

will join me in extending heartfelt condolences to his family, his friends, and to all Marines. He will be greatly missed.

TRIBUTE TO THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF PENNSYLVANIA LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR CATHERINE BAKER KNOLL

**HON. JOHN P. MURTHA**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 19, 2008*

Mr. MURTHA. Madam Speaker, on November 12, 2008, Pennsylvania Lieutenant Governor Catherine Baker Knoll succumbed to a four month long battle with neuroendocrine cancer.

I've known Catherine for 30 years. She was a remarkable woman who never stopped fighting to better our Commonwealth and to improve the lives of Pennsylvanians. She was one of the most hard-working and determined individuals to ever serve in state government, and her passion and dedication to both the Democratic Party and to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania was unparalleled.

Catherine was a transformational figure—one of the first women to run for statewide office, she served as Pennsylvania State Treasurer (1989–1997) and later became the first woman to serve as Pennsylvania Lieutenant Governor (2003–2008). She never stopped fighting for what she believed in, and this determination placed her at the forefront of so many important issues.

Catherine's kindness and friendship touched the lives of many. Over the past few months, people from all across Pennsylvania asked me how she was doing, and how she was coping with the disease. I reminded them that Catherine Baker Knoll was made of "steel" and that she was fighting this disease with the same strength and fortitude she fought every other challenge in life.

Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the career and life of someone who devoted both to serving the interests of her fellow Pennsylvanians. I rise to thank and commend her four children, Charles, Mina, Albert, and Kim Eric, for always being by her side and giving her constant strength.

Madam Speaker, all of us will miss the friendship and great leadership of Pennsylvania Lieutenant Governor Catherine Baker Knoll.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 110TH ANNIVERSARY OF PEOPLES BAPTIST CHURCH

**HON. MIKE ROGERS**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 19, 2008*

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Madam Speaker, I would like to request the House's attention today to pay recognition to a special day in the life of the congregation of the Peoples Baptist Church in Montgomery, Alabama.

On November 24th, Peoples Baptist Church will celebrate its 110th anniversary. The church was first organized in 1898 under Rev. Pradd who served as the pastor until 1925.

The church moved to several locations over the years including the campus of Alabama State University.

In September of 2008, the church moved to its new location on Dorchester Drive in Montgomery. The new building was built under the leadership of the church's fifth pastor, Paul L. Boswell, who served the church for 32 years. The congregation works to carry the "torch of building up God's kingdom one brick at a time."

Today the church celebrates their 110th Anniversary and is blessed to now be under the leadership of their new and sixth pastor, Victor Lewis, Sr.

I would like to congratulate Peoples Baptist Church on reaching this important milestone.

HONORING MATTHEW CHARLES GARCIA

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 19, 2008*

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Matthew Charles Garcia of Kansas City, Missouri. Matthew is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1357, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Matthew has been very active with his troop, participating in many Scout activities. Over the many years Matthew has been involved with Scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Matthew Charles Garcia for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

HONORING SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY SUPERVISOR DENNIS HANSBERGER FOR HIS DECADES OF PUBLIC SERVICE

**HON. JERRY LEWIS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 19, 2008*

Mr. LEWIS of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a good friend and longtime leader in my community, San Bernardino County Supervisor Dennis Hansberger, who is leaving office this year after more than 20 years in public service.

While he was a young businessman in 1968, Dennis Hansberger was selected as a field representative and executive assistant by then-County Supervisor Donald Beckford. When his boss decided not to run for re-election, Mr. Hansberger mounted a successful campaign and won election to the county board in 1972.

Dennis Hansberger quickly revealed his strong leadership capabilities, and was chosen as chairman of the board by his fellow supervisors in 1974—becoming the youngest chairman in the state and the youngest in San

Bernardino County history. When the legislature created the South Coast Air Quality Management District, Supervisor Hansberger became a founding board member of that ground-breaking agency.

After 2 successful terms, Mr. Hansberger decided to take a hiatus from elected office and went into private business as a well-respected consultant on land management and mining issues. He remained extremely active in public service, however, serving for 3 years as Chairman on the Redlands Community Hospital's Board, as well as on the Board of Counselors of the California State University in California, the Foundation Board of the San Bernardino County Museum, the Inland Empire Council of the Boy Scouts of America, and the Capital Projects Committee of the Girl Scouts of America.

