

the ravages of Hurricane Charley in Charlotte County.

On behalf of Florida's 16th Congressional District, I wish the Neil Armstrong Elementary School community our congratulations and our best wishes for a long and successful future in their new home.

CONGRATULATING MR. RON LEVY

HON. W. TODD AKIN

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 23, 2007

Mr. AKIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Ron Levy, an exceptional leader from my district in St. Louis, Missouri. Since 1999, Ron has served as President and CEO of SSM Health Care-St. Louis. Prior to that, Ron served with SSM Health Care for 30 years, beginning as a resident at St. Mary's Hospital in Madison, Wisconsin in 1976. During his tenure, Ron has served in various capacities at SSM which have included: President of St. Clare Hospital and Health Services in Baraboo, Wisconsin; President of SSM St. Mary's Health Center in Richmond Heights, Missouri, and President of SSM Physicians Organization in St. Louis, Missouri.

Ron's leadership over the years has been invaluable not only to the SSM health care system, but to the community as a whole. In 2005, Ron served as chair of the Missouri Hospital Association. Ron has served as a member of the St. Louis Regional Health Commission, and since its inception has worked tirelessly to ensure access and coverage for healthcare services for the medically uninsured and underinsured in the greater St. Louis region.

I am pleased to be able to honor Ron Levy today. He is a shining example of the great leadership we have in Missouri and I know all of my colleagues join me in wishing him the very best as he begins the next chapter in his life and career.

RESTORE ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. HEATH SHULER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 17, 2007

Mr. SHULER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to House Resolution 746, providing for consideration of H.R. 3773, the RESTORE Act of 2007. While I support many of the provisions of the underlying bill, I remain concerned that this bill is silent on the issue of carrier liability.

This rule provides no opportunity to amend the bill to address this important issue. In my view that is a mistake, and one which I hope will be dealt with before the legislation is sent to the President for his signature.

The failure of this House to address the issue of carrier liability may have significant long term implications for our future ability to protect our citizens. I encourage my colleagues to consider the incentives the legislation creates and find a constructive way to deal with the carrier liability issue.

Therefore, while I do intend to support the underlying legislation when faced with an up

or down decision later today, I oppose this closed rule, and urge the leadership of both Houses of Congress to work together during the conference process to address this issue. I urge my colleagues to vote "no" on this closed rule.

HONORING T.J. LEE ELEMENTARY AND IRVING INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT FOOD SERV- ICE DEPARTMENT

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 23, 2007

Mr. MARCHANT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to T.J. Lee Elementary and the Irving Independent School District Food Service Department upon receiving the first coveted United States Department of Agriculture Gold School award in the state of Texas.

This honor was bestowed on Lee Elementary and IISD Food Service because of their strong commitment to the nutritional and physical well being of their students. Before an elementary school is granted this prestigious award, a stringent HealthierUS School challenge criteria must be met. Providing USDA nutrition standard school lunches, nutrition education to students, regularly scheduled physical activity and other lunch menu criteria are just a few of the measures required to obtain this recognition.

Fighting obesity in school children in the United States is of utmost importance. Lee Elementary and IISD Food Service Department are to be commended for their commitment in improving the health and well being of their students. The leadership they have shown helping students learn healthy eating habits and maintain an active lifestyle is an example to all of us.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor T.J. Lee Elementary and IISD Food Department for earning the United States Department of Agriculture Gold Award.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO CLAUDE "BLACKIE" EVANS

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 23, 2007

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Claude "Blackie" Evans, who passed away on September 28, 2007.

Claude "Blackie" Evans was born on November 11, 1935 in Joplin, Missouri. He moved to Nevada with his wife in 1953. Initially, Blackie worked as a laborer and lathe operator at Titanium Metal Corporation. He then went on to work as a shop steward with the United Steelworkers of America #4856. There he was elected as the president of his local union and the youngest person to ever be elected to that position. After years of involvement and dedication, Blackie became the Executive Secretary-Treasurer of the Nevada State AFL-CIO. He served as liaison to the National AFL-CIO, National Labor Relations Board, and 150 affiliated local unions. In 1998,

Blackie reached the pinnacle of his career serving as a member of the General Executive Board of the National AFL-CIO.

