

Madam Speaker, due to events in my district, I was unable to vote on rollcall No. 1085: Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H.R. 3461, as amended. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

NOVEMBER 14, 2007

Madam Speaker, due to events in my district, I was unable to vote on rollcall No. 1095: Motion to Adjourn. Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

DECEMBER 6, 2007

Madam Speaker, due to events in my district, I was unable to vote on rollcall No. 1141: Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H.R. 2085. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LUIS V. GUTIERREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 18, 2007

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Madam Speaker, I was unavoidably absent from this Chamber last night and this morning. I would like the RECORD to show that, had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall votes 1163 through 1176.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO THE "PARTNERSHIP FOR A DRUG-FREE AMERICA" ON THEIR 20TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 18, 2007

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, today I rise to ask my colleagues to take a moment to honor one of our most successful and important educational campaigns, the Partnership for a Drug-Free America, for 20 years of outstanding service.

Best known for its national drug-education campaigns, the Partnership for a Drug-Free America continues its mission to reduce illicit drug use in America by uniting communications professionals, renowned scientists, and parents.

What began in 1986 as a 3-year endeavor to "unsell" drugs to the American public, has turned into the largest public service campaign in our Nation's history. The pro bono work of some of the country's best advertising agencies across all forms of media has allowed the Partnership's anti-drug message to reach the public on local and national levels for the past two decades.

The organization first entered the wider public consciousness in 1987, with its "This is Your Brain on Drugs" broadcast and print public service announcements, which used the analogy that if a person's brain were an egg, using drugs would be like frying that egg. Another PSA featured a television, a trip to Paris, and a new car all disappearing right under the nose of a cocaine user. Still another that year focused on how a drug-induced high is like diving into an empty swimming pool. All these commercials and print campaigns were praised in a speech given to those involved executively with PDFA by then-President George H.W. Bush in late 1989.

Since then, the Partnership has grown from simple advertising into a drug prevention and treatment resource. Parents and caregivers can request materials and teaching aids that they can use to effectively address drug and alcohol abuse with their children. A major new initiative now unfolding integrates the latest science and research with the most effective traditional media and digital communication techniques to give parents the tools, resources and support they need to help their children lead healthy lives. This effort—the first ever for the Partnership—will include a Web-based interactive information resource center, parent-to-parent support network, a national toll-free call center and user-friendly online/offline tools.

Time and time again, the Partnership proves that the media industry can play a very positive role in influencing our young people to turn away from drugs. Fueled by their educational programs and grassroots community outreach efforts, the use of illicit drugs across the country has fallen by almost a third. Adolescent drug use alone is down by 19 percent in just the past 4 years and 32 percent since its inception.

To celebrate the accomplishments and longevity of the organization, the Partnership will kick off its 20th anniversary at its annual gala being held on November 27, 2007 at the Waldorf Astoria in New York City. The Partnership will honor William C. Weldon, chairman and CEO of the Johnson and Johnson Corporation.

In light of this momentous occasion, I congratulate the staff and volunteers of the Partnership for a Drug-Free America on 20 years of influential service to our Nation. I ask my colleagues to join me in commending them for continuing on with their vision to raise awareness on how we can prevent substance abuse in our communities and make America a safer and sober place to live.

TRIBUTE TO JOHN COUCH

HON. KEVIN MCCARTHY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2007

Mr. MCCARTHY of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor John Couch, a community leader from Atascadero, California, on his retirement after 17 years of serving the city, most currently as chief of police.

Chief Couch grew up in North Dakota. After graduating high school in 1970, Chief Couch enlisted in the United States Army and was stationed in Vietnam, serving with the 114th Assault Helicopter Company. He completed his service with the Army in 1973 and enrolled in California State University, Sacramento, where he earned his degree in criminal justice administration in 1977. After his graduation, Chief Couch worked for the city of Santa Clara Police Department for 13 years and achieved the rank of sergeant. Since 1990, Chief Couch has served in the Atascadero Police Department.

Chief Couch was elevated to the rank of chief on October 7, 2004. During his tenure, he has instituted many improvements to the police department. For example, Chief Couch facilitated the purchase of additional motorcycles for the Traffic Division and added com-

puters and in-car video to all Atascadero Police Department patrol vehicles. He improved the efficiency of law enforcement in Atascadero by creating a special enforcement team, upgraded the capabilities in dispatch, made technical improvements to the radio repeater system, and implemented a crime free multi-housing program and a new traffic safety program. Chief Couch also succeeded at improving the police department retention and recruitment process and the department's relations with the community it serves by expanding community outreach and education programs.

