

RECOGNITION OF JUDGE
NICHOLAS

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2008

Mr. GERLACH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Honorable William T. Nicholas who is retiring after faithfully serving the people of Montgomery County, Pennsylvania as a judge and prosecutor for nearly 40 years.

Judge Nicholas' distinguished public service career started as a prosecutor in the District Attorney's Office in 1968. He was elected Montgomery County District Attorney in 1976 before winning a judgeship in the Montgomery County Court of Common Pleas in 1980. For the past eight years, Judge Nicholas has served as Administrative Judge of the Criminal Division.

Judge Nicholas earned praise from his peers as a skilled litigator and a wise, impartial jurist who issued more than 500 rulings during his exemplary years of service on the bench. Innovation was another hallmark of Judge Nicholas' tenure. He is credited with instituting a Discovery Master Program to improve the efficiency of the court system and implementing a security system at the Montgomery County Courthouse.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me today in recognizing the outstanding service and extraordinary career of the Honorable William T. Nicholas and all who dedicate their careers to the pursuit of justice.

RECOGNIZING THE HONORABLE
STEVE CHABOT ON THE OCCA-
SION OF HIS RETIREMENT FROM
THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENT-
ATIVES

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2008

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the distinguished career of the Honorable STEVE CHABOT for his service to the people of Ohio and the United States House of Representatives. Congressman CHABOT has represented the First Congressional District of the state of Ohio for the past 14 years.

Born and raised in Cincinnati, Ohio, STEVE graduated from La Salle High School and worked his way through the College of William and Mary. He returned to Cincinnati after college to teach in a downtown elementary school during the day and attend the Salmon P. Chase College of Law at night. After completing his law degree, STEVE opened his own neighborhood law practice, and his father worked as his assistant.

Before he was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives, STEVE served as a Cincinnati City Council Member for five years, followed by a five-year term on the Hamilton County Board of Commissioners. When STEVE was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in 1994, he was named to the influential Foreign Affairs, Judiciary, and Small Business Committees. In 2007, STEVE became the top Republican on the Small Business Committee, where he focused on permitting small busi-

nesses to band together to obtain affordable health insurance for their workers.

On the Judiciary Committee, STEVE served as chairman of the Subcommittee on the Constitution from 2001 to 2006, from which post he promoted proposals to amend the Constitution to ban flag desecration, outlaw same-sex marriage, require a balanced budget, protect the rights of crime victims, and allow prayer and religious symbols to be displayed on public property.

Consistently rated as one of the most pro-taxpayer members of Congress, STEVE was known as one of Congress's leading advocates for fiscal responsibility.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing a dedicated leader and friend to many in this body. I know his family, his wife, Donna; his two children; and his many friends and colleagues join me in honoring his accomplishments and extending thanks for his service over the years on behalf of the state of Ohio and the United States of America.

STEVE will surely enjoy the well deserved time he now has to spend with his family and loved ones. I wish him the best of luck in all his future endeavors.

HONORING MR. THOMAS LITRELL
OF PLAINVILLE, KS

HON. JERRY MORAN

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2008

Mr. MORAN of Kansas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Thomas Littrell of Plainville, KS. This recognition is not just long overdue, it is 38 years overdue. Tom Littrell, like many Vietnam veterans, may not consider himself a hero. Today it is my privilege to share the story of an unsung hero, my friend and fellow Kansan, Tom Littrell.

When Tom was sent to serve in Vietnam as a young soldier, he left behind his family and friends in Plainville and headed to a combat zone in Southeast Asia. As a member of the second platoon of the 919th Combat Engineers attached to the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment, Tom joined a new family—one forged by shared service in an unfamiliar territory.

He began his tour of duty by courageously volunteered as a driver of an APC tank. His fellow platoon member, Doug Giesige, describes Tom's job as "the most vulnerable a man could routinely do in our unit. Our enemies would place their land mines on the side of the road that corresponded with the driver's side of the track. Our drivers would be located directly over such explosions and as such, they would suffer the most casualties and injuries of any of us on these tracks. It was hard to demand that a man do this every day, thus all were doing this as willing volunteers. It takes a special breed of man to do this job. Knowing that he was as vulnerable as you can be, day in and day out. They all tended to be hard working and pretty hard nosed and reliable. Stubborn, actually."

