

on the scene very early and provided critical assistance to the victims.

In emergency situations it is rightly expected that government agencies respond and help citizens in need. The Polk County Sheriff's Office, under the leadership of Sheriff Grady Judd, provided critical incident command services and logistical support for many responding agencies—and they did an outstanding job.

During the course of this accident, agencies that came together to provide critical support included the Polk County Sheriff's Office, the Florida Highway Patrol, the Lake County Sheriff's Office, the Lake County Fire Department, the Auburndale Police Department, the Haines City Police Department, the Lake Alfred Police Department, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, the Florida Department of Transportation, the State Fire Marshal's Office, the State of Florida State Emergency Response Team, the Polk County Emergency Medical Services, Polk County Fire Rescue and Osceola County Fire Rescue.

The State of Florida is often credited with having one of the best—if not the best—emergency response models in the nation, and the combined efforts of all responding agencies earlier this month exemplified this well. Their service likely prevented an even greater number of deaths or injuries, and I thank them for their work and service.

RECOGNIZING BILL AND BRADLEY GARR

HON. HARRY E. MITCHELL

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 29, 2008

Mr. MITCHELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the father and son team of Bill and Bradley Garr. I use the word, "team" because on the afternoon of June 29, 2007, their actions helped save the life of an automobile accident victim.

On that day, as they were traveling along a Phoenix freeway, they witnessed a car go out of control and flip over. They were the first ones to stop to render aid to the seriously injured young woman who was driving. Due to the smoking engine and leaking gasoline, they needed to remove the woman from her car. They then used a fire extinguisher to make sure that a fire did not ensue. By the time fire and paramedics responded, the fire danger was over and the young woman was in a safe place.

While many others kept driving, Bill made the decision to stop and help, and in so doing demonstrated to Bradley important values that will last a lifetime.

I commend Bill and Bradley for their actions, and congratulate them on their selfless actions.

HONORING REKHA CHANDRA
SEKARAN'S SERVICE TO TEN-
NESSEE'S SIXTH CONGRES-
SIONAL DISTRICT

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 29, 2008

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor Rekha Chandrasekaran for her service to Tennessee's Sixth Congressional District while working in my Washington, DC, office.

Rekha hails from Monterey, California—just 2,339 miles away from Monterey, Tennessee, which I have the honor of representing in this esteemed body. Despite the difference in geography, Rekha has been a great help to me and my staff and has helped me to better represent Middle Tennesseans.

During her four years in the office, she has proven herself to be a strong writer and a talented systems administrator as she worked to launch a new Web site for the office. She has also taken on the task of coordinating a crew of interns each year and shepherding them throughout the Halls of Congress and around the nation's capital.

February 1 is Rekha's last day in the office, as she is leaving to pursue other opportunities on Capitol Hill. My staff and I thank Rekha for her help, and we wish her all the best in her future endeavors.

HONORING HOUSTON MAYOR LOUIE WELCH

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 29, 2008

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, the city of Houston recently lost a Texas Gentleman and great civic leader. Former Houston Mayor Louie Welch died on Sunday, Jan. 27, 2008 after a long battle with cancer. He was 89 years old. Mayor Welch's contributions to Houston government will impact generations of city residents that now enjoy a better quality of life and greater economic opportunity.

Louie Welch was born on Dec. 9, 1918 in the west Texas town of Lockney. Welch was an industrious boy who performed many tasks to earn money such as sell magazines, deliver milk and sell popcorn for a nickel a bag. In high school, he participated in debate and was elected president of his senior class. These activities were an early sign of his life-long interest in politics.

Welch attended Abilene Christian University and graduated in 1940 with a history degree. While in college, he met his future wife, Lola Faye Cure and they were married on Dec. 17, 1940. They later had five children. After Lola Faye died, Louie married Helen.

After graduating from college, his political career began in 1949 as a Houston city councilman. He served four terms as council member. With a tough political resolve, he ran for Houston mayor four times before finally becoming successful. Welch served as mayor of Houston from 1964 to 1973.

His mother's religious influence left a permanent impression with Welch who, in addi-

tion to graduating from a Christian university, was a member of Garden Oaks Church of Christ for more than 35 years and frequently quoted from the Bible throughout his life. I had the opportunity to serve on the Board of Trustees at Abilene Christian University with the Mayor.

Mayor Welch will be remembered for a rich legacy of vital construction projects that he helped oversee to completion which improved city services and prepared for future growth in Houston. These projects included construction of Bush Intercontinental Airport, Lake Conroe and Lake Livingston reservoirs which provided much needed water supplies for Houston's rapidly growing residential and commercial areas. Welch's other projects involved closing down inefficient sewer treatment plants, starting the cleanup of the Houston Ship Channel and bayou beautification.

