

Nájera rose through the department's ranks to become the city's police chief in 2003. As his friends, family and coworkers all gather to celebrate his farewell, I ask all my colleagues to join me in honoring his leadership and many remarkable accomplishments.

Chief Nájera is a native son to Sacramento. He was born and raised in Sacramento, and attended Luther Burbank High School before moving on to California State University, Sacramento, and California State Polytechnic University, Pomona. Following his studies, Chief Nájera joined the Sacramento Police Department on April 1, 1971. Nájera started his career as a community oriented police officer and distinguished himself as a reliable and dedicated officer who would work tirelessly to protect the public.

On October 22, 2003, Chief Nájera was appointed as Sacramento's 42nd Chief of Police. He inherited a department under tough circumstances and worked hard to remedy the difficulties. At the time of his installation, violent crime was on the rise, relations with the local union were strained and the department was experiencing an alarming rate of turnover. Chief Nájera's leadership provided much needed stability and the city's police department has made tremendous progress under his tenure.

Chief Nájera has often been lauded by officers for his hands-on and personable style. He has successfully rebuilt relationships between the community and the police department, while also raising the morale of his officers. Chief Nájera has been a champion of attendance centers at local high schools to deal with chronic truants who otherwise might be caught up in gang-related crime. His leadership on this issue and efforts to curb gang activity are evident by the decline in homicides during 2007. Chief Nájera led a crackdown in the previous summer that involved moving officers from other units into gang enforcement. This reorganization is evidence of Chief Nájera's ability to reinvent the department under dire circumstances.

As chief, larger issues such as emergency preparedness also were on his mind. In June of 2007, Chief Nájera was appointed to the Federal Emergency Management Agency's, FEMA, newly created National Advisory Council. The National Advisory Council was initiated to advise FEMA on all aspects of preparedness and emergency management in an effort to increase coordination with its partners across the country. Chief Nájera's appointment to this critical position is evidence of his understanding of complexities of emergency management and homeland security.

Madam Speaker, I am honored to recognize the numerous contributions made by Sacramento Police Department Chief of Police Albert Nájera during his 36 years with the department, and the last 4 as Chief. Chief Nájera accession to the department's top post is a testament to his hard work and devotion to the city of Sacramento. I wish him, his wife, Barbara, and his daughter Alesandra continued success in his retirement. On behalf of the people of Sacramento and the Fifth Congressional District of California, I ask all my colleagues to join me in thanking my friend, Chief Nájera for his public service as we wish him success in his future endeavors.

HONORING FATHER VAHAN
GOSDANIAN

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 28, 2008

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Father Vahan Gosdanian upon celebrating his 10th anniversary of service to the Holy Trinity Armenian Apostolic Church in Fresno, California. Father Gosdanian is being honored at the 107th Annual Banquet held on January 24, 2008.

Father Gosdanian was born in Beirut, Lebanon. He immigrated to the United States in 1986. After his primary and secondary education he pursued a career in graphic design. As a graphic designer he owned his own business in Beirut. Due to the civil war in Beirut, Lebanon, Father Gosdanian, and his wife, Sossie Simonian, immigrated to Los Angeles and he continued to work as a graphic designer. However, he always wanted to attend seminary school and become a Vertabed. Prior to becoming a Vertabed, his religious background included attending Sunday school, becoming a Sunday school teacher and principal and altar serving.

Father Gosdanian began taking classes through the Western Prelacy and was ordained into priesthood on March 14, 1993 in Los Angeles, California. He was appointed as the pastor of St. Sarkis Armenian Apostolic Church in Pasadena, California. While there, he published the monthly newsletter and attended to the needs of his parish. To further his education, Father Gosdanian attended classes at the Mennonite Brothers Bible College.

In the 10 years that Father Gosdanian has served at Holy Trinity Armenian Apostolic Church in Fresno he has implemented many new programs. The church now holds an annual graduate banquet to honor all Central Valley high school and university graduates that are of Armenian descent. The church serves a traditional dinner for Christmas Eve and Easter for those that attend the service. He also leads a Tuesday night Bible study group and regularly visits the California Armenian Retirement Home and other adult day care centers. For the Fresno community, Father Gosdanian performs prayers as needed or requested by civic leaders and attends prayer breakfasts. He is also among a group of pastors that recently joined the prison chaplain program.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate Father Vahan Gosdanian on 10 years of service to the church and the community. I invite my colleagues to join me in wishing Father Gosdanian many years of continued success.