Community service is a central priority for Chief Couch even in his off-duty life. Chief Couch is a member of the Atascadero Kiwanis Club. He also serves on the local board of directors for both the Women's Shelter and the Salvation Army. Finally, in addition to serving as chief of police, John is the chief driver and mechanic of the bus for the Atascadero Bible Church.

Chief Couch and his wife Margie have been married for 25 years and have raised two children, Brittany and Jared.

Dedicated to serving his community in a variety of ways, Chief Couch's leadership at the Atascadero Police Department will be sorely missed and difficult to replace, but his well-deserved retirement will give him the ability to spend more time with friends and family. I commend his service to the City of Atascadero and I hope that Chief Couch enjoys his transition into the next stage of his life.

CONGRATULATIONS TO MIDLAND HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL TEAM

HON. DAVE CAMP

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2007

Mr. CAMP of Michigan. Madam Speaker, today I rise to congratulate and pay tribute to the Midland High School football team for reaching the Michigan High School Athletic Association 2007 Division Two State Championship game. This was the team's third trip to the state finals since 1990.

The Midland Chemics led most of the hard-fought final game against Detroit Martin Luther King High School. However, King took the lead in the fourth quarter and held off Midland. The game marked the end of a successful season, in which the Chemics finished with an 11–3 record.

A week earlier it was Midland who pulled off the impressive come-from-behind victory, defeating Lowell High School. They scored 24 unanswered points in the second half to win 31–27 and earn their spot in the title game. In the playoffs they also defeated Davison, Bay City Central, and Arthur Hill en route to the finals.

The accomplishments of these student athletes are a testament to the years of hard work and dedication leading up to their playoff run. I commend them on a successful season.

On behalf of the 4th Congressional District of Michigan, I congratulate the Midland High School Football team on their achievements and wish them all the best of luck in their future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING DANIELLE “DANIE”
VANDERPOOL

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2007

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Danielle “Danie” Vanderpool as a dedicated volunteer, assisting veterans at the Iowa Paralyzed Veterans of America in Des Moines.

Danie, a nine-year-old from Indianola, Iowa has volunteered for the dinner and a movie night every Monday night for the past 3 years. After dinner she cleans off the tables, helps set up chairs and serves popcorn, putting smiles on veterans’ faces. Danie was inspired to volunteer by her wheelchair-bound grandmother, Shonnae Lundy, who also volunteers at the IPVA.

Danie has left a lasting positive impact on many veterans and their families. The late Jimmy Hauck, a U.S. Navy veteran, nicknamed Danie the “Popcorn Girl.” Jimmy took a liking to Danie as she always kept all the popcorn bowls full. She truly exemplifies the Iowa spirit of neighbors helping neighbors.

It is a great honor to represent Danie Vanderpool in Congress. I commend Danie’s willingness to volunteer and I wish her all the best in her future endeavors.

HONORING 10 MEMBERS OF THE
NORTH CHICAGO FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. MARK STEVEN KIRK

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2007

Mr. KIRK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor 10 members of the North Chicago Fire Department for going beyond the call of duty to save the life of a 10th district resident.

On November 26 of this year, the fire department was dispatched to the scene of a gunshot victim. Once notified that the victim had received a gunshot wound to the face, a Flight for Life helicopter was immediately called. With the gunman presumed to still be in the area, paramedics Patrick Michael and Gerry Goniwicha went to the aid of the victim despite considerable risk to their lives. Patrick and Gerry quickly moved the injured person to the ambulance and began to clear an airway and stop the bleeding.

As the paramedics worked, additional personnel were called to help the victim and establish a landing zone for the helicopter. Paramedics Joshua Rickabaugh and Joshua Monroe came to the assistance of the ambulance crew to help with patient care and transportation to the helicopter.

At the landing zone site, Commander Keith Humphries met with paramedics Chris Shearer, Keith Peacy and Jason Lambert to set up a safe place for the helicopter to land. The firefighters successfully established a landing zone in very tight quarters and the patient was quickly transferred to the helicopter. Once in the helicopter, Flight for Life nurse Julie Heyer, and flight medic Stu McVicar took over treatment until the team reached the Level I Trauma Center at Lutheran General Hospital.

This victim had a shattered jaw and severed carotid artery, with the bullet initially going into the heart. The victim is still in critical condition, but without the firefighters and medical personnel going into an area where a gunman could still be present, performing their skills flawlessly even with the extreme injuries involved, the victim would not have had a chance.

