

Through service on numerous department, county, regional, state and national boards, Chief Neuhardt has demonstrated his dedication to safety in his community. He is chair of his department's Strategic Planning Leadership Team, a member of the Fairfax County Domestic Violence Prevention Policy Coordinating Council, chair of the National Technology Transfer Center—Emergency Response Advisory Committee, as well as chairman of the Washington Metropolitan Council of Governments Fire Chiefs Committee. Additionally, he has served on the Secure Commonwealth Panel since his appointment in 2002 by then-Governor Mark Warner.

Madam Speaker, in closing, I would like to commend and congratulate Chief Michael P. Neuhardt on all of his accomplishments. His efforts have boosted the overall safety and preparedness of the citizens of Fairfax County and the region. I call upon my colleagues to join me in applauding Chief Neuhardt for his past accomplishments and in wishing him continued success in the years to come.

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THE WATER QUALITY INVESTMENT ACT OF 2007

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**HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 22, 2007

Mr. PASCRELL. Madam Speaker, last week I was proud to introduce the Water Quality Investment Act of 2007, along with original co-sponsors Congressmen DAVE CAMP and MIKE CAPUANO. This bipartisan legislation authorizes a \$3 billion grant program over 6 years to control combined sewer overflows and sanitary sewer overflows.

A combined sewer is a type of sewer system which provides partially separated channels for sanitary sewage and stormwater runoff. This allows the sanitary sewer system to provide backup capacity for the runoff sewer when runoff volumes are unusually high, but it is an antiquated system that is vulnerable to overflow during peak rainfall events. These overflows, called combined sewer overflows, CSOs, contain stormwater and untreated human and industrial waste, toxic materials, and debris that are very harmful to human health.

Combined sewer systems serve roughly 772 American communities containing about 40 million people. My home state of New Jersey has 31 combined sewer systems, with over 200 discharge points throughout the state. The EPA estimates that about 850 billion gallons of untreated wastewater and storm water are released as CSOs each year in the United States.

Because CSOs contain raw sewage along with large volumes of storm water and contribute pathogens, solids, debris, and toxic pollutants to receiving waters, CSOs can create significant public health and water quality concerns. CSOs have contributed to beach closures, shellfish bed closures, contamination of drinking water supplies, and other environmental and public health concerns.

A sanitary sewer overflow, SSO, occurs when raw sewage from municipal sanitary sewers unintentionally discharges, polluting our waters and backing up into basements. SSOs can be attributed to severe weather,

vandalism, and a variety of other causes. The EPA estimates that there are at least 40,000 SSOs every year. In 2003, New Jersey closed over 30,000 acres of classified shellfish growing areas in the Raritan Bay area due to a large SSO.

Upgrading these systems is extremely expensive. The EPA estimates that the total cost of repairing the country's combined sewer systems is nearly \$51 billion; the price tag for fixing U.S. sanitary sewer systems hovers around \$89 billion.

As the former mayor of Paterson, New Jersey, I fully understand the fiscal challenge that many municipalities face in meeting state and federal environmental standards. Many states find building or improving sewer infrastructure financially impossible without aid from the federal government. The Water Quality Investment Act of 2007 will help to alleviate this financial burden, so that municipalities are able to mitigate the harmful effects of CSOs and SSOs.

Madam Speaker, I urge Congress to enact this important legislation, so that we may help our communities provide a cleaner, safer environment for their citizens.

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TRIBUTE TO OFFICERS CHRIS NELSON AND GARY WAGSTER

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**HON. RUSS CARNAHAN**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 22, 2007

Mr. CARNAHAN. Madam Speaker, I stand before you today to honor the efforts of Kirkwood police officers Chris Nelson and Gary Wagster in their rescue of Ben Ownby and Shawn Hornbeck.

Because of these officers' keen skills, these young boys have been reunited to their families and may return to the business of growing up. By their efforts, Officers Nelson and Wagster have given hope to the many families who long for their children's homecoming.

The officers may say that they "simply did their job." However, Madam Speaker, this simply demonstrates the importance and value of the police officers who serve and protect our communities.

Officers Chris Nelson and Gary Wagster are every day heroes, and I am honored to recognize their great work.

I thank them both for their service to our community.

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IN RECOGNITION OF MS. MYRENE LAW

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**HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 22, 2007

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ms. Myrene Law of North Richland Hills, Texas, who celebrated her 103rd birthday on January 16, 2007.

