

of the 24th Congressional District of Texas, I extend my sincere appreciation to Andy Wambsganss and wish him the very best of luck in the future.

THE PASSING OF MS. KOKO TAYLOR, THE "QUEEN OF THE BLUES" JUNE 4, 2009

HON. JESSE L. JACKSON, JR.

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 4, 2009

Mr. JACKSON of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my condolences to the family, friends and colleagues of one of my most prestigious constituents, from Country Club Hills, Ms. Koko Taylor the "Queen of the Blues". Ms. Taylor passed away yesterday afternoon at Northwestern Memorial Hospital.

For more than 40 years, Koko Taylor's powerhouse vocals have thrilled audiences, from little bars in Chicago's South Side to giant international festivals. Ms. Taylor has been described by Rolling Stone as "the great female blues singer of her generation."

She's been in movies, on television, on radio and in print all over the world and has received just about every award the blues world has to offer, including 29 Blues Music Awards, and a Grammy Award in 1984. I personally had the privilege of presenting the National Endowment of the Arts National Fellowship Award to Ms. Taylor in 2004.

Undoubtedly, Ms. Taylor's contributions to the music world have been innumerable. I am deeply saddened by her passing and I rise today to honor her many achievements and offer my condolences to her family, friends, and fans across the country.

ALEXANDRIA HAFKEY-HAIGHT

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 4, 2009

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Alexandria Hafkey-Haight who has received the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Alexandria Hafkey-Haight is an 8th grader at Faith Christian Academy and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Alexandria Hafkey-Haight is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential that students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations once again to Alexandria Hafkey-Haight for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication she has shown in her academic career to her future accomplishments.

CONGRATULATING LORRAINE BERGMAN ON BEING RECOGNIZED AS THE BUSINESS WOMAN OF THE YEAR BY THE TEMPE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

HON. HARRY E. MITCHELL

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 4, 2009

Mr. MITCHELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Lorraine Bergman, who was recently named Business Woman of the Year by the Tempe Chamber of Commerce.

Ms. Bergman is currently the President and CEO of Caliente Construction, a company originally started by her late husband Thomas Bergman. After his passing in 2005, Lorraine stepped up and rebuilt the company herself. Under her leadership, Caliente Construction has more than doubled in its percentage of growth and in number of employees. The success of this local business was previously recognized by the Tempe Chamber of Commerce when Lorraine received the Business Excellence Award in 2008.

In addition to the success of her own company, Lorraine has made many contributions to the surrounding business community. She is a founding member of Advancing Women in Construction, as well as the East Valley Branch of Fresh Start, a program that assists women whose lives have been impacted by traumatic events. Lorraine is a graduate of both the Gilbert and Tempe Leadership programs whose experience, dedication and body of work truly deserve to be honored.

Madam Speaker, please join me in recognizing Lorraine Bergman's many contributions to our community.

THE DEDICATION OF THE SAN BENITO MEMORIAL PARK AND MEMORIAL FREDDY FENDER

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 4, 2009

Mr. ORTIZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the dedication of the San Benito Memorial Park on Saturday, June 6 where a memorial honoring the life of Freddy Fender stands.

Born Baldemar Garza Huerta on June 4, 1937, in San Benito, Texas, Freddy Fender was the son of Serapio and Margarita Garza Huerta, a laborer and migrant farm worker. He was the eldest of nine children.

The love of music came early to young Balde, as everyone called him then. He was only five years old when he acquired an old three-string backless guitar which he quickly learned to play. He may have come from a very poor upbringing, but his optimism was undeniable, using music as a means to make life happier. "Music always made it better," as he would say.

The family would follow the seasonal crops for harvesting. They traveled north to work beets in Michigan, bale hay and pick tomatoes in Indiana, harvest cucumbers in Michigan and onions in New Mexico. Then, it was back home to San Benito for the winter where he spent time entering and winning talent contests.

