

Under General Sidwell's leadership as Adjutant General, the Missouri National Guard developed the concept of and deployed an Agribusiness Development Team to Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan. This important agricultural redevelopment plan, which builds upon the knowledge and expertise of Missourians familiar with agriculture, is now being replicated by other states. The Missouri National Guard also equipped and deployed the first Maneuver Enhancement Brigade structure to command Multi-national Task Force East Kosovo.

General Sidwell has received numerous military awards. He has also been recognized as the Mid-Missouri Communicator of the Year by the Public Relations Society of America and as an outstanding leader by the Jefferson Barracks. The General is also affiliated with the National Guard Association, the American Bar Association, the Defense Research Institute, and the Sikeston Area United Way Board of Directors.

As General Sidwell retires from his current post, I trust that the Members of the House will join me in thanking him for his exceptional commitment to the Missouri National Guard and the safety and security of America.

HONORING MARK LUTTRELL

HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 5, 2009

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Shelby County, Tennessee's Sheriff Mark Luttrell for being named the 2009 Sheriff of the Year presented by the National Sheriffs' Association.

First elected in 2002, Mark Luttrell has served Shelby County residents with strong leadership by placing the public's confidence back in the county's jail operations. Sheriff Luttrell has secured accreditation for both men's and women's jails, the medical unit, and the law enforcement division as well as many countless other achievements for which he is being recognized.

Luttrell continues to be an integral member in local and state efforts to fight street crime, including the successful Operation Safe Community. Sheriff Luttrell also serves on the Memphis/Shelby Crime Commission and Memphis Second Chance, an organization which aids first time offenders to transition back into society.

Sheriff Luttrell has set a high example of service, leadership, caring, and civic participation that all would do well to follow. Madam Speaker, I congratulate Sheriff Mark Luttrell on this well-deserved award, and ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating his accomplishments. We congratulate Sheriff Luttrell and his family on this wonderful occasion.

TRIBUTE ON THE 180TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF DANVILLE, ILLINOIS

HON. TIMOTHY V. JOHNSON

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 5, 2009

Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the 180th anniversary of the First Presbyterian Church of Danville, Illinois.

Built on land so graciously dedicated by Reverend Enoch Kingsbury, the First Presbyterian Church was founded on March 7, 1829 by eight charter members. The Church provided the first school and library of Danville.

From its humble beginnings in the 1830s, the church took a stand against slavery. Confirming their stance on slavery, the church would be honored with a visit from Abraham Lincoln, where he worshiped when his duties as attorney brought him to Danville.

The First Presbyterian Church continues to have a positive impact on the community by establishing and supporting several programs including Aunt Martha's Youth service, a free clinic, Faith in action, a program for adults 60 years of age and older, and Big Brothers Big Sisters, a mentoring service for youth. The church is a strong supporter of the arts through the use of the Aeolian-Skinner Pipe organ and the use of their facilities for musical performances.

I hope all of you will join me in recognizing The First Presbyterian Church in its faithful mission to be servants of Christ, both in their church and their community.

TRIBUTE TO RIVERSIDE FIRE CHIEF TEDD LAYCOCK

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 5, 2009

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to an individual whose dedication and contributions to the community of Riverside, California are exceptional. Riverside has been fortunate to have dynamic and dedicated community leaders who willingly and unselfishly give their time and talent and make their communities a better place to live and work. Tedd Laycock is one of these individuals. On March 7, 2009, a dinner in honor of Chief Laycock will be held to celebrate his retirement from the City of Riverside Fire Department.

A lifelong resident of Riverside, Chief Laycock graduated from Ramona High School. After receiving his Associate of Science Degree in fire technology from Riverside City College, he went on to graduate from the University of Redlands with a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration.

In 1973, Chief Laycock began his career with the City of Riverside Fire Department as a firefighter. He was subsequently promoted to Engineer in 1980; to Captain in 1984; to Battalion Chief in 2002; and to Fire Chief on April 8, 2005. Chief Laycock's natural leadership ability has contributed to his excellence as a

Fire Chief and established him as a pillar in the community. Chief Laycock retires after forty-six years of service to spend time with his grandchildren, two daughters, three sons, and his wife of ten years Cindy.

As a member of the Riverside community, Chief Laycock not only lived and worked there, but served those in his neighborhood. Chief Laycock has been a member of many local organizations such as the Uptown Kiwanis, the Latino Network and the Greater Riverside Hispanic Chamber of Commerce. Twice, in 1994 and 1996, Chief Laycock was awarded the honor of the Exchange Club's Firefighter of the Year Award.

