

Judge Johnston received his formal education from the University of the Pacific's McGeorge School of Law. Upon graduation in 1977, he worked as a clerk for Judge Merlyn H. Hoyt for the Seventh Judicial District in Ely, Nevada. Mr. Johnston stayed and served White Pine County from 1979–1982 as the District Attorney while also maintaining a private practice.

Judge Johnston has been and remains an active member of the community while participating in a variety of professional and social organizations. He served on the Ninth Circuit Conference Committee, and participated in organizing three circuit conferences. Additionally, he served on the 9th Circuit Magistrate Judge Executive Board. Presently, Judge Johnston sits on the Court Administration and Case Management Committee of the Judicial Conference of the United States Courts. He is also a member of the board for the Nevada Judicial Historical Society and the Ninth Judicial Circuit Historical Society. Passionate about the preservation of the history of Nevada, Judge Johnston was named the District of Nevada's court historian and has actively begun taking oral histories of his colleagues which will be transcribed and submitted to the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals Historical Society. Judge Johnston hopes that the personal interviews he has conducted will provide a more insightful understanding of these distinguished and honorable men and women.

Judge Johnston is a staple in the community and remains active in various local organizations. He is on the Board of Directors of the Las Vegas Area Council of the Boy Scouts of America and holds a leadership position within his church congregation. In his spare time, Judge Johnson enjoys running, traveling, and spending time with his family.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor the Honorable Judge Robert J. Johnston. His commitment and dedication to Nevada and his Nation should be applauded by all. I wish to congratulate him on 20 years as a United States Magistrate Judge and thank him for his service.

RECOGNIZING THE OPENING OF THE ST. VINCENT DEPAUL COMMUNITY HEALTH CLINIC

HON. TIM MAHONEY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 12, 2007

Mr. MAHONEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the opening of the St. Vincent DePaul Community Health Clinic in Port Charlotte, Florida. This nonprofit organization took on the challenge of addressing the medical needs of the uninsured, underinsured and homeless in Charlotte County. The opening of the clinic was championed by Dr. Mark Asperilla and Dr. David Klein, and I would like to commend their hard work and dedication in seeing the clinic become a reality.

The clinic, which is located at 21450 Gibraltar in Port Charlotte, will open initially on a part time basis but hopes to achieve a goal of operating 12 hours a day, 6 days a week. The clinic will provide a wide range of healthcare services from general health check ups to prescription medication free of charge to needy residents.

St. Vincent DePaul is joined by the Charlotte County community which has come together and is working as a team to save lives and improve the quality of life of the poor and uninsured. Churches, schools, civic groups, fraternal organizations, hospitals, businesses, foundations and individuals have all worked together to ensure that Charlotte County has a health clinic that can effectively serve its residents. This community has dedicated itself to restoring human dignity by reaching out to provide a helping hand.

The blessing of the facility will be coordinated by Father Arthur Schute, spiritual advisor at Peace River Regional Medical Center, and a ribbon cutting and dedication ceremony will take place at noon today.

Madam Speaker, please join me in commending the creation of the St. Vincent DePaul Community Health Clinic.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 12, 2007

Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California. Madam Speaker, due to an inoperable beeper, I unfortunately missed recorded votes No. 1142 and No. 1143 on Tuesday, December 11, 2007. Had I been present to vote, I would have voted "aye" on rollcall vote No. 1142 and "aye" on rollcall vote No. 1143.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO DAYNA LYNN AHERN

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 12, 2007

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the life and memory of my friend Dayna Lynn Ahern, whose passion for life was an inspiration.

Dayna was a native of Las Vegas who was a student of fashion merchandising at the Fashion Institute in Las Vegas, Nevada. Prior to enrolling in the Fashion Institute, Danya had earned an Associates Degree from the prestigious Le Cordon Blue College of Culinary Arts in Las Vegas.

Among Danya's many passions was traveling and music. These dual talents provided her with a number of unique opportunities, such as performing for the Pope at the Vatican and traveling with her high school choir to perform at various locals in Europe. Danya was also an active member of her Church, and had a strong sense of spirituality.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor the life and legacy of my friend Danya. On March 30, 2006, Danya passed away but her enthusiasm and passion for life will serve as an inspiration for all who knew her. She will be greatly missed, but her legacy as a caring and motivated individual will live on.