Mr. Hansberger was again elected to the Board of Supervisors in 1996, and has been at the forefront of many of the major issues faced by the county in the past 12 years. Faced with the closure of Norton Air Force Base, Supervisor Hansberger has been a leader in seeking ways to replace the 12,000 jobs lost. He served as chairman of the Inland Valley Development Authority, a joint effort of the county and cities surrounding the base. By working as a team, the communities have brought about a complete makeover of the former base into a new airport, supporting major businesses that have brought thousands of new jobs to the area.

Five years ago, San Bernardino County was confronted with an even more dire problem—millions of trees were dying around mountain communities and creating a grave fire danger for tens of thousands of residents. As the supervisor representing the area, Dennis Hansberger pushed county officials to create the Mountain Area Safety Taskforce and work with residents on an evacuation plan. The plan's effectiveness was demonstrated when nearly 50,000 residents were evacuated with no serious injury during terrible wildfires the following year. Mr. Hansberger has since led the county in cutting down more than a million trees and significantly reducing the fire danger.

Madam Speaker, as you can see, Dennis Hansberger has been a leader in improving the economy and safety for San Bernardino County residents. Please join me in thanking him for his decades of public service, and wishing the best to him and his wife Karen in all of their future endeavors.

HONORING THE HONORABLE WILLIAM R. DYSON FOR HIS OUTSTANDING PUBLIC SERVICE

**HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 19, 2008*

Ms. DeLAURO. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to rise today to join the New Haven Democratic Town Committee and all of those gathered this evening in paying tribute to one of New Haven's most outstanding public servants and my good friend, State Representative William R. Dyson. After 32 years of dedicated service, Bill has decided to step down as State Representative from Connecticut's 94th Assembly District. This evening, friends, family, community leaders, and colleagues extend

our deepest thanks and appreciation to Bill as he brings his career in state government to an end.

Visionary, community leader, activist, teacher, advocate, mentor, and friend are just some of the descriptions one could use for Bill Dyson. He is one of those rare individuals who has dedicated a lifetime to public service. As an educator and one of Connecticut's most respected lawmakers, Bill has been a powerful voice in the State legislature as well as in the New Haven Public School system.

In the more than 3 decades that Bill served in Connecticut's House of Representatives, Bill has served on a variety of committees and caucuses including many years as the chairman of the Appropriations Committee. He has been a champion of the arts, securing funding which has helped New Haven's rich arts community to flourish and is perhaps best known for his leadership on issues dealing with children, ex-offenders and the mentally ill as his work on their behalf has translated into meaningful public policy.

During his tenure he was often the strong voice of reason in what at times could be a chaotic session. I have no doubt that his colleagues will long remember his booming voice—commanding their attention and calling for common sense dialogue. His straight-forward, no nonsense attitude garnered him the respect of his colleagues and constituents alike. Bill is a reflection of all that we hope our political leaders will be and his presence at the Capitol will certainly be missed.

I must also take this opportunity to thank Bill for his many years of special friendship—one which harkens back to my own service in city government. Bill is an extraordinary man whose impact on our community and our public policy cannot be understated. He has left an indelible mark and a legacy—both political and personal—that is sure to inspire many generations to come.

It is for these reasons and countless more that I am honored to stand today to pay tribute to my dear friend, the Honorable William R. Dyson, as he is recognized by the New Haven community for his outstanding contributions. He is one-of-a-kind and I wish him many more years of health and happiness as he enjoys his retirement.

RECOGNIZING HOWARD JAMES  
STRICKLER OF LAKE COUNTY,  
CALIFORNIA

**HON. MIKE THOMPSON**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 19, 2008*

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Chief Howard Strickler on the occasion of his retirement from the Kelseyville Fire Protection District of Lake County, California after 32 years of service, 28 of them as Fire Chief. Chief Strickler's leadership will be truly missed by his colleagues and the people of Lake County.

Chief Strickler is a native son, graduating from Kelseyville High School in 1967. His career in public service began in the U.S. Army, where he served from 1970–1973. After his discharge, he worked with the White House Communications Agency before coming home and joining the Fire Protection District.

Chief Strickler has lived in Kelseyville for 47 years and has done more than perhaps anyone else over that time to keep Lake County residents safe. During his tenure he was instrumental in the implementation of the county's first paramedic program as well as the first countywide Hazardous Materials Response Team. He also helped develop a 911 First Responder Agreement that is now used by all fire departments, EMS and law enforcement agencies in the county.