Over the years, Blackie was an integral part of our community. His commitment to his community extended beyond his experience with the AFL-CIO. He was a member of the State Mine Safety Advisory Board in 1969, and the State Job Training Board from 1979 to 1982. Additionally, he served on the state of Nevada's Vocation Education Training Board from 1980 to 1983, the State Industrial Insurance System Board of Directors from 1979 to 1993, and the Federal Solar Energy Education Board in 1994.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor Blackie Evans. His dedication to his community should serve as an example to us all. I send my deepest sympathies to his family and friends. His passing is a tremendous loss to Nevada.

HONORING PETTY OFFICER DANNY PHILLIP DIETZ

HON. THOMAS G. TANCREDO

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 23, 2007

Mr. TANCREDO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the sacrifice of a fallen hero and NAVY SEAL from my district, Petty Officer Danny Phillip Dietz of Littleton, Colorado. Petty Officer Dietz was killed two years ago during combat operations in Afghanistan.

On June 27, 2005, Petty Officer Dietz's four-man SEAL team was inserted into Afghanistan's remote Hindu Kush Mountains. His comrades included Petty Officer Matthew Gene Axelson of Cupertino, California, Petty Officer Marcus Luttrell of Huntsville, Texas, and Lieutenant Michael Murphy of Patchogue, New York. In the heavy fighting that followed the four men, experts not only in warfare but friends and members of a close-knit team, all faced the enemy opposition with inspiring valor and determination. Together they faced incredible odds, determined not only to do their duty but to give all that they had, each in the defense of the others. Ultimately overwhelmed, only Petty Officer Luttrell survived, and then with grievous wounds, to be rescued after several days of escape and evasion during which he continued to battle the enemy.

As Navy SEALs these four men exemplify the very best of America's young men and women, many of whom continue the battle on foreign shores or serve at home to protect our homeland. As valiant warriors they serve to inspire us in understanding not only the importance of Duty, Honor, Country, but also the importance of the unity of teamwork against all odds, regardless of our differences or where we are from.

Danny Dietz is not forgotten in his home town of Littleton, Colorado. This year on Independence Day, a large bronze statue was unveiled in Littleton's Berry Park to ensure that future generations will never forget his uncommon valor and selfless sacrifice. The citation awarding him the Navy Cross notes: "Demonstrating exceptional resolve and fully understanding the gravity of the situation and his responsibility to his teammates, Petty Officer Dietz fought valiantly against the numerically superior and positionally advantaged enemy

force. Remaining behind in a hailstorm of enemy fire, Petty Officer Dietz was wounded by enemy fire. Despite his injuries, he bravely fought on, valiantly defending his teammates and himself in a harrowing gunfight, until he was mortally wounded."

Second only to the Medal of Honor, the Navy Cross is the Navy's highest award for military heroism. Since it was established in World War I it has only been awarded 6,923 times to members of the Armed Services and to only 4,544 members of the U.S. Navy. To date, in the Global War on Terrorism, 17 Marines and 6 members of the Navy have received the Navy Cross. Three of those Navy awards went to Petty Officers Dietz, Axelson, and Luttrell.

In addition to the 3 Navy Crosses and 4 Purple Hearts awarded to the four men in a single action, Lieutenant Murphy was also posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor. I hope that all Americans will take the time to reflect on the sacrifices of these brave men—and indeed all of those serving our Country around the world.

HONORING OLIVIA HARRINGTON RETIREMENT

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 23, 2007

Mr. MARCHANT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Olivia Harrington upon her retirement for her volunteer work and community involvement in Duncanville, Texas.

Mrs. Harrington has been working with youth and volunteers for 25 years. She was the YW Teen Director for the YWCA for 13 years and also created and served as the Duncanville Teen Court Volunteer Coordinator for 12 years. Teen Court allows teens, who have committed Class C misdemeanors, to be judged by their peers in an authentic court setting with actual sentences being handed out. Teen volunteers serve as attorneys, clerks, bailiffs and jurors. Many students have contributed their success in adulthood to the lessons they learned from Mrs. Harrington's guidance participating in Teen Court.