Born on January 16, 1904 in Fort Worth, Texas, Ms. Myrene Law was an only child raised by her aunt, Rose Melton Twining. She attended Central High School, now Paschal High School, and graduated from a local business college to acquire skills needed as a

legal stenographer. She grew up in a time when newspaper carriers shouted out the news and people listened to radios as a form of entertainment. Ms. Law met her husband, Nugent Law, when she was 12 years old; they were married in 1926. The Laws had a daughter, Rosemary Law, who passed away at a very young age, and a son, Leroy Law, who is now 67 years old.

In 1944, the couple moved to North Richland Hills, Texas, into a house in the Smithfield area where she remained until faltering eyesight forced her to move into a retirement community at 96 years of age. As a stenographer, she worked a myriad of jobs. Ms. Law first worked for a real estate agent, then 4 years for a law firm, 6 years for the legal department of Sinclair Oil Company, and for 10 years at General Dynamics. Initially attempting to retire at age 65, she decided to work for a "lady journalist" the following week, using a typewriter to transcribe recordings for Jane Pattie of Aledo, an author of historical books on cowboy and American Indian facts and legends. Ms. Law later retired again at age 83.

An avid listener of audio books, Ms. Myrene Law has a friend take her to the North Richland Hills Public Library every other week to check out books on cassette, her favorite of which are mysteries. Another friend faithfully takes her to church on Sundays. In addition to being a church and library regular, she also enjoys listening to sermons and news programs on the radio, keeping friends updated on the weather, sharing information on her family, and telling jokes.

I extend my utmost congratulations to Ms. Myrene Law on her recent 103rd birthday, and I join her family and friends in wishing her well in the year 2007. She is a blessing to our community and I am proud to serve as her representative.

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HONORING THE HONORABLE ROBERT S. CHALK OF LAKE COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

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**HON. MIKE THOMPSON**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 22, 2007

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor my friend Robert Chalk on the occasion of his retirement after 32 years of service as a Sheriff Deputy, Police Officer and Chief of Police in Lake County and Clearlake, California. Mr. Chalk has served his community with distinction. His commitment to running an open, citizen-oriented department will long be remembered.

Mr. Chalk began his career in law enforcement in 1975 as a new hire with the Lake County Sheriff's Department. For the last 25 years he has worked for the Clearlake Police Department, rising from Patrol Officer to Sergeant and then Lieutenant before being appointed Chief of Police in 1993. During this time he has also been immensely involved with local law enforcement groups, including 13 years as President of the Lake County Law Enforcement Chief's Association. During his tenure as Chief, Mr. Chalk has overseen a sharp reduction in crime rates in and around Clearlake. His strength of character and affection for his community has been reflected in the work he has accomplished as Chief of Police.

In addition to his work as Police Chief, Mr. Chalk volunteers in a number of civic and philanthropic organizations, working to strengthen his community. He was actively involved with the Citizens to Restore Clearlake, which was formed to bring about substantial improvements to the environment in Clearlake.

Mr. Chalk has deep roots in Lake County. Mr. Chalk was born in Lakeport, California and has lived and worked in Lake County all his life. He and his wife Marsha are the proud parents of 3 children, Johnnie, Merissa and Ryan and 10 grandchildren.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, it is appropriate at this time that we thank Mr. Robert Chalk for his many years of service to Lake County and the City of Clearlake, and extend our best wishes to him in retirement.

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INTRODUCTION OF THE RIGHT TO LIFE ACT

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**HON. DUNCAN HUNTER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 22, 2007

Mr. HUNTER. Madam Speaker, one of the most fascinating and popular shows on television today, *In the Womb* on the National Geographic Channel, provides viewers with amazingly detailed footage of unborn children growing and interacting in utero. Watching these babies suck their thumbs, smile and cry has led many to question why a nation, that can spend millions of dollars searching for life on other planets, is not able to discern life in the beating heart of an unborn child. For many years now, I have introduced an important piece of legislation that fulfills what I believe to be one of our most important obligations as elected leaders of this great Nation; protecting our unborn children from harm. I am proud to once again be introducing the Right to Life Act and I am optimistic of its future.

Unfortunately, over 1.3 million abortions are performed in the United States each year and over 38 million have been performed since abortion was legalized in 1973. Mr. Speaker, this is a national tragedy. It is the duty of all Americans to protect our children—born and unborn. This bill, the Right to Life Act, would provide blanket protection to all unborn children from the moment of conception.

In 1973, the United States Supreme Court, in the landmark case of *Roe v. Wade*, refused to determine when human life begins and therefore found nothing to indicate that the unborn are persons protected by the Fourteenth Amendment. In the decision, however, the Court did concede that, “If the suggestion of personhood is established, the appellants’ case, of course, collapses, for the fetus’ right to life would be guaranteed specifically by the Amendment.” Considering Congress has the constitutional authority to uphold the Fourteenth Amendment, coupled by the fact that the Court admitted that if personhood were to be established, the unborn would be protected, it can be concluded that we have the authority to determine when life begins.

