

4A State Marching Title and the Honor Band for being named the 2008 Class 4A Honor Band for the State of Texas by the Texas Music Educators Association.

Last fall, the Poteet High School Marching Band secured the state championship title for its division for the second time in 3 years. The marching band received perfect scores from four of the five judges, placing them above 23 other elite bands.

Meanwhile, the Poteet High School Honor Band was named the 2008 Class 4A Honor Band for the State of Texas, the most prestigious honor for a high school concert band. For their achievement, the band will perform at the Texas Music Educators Association Convention in San Antonio, Texas.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the Fifth District of Texas, I am honored to recognize the Poteet High School Marching and Honor Bands, both the directors and students, for their talent, dedication to the arts, and their exceptional performance.

CONGRATULATING MICHELE
"MISSY" MANDELL ON HER
SERVICE TO THE PEOPLE OF
TEXAS

HON. K. MICHAEL CONAWAY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 15, 2008

Mr. CONAWAY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to thank and commend Mrs. Michele "Missy" Mandell for her dedication to the people of central Texas. For the past 19 years Missy has worked at the Lower Colorado River Authority, LCRA, most recently as the executive manager of Federal affairs. She departs at the end of this month, but leaves a legacy of tireless work to meet the needs of the communities in the 58 counties where the LCRA operates.

Missy served as a liaison to the myriad of stakeholders in public water service and power generation, including local communities, Federal agencies, industry organizations, and elected officials, such as myself. No matter the issue, she was always able to navigate the complex web of laws, rules, and regulations to help LCRA provide services to its clients. I was fortunate to work with her here in Washington and always found her to be a valuable partner in solving the critical issues facing my constituents. It is likely that the customers of LCRA do not know Missy Mandell, but they all owe her a great debt for her work on their behalf.

In addition to her constant work for the LCRA, Missy also found time to give back to her community. She has donated her time and considerable experience by serving on the board of directors for the Children's Advocacy Council; the advisory board of the LBJ Liberal Arts and Sciences Academy; and the city of Austin's Environmental Board and the Charter Revision Council. Through her selfless giving, the city of Austin is a better place.

I am certain that Missy will prosper in her new career; she has the drive, experience, and intellect to thrive in whatever she chooses. The LCRA is not merely losing a long-serving employee, but a passionate advocate, a tireless consensus-builder, and ever-optimistic citizen, always seeking to improve the

lives of those she worked for. It has been my pleasure to know and work with Mrs. Missy Mandell and I offer her my best wishes and prayers, safe in the knowledge that God will smile on her future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING DR. MARTINEZ OF UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 15, 2008

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, dreams of higher education have become increasingly elusive for thousands of well-qualified students from low-income and disadvantaged backgrounds. On February 7, 2008, the House passed the College Opportunity and Affordability Act, legislation that will move our Nation one step closer to expanding higher education opportunities for all. I rise today to celebrate this achievement and recognize the role that Dr. Maria Martinez, the University of Connecticut's director of the Center for Academic Programs, has served in delivering higher education outreach services to Connecticut's most vulnerable communities.

For the past four decades, TRIO programs, including Talent Search, Upward Bound, and Student Support Services, have facilitated access to higher education opportunities for disadvantaged students in Connecticut and across the Nation. Dr. Martinez is charged with implementing TRIO and similar programs at the University of Connecticut. On March 22, 2007, in light of pending reauthorization of these programs under the College Opportunity and Affordability Act, Dr. Maria D. Martinez testified before the House Committee on Education and Labor.

Perhaps the most poignant of her testimonials included a reference to one of UConn's TRIO alumni, Dr. Franklin Chang-Diaz. She stated that Franklin struggled with English in high school and was recruited into UConn's Student Support Services program. Upon completing his undergraduate degree, Franklin earned a doctorate in plasma physics at MIT, was recruited by NASA, and became America's first Hispanic astronaut. He currently holds the world record for most space missions flown.

The College Opportunity and Affordability Act strengthens these programs and brings hope to thousands of students just like Franklin. In Dr. Chang-Diaz's words, "TRIO is one of the ways this country really becomes the land of opportunity."

Madam Speaker, education systems form the pillars for potential prosperity and health of any society. Our Nation must remain vigilant of these systems and continue to improve them until they reflect our highest aspirations. Continuing to support programs like TRIO is necessary to ensure these worthy objectives. I ask my colleagues to join with me and my constituents in recognizing the importance of TRIO programs and Dr. Martinez's role in delivering these services to underprivileged students in Connecticut.