Besides Teen Court Coordinator, Mrs. Harrington is involved in other numerous volunteer organizations. She's a charter member of Theta Pi Chapter, Epsilon Sigma Alpha service fraternity, the Duncanville Genealogy Club, the Ellis County Genealogy Society, and the Duncanville Book Review Club. In addition, Mrs. Harrington is a life member of the Ellis County Art Association, the Historic

Waxahachie Inc. and United Methodist Women.

Mrs. Harrington has been recognized for her achievements when the Duncanville Teen Court received the TICA Spotlight Achievement Award for outstanding Teen Court in Texas in 2001. She was also honored by the Duncanville High School naming the Olivia Harrington Outstanding Volunteer Award for her in 2005.

Mrs. Harrington has a husband, Fred, and two beautiful daughters, Angie and Teenya.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor Olivia Harrington for her community activism which has enriched the lives of so many in Duncanville, Texas. I applaud her efforts and wish her the best in her future endeavors.

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA FIRES

HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 23, 2007

Mr. BACA. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to revise and extend my remarks.

Over the past two days wildfires have exploded across Southern California, causing loss of life, and tens of thousands of acres of property and forest damage in San Bernardino, Riverside, San Diego, Los Angeles, Ventura, Santa Barbara and Orange Counties.

In the Inland Empire, fires have burned many acres of land across the northern part of my district in Lytle Creek, 300 acres in the Sierra Lakes neighborhood of North Fontana and 160 acres in Ontario. Thankfully those fires have now been fully contained and no homes have been reported damaged.

Unfortunately, there are currently more than 5,000 acres of land still being consumed by fires in the Mountain communities adjacent to my district. At last report, more than 136 homes have been destroyed and evacuations continue in this area. Schools in San Bernardino, Fontana and Ontario have all been closed. Children and families, friends, and even some of my staff have been affected.

Evacuees are receiving shelter at the National Orange Show which is down the street from my district office in San Bernardino. At last count there were around 1,800 evacuees being housed there. Unfortunately we are hearing reports that not everyone affected by this disaster is receiving shelter. The center is being administered by the American Red Cross but they are only accommodating evac-

uees from designated evacuation areas. Those that are homeless and victims that are evacuating themselves from non-designated areas filled with smoke are not being serviced. We should not allow self-imposed regulations to prevent service to people that are in need. We must serve all residents, including homeless individuals, regardless of identification or citizenship status.

All told, an estimated 350 homes will have been destroyed by these devastating fires. This means there are going to be many homeless families that will need food and shelter. In addition, we fear that our hospitals will see an influx of people with respiratory problems.

The Inland Empire is a major railway and highway transportation hub but these fires have practically shut down access to many affected communities by closing down Highway 330 and HWY 18 leaving only one road, HWY 38 available for vehicles to go up and down the mountain. We need help containing these fires so that rescue and recovery personnel can get to these communities.

The San Bernardino County's Department of Public Health has issued an air quality warning because of high soot levels in the air caused by the fires and the high winds. Inhaling these dangerous chemicals will undoubtedly create respiratory problems for many of our residents. I hope the American Red Cross and other federal assistance is available to our local first responders to ensure the public health needs of all affected individuals are met.

I thank President Bush for his quick response in declaring a state of emergency in the areas affected by the wildfires. In a letter sent earlier today, I asked that he gives all federal support possible, including personnel, equipment, and funding, necessary for a speedy recovery.

I also thank the brave men and women on the ground, who continue to fight the wildfires and evacuate those in harm's way. Throughout the day, I will be meeting with individuals from the U.S. Forest Service to remain as informed as possible on the coordination of federal and local activities. We are working to determine the best possible course of action to prevent further spread of the wildfires, and determine what future steps must be taken to ensure a quick and full recovery for those individuals and families whose lives are affected.

As Chair of the Subcommittee on Department Operations, Oversight, Nutrition, and Forestry I plan to hold hearings to explore what lessons we can learn from these fires to be better prepared in the future and what steps we must take from here to ensure the fastest recovery possible.