

life of Walt Beckert, a man who inspired everyone he met by his actions and deeds to make the world a better place for everyone.

RECOGNIZING CATHY GLASER FOR
THIRTY SIX YEARS OF SERVICE
TO SAN DIEGO COUNTY

HON. DARRELL E. ISSA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 29, 2010

Mr. ISSA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the honorable civil service of Cathy Glaser and commend her tremendous career of thirty six years with the San Diego County Registrar of Voters Office.

Joining the team at San Diego County in 1976 with the District Attorney's office, Family Support Division, Ms. Glaser began her historic tenure with the County that has made an impression on countless San Diegans.

Transferring to the Registrar of Voters Office as a Senior Clerk in 1977, Ms. Glaser was soon promoted to Candidate Filing. She filled an invaluable role by assisting candidates in all their filing aspects.

Starting with San Diego County at the age of 22, and now ending at the helm of Campaign Services, Ms. Glaser has worked for 8 Registrars' of Voters. She has seen 9 election cycles of Presidents, Governors, U.S. Senators, State Senators, State Assembly, County Supervisors, Mayors, City Councilmembers, Community College Boards and School Boards to name a few. She has supervised the ballot preparation for all of the candidates for these offices as well as state, county and local propositions and measures.

Ms. Glaser has seen the transformation from the time of less than 5,000 Absentee Voters, voting on "paper"; and when results were delivered on election night. She has since been at the forefront of change with now more than 700,000 Vote by Mail Voters.

Under Ms. Glaser's guidance and expertise, San Diego County has won several awards for streamlining the election process. She also created the prominent "Candidate's Guide" which has become the "go to" guide for candidates, consultants, treasurers and campaign managers. Her work is often used as a model for other counties across the nation.

It is an honor to recognize her three and a half decades of dedicated, professional public service. I offer Ms. Glaser my congratulations on her achievements.

Madam Speaker, I ask you to please join me in paying tribute to Ms. Glaser's loyal service to the San Diego County Registrar of Voters on the occasion of her retirement.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN BOOZMAN

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 29, 2010

Mr. BOOZMAN. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 576, I was not present and am not recorded due to a family illness. Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

HONORING THE CAREER OF
THOMAS MAX WILLSON

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 29, 2010

Mr. STUPAK. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the career and achievements of Thomas Max Willson of Traverse City, Michigan. Tom is retiring after nearly 30 years of diligent public service in the 86th Judicial District Court in Traverse City. Throughout his long career, Tom has performed his duties with the utmost dedication and professionalism while being a devoted husband and father. Tom is also a dear friend of mine.

Tom was born in Detroit, Michigan on January 12, 1951 and grew up in Royal Oak, Michigan; graduating from Shrine High School in 1969. Following high school, Tom enrolled at Northwestern Michigan College in Traverse City where he and I became good friends. In 1973, Tom transferred to Ferris State University in Big Rapids, Michigan where he earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Criminal Justice.

After earning his college degree in 1975, Tom knew he wanted to serve the public and play an integral role in his community. Tom headed back to Traverse City where he served as a sheriff deputy for Grand Traverse County. After two years as a sheriff deputy, Tom continued his career in public service as a probation officer for the 86th District Judicial Court, serving the counties of Grand Traverse, Antrim and Leelanau.

Looking for a change in his professional life, Tom entered the private sector and became a sales supervisor with H. Cox & Sons Wholesale Distributor. Additionally, Tom was given the incredible opportunity to teach classes as an adjunct instructor at Northwestern Michigan College (NMC). To this day, Tom continues to enlighten students at NMC every semester with his experience and insightful teachings.

Tom's passion for public service never faded. He returned to the 86th District Judicial Court to work as a probation officer in 1987—the same position he will be retiring from on December 31 of this year. Tom married his college sweetheart Deborah in May of 1974. Tom and Debbie celebrated their 36th wedding anniversary this year. They have two daughters, Heather and Ashley, and a granddaughter, Ava Rose.

On a personal note, Tom has been a dear friend who is always ready to help out and go the extra mile. He and Debbie have frequently offered to host out of town visitors and show them the beauty of northern Michigan. Tom is known in Washington as an unofficial ambassador to northern Michigan.

Madam Speaker, Thomas Max Willson has devoted his career to serving and protecting the residents of his local community and the State of Michigan. I ask my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in recognizing and honoring his lifetime of commitment and hard work.

HONORING HELEN MACLEOD
THOMSON

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 29, 2010

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Helen MacLeod Thomson for her 36 years of public service that began in 1974 when she was elected as a member of the Davis Joint Unified School District Board of Education and where she served 3 terms. She was elected to the Yolo County Board of Supervisors in 1986 and re-elected in 1990 and 1994. In 1996 she won the 8th district seat in the California State Assembly where she served three terms.