The Right to Life Act does what the Supreme Court refused to do in *Roe v. Wade* and recognizes the personhood of the unborn for the purpose of enforcing 4 important provisions in the Constitution: (1) Sec. 1 of the Fourteenth Amendment prohibiting States from

depriving any person of life; (2) Sec. 5 of the Fourteenth Amendment providing Congress the power to enforce, by appropriate legislation, the provision of this amendment; (3) the due process clause of the Fifth Amendment, which concurrently prohibits the Federal Government from depriving any person of life; and (4) Article I, Section 8, giving Congress the power to make laws necessary and proper to enforce all powers in the Constitution.

This legislation will protect millions of future children by prohibiting any State or Federal law that denies the personhood of the unborn, thereby effectively overturning *Roe v. Wade*. I firmly believe that life begins at conception and that the preborn child deserves all the rights and protections afforded an American citizen. This measure will recognize the unborn child as a human being and protect the fetus from harm. The Right to Life Act will finally put our unborn children on the same legal footing as all other persons and I hope my colleagues will join me in support of this important effort.

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HONORING BARRY BRICKEY 2006 TENNESSEE PUBLIC FIRE EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR

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**HON. DAVID DAVIS**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 22, 2007

Mr. DAVID DAVIS of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Barry Brickey, a resident of the First Congressional District of Tennessee, who has received the 2006 Tennessee Public Fire Educator of the Year award.

Barry Brickey is a native of Kingsport, Tennessee. He graduated from Sullivan North High School and entered into the Tennessee Air National Guard where he served this great nation and was honorably discharged. He has been the voice of the Kingsport Mets, Co-host of a popular children’s radio program entitled, “The WHCB 91.5 FM Kids Show” and now serves in his current capacity as Fire Education Officer for the Kingsport Fire Department.

Barry Brickey is a devoted husband and father. He is married to Rebecca and together they have two children, Nathaniel age 3 and Hannah age 1.

Barry Brickey teaches children of all ages fire safety precautions. He is dedicated to the success of safety in the City of Kingsport and surrounding areas. Last year alone, he oversaw the distribution of 10,000 smoke detectors and educated over 6,000 students about fire safety.

Madam Speaker, I ask that the House join me this evening in honoring Barry Brickey for his service, commitment, and determination. It is true that our children are our future. Because of the hard work of people like Barry Brickey, our future continues to be bright.

SIMEON BOOKER: INTEGRITY, COMPASSION AND SERVICE IN JOURNALISM

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**HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 22, 2007

Mr. RANGEL. Madam. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to my dear friend, Simeon Booker, on the occasion of his retirement as Washington Bureau Chief of Jet magazine. One of our nation’s greatest journalists, his legacy is that of trailblazing reporter, radio commentator, author, and most of all, selfless and courageous advocate and defender of his people.

Simeon, whom I have known since coming to Washington in 1971 at the time of the founding of the Congressional Black Caucus, was almost single-handedly responsible for informing the nation of our presence in the United States Congress and our fledgling role in the governance of the country. With his weekly column, he made it known to Black America that they too had a voice in national politics which spoke for them in the formulation of policies that affected their lives. The Caucus has grown from the original 13 to 43 members, one of them running for President. Simeon Booker has more to do with that than he would ever admit.

Trailblazer that he was, Simeon never made himself the story. Forever humble, his great, and only, mission was to advocate for and record the history of African Americans. Bravely, he covered the Emmett Till lynching, despite threats to his life by a local white sheriff; reporting the first freedom ride from Atlanta to Birmingham, he had to use his Washington connections to get Justice Department protection from an angry mob. He marched with Martin Luther King through the hisses and catcalls from hostile white crowds. He covered the Little Rock 9 as they entered the Arkansas school house protected by federal troops. He traveled to Africa with Vice President Nixon and others as that continent threw off the yoke of European imperialism.

The first Black reporter at the Washington Post, he gave up the job to focus on covering the civil rights movement for the Black press. He was the first to win the Newspaper Guild Award, the second awarded the prestigious Nieman Fellowship to Harvard, and the first ever named to the pool of reporters covering the inauguration of President John F. Kennedy in 1962.

I congratulate and commend to my colleagues Simeon Booker, a preacher’s son born in Baltimore, and his dear wife, Carol McCabe, who has stood by him. In the pantheon of American journalism, he stands in the first tier.

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HONORING THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS 7899

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**HON. MIKE THOMPSON**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 22, 2007

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the 25th anniversary of the Knights of Columbus Council 7899, Mary Queen of Peace Parrish, in