

Tennessee to die in a Korean prisoner of war camp.

Private Wilson was awarded the Combat Infantryman's Badge, the Prisoner of War Medal, the Korean Service Medal, The United Nations Service Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, the Korean Presidential Unit Citation and the Republic of Korea War Service Medal.

Madam Speaker, I ask you and all of my colleagues to join me in honoring the memory, selfless service, and great sacrifice of PVT Harry Leon Wilson.

TRIBUTE TO MRS. MARY
MATTESON-PARRISH

HON. KEVIN BRADY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 7, 2007

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a dear friend and outstanding advocate for higher education, Mrs. Mary Matteson-Parrish. Mrs. Matteson-Parrish served on the North Harris Montgomery Community College District (NHMCCD) Board of Trustees from 1993 to 2005. During her tenure she served as Board Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary and Audit Committee Chair.

While on the Board of Trustees, Mary co-chaired the citizen's committee which worked tirelessly to conduct a successful petition drive and election campaign that permitted the Conroe Independent School District to join NHMCCD in 1991 thus creating higher education opportunities for thousands of Montgomery County students and workers. In addition, Mrs. Matteson-Parrish's commitment to improving access and enhancing the educational opportunities for citizens led to the growth of the North Harris Montgomery College District from 6 to 11 independent school districts and the expansion of services and facilities from three campuses to five comprehensive colleges: North Harris College, Kingwood College, Tomball College, Montgomery College and Cy-Fair College.

This week Montgomery College will name its art gallery the Mary Matteson-Parrish Art Gallery in testimony of the community's appreciation and respect for Mary's dedication to and leadership in providing high quality educational opportunities for the citizens of Montgomery County and the entire Eighth District of Texas.

I join with these communities in honoring this outstanding leader and in applauding her work in expanding educational opportunities to all who seek to learn.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO DONNA
DIACO

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 7, 2007

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Donna Diaco, who is a distinguished and devoted nurse.

According to her colleagues, Donna Diaco is an outstanding member of the nursing staff at Desert Springs Hospital. Donna is a constant

role model in her work in the Intensive Care Unit and always expresses compassion and care for her patients as well as her co-workers. This has earned her the respect and esteem of her colleagues and patients alike. Over the course of her 25-year nursing career, Donna has become an impassioned advocate for her patients and colleagues. Her hard work is complemented by her optimistic ability to find the silver lining in every cloud.

Madam Speaker, it is my honor to recognize Donna Diaco for her service in the Intensive Care Unit at Desert Springs Hospital and the community. Her professional expertise and caring nature have greatly enriched the lives of those in the Las Vegas community. I commend Donna for her efforts and commitment to her patients and to our community.

CONGRATULATIONS MARJORIE
(GIGI) KELAHER

HON. VERNON J. EHLERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 7, 2007

Mr. EHLERS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Marjorie Kelaher on the occasion of her retirement from the position of Deputy Clerk of the U.S. House of Representatives, which became effective as of May 1, 2007.

For over 25 years, Gigi Kelaher has worked for the House of Representatives in a number of different roles. Like many before her, Gigi got her start on Capitol Hill as an intern. Although many young people choose to leave the Hill once their internship has concluded, Gigi found a home in these halls. Though she was in the earliest stages of her career, her work in the fall of 1978 for Congressman Silvio O. Conte (R-MA) would be the beginning of a lifetime of public service.

Following her graduation from Villanova University in 1979, Gigi returned to Capitol Hill and became a full-time employee for Congressman Conte, the Ranking Minority Member of the House Appropriations Committee. She remained in his office in several different capacities until the Congressman's death in 1991. In September of that year, Gigi became the Federal Agency Coordinator for the White House Conference on Aging under President George H. W. Bush, before joining the office of former Congressman Peter I. Blute (R-MA) in 1993.

If her early career enabled her to serve a single Member at a time, Gigi soon discovered a way to serve every Member of Congress—by joining the Office of the Clerk of the House. In 1995, she began her position as Chief of Legislative Operations with the Clerk. In that position, Gigi managed a staff of twenty who supported day-to-day House Floor operations. She continued to build upon her experience in the Clerk's office, and was appointed Assistant Clerk of the House in December 2003. Her duties included the operations and planning of a 250-person organization responsible for the administration of the legislative processes of the House. In April 2006, Gigi was promoted to Deputy Clerk, where she continued to monitor Floor operations and administration for the Clerk's organization. This month, Gigi will retire from her position to devote more time to her family in Holyoke, Massachusetts. While

she will be missed terribly, I admire the commitment to her family that led to Gigi's decision to retire. After so many years serving the public, it is no surprise that she is once again putting the needs of others first.