HONORING THE LIFE OF PRIVATE
FIRST CLASS DAVID H.
SHARRETT II

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 28, 2008

Mr. DAVIS of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of PFC David H. Sharrett II and to recognize his service to our Nation.

Private First Class Sharrett was a true patriot who served his country with honor. Throughout his life he selflessly dedicated himself to his fellow soldiers, family and friends, and to our country.

David Sharrett grew up in Oakton, Virginia, where he attended Oakton Elementary, Cooper Intermediary, and Oakton High School. During his high school career he was a star defensive end for the Oakton football team, helping the Cougars set the school record for greatest number of wins that season.

Before joining the Army, Private First Class Sharrett worked several jobs and attended Northern Virginia Community College. Yearning to serve his country, he enlisted in the Army in August 2006, and began his first deployment shortly thereafter. PFC Sharrett was assigned to the 1st Squadron, 32nd Cavalry Regiment of the 101st Airborne Division's 1st Brigade Combat Team, in Fort Campbell, Kentucky. Tragically, he was killed on January 16, 2008, after sustaining injuries from grenade and small arms fire during combat operations in Balad, Iraq. Throughout his military career he was honored with the National Defense Service Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, the Army Service Ribbon, and the Expert Weapons Qualification Badge.

Private First Class Sharrett is survived by his parents, David Sharrett and Kimberly Drummond, his two younger brothers, Chris and Brooks, and his wife, Heather Shell.

Madam Speaker, in closing, I would like to honor the memory of PFC David H. Sharrett II. I call upon my colleagues to remember him as a man who gave his life protecting the American people.

RECOGNIZING GARY BAUMANN

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 28, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Gary Baumann, of Savannah, MO. On December 31, 2007, Gary retired from the United States Department of Agriculture—Rural Development with 21 years and 5 months of Federal service.

Gary started his career with USDA in 1975 as an Emergency Loan Assistant County Supervisor working for Farmers Home Administration in the Savannah, Missouri, office. Gary

made many moves across northwest Missouri with USDA during his tenure, working in the Savannah, St. Joseph, Maryville, Bethany, and Maysville offices.

On October 15, 1995, Gary was reassigned to Community Development Manager of the USDA—Rural Development area office in St. Joseph, MO, where he worked Community Development in a 5-county region consisting of Andrew, Buchanan, Clinton, DeKalb and Platte Counties. Gary worked in the St. Joseph Office until he retired at the end of 2007.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in recognizing Gary Baumann, whose dedication to USDA and northwest Missouri has been truly exceptional. In my time in Congress, USDA Rural Development has been a great resource to work with, and it is people like Gary who have made that relationship between my office and USDA Rural Development what it is today. I am honored to serve him in the United States Congress.

IN MEMORIAL OF LORETTA S.
WOODARD

HON. BOB ETHERIDGE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 28, 2008

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Madam Speaker, today I use to honor the life of Loretta S. Woodard of Princeton, North Carolina, who passed on Friday, January 4, 2008 at the age of 64. In her passing, I have lost a dear friend and North Carolina has lost one of its most outstanding citizens and a woman who was instrumental in her community, county, and State.

One of the area's most beloved women, my friend Loretta S. Woodard, was a native of Johnston County and the daughter of the late Muldrow and Hilda Barbour Sawyer. Loretta was a graduate of Elizabeth City Schools and received her business degree from Hardbarger's Business College in Raleigh. She worked in the dental project at the UNC School of Public Health in the Department of Epidemiology. She was married to Carlyle Woodard in 1966, and following his graduation from the UNC School of Pharmacy, they moved to Princeton to make their home.

Loretta was a long-time member of Princeton Baptist Church and served in many capacities through the years. She was involved in all areas of life in Johnston County—educational, civic and political. She was a member of the board of trustees of Johnston Community College, the Johnston Community College Foundation, and the Paul A Johnston Auditorium on stage series board. At the time of her death she served on the Johnston County Heritage Commission and was a founding member of the Heritage Center following the Johnston County's 250th anniversary celebration, where she was a member of the steering committee.