Tom also served as a demolitionist and mine sweeper. He and his fellow soldiers experienced ambush and encountered land mines regularly. During this time, Tom was involved in five incidents where his tank hit land-

mines. While some soldiers were sent to the rear and treated for their injuries following such incidents, Tom was not. As driver of the tank, he knew the importance of his role. He was treated in the field for his injuries and went back to work. His sense of duty to his fellow soldiers meant more to him than his own comfort. As Doug Giesige recalled, "On April 2, 1970 our platoon was involved with a 24-hour ordeal that cost us multiple injuries. The final action of the day involved our track hitting a mine and being the focus of an ambush just after dark. All of us were blown off the track except Tom and Lieutenant Livingood. Sometime during the firefight, Tom went out after Staff Sergeant Russell under heavy fire and dragged him back to the track."

Tom exemplified the best of those who serve our country—sacrifice, courage, and bravery. Tom would tell you he was just doing his job when he served in Vietnam, but to the men he served with, it was more than that.

Madam Speaker, please join me in recognizing Tom Littrell's courageous service today. We also acknowledge the support of his wife of 36 years, Charlotte, and their children, Jason, Amanda and Renee. And although it is decades past its due, we offer a few simple words to Mr. Thomas Littrell of Plainville, KS. Thank you, my friend, thank you.

RECOGNIZING THE HONORABLE
PHIL ENGLISH ON THE OCCASION
OF HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE
U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTA-
TIVES

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2008

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the distinguished career of the Honorable PHIL ENGLISH for his service to the people of Pennsylvania and the United States House of Representatives. Congressman ENGLISH has represented the Third Congressional District of the State of Pennsylvania for the past 14 years.

A lifelong resident of Erie, Pennsylvania, PHIL graduated from the University of Pennsylvania in 1979. His interest in politics began when he was young. At just the age of 20, he served as an alternate delegate to the 1976 Republican National Convention.

PHIL began his career in public service as a legislative aide in the Pennsylvania General Assembly. In 1985, he was elected as Erie City Controller, the first Republican elected to citywide office in 20 years. After his term as controller, PHIL helped design the campaign for Rick Santorum's upset win to the U.S. Senate. PHIL then served as chief of staff for then State Senator Melissa Hart until he ran for an open House seat in 1994.

Known for his knowledge and experience with tax issues, PHIL was appointed to the powerful Ways and Means Committee in his first year in Congress, becoming the first freshman Republican appointed to the committee in almost 30 years.

Throughout his service to Pennsylvania and the United States, PHIL has fought hard for measures to increase the child tax credit, accelerate the reduction of income tax rates, encourage household savings, eliminate the individual and corporate Alternative Minimum Tax

(AMT), cut the capital gains tax rate, increase expensing limits for businesses making capital investments, and encourage American companies operating overseas to reinvest in the United States. In the 110th Congress, PHIL became the ranking member on the Select Revenue Measures Subcommittee.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing a dedicated leader and friend to many in this body. I know his family—his wife, Chris—and his many friends and colleagues join me in honoring his accomplishments and extending thanks for his service over the years on behalf of the State of Pennsylvania and the United States of America.

PHIL will surely enjoy the well deserved time he now has to spend with his family and loved ones. I wish him the best of luck in all his future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO ROSALYN ANN LOWE

HON. MARION BERRY

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2008

Mr. BERRY. Madam Speaker, I rise here today to pay tribute to a dear friend, Rosalyn Ann Lowe. I am proud to recognize Mrs. Lowe in the United States Congress for her invaluable contributions to our community, our State and our Nation.

Mrs. Rosalyn Ann Lowe was born Nov. 8, 1946, in Arkadelphia, Arkansas to W.A. "Red" and Sallie Mary Wingfield. She was a retired teacher and an active member of the Gillett, Arkansas United Methodist Church. Her death took a pillar of the community from us. She lived her life as a true example of how we should serve others.

From high school students in her home economics class to her precious preschoolers, she positively influenced the lives of many children with loving guidance and patience. As a home economics teacher she used the opportunity to teach and mentor her students to provide her real life lessons that would prepare them for the future. She had a special gift of making each child feel special and important, which is one of many reasons she was an exceptional teacher.

Mrs. Lowe was the kind of citizen every community wishes they had more of. She served the city under a mayor and city council who had a vision for our small farming town during a transitional time in our community. Because she believed it was the right thing to do she was an active part of the leadership that brought positive changes to Gillett, Arkansas.

As we recall Mrs. Lowe's exceptional career, we find her accomplishments as a teacher pale only in comparison to her strong devotion to her family, her church, her community and our nation. On behalf of Congress, I offer my friend, Rosalyn Ann Lowe my deepest appreciation and gratitude for her tireless dedication and service to the children of Arkansas. We are grateful for the time she spent with us. Most importantly, we are all better people because of the time she spent with us. She was a great friend who will be missed by many.