Chief Strickler has earned the undying admiration of all who have worked for him and with him. To a person, they describe Chief Strickler as the consummate leader, someone who instills confidence in everyone around him and whose compassion and love for the community shines through. He is a family man whose quiet sense of humor and listening skills always made his employees feel comfortable and at home. He will be missed a great deal.

Madam Speaker, it is my distinct pleasure to recognize Chief Howard Strickler for his many years of service to Kelseyville and all of Lake County, California, and to thank him for his many contributions on behalf of our country and his community. I join his wife, Debbie, his two children, and five grandchildren in wishing him the best as he enters this new phase of his life.

#### EARMARK DECLARATION

**HON. RON PAUL**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 19, 2008*

Mr. PAUL. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the Republican leadership standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information regarding earmarks I received as part of the Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act (H.R. 2638):

Requesting member: Ron Paul.

Bill number: H.R. 2638.

Account: Rdt&E Defense Health Program.

Legal name of requesting entity: Gulf Chemical and Metallurgical Corporation.

Address of requesting entity: PO Box 2290, 302 Midway Road, Freeport, TX 77542–2290.

Description of request: The project earmarks \$3,000,000 for a Department of Defense lead study of vanadium to assess the health safety and risks of military and civilian workers exposed to vanadium through work in military applications.

HONORING DR. PETER G. MEHAS

**HON. JIM COSTA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 19, 2008*

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today along with Congressman RADANOVICH to congratulate Dr. Peter Mehas upon his induction into the Fresno Athletic Hall of Fame. Dr. Mehas was honored at the 50th anniversary enshrinement dinner of the Fresno Athletic Hall of Fame on Thursday, November 6, 2008.

Peter Mehas' love of sports was nurtured during his childhood, as he shagged baseballs as a bat boy for the Fresno Cardinals at Eu-

less Park. Although he never considered himself a great athlete, Dr. Mehas was an All-American center/linebacker at Fresno City College, and a member of the 1961 California State University, Fresno Mercy Bowl team. After graduating from California State University, Fresno, Dr. Mehas coached the football, soccer and tennis teams at Roosevelt High School. His tennis teams won five straight North Yosemite League titles.

After receiving his masters degree, and coaching football at University of California, Los Angeles, Dr. Mehas returned to Fresno where he taught and coached future Fresno Hall of Famers Charle Young and Charles Anthony, both football players at Edison High School. Dr. Mehas moved into administration for Clovis Unified School District, and assisted in the development of many programs and facilities; including Clovis High School's Lamonica Stadium and the Clovis West High School Olympic Swim Complex. He earned his doctorate in Education from the University of Southern California in 1979.

Dr. Mehas has served as the Fresno Athletic Hall of Fame president for 15 years. At the time of his induction, his professional and civic career is a notable example of applying the lessons learned in athletics to other endeavors. Under his leadership, the Hall of Fame expanded on its mission of honoring the Valley's greatest sports heroes and inspiring youngsters to follow in their footsteps. He also has been instrumental in expanding athletic opportunities for women.

Politics came next as Dr. Mehas served as Governor George Deukmejian's secretary of education and a trustee for the State Board of Education and California's Community Colleges. In 1990, he was elected to the first of four terms as the Fresno County superintendent of schools. In 2007, he was appointed to the California State University board of trustees.

Madam Speaker, we rise today to commend and congratulate Dr. Peter Mehas upon his achievements and induction into the Fresno Athletic Hall of Fame. I invite my colleagues to join me in wishing Dr. Mehas congratulations on his many accomplishments.

RECOGNIZING JAMES P. CHITWOOD  
UPON HIS RETIREMENT

**HON. JEFF MILLER**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 19, 2008*

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, it is an honor for me to rise today in recognition of James P. Chitwood upon his retirement as the Executive Director of the College Advancement and Foundation for Northwest Florida State College.

As executive director of the College Advancement and Foundation for Northwest Florida State College, an organization that provides educational and charitable aid to the Northwest Florida State College, Mr. Chitwood has greatly expanded the fundraising abilities of the school and has helped it obtain the sixth greatest endowment among community colleges in the United States.

Over the past 20 years, the Foundation for Northwest Florida State College, under the direction of Mr. Chitwood, has evolved into an