EXPRESSING THE CONDOLENCES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTA- TIVES ON THE DEATH OF THE HONORABLE TOM LANTOS, A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

SPEECH OF

HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 12, 2008

Mr. WAXMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise to join my colleagues in expressing profound sorrow at the passing of our good friend, TOM LANTOS.

TOM was neither an ordinary American nor an ordinary Member of Congress. His personal experience as a Holocaust survivor—and the only survivor ever to be elected to Congress—defined his work in the House of Representatives. He bestowed on all of us a unique perspective that we both needed and relied on.

As the founding co-chair of the Congressional Human Rights Caucus, TOM was known to all of us here and throughout the country as the conscience of the Congress. From the genocide in Darfur, to the human rights crisis in Burma, to the global AIDS epidemic, to modern-day slavery and human trafficking, TOM persevered on behalf of the world's most forsaken and most forgotten.

It was an honor to serve with TOM on the Oversight and Government Reform Committee and Human Rights Caucus. His contributions to Congress, to our democracy, and to the disenfranchised and dispossessed around the world will remain with us always.

On a personal note, Janet and I will never forget TOM and Annette's love for one another and their complete devotion to their children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren. We are certain the love of the Lantos family and the reflection in the days ahead on TOM's extraordinary life will carry them through this very sad time.

REGARDING THE PRESIDENT'S BUDGET AND IRAQ

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 15, 2008

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Madam Speaker, this week, the Washington Post listed a number of existing programs that would be eliminated in President Bush's budget. These are programs that make a real difference in people's lives but have gotten less attention than the major cuts in his budget.

For example, the President's budget proposes to eliminate the Commodity Supplemental Food Program, which provides food packages for about 500,000 low-income elderly persons, women, and children each month. The program received \$140 million in 2008. To put that in context, \$140 million is the cost of funding 10 hours of the war in Iraq.

During this economic downturn, the President's budget eliminates the Community Services Block Grant and other community services programs. These programs, which were funded at \$698 million in 2008, reduce poverty

and provide assistance for individuals dealing with housing, health, nutrition, energy, and substance abuse problems. \$698 million is the cost of a little more than 2 days of the war in Iraq.

At a time of soaring energy prices and record oil company profits, the President's budget eliminates Weatherization Assistance to help Americans lower their energy bills by making improvements to their home's energy efficiency. At \$227 million, these program cuts would provide to funding for a little more than 16 hours of the war in Iraq.

The President's budget also eliminates the COPS program, which provides grants and other assistance to help communities hire, train, and retain police officers and to improve law enforcement technologies. In 2008 it received \$587 million, the cost of about a day and a half in Iraq.

The President's budget eliminates the Manufacturing Extension Partnership, which helps small U.S. manufacturers by providing resources to help them create jobs, leverage private-sector investment, and be more competitive. These cuts would reduce private-sector investment in U.S. manufacturing by an estimated \$1.5 billion, and lead to the loss of approximately 37,000 jobs which could be created or retained. The MEP only cost \$87 million in 2008, the cost of a little more than 6 hours in Iraq.

The budget eliminates \$1.2 billion in funding for career and technical education in high schools and vocational colleges. This would withdraw assistance for approximately 8 million students who are currently supported by the program—at a cost of approximately 3½ days in Iraq.

Finally, the President's budget eliminates Medicaid funding for the Graduate Medical Education program, which provides physician training programs to pediatricians to address the major shortfall in pediatric specialists. The policy reduces funding to the program by \$302 million—the cost of a little less than 1 day for the war in Iraq.

Taken together, all of these programs, which benefit millions of Americans, would pay for a little more than a week in Iraq. President Bush's budget represents a sad continuation of his failed fiscal policies. With this budget, the President is telling us that he believes that America should slash investments that help the families across the Nation who are struggling to make ends meet, and that we should instead waste billions of dollars on a misguided war and on tax cuts for his wealthy friends.

I hope that my colleagues reject these cuts and reject any budget that makes funding the war in Iraq a higher priority than meeting the needs of American families.

HONORING MARGARET
GALLAGHER-ZELLEY-SCHMIT

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 15, 2008

Mr. KILDEE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the life of Margaret Mary Gallagher-Zelley-Schmit as she celebrates her 90th birthday. Her family and friends will gather on Sunday, February 24, in Grand Blanc, Michigan.

Born on February 21, 1918, in Boyne City, Michigan, Margaret Gallagher graduated from St. Joseph High School in Escanaba, Michigan, in 1936. She attended the Chicago Business School and married LeRoy Zelley. LeRoy became a licensed funeral director in 1938 and the couple started Zelley Funeral Home on the east side of Flint, Michigan in 1953. The funeral home quickly became an institution and landmark in the Flint community. The couple had four sons: LeRoy III, Glen, Michael and Joseph.