His leadership abilities also extended into national positions with Welch serving as vice president of the National League of Cities from 1970 to 1973 and president of the U.S. Conference of Mayors from 1972 to 1973.

Mayor Welch was a man who loved Houston tremendously. He joked that he didn't tell his sons that they were born in that "northern" city of Dallas until they were much older to protect them from the horrible truth for as long as possible.

He was known for his witty observations on Texas politics and himself. He once said, "When I was elected mayor I spent the better part of my first term weeding out the political appointees I had inherited from my predecessor. Virtually all of my second term, I spent weeding out my own political appointees."

Welch even served a brief stint as guest weatherman for the local TV channel ABC 13. When weatherman Ed Brandon gave the forecast for the chance of rain one day, Mayor Welch was hiding above him in the studio on a ladder and dumped a bucket of water on Brandon's head. He told the very surprised weatherman, "You never get that right. Let's face it: it's always 50 percent. Either it's going to rain or it's not going to rain."

Following his years as mayor, Welch went to work for the Houston Chamber of Commerce, which later became the Greater Houston Partnership, and served as president of the organization for 12 years.

I met the Mayor when I was a teenager. I showed up at the Garden Oaks Church of Christ one Wednesday night seeking out a local girl. The Mayor cornered me and wanted to know who I was and my intentions. I was quite intimidated by the 5'6" Mayor, but after the interrogation, I was approved to speak to the girl—but she still turned me down for a date).

Years later, I went to see the Mayor, then President of the Houston Chamber, because I had decided to run as a Republican for State District Judge in Houston. Being a political nobody and novice I needed sound political advice from an expert. The Mayor told me no Republican had been elected to a state judgeship in Houston since Reconstruction. So, he recommended instead that I run for the non-partisan position of City Council, because Houstonians preferred "nobodies" over Republicans. I did overcome the handicap of being a Republican and for years appreciated his wise political counsel when I served as a judge.

When I taught an Adult Sunday School Class at Bammel Church of Christ, Louie and

his wife Helen would always sit on the front row of the class. The Mayor would interrupt my lesson at some critical point and make a humorous comment about the lesson that would sidetrack our discussion. Louie Welch knew the Good Book as well as the Apostle Paul, but he was much funnier. We shall miss Louie Welch.

His son Gary Welch recently told the Houston Chronicle, "I would like for him to be remembered as a mayor who cared deeply about the city of Houston and each and every person who lived in the city of Houston."

And that's just the way it is.

HONORING THE LIFE OF LANCE
CORPORAL CAMERON BABCOCK
OF PLYMOUTH, INDIANA

HON. JOE DONNELLY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 29, 2008

Mr. DONNELLY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to remember and honor Lance Corporal Cameron Babcock a native son of Plymouth, Indiana, and a proud member of the United States Marine Corps. Cameron lost his life in a tragic accident at Twentynine Palms Marine Base in California. On Sunday, January 20, another Marine unintentionally discharged his privately-owned firearm at the Air Ground Combat Center. The bullet struck Cameron in the chest and ultimately killed this fine young Marine. His death was tragic and leaves us all mourning a life cut short. But as we mourn his life, we also remember and honor the richness of Cameron's life with us.

Cameron was a handsome young man who loved his family and loved his country. He was fun-loving and known for his bear hug. He knew the value of the small things that make life a joy: hanging out with friends, playing music, four-wheeling, and spending time with family. And he was successful in enjoying the many riches of life. His talent with the trumpet led to him to compete at the State Jazz Festival in 2005 and his musical talent also led to his participation in the Wind Ensemble comprised with some of the top musicians at Plymouth High School. His warm personality attracted to him a wide circle of friends. Just days after his death, more than three hundred people belonged to an online group dedicated to his memory, with many reminiscing about the joy of having just been able to spend time with Cameron at Christmas.

But Cameron also knew the value of matters larger than himself: his lifelong dream was to join the proud ranks of the United States Marine Corps. Shortly after graduating from Plymouth High School in 2006, Cameron dove right into his lifelong dream and enlisted. His energy, enthusiasm, and many gifts made the Marine Corps, and this nation, better.

He became an infantry rifleman, excelling all through basic training. Before long, he proved his bravery by serving a tour of duty in Iraq. As a member of Kilo Company, 3rd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, he spent several months in Ramadi, Iraq, in the infamous Sunni Triangle. In this dangerous setting, he continually did his job, and did it well. He earned the National Defense Service Medal, Iraqi Campaign Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Combat Action Rib-

bon, Sea Service Deployment Ribbon, and a Certificate of Commendation. Cameron was slated to return to Iraq in the winter of 2008 and was ready to answer the call of duty once again.