Madam Speaker, I would like to commend Gigi Kelaher for her years of public service and devotion to the House of Representatives. Without the hard work of dedicated staff like Gigi, the ability of Members of Congress to represent the American public would suffer tremendously. I know that my colleagues join me in thanking her for her assistance over the years, and in wishing her the best now, and in all her future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF AS-
TRONAUT WALTER M. "WALLY"
SCHIRRA

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 7, 2007

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Madam Speaker, today I rise to recognize the life of one of our great space pioneers, Walter M. "Wally" Schirra.

Schirra was one of the original seven Mercury Astronauts and the only Astronaut to fly in all three of the earliest manned space programs: Mercury, Gemini, and Apollo. During one of his missions, Schirra conducted the first rendezvous of manned spacecraft in orbit, considered one of the most challenging tasks in space flight at the time.

Schirra was a great astronaut and a great American. What many of my colleagues may not realize is that Schirra became an active businessman and citizen in Colorado after retiring from the space program. I and my fellow Coloradans will miss him. For the benefit of my colleagues, I have attached an article from the Rocky Mountain News about Schirra's impact in Colorado.

[From the Rocky Mountain News, May 4, 2007]

ASTRONAUT LEFT MARK ON STATE

(By John C. Ensslin, Rocky Mountain News)

Walter M. "Wally" Schirra had a long career in Colorado as a businessman, civic activist and environmental consultant in the decade after he retired as an astronaut.

And like two of his fellow astronauts, John Glenn and Scott Carpenter, he also lived part of the year near Vail, where his daughter Suzanne had been an artist.

In one of his last public appearances in Colorado, Schirra, an avid horseman, took part in a ceremony celebrating an exhibition of cowboy hats at the Buffalo Bill Memorial Museum. The show included Schirra's hat, which sported drawings of trout and elk and pins from range rides he had gone on.

"He was very personable, very accessible, very down to earth," said Steve Friesen, the museum director. "He was a regular guy, but at the same time I had the feeling of standing next to someone who was a major part of history in my life. It was pretty cool."

Schirra moved to Denver shortly after leaving NASA in March 1969. He became president of Regency Investors, a subsidiary of Denver financier John M. King.

He later split from King to form his own company, Environmental Control Corp., which later became part of another company called Semco Inc. The firm worked on environmental impact studies for projects such as a coal gasification plant in Wyoming.

He was an avid sportsman. In October 1973, Schirra was part of a group that purchased 29 acres west of Fort Morgan near the Platte River for use as a sportsman's club.

He also once hosted a television series called *The Outdoor Life*. In May 1978, he was named host of a weekly public affairs television program on then KOA Channel 4 called *Scope* with Wally Schirra.

Schirra was active in Colorado Republican politics. In 1972, he was master of ceremonies for a downtown Denver rally for then-Vice President Spiro Agnew. In 1979, he was an honorary chairman for Ronald Reagan's presidential campaign in Colorado.

In the early 1970s, his civic work included crusades for the Colorado chapter of the American Cancer Society to an organizing committee that tried unsuccessfully to bring the winter Olympics to Colorado.

HONORING DAVID KNIGHT UPON
HIS RETIREMENT

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 7, 2007

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the impending retirement of David Knight as the Sonoma County Director of Transportation and Public Works, and to celebrate the time he has spent as a public servant for the people of the County. Dave has been Director of the Department for over 4 years, following a 10-year tenure as Deputy Director and has been with the Department for a total of 28 years.

During Dave's time with the Department, Sonoma County has changed in many ways, and many of the improvements we have seen have been accomplished with his valuable guidance and leadership. When he first arrived at the County in 1979 as a young transportation planner, Dave was tasked with developing a new transit system. I was pleased to work with Dave to help bring sustainable and environmentally sound transportation programs and projects to our community. With Dave's help, Santa Rosa's bus fleet has evolved from one with just a few, diesel buses, to a fleet that is entirely powered by Compressed Natural Gas. It is still one of a relative few fleets in the State that are 100 percent alternatively-fueled. While the need for a cleaner environment and energy independence has been apparent to most of us for some time, few transit agencies have been as responsive in addressing these imperatives, as has Sonoma County Transit under Dave's leadership. And now, the County is beginning to use methane gas captured at a County landfill to power County cars with the hope that it may one day be a source for our buses and other fleet vehicles.

That Dave has been a forward-thinking leader in public works can be evidenced in other ways, as well. Along with Marin County officials, Dave and other Sonoma County leaders recognized the benefits of public ownership of the Northwestern Pacific Railroad right-of-way; worked years ago to get it into public hands before its cost skyrocketed, and this corridor will almost certainly now be used to operate the SMART (Sonoma-Marin Area Rail Transit) rail system which will relieve congestion, clean the air, and improve the quality of life of all those who must now depend on the horribly congested Highway 101.

