efforts. Later, the building was used by many different agencies brought in to assist with recovery.

Chief Cassidy has been in the forefront of exploring new technologies, which has resulted in the Paso Robles Police Department being equipped with innovative technology to help combat crime and ensure the safety of the community and residents. Specifically, Chief Cassidy was responsible for the Department obtaining its Computer Aided Dispatching and Records Management Systems, as well as Livescan fingerprinting and digital in-car video with wireless station-server download capability.

Serving his community is not something Chief Cassidy only does on-duty; he is very involved while he is off-duty. Chief Cassidy is a past commissioner of the Children and Families Commission of San Luis Obispo County, the local agency administering State tax revenue to fund education, childcare, health and other programs for expectant parents and toddlers. He also served as president of the North County Women's Resource Center, which assists women and families against domestic violence and abuse. Finally, he is active as a Paul Harris Fellow in the local Rotary, and a member of the San Luis Obispo Cattlemen's Association.

Chief Cassidy exemplifies how one can answer the call of duty to protect and serve his fellow neighbors, and do it with great passion, strength, and devotion to his community. His shoes will be tough to fill as he raised the police department's level of excellence and outstanding conduct, and has forged a relationship of trust with the community his officers serve and protect. I know Chief Cassidy looks forward to his retirement and spending time with friends and family. I commend his service to the city of Paso Robles and wish him the best as he enters into the next stage of his life.

HONORING THE LIFE OF UNITED STATES ARMY CORPORAL VICTOR TOLEDO PULIDO

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2007

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to the life of CPL Victor H. Toledo Pulido, who lost his life defending our Nation in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

After attending high school in California's Central Valley, Victor joined the Army Reserves in 2005. A year later, he signed up for active duty and was stationed at Fort Benning, GA. Victor was proud to serve in the military.

While serving with the 1st Cavalry Regiment based out of Fort Benning, Victor wore his green camouflage uniform with pride. Unfortunately, on Wednesday, May 23, 2007, the vehicle in which Victor traveled was hit with an improvised explosive device. Victor and another soldier were killed in the incident.