On behalf of the House of Representatives, I commend Patrick Michael, Gerry Goniwicha, Keith Humphries, Joshua Rickabaugh, Chris Shearer, Keith Peacy, Jason Lambert, Joshua Monroe, flight nurse Julie Heyer, and flight medic Stu McVicar for their amazing actions.

STATEMENT ON THE RETIREMENT
OF BUTCH HINTON

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2007

Mr. SKELTON. Madam Speaker, let me take this means to pay tribute to a dedicated and loyal public servant, Henry L. “Butch” Hinton. On January 4, 2008, Mr. Hinton will retire following a distinguished 37-year career with the United States Government Accountability Office, GAO, capped by 13 years as the Managing Director of the agency’s Defense Capabilities and Management team.

Mr. Hinton began his career with GAO in 1970, rising through the ranks to lead one of its major divisions—the National Security and International Affairs Division, and after an organizational realignment, one of its key teams—the Defense Capabilities and Management team. He is an acknowledged subject matter expert on a wide variety of national security programs and policy issues dealing with defense planning and budgeting, force structure and readiness, weapon systems acquisitions, homeland defense, military and civilian personnel, logistics, infrastructure, and business and force transformation. In addition, he has an in-depth understanding of the Federal legislative and regulatory processes.

Through the years, I have had the privilege of working with Mr. Hinton in my capacity as both chairman and ranking member of the House Armed Services Committee. As a result of his work on highly sensitive and complex issues related to military readiness, threats to national and global security, the global war on terrorism, the base realignment and closure process, and human capital management, he has been a two-time recipient of the Comptroller General’s Award for exceptional effort and achievement of results in support of the Congress and the American taxpayer. He has also received GAO’s Integrity Award, two GAO Distinguished Service Awards, and GAO’s Meritorious Service Award.

GAO was created in 1921 with the mandate to audit, evaluate, or investigate virtually all Federal Government operations—wherever they might take place. In other words, the GAO serves as a “watchdog” over the taxpayers’ money—guarding against fraud, abuse, and inefficient allocation of public funds.

GAO evaluations under Mr. Hinton’s guidance and leadership have saved taxpayers billions of dollars. During his career as head of GAO’s National Security and International Af-

fairs Division, and GAO’s Defense Capabilities and Management team, Congress has implemented numerous recommendations resulting from his work. He has also led the work on reports to improve the readiness and capabilities of active and reserve forces, oversight of military operations including the use of contractors on the battlefield, reliability of cost reporting, transparency over military compensation costs, defense planning in such areas as infrastructure and force protection, and efforts to transform the Department of Defense’s business operations, including the need for a Chief Management Officer.

Madam Speaker, Butch Hinton’s tenure at GAO has been characterized by success on every level. He has served as an example of a truly exceptional public servant. I am sure my colleagues will join me in wishing him well in his retirement.

HONORING MAYOR FRED TURNAGE

HON. G.K. BUTTERFIELD

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2007

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Madam Speaker, for the past 34 years, Rocky Mount, North Carolina has known only one mayor—Fred Turnage. During his tenure, he showed time and time again that he was one of our State’s finest and most effective leaders.

Part of what makes him such a great leader is that he truly understands how to be a public servant. Mayor Turnage wanted to improve the quality of life of every single person living in Rocky Mount; he always had big plans for improving the city for the people; and, he always worked as hard as he could to achieve his goals.

Mayor Turnage successfully navigated the city through its darkest time in the aftermath of Hurricane Floyd in 1999. The storm dumped 20 inches of rain on a region already saturated by two previous storms. Floyd engulfed neighborhoods, communities and entire towns with floodwaters and killed 16 people in the Twin Counties.

Almost a tenth of the city was flooded; 1,000 structures were destroyed with damage estimated at \$400 million; and, hundreds of residents were evacuated from their homes.

During those dark days, Mayor Turnage provided the strong leadership needed to give people a sense of comfort and the belief that the community could rebuild and be stronger than it was even before the storm.

Under his leadership, Rocky Mount successfully moved forward with a plan to rebuild, expand and strengthen the city beyond what it had been prior to the storm. Grants, private funds and city budget commitments paid for the new Imperial Centre, Rocky Mount Sports Complex, YMCA, Braswell Memorial Library, several parks and the train station.

During his three decades at the helm of the city, Mayor Turnage helped to successfully navigate the community as it moved from a tobacco and textile city to one that relies on diverse factories, small businesses and tourism.

Mayor Turnage has presided over more than 700 City Council meetings and he’s missed just six in his 34-year tenure. Two of those absences occurred because he was out of town on city business.