Baldemar Huerta's professional career was ignited in November 6, 1956, as El Bebop Kid, when he originally recorded Spanish-language versions of Don't Be Cruel and Holy One, hits in Texas, Mexico and South America, that reflected his unique fusion of love songs and rock 'n roll. For a short time he also recorded under the names of Scotty Wayne and Eddie Medina.

He signed with Imperial Records in 1959 after taking the name Fender from the neck of his Fender guitar and Freddy because it sounded good. He first recorded his mega-hit, Wasted Days and Wasted Nights in 1959.

Fender is credited with being the first American Hispanic Rock & Roll recording artist in Anglo Latino music history. He was also the first Mexican-American artist to cross over into mainstream pop and country music, and with introducing Tex-Mex music into the American and world music scene.

Freddy Fender was more than just an artist; he was my dear friend who I had the honor of knowing and working with for many years. Through this dedication, we pay tribute to a man who traveled around the world singing songs that brought smiles and joy to the lives of many, including myself. Freddy never forgot where he was from—his roots and upbringings remained intact throughout his professional career as a singer.

Today, we remember him through his songs, his spirit and his love for the Rio Grande Valley, especially San Benito.

On October 14, 2006, we all lost a dear friend, companion, singer, and San Benito native, when Freddy went to be with the Lord. Before his passing, he asked his beloved wife, Vangie, that he wanted to return to San Benito to be buried. His wish was carried out and that is why we stand here today in honor of a man that encompasses the true meaning of success through hard work, dedication and determination.

Most recently, the San Benito Economic Development Corporation funded this project, budgeting about \$250,000 for the construction of the monument in honor of Freddy. The San Benito Memorial Park will be home to 300 resting souls, including Freddy, who was the first one to be buried there.

Today, I ask that my colleagues join me in commemorating the dedication of the San Benito Memorial Park and the memorial honoring the life of Freddy Fender.

A TRIBUTE TO SHERIFF SID CAUSEY

HON. MIKE MCINTYRE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 4, 2009

Mr. MCINTYRE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to New Hanover County Sheriff Sid Causey. As Sheriff Causey prepares to retire on July 1, 2009, I ask that you join me in recognizing his long and honorable career of service.

Sheriff Causey began his career in 1970 with the Carolina Beach Police Department, and then moved to the sheriff's office in 1973. In 1978, he moved to the county Alcoholic Beverage Control board, then returned to the sheriff's office in 1986. For seventeen years, he effectively commanded the office's vice

narcotics unit and since being elected as the New Hanover County Sheriff in 2002, drug control has been his priority, and he has made major strides in reducing this underlying cause of crime within the community. I am inspired by his courage in the fight against drugs, and I salute him for his many contributions and sacrifices.

Madam Speaker, Sheriff Sid Causey has served in New Hanover County law enforcement for over 39 years and done so with distinction. As he prepares to close the final chapter of his career, I wish Sheriff Causey and his family God's richest blessings. I ask that you join me today in recognition of his impressive career of enduring public service.

HONORING THE WORK OF THE 451ST CIVIL AFFAIRS BATTALION

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 4, 2009

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute and honor to the 451st Civil Affairs Battalion out of Pasadena, Texas, and welcome them home from their most recent deployment in Afghanistan. While they returned last fall, this Saturday, June 6, will be their Welcome Home Ceremony, and I look forward to attending to thank them personally for their service to our country.

As a civil affairs unit, the 451st was broken up into smaller groups across Afghanistan. Over the July 4, 2008 break I led a "Texas" Congressional Delegation visit to Afghanistan with Congressmen MICHAEL MCCAUL, HENRY CUELLAR, and myself. We visited several of the forward operating bases, or FOBs, where members of the 451st were stationed with other units. Because they were so spread out across the country, we were only able to visit a few members of the 451st, but being at the FOBs gave us the opportunity to see how primitive areas of Afghanistan can be, and what an impact the work of the 451st made.