Chief Laycock's tireless passion for community service has contributed immensely to the betterment of the community of Riverside, California. I am proud to call Tedd a fellow community member, American and friend. I know that many community members are grateful for his service and salute him as he retires.

TRIBUTE TO ELIJAH "PAT" LARKINS

HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 5, 2009

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the late Elijah "Pat" Larkins, a dedicated public servant, tireless community activist and the city of Pompano Beach, Florida's first African-American mayor, who recently succumbed to a 16-month struggle with brain cancer.

Born a farmer's son in Pompano on April 29, 1942, Mr. Larkins, the eldest of nine siblings, graduated from what is now Blanche Ely High School. While a student at Ely High School, he led a boycott of classes when a Senior Day gathering of the county's three black high schools was cancelled. Following his attendance at Tennessee State University, Mr. Larkins was named a Ford Foundation fellow, which allowed him to attend the 1970 National Housing Institute.

In 1972, Mr. Larkins became a federally certified housing-development specialist who created the Broward County Minority Builders Coalition. The Coalition's mission is to ensure black-owned companies participated in South Florida's construction boom, an economic expansion that defined the area for years to come. In addition to his involvement with the Broward County Minority Builders Coalition, Mr. Larkins was a director of his own not-for-profit company, Malar Construction Co. in Fort Lauderdale.

While serving as a City Commissioner for 19 years and Mayor of Pompano Beach for seven terms, Mr. Larkin helped diversify the fire department and police while also advocating on behalf of Pompano Beach's predominantly black northwest quadrant. Mr. Larkin was also instrumental in changing Hammondville Road to Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard. One of his proudest achievements was getting the E. Pat Larkins Community Center, a center that provides the setting for meetings, banquets and other social events, up and running.

As a parishioner at Hopewell Missionary Baptist Church for over 30 years, "His greatness was measured by his servitude," the

Reverend Robert Stanley declared. Reverend Stanley continued saying, "For him, the position of mayor wasn't a position of clout. It was a place to make change." Pompano Beach Mayor Lamar Fisher stated: "his involvement in the city is immeasurable." When asked his legacy, Mr. Larkins said, "I have always had a great affinity and love for this city. I hope when it's all over it's said that Pat gave it all he had."

Madam Speaker, I ask you and all the members of this esteemed legislative body to join me in recognizing the extraordinary life and accomplishments of Mr. Elijah Pat Larkins. I am honored to pay tribute to Mr. Larkin for his invaluable services and tireless dedication to the South Florida community.

CONGRATULATING MAYOR THOMAS M. LEIGHTON, RECIPIENT OF THE 2009 "MAN OF THE YEAR" AWARD FROM THE WILKES-BARRE FRIENDLY SONS OF ST. PATRICK

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 5, 2009

Mr. KANJORSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask you and my esteemed colleagues in the House of Representatives to pay tribute to Wilkes-Barre Mayor Thomas M. Leighton, recipient of the 2009 "Man of the Year" award from the Wilkes-Barre Friendly Sons of St. Patrick.

Mayor Leighton began his tenure as the Mayor of the City of Wilkes-Barre on January 5, 2004. Prior to becoming mayor, he served three four-year terms as a city councilman, as Chairman in 1995, 1998 and 2002 and as Vice Chairman in 1994, 1997, 1999 and 2001.

A graduate of Bishop Hoban High School, Mayor Leighton earned a bachelor of science degree from King's College in Business Administration. In 1996, he became president and owner of C.A. Leighton Company, Inc., a real estate, insurance and appraisal business located in downtown Wilkes-Barre since 1921. To fulfill his professional licensing, Mayor Leighton has successfully completed numerous continuing education programs over the years in the fields of real estate, appraisal and insurance and has retained membership in real estate professional organizations.

The combination of his municipal and business experience has provided him with the knowledge and familiarity to meet the financial and operational challenges he faces as Mayor.

An active alumnus of King's College, Mayor Leighton served as chairman of the 2006 King's College Alumni Phonathon Fund Drive as well as on the President's Council and the Century Club. He is a former coach of many community sports leagues including the Wilkes-Barre Family YMCA, St. Theresa's Little League, Skyhawks Youth Soccer, Rolling Mill Hill Basketball, St. Nicholas/St. Mary's Basketball and he is also a certified PIAA referee.