TRIBUTE TO F. BRENT LEATHERWOOD

HON. CONNIE MACK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 12, 2007

Mr. MACK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor F. Brent Leatherwood for his years of exemplary service in my office and to the constituents of the Fourteenth Congressional District of Florida.

I first met Brent shortly after he graduated from college at the University of Central Florida. When I met Brent, he was working for former Congressman Bill McCollum. I was impressed by Brent's energy, his passion for the Constitution, his dedication to the principles of federalism, and his strong work ethic. Because of this, I hired him to be my Legislative Assistant when I was first elected in 2004. It was here that Brent honed his skills serving in my office.

Over the past few years, Brent has worked closely with members of Congress, his fellow staffers in the House and Senate, and others on various projects and legislative initiatives. One of the most important of these ventures Brent worked on was the reauthorization of the PATRIOT Act. Brent crafted a strategy and worked with members of Congress and congressional staff in order to ensure that many Constitutional safeguards were included in the final legislation. He brought a passion to this debate like no other and was one of my key advisers in this arena. Freedom and federalism is at the core of Brent's philosophical beliefs and he constantly reminded me of Ben Franklin's famous quote, "Those who would give up essential liberty to purchase a little temporary safety deserve neither liberty nor safety."

In mid-2005, because of the skill and diligence he brought to the job, Brent was promoted to Senior Legislative Assistant. Brent has served in that capacity to this date.

Brent has always had a love, respect, and passion for the rule of law and he has now been presented with a tremendous opportunity to return to his native Tennessee and begin his formal study of the law. While I am excited for Brent to begin the next phase of his life, make no mistake about it, he will be greatly missed. He has been a valuable member and an irreplaceable part of my team.

I have valued his advice over the last few years. And I am proud to call him my friend. On behalf of the Fourteenth Congressional District, I'd like to thank Brent for his years of service to the people of Southwest Florida and indeed our nation. He is a true patriot and we wish him all the best for a lifetime of happiness and great success.

HONORING THE LIFE OF BLYTHE ANN O'SULLIVAN

HON. PETER J. ROSKAM

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 12, 2007

Mr. ROSKAM. Madam Speaker, I am saddened to rise today to honor the life and service of an exceptional young Peace Corps Volunteer Blythe Ann O'Sullivan of Bloomington, Illinois.

Illinois. On December 6, 2007, Blythe passed away while serving the people of the Republic of Suriname in South America.

After graduating from Bradley University, she decided to join the Peace Corps.

Blythe was sworn in as a Volunteer on August 3, 2006, after 4 months of intensive training. Leaving her loved ones and comfortable life in the United States behind, Blythe bravely took on the challenge of sharing her knowledge and expertise with the Brokopondo people.

As a small business and community development advisor, Blythe dedicated herself to improving the operations of a local water project and building a community center for the women in the village where she was staying.

While serving in Suriname, Blythe recognized how extraordinarily blessed we are in the United States, saying "I am so humbled by the challenges the Suriname villagers must conquer day after day. Here, each waking moment must be spent satisfying basic needs." Blythe's dedication to improving the lives of others is an example for us all.

Blythe's ready smile, compassionate care for the people of Suriname and efforts to bring them hope have affected countless lives. Blythe's efforts will forever be a tribute to her life and service.

Madam Speaker, I wish to offer my deepest sympathies to Blythe's parents, John and Joan, and the entire O'Sullivan family. They are in my thoughts and prayers during this difficult time.

Madam Speaker and Distinguished Colleagues, please join me in mourning the loss of an extraordinary young woman, Blythe Ann O'Sullivan.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO ROBERT
CHESTO

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 12, 2007

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Robert Chesto for his support of America's fallen heroes.

Mr. Chesto has a long history of serving his community in Las Vegas, Nevada. He moved from Biloxi, Mississippi in 1955 and began the 4th grade at C.P. Squires Elementary School in Las Vegas. He then attended Tom Williams Elementary, J.D. Smith Middle School, and Rancho High School. After graduating from Rancho High School, Robert enrolled in the University of Nevada, Las Vegas majoring in Music. In 1970, after graduating from UNLV, Robert was drafted into the United States Army where he served on active duty in the Nevada Army National Guard until 1990. In 1976 he began teaching in the Clark County School District.