When deployed, whether in Afghanistan during their most recent deployment or in their previous deployment to Iraq, the 451st Civil Affairs Battalion serves as a liaison between the military and the host community to better serve their needs and direct aid, supplies, and expertise. While stationed in Afghanistan, the 451st worked with the Afghan government and international humanitarian organizations to rebuild infrastructure and restore stability in areas devastated by war or natural disasters. The teams also worked with representatives from U.S. government agencies such as the State and Agriculture departments and the U.S. Agency for International Development.

As President Obama refocuses our efforts on Afghanistan, the 451st helped lay the groundwork for bringing security and stability to that country by building trust and relationships among the Afghan population, and I am proud we can say the unit is from Pasadena in Texas's 29th Congressional District. After dedicated service to their country, the members of the battalion have returned home. I have the honor of joining with their friends, family, and community in welcoming them this Saturday, June 6.

BRITTANY GENTRY

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 4, 2009

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Brittany Gentry who has received the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Brittany Gentry is a senior at Wheat Ridge High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Brittany Gentry is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential that students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations once again to Brittany Gentry for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication she has shown in her academic career to her future accomplishments.

HONORING DAVID J. APPLEBURY

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 4, 2009

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize David J. Applebury 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 145, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

David has been very active with his troop participating in many scout activities. Over the many years David 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 David J. Applebury for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

H.R. 2703 AND H.R. 2704

HON. JANE HARMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 4, 2009

Ms. HARMAN. Madam Speaker, some of the most powerful military and intelligence satellites in the world are designed and produced in my Congressional District. They are remarkably formidable tools that daily assist our troops in Iraq, Afghanistan and elsewhere, and are indispensable in learning and thwarting the plans of those who would do us harm.

But imagine, for a moment, what it would be like if one of these satellites were directed on your neighborhood or home, a school or place of worship—and without an adequate legal framework or operating procedures in place

for regulating their use. I daresay the reaction might be that Big Brother has finally arrived and the black helicopters can't be far behind.

Yet this is precisely what the Department of Homeland Security proposes to do in standing up the benign-sounding National Applications Office, or NAO.

Despite objections by the civil liberties community, a series of letters sent by Members of Congress, an established record of opposition by the House Homeland Security Committee and the prior fencing of funds, the DHS has requested funding in the classified annex to its FY2010 budget for the NAO.

The Appropriations Committee has repeatedly expressed skepticism about the need for the NAO, and fenced funding for the office last year. I understand that the Committee intends to send a strong message again this year. I introduce two bills today to stop the Department of Homeland Security from moving ahead with the misguided National Applications Office.

The first bill, introduced with Representative NORM DICKS, prohibits DHS from expending any funds on this office. The second bill de-authorizes the NAO, requiring the Secretary of Homeland Security to close the office immediately.

As proposed, the NAO, housed in the DHS Office of Intelligence & Analysis, the NAO would manage the tasking of military intelligence satellites over the United States—despite the absence of a clear legal framework, legitimate Posse Comitatus concerns, and even though the Interior Department already has existing circumscribed authority to deploy satellites over large-scale public events or natural disasters.

In its current form, the NAO would enable a group of undefined law enforcement and homeland security "users" greater access to imagery collection capabilities of the intelligence community—purportedly to supplement data already available during disasters or to aid in "investigations." It would serve as a clearinghouse for requests by law enforcement, border security, and other domestic homeland security agencies to access real-time, high-quality feeds from spy satellites. Except law enforcement officials haven't asked for the additional capability and major law enforcement organizations do not believe it is necessary.

The new DHS leadership has assured me in my role as the Chair of the Homeland Security Subcommittee on Intelligence and Terrorism Risk Assessment that the issue is under review. Although Congress last year withheld most funding for the NAO, the Department has again budgeted for the office (the exact amount is classified) without prior notification of the relevant congressional committees.

Well, not if we can help it.

Today, we introduce legislation to shut down the NAO—period.

TRIBUTE TO ARMY SERGEANT JUSTIN DUFFY

HON. ADRIAN SMITH

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 4, 2009

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to Army Sergeant Justin Duffy, a proud son of Nebraska who lost his life earlier this week. Sgt.