Mayor Leighton is also a member of the Knights of Columbus Council 302, third degree, the Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association, Elks Club, Saint Conrad's Club, North End Slovak Club and the Eagles Club.

Mayor Leighton and his wife, Patty, have three children: Kelly, Tom Jr. and Courtney.

Madam Speaker, please join me in congratulating Mayor Leighton on the occasion of this auspicious event. Mayor Leighton's exemplary commitment to his family, his city and northeastern Pennsylvania is a clear reflection of his determination to play an active role in the improvement of the quality of life for everyone and, because of that, his selection as Man of the Year is a well deserved honor.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN J. HALL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 5, 2009

Mr. HALL of New York. Madam Speaker, due to a family emergency I was unavoidably absent from the House on March 4, 2009, and missed the following votes:

Rollcall vote No. 94, a motion by Mr. PASCRELL of New Jersey to suspend the rules and agree to H. Res. 201, a resolution recognizing Beverly Eckert's service to the Nation and particularly to the survivors and families of the September 11, 2001, attacks. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

Rollcall vote No. 95, a motion by Mr. CARNEY of Pennsylvania to suspend the rules and agree to H. Res. 195, a resolution recognizing and honoring the employees of the Department of Homeland Security on its sixth anniversary for their continuous efforts to keep the Nation safe. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

Rollcall vote No. 96, a motion by Ms. LOFGREN of California to suspend the rules and agree to H. Res. 45, a resolution raising awareness and promoting education on the criminal justice system by establishing March as "National Criminal Justice Month." Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ADAM H. PUTNAM

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 5, 2009

Mr. PUTNAM. Madam Speaker, on Tuesday, March 3, 2009, and Wednesday, March 4, 2009, I was not present for recorded votes due to the death of a close personal friend. Please let the record show that had I been present, I would have voted the following way: roll No. 91—"yea," roll No. 92—"yea," roll No. 93—"yea," roll No. 94—"yea," roll No. 95—"yea," roll No. 96—"yea."

INTRODUCTION OF THE NATIONAL MS AND PARKINSON'S DISEASE REGISTRIES ACT

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 5, 2009

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Madam Speaker, along with the co-chairs of the Congressional Caucuses on MS and Parkinson's disease, we are pleased to introduce the National MS and Parkinson's Disease Registries Act—which, for

the first time, establish national Multiple Sclerosis (MS) and Parkinson's disease registries at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Currently, a national coordinated system to collect and analyze data on MS or Parkinson's disease does not exist. Accurate incidence and prevalence information is critical to gain a better understanding of these diseases that are estimated to affect more than 1.4 million Americans. The current lack of core knowledge about who has MS and Parkinson's disease and why inhibits research, programs, treatment and services.

This legislation will remedy that by developing coordinated, separate national systems to collect and store existing MS and Parkinson's disease data on incidence and prevalence. These registries could help uncover and inform promising areas of MS and Parkinson's research such as genetic and environmental risk factors, and support the discovery of disease therapies, treatments, and one day a cure. The information collected through the registries will provide a foundation for evaluating and understanding many factors such as geographic clusters of diagnosis, variances in the gender ratio, disease burden, and changes in health care practices.

Madam Speaker, this legislation represents an opportunity to move neurological disease research in a meaningful way that aims to improve the lives of our constituents with Parkinson's and MS. I invite my colleagues to join us in cosponsoring this much-needed bill.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ALLEN BOYD

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 5, 2009

Mr. BOYD. Madam Speaker, due to personal reasons, I was unable to attend to several votes. Had I been present, my vote would have been "yea" on H. Res. 201, Recognizing Beverly Eckert's service to the Nation and particularly to the survivors and families of the September 11, 2001 attacks; "yea" on H. Res. 195, Recognizing and honoring the employees of the Department of Homeland Security on its sixth anniversary for their continuous efforts to keep the Nation safe; and "yea" on H. Res. 45, Raising awareness and promoting education on the criminal justice system by establishing March as "National Criminal Justice Month".

CONGRATULATING WALTER J. ZABLE AND THE CUBIC CORPORATION

HON. DARRELL E. ISSA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 5, 2009

Mr. ISSA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Cubic Corporation, a San Diego-based company celebrating 50 years as a publicly traded entity. In fact, on March 5, 2009, executives from Cubic were invited to the New York Stock Exchange to ring the opening bell to mark the occasion.

Since its founding in 1951 and subsequent status as a publicly traded company in 1959,