

HONORING DAVID ROMERO

HON. LOIS CAPPs

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 29, 2010

Mrs. CAPPs. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to my constituent David Romero from San Luis Obispo, CA.

Mr. Romero is retiring as mayor of San Luis Obispo, after holding this office since 2002. Prior to serving as mayor, Mr. Romero served on the City Council, worked as the Public Works Director and further dedicated himself to our community by lecturing at Cal Poly, and serving in the Chamber of Commerce, SLO Council of Governments and SLO Regional Transit Authority.

Mr. Romero is a true public servant, and his contribution to San Luis Obispo and the greater community will not be forgotten any time soon. He is a sterling example of the work that a city can accomplish when its citizens roll up their sleeves, work together and dedicate themselves to making their community a better place.

It has been an honor to work with him to ensure the residents of San Luis Obispo are well-represented locally and in Washington, DC. In our conversations over the years, I am consistently struck by the dedication and responsibility he feels towards his friends and neighbors of this beautiful city.

On behalf of the entire San Luis Obispo community, I am proud to honor Mr. Romero and his wonderful family today. I wish him much rest and relaxation in his retirement!

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE MISSOURI STATE HIGHWAY PATROL

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 29, 2010

Mr. SKELTON. Madam Speaker, it has come to my attention that the Missouri State Highway Patrol recently received the 2010 Outstanding Law Enforcement Agency Award from Mothers Against Drunk Driving. I am proud to pay tribute to the men and women of the Highway Patrol and the exceptional service and protection they provide the citizens of Missouri.

For years, Missouri's Highway Patrol has been a national leader among law enforcement agencies in the fight to prevent drunk driving and care for the victims of this senseless crime. Sobriety check points and effective patrols have resulted in almost 285,000 DWI arrests since 1980, and investigations by the Highway Patrol have led to more than 17,600 criminal charges against drunk drivers in the same time period.

While these statistics are truly impressive and important to note, the Highway Patrol's greatest success cannot be measured. Countless lives are saved everyday because of the Highway Patrol's hard work and commitment to protecting Missouri families from the dangers of drunk driving. And, for those who are sadly affected by drunk driving, the Highway Patrol stands ready to help with a victim advocacy program that has long been considered among the finest in the nation. To date, the

program has served victims in every county in Missouri. All these initiatives are complimented by the Highway Patrol's efforts to educate young people about the dangers drunk driving poses to all Missouri drivers.

Madam Speaker, the Missouri State Highway Patrol can be proud of all it has done for the State of Missouri, and they should be congratulated for receiving this well deserved award. I trust my fellow members of the House will join me in congratulating the men and women of the Highway Patrol.

IN HONOR OF TRICIA ROBERTS

HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 29, 2010

Mr. CASTLE. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I recognize a great Delawarean, Tricia Roberts, a recipient of the Kathryn J.R. Swanson Public Service Award from the Governors Highway Safety Association (GHSA). Tricia was given this prestigious award for her tireless dedication to keeping Delaware's roadways safe during her career with the Office of Highway Safety (OHS). I am honored that the GHSA has selected Tricia for this award as she is certainly well-deserving. I also wish Tricia all the best in her new found retirement.

Tricia joined the Delaware OHS as a community relations officer in 1989, while I was serving as Governor of Delaware. Through hard work and determination, Tricia quickly rose to director of OHS in 1994. During her time as director, Tricia led the charge to enact strong motor vehicle safety measures, such as the primary seat belt law, bicycle helmet law, and the repeat DUI offender legislation. After legislation was signed into law in 2000 to make a .08 blood alcohol level the standard in all 50 states, which I and others in the House of Representatives worked to pass, Tricia worked tirelessly for several years to toughen drunk driving laws in Delaware to meet federal requirements. Also a steadfast proponent of Checkpoint Strikeforce DUI prevention programs, Tricia was extremely dedicated to keeping impaired drivers off of Delaware's roads. Her innovative measures and dedication to highway safety has improved Delaware's roadways and undoubtedly ensured the safety of thousands.

I am proud to represent a state where individuals such as Tricia Roberts reside. I am extremely grateful for Tricia's efforts toward improving highway safety and I wish her all the best in retirement. It is individuals like Tricia that give Delaware the good name that it has.

BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 29, 2010

Mr. WAXMAN. Madam Speaker, October 1 is the beginning of Breast Cancer Awareness Month. This is a moment to reflect on the great work done by scientists, physicians and nurses, patients, survivors, and their families

every day to detect, treat, prevent and—one day—cure breast cancer. It is a time to recall the personal losses of so many family members and friends. And it is an occasion to measure the important progress made against breast cancer and the improvement in the chances of survival and in the quality of life for women and men with breast cancer.