Margaret obtained her college degree from Wayne State University and funeral director's license in 1967. Margaret and LeRoy provided funeral services to over 4,000 families before LeRoy passed away in 1976. Margaret retired in 1987 and married Roy "Bud" Schmit in 1989. In 2004, Bud passed away.

Margaret spends her time organizing her photos and memorabilia for a book she is planning to write about her life. She also celebrates and promotes her Irish heritage and in 2006 was the Flint St. Patrick's Day Irish Mother of the Year.

Madam Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating Margaret Mary Gallagher-Zelley-Schmit as she turns 90 years old. I would like to extend best wishes for her upcoming birthday and for many, many more. May her coming year be filled with happiness and good health.

HONORING EDWARD E. MUNGER

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 15, 2008

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of BG Edward E. Munger for his dedication and service to his country and his community. General Munger passed away at the age of 68 on February 12, 2008, at his home in Fresno, California. A service honoring his life will be held on Friday, February 15, 2008, in Fresno.

General Munger was born in Fresno on February 15, 1939. As a senior at Fresno High School, he decided to enlist as a private in the California Army National Guard and was selected to attend the California Military Academy Officer Candidate Program. In 1959 he received his commission as a second lieutenant in the United States Army. Twenty years later, General Munger was selected to attend the National War College. At the War College his major focus was on the Middle East. He was able to travel throughout the region to meet with leaders including President Anwar Sadat of Egypt, King Faud and Crown Prince Abdullah of Saudi Arabia, the Emir and leaders of the ruling Al-Khalifa family in Bahrain, and Prime Minister Menachem Begin of Israel. Upon completing his studies at the War College he was promoted to full colonel and accepted a 4-year tour of active duty service as the Executive Staff Director and Chief of Staff of the Reserve Forces Policy Board in the Office of the Secretary of Defense at the Pentagon. After serving for 32 years, General Munger retired from the military as a brigadier general in 1990. With his departure he was awarded the Legion of Merit and the Defense Superior Service Medal.

Outside of the military General Munger was a businessman who also gave a great amount

of time and effort to the community. General Munger owned Engineered Sound, an electronics engineering and installation company. He served as a Fresno County deputy sheriff. He and his brother were co-owners of the Granada Capital Company. He was very involved with the Boy Scouts of America. He earned the prestigious Silver Beaver Award and the Sequoia Council Distinguished Scout Award. He was the president of I.R.O. Soararsis, a support organization for Kings Canyon National Park. He was a member of the Valley Children's Hospital Board of Trustees and also created the Fairy Godfather fund. This fund assists the hospital financially and also provides a toy or stuffed animal for sick and terminally ill children whose families cannot afford it. General Munger was a member of the Rotary Club of Fresno's board of directors and a member of the Fresno County Planning Commission.

In 2004 General Munger returned to the Middle East with a civilian group called Brotherhood of the Badge. They delivered law enforcement equipment, two way radios, and protection vests to the new Iraqi Police in Baqubah. Since the first visit, more than 12,000 vests and other equipment have been delivered to the Iraqi Police through the U.S. military. General Munger was diagnosed with liver cancer in 2005, shortly after returning from the Middle East.

General Munger will be remembered for all that he has sacrificed and for all that he has achieved. He is preceded in death by his parents and his brother Maynard. He is survived by his wife of 37 years, Tamsen Munger, and their adult children, Edward and Eleanor.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to posthumously honor Brigadier General Edward E. Munger for his dedication to his family, his country and his community. I invite my colleagues to join me in honoring his life and wishing the best for his family.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE
OF MRS. SUE MASON

HON. THADDEUS G. McCOTTER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 15, 2008

Mr. McCOTTER. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor and acknowledge Sue Mason upon receiving the Women of Westland's 2008 ATHENA Award. The ATHENA Award recognizes individuals who have attained and personified the highest level of professional excellence in their business or profession, have devoted time and energy to the community in a meaningful way, and have opened the door of leadership opportunity for women.

Throughout her distinguished career Sue has been committed to her family and community. Mrs. Mason faithfully serves as the community editor for the Westland and Garden City Observer newspaper. Her community service activities revolve around her children's education and athletics as she supports the Wayne-Westland Soccer Association, and she is a valued member of the Garden City Public School's Foundation for Educational Excellence committee.

Sue has earned numerous awards throughout the years for her service and professional conduct including being named the O&E Journalist of the Year and being recognized by the