After retiring from the Army National Guard as a Captain, Robert went back to UNLV to

pursue a degree in Education. In 2000, Robert began as Principal at his own high school, Rancho. As the Principal of Rancho High School, Robert is dedicated to honoring those who have served their country in the Armed Services. Rancho High School has become an "All American High School" with over 250 American flags decorating the school. Mr. Chesto has also dedicated himself to remembering Rancho's history by incorporating a "Wall of Honor" for the 23 Rancho graduates who were killed in action during the Vietnam War.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor Robert Chesto. He has not only served his country in times of war, but also committed himself to the education of our youth. His continuing dedication to his country and to the remembrance of those who have fallen serves as an example to us all.

TRIBUTE TO OLA COPELAND

HON. JOHN M. SPRATT, JR.

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 11, 2007

Mr. SPRATT. Madam Speaker, I rise to call the attention of the House to Ola Copeland, an outstanding citizen of my district who recently passed away in Gaffney South Carolina, a place she called home for her entire life.

Mrs. Copeland was known best for 15 years of service on the Cherokee County Board of Education. She believed in education, and as a life-long citizen, knew Cherokee County well. Her colleagues recognized her ability, and elected her Chairwoman of the Cherokee County Board of Education, a post she held from 2003 until the day she died. During her tenure on the board, she chaired the Curriculum, Budget, and Special Needs Committees, served on the Maintenance, Property and Grounds Committee, and acted as the Board's Parliamentarian and Legislative Contact.

Despite a lengthy battle with kidney disease, the disease that ultimately claimed her life, Mrs. Copeland worked tirelessly to ensure that Cherokee County students had the best in education. To accommodate her dialysis schedule, the Cherokee County School Board reset its meeting. Just as kidney disease did not stop her serving on the board of education, it also did not prevent her from being a friendly and familiar face at school functions. The day before she was admitted to the hospital with her last illness, she attended the Gaffney High Homecoming Assembly.

Mrs. Copeland was deeply involved in her church, served on numerous boards, and was a member of various organizations that help make Cherokee County a better place. She was an organizer of Theta Beta Gamma Sorority, Inc. and a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. As if serving on the county

school board was not enough, she also served as an officer in the Rocky Mountain Red Hat Society, Friends of the Cherokee County Public Library, and on the board of Piedmont Community Action. She was involved in Communities in Schools, the Teenage Pregnancy Awareness Council, First Steps Board of Directors, and the Renaissance Committee at Gaffney High School.

Ms. Copeland graduated from Granard High School and earned a business degree from Limestone College in Gaffney. She is survived by two sons, two daughters-in-law, and three grandchildren. Her life was cut short and she died before her time, but if we measure life not by how long we live, but by how well, Ola Copeland lived a long, full life. She left her community better than she found it, and left her fellow citizens a legacy of service and achievement, including her sterling example of what life in a democracy is all about.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO ROBERT P.
ELLIS

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 12, 2007

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor my friend Robert P. Ellis and his dedication to the Southern Nevada community.

Robert "Bobby" Ellis is the President and CEO of B&E Auto Auction, an independently-owned salvage company. It was recently announced that B&E will sell their assets to a national company, a decision that should enhance their ability to serve customers' needs in Nevada.

Bobby also founded the Coalition of Independent Salvage Pools of America in 2000, a partnership of independently owned salvage companies who make it their mission to provide reliable service, competitive pricing that benefits insurance companies, and commitment to their individual local communities and state.

Bobby proved his devotion to education by establishing the Robert and Sandy Ellis Scholarship Fund for students at Nevada State College in 2004. Robert and his wife believed that this scholarship endowment would not only help students obtain a college education, but would help the future economic growth and development of Southern Nevada. In addition to his generous donations to educational institutions, Robert has truly embraced the spirit of philanthropy and has greatly contributed to his surrounding community.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor my good friend Bobby P. Ellis. His steadfast loyalty to the state of Nevada is an example to us all, and I wish him continued success with all his future endeavors.