Loretta Woodard was brought into the political arena by her mentor, the late NC House Representative, Barney Paul Woodard. She became active in the Democratic Party, on the precinct and county levels. She served as chairperson of the Johnston County Democratic Party and later as president of the Johnston County Democratic Women. She served 13 years as chairman of the Second District Democratic Party. She also served on the State Democratic Executive Committee, was a

former national convention delegate, and for a number of years was responsible for the decorations at the annual Jefferson-Jackson dinner. She successfully chaired political campaigns in the county for Representative Woodard and Jack Gardner and for numerous other candidates, including Jim Speed, Charlie Whitley, Martin Lancaster, Allen Wellons, and she also worked on my campaigns. Loretta served on the restoration committee for the Goodwin House, home to the North Carolina Demarcated party. Loretta is survived by her husband Carlyle Woodard, and her two sons Carlyle "Lyle" Woodard III and wife, Janet, and Bradford Stuart Woodard.

Madam Speaker, Loretta was an outstanding person who used every minute of her long and productive life to make the world a better place. She was a well respected and dedicated public servant, and a great North Carolinian. It is fitting that we honor her and her family today.

CONGRATULATING CECILIA
DANIELS

HON. THOMAS G. TANCREDO

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 28, 2008

Mr. TANCREDO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to one of my constituents, Ms. Cecilia Daniels of Castle Rock, Colorado. Ms. Daniels is a teacher of English as a foreign language at Highlands Ranch High School and is a recipient of the prestigious Fulbright Award. This grant is given to promising individuals to aid them in their academic and cultural pursuits abroad.

The Fulbright Program was established by Congress in 1946 and is sponsored by the U.S. State Department. This program was designed to help build mutual understanding between Americans and the global community. Individuals who are awarded this distinction have demonstrated outstanding academic or professional achievement and have proven themselves as leaders in their field.

Madam Speaker, please join me in paying tribute to Ms. Daniels and wishing her the best in her future endeavors.

EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF CONGRESS THAT THE UNITED STATES HAS A MORAL RESPONSIBILITY TO MEET THE NEEDS OF THOSE PERSONS, GROUPS AND COMMUNITIES THAT ARE IMPOVERISHED, DISADVANTAGED OR OTHERWISE IN POVERTY

SPEECH OF

HON. AL GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 22, 2008

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, I express my strong support for H. Con. Res. 198, a resolution expressing the sense of Congress that the United States has a moral responsibility to meet the needs of those who are disadvantaged or impoverished and that our country should set a national goal of cut-

ting poverty in half over the next 10 years by promoting good jobs at livable wages.

In this land of hope and opportunity, all working families should also be able to rely on the product of their labor to feed, clothe, house and provide health care for their families. Unfortunately, all too many working Americans are unable to do so. Today, 35 million Americans will go to sleep hungry. Thirty-seven million Americans still live in poverty and 47 million Americans are without health insurance. In my home state of Texas, 16,000 brave men and women who have served nobly in our Nation's military go homeless every night.

These statistics are unbecoming of the wealthiest Nation in the history of our planet. As a Nation, we must undertake all efforts necessary to end the scourge of poverty. One of the best ways to move forward in this effort is to promote good jobs and to ensure that all jobs pay livable wages.

Congress made great progress last year by passing a long-overdue increase in the minimum wage and providing that it will increase to \$7.25 per hour next year. A full-time job should be a bridge out of poverty, an opportunity to make a living through work. Unfortunately, for many Americans, especially those with families, it is not.

In our great country, it is unacceptable that poverty continues to devastate the lives of tens of millions of our fellow Americans. For this reason, I strongly support this resolution and believe that Congress must continue working to make the principles expressed in the resolution a reality. I am proud to be a cosponsor of this important resolution and I commend my good friend and colleague, Ms. BARBARA LEE of California, for introducing the resolution.

HONORING IRVIN DYER

HON. JIM RAMSTAD

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 28, 2008

Mr. RAMSTAD. Madam Speaker, I rise to speak about an American who is making a real difference in the fight against alcohol and other drug addiction. At the same time, he is projecting a positive image of Americans among the international community.

On November 29 of last year, the National Anti-Drug Agency of Romania presented its National Excellence Awards. Honorees included the French Ambassador, the Russian Ambassador and the United Nations Representative. I'm proud to say, Madam Speaker, that an American was also recognized for his efforts, Mr. Irvin Dyer.

Born and raised in Arizona, Mr. Dyer moved to Romania for business 15 years ago. Having become a successful businessman and the father of three beautiful children, Mr. Dyer was moved to action by the debilitating effects that drug and alcohol addiction was having on the people of Romania. In 2003, he became an advisor to the president of the Romanian Anti-Drug Agency, President Pavel Abraham. Since then, he has worked tirelessly to assist the Anti-Drug Agency in its efforts to stem the tide of illegal drugs and to help and treat those who have fallen victim to addiction's awful grip.