And under Dave's stewardship, a network of intermodal facilities and park and ride lots have been built that are also enhancing transit and car-pool opportunities for the citizens of Sonoma County, and in so doing, relieving congestion on Highway 101.

That Dave is among the nation's more innovative municipal public works directors would come as no surprise to those who know him. He received a masters degree in Urban and Regional Planning and was an early advocate of sustainability, which he defines, as well as anybody I've heard, as "making sure that what we do today doesn't reduce opportunities for people in the future."

Sonoma County has been fortunate that David Knight has spent most of his career working closely with our Board of Supervisors in helping to fashion and implement so many municipal improvements. We will miss him, but know that along with Pat, his wife of 28 years, he will enjoy an active retirement residing in the County and continue to contribute to the civic fabric that makes Sonoma such a wonderful place to live and work . . . thanks to Dave!

REGARDING CO-SPONSORSHIP OF
H. CON. RES. 7

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 7, 2007

Ms. LEE. Madam Speaker, I rise today in regards to H. Con. Res. 7, the Darfur Partner's for Peace Act, which calls on the League of Arab States and each Member State individually to acknowledge the genocide in the Darfur region of Sudan and to step up their efforts to stop it.

On April 26, 2007 the House passed my bill by a vote of 425-1.

Because House rules prohibit the addition of additional co-sponsors to a bill once the House has passed a bill, I am not able to formally add eight Members of Congress as co-sponsors of this legislation.

I ask that the record show that Ms. BORDALLO of Guam, Mr. SESTAK of Pennsylvania, Mr. LEVIN of Michigan, Ms. DELAURO of Connecticut, Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts, Mr. SALAZAR of Colorado, Mr. TIERNEY of Massachusetts, and Ms. LOFGREN of California are in support of my bill and should be considered by this body as co-sponsors of H. Con. Res. 7.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO DIANE
PERAZA

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 7, 2007

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Diane Peraza, who is being recognized as a distinguished and devoted professional in her field.

According to her colleagues Diane Peraza is an outstanding member of the nursing staff at Desert Springs Hospital. Diane displays a caring attitude while focusing not only on the health of her patients, but their holistic needs

as well. Diane represents quality nursing care and she also demonstrates a respectful manner towards her patients and their families. She is highly motivated and continually expresses a desire to excel in her profession as a healthcare provider. Diane's entire nursing career has been defined by a commitment to excellence and dedication to serving the patients first. Her positive attitude and sincerity are evident to her colleagues as she promotes team work and unit excellence.

Madam Speaker it is my honor to recognize Diane Peraza for her service for Desert Springs Hospital and our community. Her professional expertise and caring nature have greatly enriched the lives of those in the Las Vegas community. I commend Diane for her efforts and commitment to her patients and to our community. I wish her well in her continued efforts as an outstanding nurse.

TRIBUTE TO DR. FRITZ BRUENING

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 7, 2007

Mr. KILDEE. Madam Speaker, today I would like to recognize the accomplishments of Dr. Fritz Bruening. Dr. Bruening is the 2007 recipient of the Jack Hamady Good Scout Award from the Burton Rotary Club. He will receive the award at a luncheon on May 10th.

Dr. Bruening graduated from high school in Decorah, Iowa, where he was a member of the wrestling team, the Honor Society and Valedictorian of his graduating class. He continued his education at Notre Dame University, where he was the captain of the wrestling team, graduated Cum Laude and was awarded a Bachelor of Science degree.

After completing his studies at the University of Iowa, School of Medicine, Dr. Bruening finished his internships at Good Samaritan Hospital and East Mesa Emergency Center in Arizona. His residency in Ophthalmology was completed at North Carolina Baptist Hospital and Wake Forest Medical Center, where he was Chief Resident from 1984-1985.

In 1994 Dr. Bruening relocated to Flint, Michigan, and joined the Park Eye and SurgiCenter after 6 years in private practice in Winston-Salem, North Carolina. At the time he was one of a handful of surgeons capable of performing the Clear Cornea cataract surgery. He has subsequently published two articles, "Clear Cornea Surgery" in the March issue of the Genesee County Medical Society Bulletin and "Placement of a Secondary Foldable Intraocular Lens over a Capsule Remnant" in the August issue of the Journal of Cataract and Refractive Surgery.

Dr. Bruening has devoted countless hours to assisting the indigent and working poor. He continues to take referrals from optometrists to perform surgeries on patients without insurance and incapable of paying. He counts the restoration of sight to a man that had not been able to see for 20 years as his greatest achievement.

Madam Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating Dr. Fritz Bruening as he receives the Jack Hamady Good Scout Award from the Burton Rotary Club.