But, for the more than 200,000 American women diagnosed with breast cancer this year, and the 40,000 who will die from breast cancer, it is also time for us to renew our commitment in this struggle, to reaffirm that we will complete this work, meet unmet needs, and once and for all end the risk of breast cancer to our families and our children.

This is a struggle that we willingly take on for our families, and for families around the world, where a woman dies from breast cancer every minute of every hour of every day. This year, 1.3 million women worldwide will be diagnosed with breast cancer, and of them a half million will die from breast cancer. As we mark Breast Cancer Awareness Month in the United States, we do so as members of a global community facing a common health threat.

This year brings other important commemorative milestones in the fight against breast cancer. I learned recently that this year is the thirtieth anniversary of Nancy Brinker's promise to her sister, Susan G. Komen, to pursue a cure for breast cancer—a promise that helped spark vital patient advocacy worldwide in the race for a cure.

This is the twentieth anniversary of the National Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program (NBCCEDP), administered by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). In 1990, Congress stepped in to give women access to early cancer detection. By passing this law, we sent the message that no woman should have to forgo life-saving tests because she can't afford them. More than 3 million American women have benefited from this program.

This is also the tenth anniversary of the National Breast and Cervical Cancer Prevention and Treatment Act, which expanded Medicaid coverage for American women diagnosed through the screening and early detection services supported by NBCCEDP. Today, this coverage is available in all fifty States.

Last year, in passing comprehensive health care reform, we built on these early achievements by expanding health coverage and making preventive health care more accessible for all Americans. We did this because uninsured cancer patients are 60 percent more likely to die than privately insured patients within five years of diagnosis. We did this because of the tens of millions of uninsured Americans who deserve screening, treatment and care—but do not receive them today.

We have important work that remains to be done. Only a fraction of the American women eligible to receive preventive health services under NBCCEDP do so. There are waiting lists at clinics, which mean women whose cancers could have been caught early and treated instead find out when their disease has progressed and spread. There are new screening technologies to be developed, new treatments and hopefully cures that await discovery.

Madam Speaker, I hope that every American family takes a moment during October to reflect on the progress we've made against

breast cancer and to commit to taking steps to protect their health or to contribute in some way to creating and achieving a world without breast cancer.

RECOGNIZING THE DEDICATED EMPLOYEES OF THE WASHINGTON SUBURBAN SANITARY COMMISSION

HON. DONNA F. EDWARDS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 29, 2010

Ms. EDWARDS of Maryland. Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize the dedicated employees of the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission (WSSC) in safeguarding the citizens of Prince George's and Montgomery Counties in Maryland.

In the early morning hours of July 1, 2010, a WSSC fiber optics monitoring system notified key WSSC personnel of impending danger involving a "96" water main located near Tuckerman Lane in Montgomery County, Maryland. This highly pressurized water main is one of the main distribution conduits serving both Counties, but is of particular importance to the citizens of Prince George's County. WSSC mobilized immediately coordinating with Maryland state and county officials to isolate the problem, dewater the main, replace the damaged section, and restore water service. This all occurred without a loss of water pressure in the system that could have impacted adversely critical services like hospitals and firefighting capabilities. WSSC instituted and enforced mandatory water restrictions over the holiday weekend to ensure adequate pressure was maintained for public health and safety.

WSSC is to be commended for their leadership and efforts throughout this incident. As Paul Hajek, Acting Director of Operations for the Maryland Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) wrote to WSSC's General Manager, "I found WSSC to be highly professional, responsive and cautiously deliberate in how they handled the entire incident. From a State perspective, it was refreshing to work with a company that at every turn 'had it under control'. Your company's actions turned what was a probable 'emergency incident' into an 'event'."

WSSC Commissioners and General Manager Jerry N. Johnson honored WSSC employees for their efforts in this incident during the July 21, 2010 Commission meeting. In a communication from the General Manager to the employees honored, Mr. Johnson wrote:

"As you know, I believe that our employees are our most valuable asset. The members of the WSSC team demonstrate their commitment every day whether they are responding to a customer inquiry in the Call Center, inspecting a contractor's repair of a sewer lateral, turning valves to isolate a water main break or repairing a pump in the machine shop. I am proud to be a member of such a dedicated and capable workforce that so fully understands the critical nature of our work and how each of us plays an important role in fulfilling our obligation to provide high quality reliable services to our customers.

"Due, in part, to your hard work, WSSC averted a potentially catastrophic break in the

96-inch main. We know from past experience the destructive power of such a break. There is no doubt a sudden break at Tuckerman Lane and Gainsborough Road would have been devastating.

"We appreciate your personal sacrifices, including the physical demands of working long hours in near-record breaking heat, and the time that could have been spent with loved ones celebrating our Nation's Independence Day holiday. Your professionalism and work ethic personify the work ethic of the entire WSSC team. We are so very proud of our employees and the contractors who represented the Commission in all phases of the repair operation.

"On behalf of our customers and staff, we want to express our sincere gratitude for your excellent implementation of WSSC's customer service goals and expectations. You selflessly carried out our mission to provide safe and reliable water, life's most precious resource, in an ethically and financially responsible manner. We salute you for a job well done!"

One noteworthy individual is WSSC Customer Care West Group Leader, Hak Kwon. Nicknamed by many during and after this event as "The General," Mr. Kwon lead the WSSC Team working tirelessly and professionally to resolve the problem as quickly and as safely as possible.

In crisis situations such as this early July 2010 incident, it is comforting to know that the employees of the WSSC can rise to the occasion, make the difficult decisions, and safeguard our citizens.

Madam Speaker, I ask all of my colleagues to join General Manager Jerry Johnson and me in commending the WSSC and its employees on a job well done.

PROVIDING HONORARY TITLE FOR
ARMY RESERVISTS

SPEECH OF

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 28, 2010

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I strongly urge my colleagues to support H.R. 3787, which I joined my colleague the gentleman from Minnesota in introducing. Our military increasingly depends on the National Guard and Reserve to keep our country safe. Men and women who served our country faithfully for decades deserve full recognition as veterans, even if they were never deployed. The legislation would extend full veteran status under federal law to retired members of the Guard and Reserve. Current law does not consider Guard and Reserve members to be veterans unless they were deployed for more than 30 days. The policy excludes many soldiers in the Guard and Reserve who, while never deployed for long periods of time, carried out critical support roles during times of war and peace, engaged in frequent and often dangerous training exercises, and stood ready to risk their lives to protect our nation during military careers that spanned decades. This legislation recognizes the service and sacrifice of National Guard and Reserve retirees and grants them the full honor of being called veterans that they have earned. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation, which is a

matter of honor and fairness to our citizen soldiers.

A TRIBUTE TO MRS. JUDY TUCKER, DIRECTOR OF CONSTITUENT SERVICES FOR U. S. REP. BOBBY L. RUSH, ON THE OCCASION OF HER RETIREMENT AFTER 24 YEARS OF SERVICE

HON. BOBBY L. RUSH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 29, 2010

Mr. RUSH. Madam Speaker, we live in an age where the average length of time that a typical American worker spends on a job is from three to five years. That's why, as this month comes to a close, it is all the more remarkable that one of my most respected employees, Mrs. Judy Tucker, has served me with distinction, honor and humility for 24 years—only one year shy of a quarter century. Her commitment to service and to the people of the 1st Congressional District of Illinois is truly remarkable in this day and age. And for that, I thank her for her service.

But there's so much more to Judy Tucker's story.

When the history of Chicago's African American political community is written, Judy Tucker's name will be an important part of that vast network of tireless, determined men and women who served with distinction in those all important "trenches"—you know, the nose-to-the-grind, inner workings of government that mean the world to the typical voter, constituent and his or her family. Judy Tucker is the only employee to have served me, consistently, since I was first elected to the U. S. House of Representatives in 1992. That was 20 years ago. This tribute recognizes her for 24 years of service because, prior to my election to Congress, Judy served me capably and effectively, for four years, as my personal secretary in my Second Ward Aldermanic Office.

Judy's background in public service also includes playing key administrative leadership roles for my friend, Cook County Commissioner Jerry Butler, and, prior to that, working for several years for the iconic African American Member of Congress, Ralph Metcalfe, who also represented the people of the 1st Congressional District. It is my pleasure to note that through all of Judy's professional life she has prided herself on her service to the men and women of the City of Chicago, the State of Illinois and, for the past 20 years, the people of the 1st Congressional District that I'm so proud to serve.

As Director of Constituent Services, Judy managed those all important details of what it means to provide assistance to those constituents who need help. No matter the request, if it was within our power to assist a constituent, Judy Tucker made sure that their resource or information needs were addressed quickly, accurately and in a professional manner. There was never a request too large or too small for Judy to handle. In many ways, Judy's job is one of, if not the most important job that I have on staff. That's because her work hits home where it matters most—in the daily lives of the constituents that my staff and I are here to serve. Judy never forgot about the needs of my constituents and she worked tirelessly to