RECOGNIZING THE HONORABLE ROBIN HAYES ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2008

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the distinguished career of the Honorable ROBIN HAYES for his service to the people of North Carolina and the United States House of Representatives. Congressman HAYES has represented the Eighth Congressional District of the State of North Carolina for the past 10 years.

Born and raised in Concord, North Carolina, ROBIN graduated from Duke University with a degree in history. Throughout college, ROBIN worked at his family-run textile business, but after graduation, he ventured out on his own, eventually moving his family to Alaska to run a freight business. He later returned home and bought a small air charter business as well as a hosiery mill.

ROBIN's start in politics came as a Concord alderman, a post he held for three years. He ran successfully for a seat in the state House and was later elected Republican Whip.

Elected to Congress in 1998, ROBIN was named to the Transportation and Infrastructure, Armed Services, and Agriculture Committees, and is currently the top ranking Republican on the Livestock, Dairy and Poultry Subcommittee. From his seat on the House Agriculture Committee, ROBIN has earned a reputation as one of Congress's staunchest defenders of tobacco—an industry vital to North Carolina's economy.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing a dedicated leader and friend to many in this body. I know his family, his wife of 40 years, Barbara; his two children, Winslow and Bob; and his many friends and colleagues join me in honoring his accomplishments and extending thanks for his service over the years on behalf of the State of North Carolina and the United States of America.

ROBIN will surely enjoy the well deserved time he now has to spend with his family and loved ones. I wish him the best of luck in all his future endeavors.

DR. SHANNON HARVEY

HON. DAVID G. REICHERT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2008

Mr. REICHERT. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of a principal in the 8th District of Washington, Dr. Shannon Harvey, who earned the National Educator Award from the Milken Family Foundation and a prize of \$25,000 for showing exceptional educational talent and great leadership. The prize was awarded to her in October, and she was the only educator in Washington to receive the distinction.

Dr. Harvey is the principal at Cascade Elementary School in Renton, WA, and has been since 2004. She started at Cascade as a teacher and has worked with the district for 16

years. Under her leadership, Cascade involved community leaders and parents in developing a comprehensive learning environment that benefited students and teachers. She instituted such innovative ideas as giving her staff more time for professional development and posting test scores on a wall within the school for teachers and students alike to track academic progress.

The overall effect of Dr. Harvey's efforts has led to a wonderful balance of teacher intervention and student independence. Outside of clear anecdotal effects, her changes have led to a large jump in students' test scores on the Washington Assessment of Student Learning. When Dr. Harvey began as principal, 48 percent of students at Cascade were passing the reading portion of the test. Now, the percentage has jumped to 81.

When Dr. Harvey learned she won the award, she was quoted in the Seattle Times as saying, "It seems unfair to be honored for something I love." Dr. Harvey truly possesses a servant's heart, and I believe it is appropriate for this body to acknowledge her selfless dedication to the future leaders of America.

TRIBUTE TO SPECIAL AGENT SAMUEL K. HICKS

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2008

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Special Agent Samuel K. Hicks, who was tragically killed in the line of duty on November 19. Throughout his career as a law, enforcement officer and special agent with the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Samuel Hicks served his country with honor. He will be remembered for his integrity, bravery, and firm commitment to protecting the people of the United States of America.

First and foremost, Special Agent Hicks was a devoted father and loving husband. His commitment to law enforcement was surpassed only by his unmatched love for his family. My thoughts and prayers are with his wife Brooke and son Noah, as well as his entire family during this difficult time.

Special Agents Hicks was born and raised in Somerset, PA, and after graduating from the University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown, he went on to graduate from the Baltimore Police Academy in 2002. He began his distinguished law enforcement career in the Southwestern District and remained there until 2005, when he was assigned to the organized crime division. Eventually, Special Agent Hicks went on to fulfill his lifelong dream of becoming an FBI agent in 2007, serving on the FBI's Joint Terrorism Task Force in Pittsburgh. He quickly proved to be an exceptional special agent.

Special Agent Hicks' life was dedicated to serving others—whether it be as an Eagle Scout, member of the Pennsylvania National Guard, or eventually a world-class law enforcement officer. His strong character and giving heart were recognized by everyone around him—from instructors at the FBI Academy in Quantico, VA, to fellow Agents on the Pittsburgh Joint Terrorism Task Force. A gifted leader, Special Agent Hicks was dedicated to