Matt Keller, a lifelong friend, said of Cameron, "He would always be there as someone you needed," and noted his service in Iraq as an example. Cameron was there when we needed him and as a nation, we counted on him. His absence is a sad loss to his parents Jeffery and Ann, his siblings, Kailey, Abigail, Hope and Samuel, and his many other friends and relatives.

Semper Fi. Always Faithful. Today we remember the faithful life of Lance Corporal Lance Babcock, and his dedicated service to his country. From Cameron's example, let us remember to be always faithful as well: always faithful to our family and friends; always faithful to this great nation; and always faithful to the God whose rich and all-encompassing love now and for all eternity surrounds Cameron Babcock.

CITY OF TEMPE TOP 100 BEST
COMMUNITIES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

HON. HARRY E. MITCHELL

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 29, 2008

Mr. MITCHELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the City of Tempe, my hometown, which was recently honored by America's Promise Alliance, with the designation as one of the 100 Best Communities for Young People for 2008. This organization, founded by General Colin Powell, is the largest alliance dedicated to children and youth. Recognition just once is a proud achievement, but this is the third year in a row that the city has been so recognized, and so is deserving of special praise.

One of the entities cited in the award, is the Mayor's Youth Advisory Commission, which is believed to be the oldest such commission in the country. When I instituted this commission during my tenure as Mayor of Tempe, I was confident that it had great potential. I am especially pleased that subsequent Mayors have realized the value of this commission which was so deservedly recognized by America's Promise Alliance. The award noted that Tempe was a "pioneer" in this area. Tempe's three multigenerational facilities were also recognized for the city's commitment to facilitate nonprofit organizations' youth services.

America's Promise Alliance evaluates applicants based on Five Promises which have been shown to ensure that children receive the fundamental resources they need to successfully lead healthy and productive lives. These are: caring adults, a safe place, a healthy start, an effective education, and opportunities to help others.

Tempe has made a commitment to keeping these promises, and has been justifiably recognized for the effort. I extend my congratulations and thanks for a job well done.

HONORING LOYD AND SUE
EUBANKS ON THEIR 50TH WED-
DING ANNIVERSARY

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 29, 2008

Mr. MARCHANT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Loyd and Sue Eubanks on their 50th wedding anniversary.

The Eubanks met in February 1956 at the Methodist Church in Havelock, N.C. Loyd proposed to Sue in December of that year and then left for fourteen months to Japan as a 2nd Lt. and pilot with VMF-334. Upon his return, the Eubanks were married on March 8, 1958 at Wesley United Methodist Church in Modesto, California. Their honeymoon was spent traveling back across the country in a brown Volkswagen to Havelock, North Carolina.

After 7-8 months, Loyd finished his staff duty and went to Pensacola and Jacksonville, N.C. where he trained and eventually flew helicopters for the remaining 14 months of service. During that time, they celebrated the birth of their first son, Kenneth Allen, at the Naval Hospital at Camp Lejeune. After Loyd's time in the service, he earned a degree in Accounting and for the next thirteen years, they lived in Dallas and Kansas City where Loyd worked for the International Accounting Firm of Ernst and Ernst. Their second son, Clifford Daniel, was born in Dallas in November 1964.

In 1975, Loyd went to work for the LTV Corporation in Oklahoma City and then Dallas. While living in Southlake, Texas, Sue worked as a substitute teacher at Carroll ISD and taught in the Mothers Day Out Program at the Bedford UMC. She also earned an Associate Degree from Tarrant County Community College. Loyd served on the City Council.

In the early 1990's, and after 18 years as residents of Texas, the Eubanks moved to California. The LTV Corporation dismantled and was acquired by Northrop Grumman Corporation whose headquarters was Los Angeles. After 4 years in California and missing their grandchildren, the Eubanks moved back to the Dallas/Ft. Worth metroplex and currently live in Euless, Texas.

Loyd and Sue have been active members of their community and do most things together. Sue is a Republican Precinct Chairman and Election Judge. Loyd builds signs and serves as a low ranking Election Clerk. They are active members of the Metroplex Republican Women's Club, the Northeast Couples Club and the Bedford United Methodist Church. Throughout the years, they have been active in the PTA, the Cub Scouts, the JCs, the Kiwanis, the United Methodist Women and the Republican Party.

The Eubanks enjoy camping and spending time with their children and grandchildren: Kristi, Mason, Allie, Caleb and Alyssa.

It is my honor to recognize Loyd and Sue Eubanks and congratulate them on this wonderful and momentous event. Together they exemplify the ideals of strong family and community involvement. I would like to extend my best wishes to the Eubanks as they celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary.