

work is, in my opinion, his ability to give moral leadership to the not-for-profit marketplace world and intellectual force to problem-solving.

"All the above with a soft voice, a mild and pleasant manner, a bow tie, a firm jaw and an unshakeable faith in our country and its ability to solve its, and maybe the world's, problems."

A lengthy editorial in a recent edition of the Sunday New York Times decried the fact that the national mood of "wanting to make the world a better place" that was so pervasive after Sept. 11, 2001, has largely evaporated.

Walter personified and daily lived that credo long before 9/11, and he will continue to do so for the rest of his life. It did not take a monumental national tragedy to light the spark of true community service in this extraordinary human being.

As John Bluford, Marjorie Kaplan, Paul Uhlmann and I look objectively at Walter Hiersteiner, almost any adjective we use is not hyperbole; it is understatement. We are so fortunate to have him in our community.

[From the Kansas City Star, May 8, 2009]

"MR. SHAWNEE MISSION," WALTER
HIERSTEINER, WAS "VOICE OF REASON"

(By Jim Sullinger)

The late 1960s could arguably be called the most challenging period in the history of the Shawnee Mission School District.

The northeast Johnson County community faced a decision that was hotly debated at the time—school consolidation.

The area's elementary schools were divided among 12 small school districts, and the Kansas Legislature was demanding that they consolidate with the Shawnee Mission district's high schools and junior highs.

In the mid-1960s, voters defeated a consolidation effort by a large margin. That didn't stop the Legislature, however, from passing Senate Bill 58 in 1969 that required consolidation that year.

Emotions were running high on the part of parents who faced the loss of their elementary districts.

Into the fray stepped Walter Hiersteiner, elected to an at-large position on the Shawnee Mission School Board in April 1969. He worked tirelessly that year to convince skeptical parents that this was the right move and smoothed the way for the transition.

Arzell Ball was school superintendent at the time and remembered Hiersteiner's contributions.

"He was a consensus builder," Ball said, "He could motivate and direct others, and his communication skills were just excellent. And he had the respect of the community because he gave back to the community all the time."

He was a calming presence during that difficult period and later when the district began closing schools.

David Westbrook, the district's first communications director, said Hiersteiner was dedicated to public education and his voice will be missed.

Hiersteiner, 90, died last weekend.

"He was critically important to the school district at a time the district was going through some trying times right after unification," Westbrook said.

He said there was friction on the school board between moderates and newly elected conservatives.

"He was a voice of reason and stood for principle and was firm in his convictions, but that firmness was balanced by a humble open-mindedness," he said.

Friends remembered that when a school was scheduled to be closed, Hiersteiner would consult influential contacts to come

up with another use for the property that would make the closing a little more palatable for the surrounding neighborhoods.

He served on the school board until 1973 and as president during his last two years on the board.

During the 1980s, Hiersteiner was a founder and co-chairman of the Committee for Excellence in Shawnee Mission Schools, which is still operating today as the Committee for Excellence. He was a leader in efforts to pass several school bond issues and an advocate for more school dollars.

He was appointed by former Gov. Robert F. Bennett to the Kansas Board of Regents and became chairman of that board. He also served on the Board of Governors of the Kansas University Law School and the Kansas Higher Education Loan Program.

If anyone deserved the title "Mr. Shawnee Mission," it was Hiersteiner, who was an executive at Tension Envelope Corporation for more than 60 years and a Harvard Law School graduate.

"He was without a doubt the finest advocate for public schools that we ever saw previously and maybe we ever will," said Larry Winn III, a current board member. "He inspired a lot of people who came after him."

Annabeth Surbaugh, chairwoman of the Johnson County Board of Commissioners, said she will remember Hiersteiner as "Mr. Education."

"It's true that his primary focus was the Shawnee Mission School District, but his strong commitment to top-quality education wasn't limited by boundaries," she said. "He truly believed it was our responsibility—as a community—to ensure that our children had the very best education possible, and he was a staunch advocate for that cause."

KOREAN WAR VETERANS ASSOCIATION

HON. MICHAEL A. ARCURI

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 14, 2009

Mr. ARCURI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the members of the Korean War Veterans Association, Cayuga County Chapter 296, on their commitment and efforts to renovate the Veterans Memorial Park in Auburn, NY.

The Veterans Memorial Park is nearly a two-year project in the making designed to honor our country's veterans of all wars and conflicts since the Revolutionary War. Notably, this memorial also pays tribute to all those servicemembers who joined the U.S. Armed Forces, regardless of whether they did or did not serve overseas during a time of war. I am proud to represent a district that has chosen, so admirably, to recognize every man and woman that serves our nation. These communities rightfully understand that the decision to join the United States Armed Forces, regardless of one's terms of service, means that an individual is prepared to give his or her life for the safety and future of this country. I have the great pleasure of calling my district home to the Veterans Memorial Park, which may be arguably one of the most inclusive veteran memorials in the country.

The Auburn City Council, Auburn City Manager, and Mayor of Auburn have chosen the following representatives from the Cayuga County Chapter 296 Korean War Veterans Association to lead this effort: John Barwinczok, Chairman; Lyell I. Brown; Professor Joseph

M.A. Camardo; Joseph Casper; James Ferris; Donald T. Tavener; and Michael A. Trapani. The dedication of the Veterans Memorial Park is scheduled for June 14, 2009. I wholeheartedly commend these individuals for their efforts on behalf of our veterans and the entire community.

Madam Speaker, I ask that all of my colleagues in the House of Representatives join me today in recognizing the efforts of the Korean War Veterans Association, Cayuga County Chapter 296, as they move towards completing their goal and paying tribute to those who have sacrificed for their nation. I wish them the best of luck in the future as they continue to better our community.

ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 14, 2009

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Asian Pacific American Heritage Month.

As a cosponsor of H. Res. 435, which celebrates Asian Pacific American Heritage Month, I would like to first thank Congressman HONDA for leading the Democratic Caucus in recognizing the important contributions the Asian and Pacific Islander American (APIA) community has made to our nation.

As Representative of the 47th Congressional District of California, I have the honor of representing one of the most diverse communities in the United States. I have witnessed firsthand the rich culture and contributions the APIA community bring to my district in Orange County, CA.

In recent years, we have seen an increasing number of Asian and Pacific Islander Americans become leaders in academia, arts, government, the military, and the private sector. They contribute to all aspects of American life, and in doing so they enrich the lives of all Americans and make this country stronger.

I especially commend President Obama for his leadership in reaching out to the Asian and Pacific Islander American community. This year marks a special occasion, as it is the first time the Presidential Branch has appointed a record number of Asian-Americans to the Cabinet, including the Secretary of Energy, Steven Chu; Secretary of Commerce, Gary Locke; and Secretary of Veterans Affairs, Eric Shinseki. Their hard-work and sacrifice have made a significant impact on America and opened doors for future generations of Asian Pacific Americans.

Although it is imperative to recognize the achievements of the APIA community, it is also important for us to focus on the challenges they face, including affordable housing, racial profiling, and health care issues. Another issue the APIA community faces is the perception that all members of this community are thriving economically. In reality, not all Asian Pacific Islander Americans have access to a quality education and many continue to face tremendous language barriers.

The APIA community has made sacrifices for our country and contributed to the growth and prosperity of this nation. I look forward to celebrating APIA month and continuing to

work with APIA leaders to overcome the ongoing challenges that face all our communities. Together, we can make the American dream a reality for all Americans.

CONGRATULATING LAUREN
ZUMBACH

HON. JUDY BIGGERT

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 14, 2009

Mrs. BIGGERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate a remarkable young woman from my district, Lauren Zumbach, who was just announced as a 2009 Presidential Scholar. The Presidential Scholar program annually recognizes 141 of the nation's most exemplary high school seniors, students who have demonstrated outstanding academic performance, as well as exemplary leadership, citizenship and community service.

Lauren embodies all of these traits. A poised and confident young woman, Lauren is a leader both in and out of the classroom. As a student-athlete at Hinsdale Central High School, Lauren has been a straight "A" student while contributing to her state championship cross-country team. Her accomplishments do not end here.

Outside the classroom, Lauren has organized workdays to improve local forest preserves. She assisted in raising \$18,000 to help cure parasite-afflicted children in Haiti. She has worked with my office and local law enforcement to instruct area school children about safe online behavior. And just last fall, Lauren was the impetus behind "Trot for the Troops," a 5k race that raised money for the Illinois chapter of Operation Homefront, an organization benefitting our men and women in uniform as well as their families.

In a few weeks, Lauren will graduate from Hinsdale Central High School; this fall she'll attend Princeton, which, I have no doubt, will be better for her being there. I am so proud of Lauren for her achievement and congratulate her on receiving the 2009 Presidential Scholar Award.

THE CAPITOL VISITOR CENTER
WELCOMES ITS ONE MILLIONTH
VISITOR

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 14, 2009

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge an important milestone. At some point early this afternoon, the Capitol Visitor Center will welcome its one millionth visitor. While the specific individual will not be identified, that person will represent the millions of annual visitors who journey to the United States Capitol Complex to witness firsthand our democracy at work. These schoolchildren, senior citizens, families and international visitors hopefully depart with a greater understanding of the unique and extraordinary nature of our system of government and the history of this great nation.

Officially opened on December 3, 2008, the Capitol Visitor Center serves as the gateway

to the United States Capitol Complex. With the opening of the Visitor Center and renewed interest in government, we are seeing more than twice as many visitors as we did before. The Visitor Center's one million visitors compares to 467,800 visitors during the same five-month period just one year ago. That represents a 114-percent increase in the number of people visiting the Capitol.

During the 12 days of the Cherry Blossom Festival, the Capitol Visitor Center welcomed 187,000 people—an average of 15,500 visitors a day. More than 90 percent of the visitors during this period had reserved their tours through their Members of Congress.

Since its opening, the CVC's peak day was Monday, April 20th when 19,500 people visited the Capitol. I am told that, in past years, that many visitors would have led to a four-hour wait time. The current average wait time is six to ten minutes.

With all of these accomplishments, I am most proud to confirm that, as promised, we continue to offer staff-led tours! And in its first few months of operations, the Visitor Center staff has made many adjustments to ensure that the Visitor Center provides flexibility to Members of Congress in serving their constituents.

I would like to take this opportunity to extend my congratulations to the CEO of the Capitol Visitor Center, Ms. Terrie Rouse, and to her team of professionals who are often the first individuals to greet our constituents during their Capitol visits. I offer special thanks to the tour guides, visitor assistants, Capitol Police, gift shop and restaurant staffs and the many, many others who ensure that visitors have an informative and inspirational visit. I would also like to thank my colleagues and the various staff members who have taken the time to offer their input and work with the CVC staff to improve the visitor experience.

We thank you for your service and look forward to welcoming the next one million visitors.

CONGRATULATING TAIWAN FOR
ITS PARTICIPATION IN THE
WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY

HON. HOWARD COBLE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 14, 2009

Mr. COBLE. Madam Speaker, the World Health Organization (WHO) recently approved Taiwan's request to participate in the 62nd annual World Health Assembly (WHA) in Geneva later this month. Taiwan is a longtime ally of the United States, and we applaud the WHO's decision to include Taiwan in the WHA.

While the threat of a pandemic outbreak pales the countless other world health concerns, preparing, planning and responding to an outbreak requires the participation of every country. Asia is an area of great concern because of its large concentration of people, history of viral outbreaks and the inexplicable refusal of some countries not to comply with pleas for cooperation by international health experts. This refusal is a threat to the world's safety and cannot be ignored.

For its part, Taiwan has done an excellent job assisting and preparing for a future health emergency. Its medical system has been de-

scribed as "robust, solidly established and well resourced" and it participates in disease prevention efforts in other countries throughout the world. Now that Taiwan has a role at the WHA, it can partner with world health leaders to generate support from some of the recalcitrant countries that have ignored the WHA in the past.

Taiwan's ascension into the WHA is well deserved and should be recognized by the United States. Having a cohesive and efficient international health monitoring and response system is in everyone's interest. Ultimately, the American people, who are deeply invested in the international health community, will benefit from Taiwan's success.

HONORING THE JORDAN FAMILY

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 14, 2009

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the lives of Hanabul "Bud" Jordan, Lowel Jordan and the generosity of Dee Jordan for their tremendous support of the College of Agricultural Sciences and Technology at California State University, Fresno and furthermore the support of agriculture in the Central Valley. The Jordan's will be honored at California State University, Fresno on Thursday, May 14, 2009 when the university will rename the agricultural college to the "Jordan College of Agricultural Sciences and Technology."

The Jordan family is from the East Bay area, where Bud owned and operated a construction business headquartered in Hayward, California. Lowell lived on the family ranch in the near-by city of Dublin, where he tended the family's cattle. Bud passed away at the age of eighty-two on April 29, 2002; his brother Lowell passed away at the age of eighty-one in July 2005 and Bud's wife Dee continues to live in Hayward. The Jordan family became involved with CSU Fresno's College of Agricultural Sciences and Technology (CAST) through the Ag One Foundation in November 1995.

Bob Glim, professor emeritus of agricultural economics and an advisor to the Ag One board, worked at CSU Fresno from 1948 to 1978. He and his wife first met Mr. and Mrs. Jordan at a GMC motor home rally. Mr. Glim organized a rally get-together to speak about CSU Fresno's agricultural program, Ag One and to share CSU Fresno's farm grown products. The Jordan's immediately began supporting the program by providing scholarships for agricultural students; although they had never visited the campus. Their initial gift was \$20,000 to Ag One. This gift along with subsequent gifts, fund the Ag One-Lowell A. Jordan and Jordan Family Endowment. Over the years, the Jordan family has contributed \$130,000 to the endowment, supporting six to seven students each year with \$1,000 scholarships.

Since the 1995 gift, Ag One and CAST have maintained a great relationship with the Jordan's, including representatives traveling to Hayward to visit the family and bring them news from the school regarding the students, campus and products. Since Mr. Jordan passed away, Mrs. Jordan has visited the