As a legislator Thomson chaired both the Health Committee and the Select Committee on Mental Health and served on numerous standing and select committees. She was on the leadership teams of four Speakers, including as Majority Floor Whip and Assistant Speaker Pro Tem. She led legislative efforts to reform the state-local government fiscal relationship and to end discrimination against those who suffer from serious mental illness.

Assemblywoman Thomson authored 81 bills signed into law by both Democratic and Republican governors. Most notably was AB 88, the mental health parity bill, which ended the historic discrimination in insurance benefits for those who suffer from mental illness and AB 1421, "Laura's Law," which established a court ordered program of Assisted Outpatient Treatment for those persons who are severely mentally ill. Thomson's legislation spanned a spectrum of subjects including local government finance, civil grand jury reform, highway safety, county social services delivery, water conservation, and the rights of the disabled.

In 2002, when her assembly term ended, Thomson again was elected to the Yolo County Board of Supervisors and was re-elected without opposition in June 2006. She will retire at the end of her term in December 2010. Supervisor Thomson has served on a variety of local and statewide boards. Of continuing importance to her is the Children's Health Initiative, which works to insure children 0–18, who are not covered by other health insurance programs, the Yolo Indigent Health Medical Services Program and the county's alcohol, drug and mental health programs. A registered nurse, she is a member of the National Advisory Committee for the newly established Betty Irene Moore School of Nursing at UC Davis.

A champion of Yolo County agriculture, Supervisor Thomson is a founder of the Yolo Land Trust and this year was awarded its 2010 Thomson-Rominger award for her decades of work in land conservation. A major goal of her county service was the adoption of the new County General Plan in December 2009. This 2030 General Plan continues Yolo County's historic preservation of agricultural lands, natural resources and open space, while creating opportunities for strategic economic development. It emphasizes policies that address issues of "smart growth" and climate change.

Madam Speaker, it is appropriate at this time to acknowledge and thank Helen M. Thomson for her 36 years of exemplary leadership and her lasting contributions that have

done so much to directly improve the lives of those she has so ably represented.

HONORING ARMY MASTER SERGEANT MITTMAN

HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 29, 2010

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Madam Speaker, today I rise to celebrate and honor the service of Army Master Sergeant Jeffrey Mittman for receiving the Osborne A. “Oz” Day AbilityOne Awareness Award. The prestigious “Oz” Award is presented by the Committee for Purchase from People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled to an employee at a federal agency who demonstrates exceptional service promoting the AbilityOne Program throughout the federal, state and local communities.

Now, the National Account Manager for the National Industries for the Blind’s Midwest Region, Master Sergeant Mittman supports a mission of employment for others with disabilities by promoting the AbilityOne Program through the federal procurement process in Indiana’s 5th Congressional District. This patriot’s story is a remarkable one, for his story does not start nor finish here with this award.

Master Sergeant Mittman’s indefatigable commitment to serve his fellow Americans began as a soldier in the United States Army in 1989. Having fought in Operation Desert Storm, Operation Desert Shield, Operation Enduring Freedom, and in 2003, Operation Iraqi Freedom, Master Sergeant Mittman was the All-American hero who never turned down defending his country. It wasn’t till his return to Iraq in 2005 as a special advisor to the Iraqi Department of the Interior that he came face to face with death changing his life forever.

Tragically, an improvised explosive device exploded near his vehicle in Iraq, leaving Master Sergeant Mittman without a nose, lips, most of his teeth, and the majority of his vision. Since that time, he has endured more than 40 operations and spent over four years recovering physically and emotionally. To his great credit, he has traveled the country sharing the lessons he learned from these experiences with the world.

He is noted for saying it is the veteran who has to take that very first step to recovering and that he realized this after attending the Blinded Veterans Association Conference in 2006, where he met people who were blinded years ago who are now attorneys, teachers and business executives. After realizing life can be good in spite of having a disability, he decided to help others who also have disabilities find jobs and lead meaningful lives.

Master Sergeant Mittman, a 40-year-old decorated warrior, husband of 17 years, father of two and outspoken military veteran was and forever will be an All-American hero whose determination and selflessness continue to serve our country and inspire our hearts. Today, we salute you.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN BOOZMAN

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 29, 2010

Mr. BOOZMAN. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 580 I was not present and am not recorded due to a family illness.

Had I been present, I would have voted “yes.”

HONORING JUDGE WILLIAM C. HARRISON

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 29, 2010

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Judge William C. Harrison, who is retiring after serving 20 years as a Superior Court Judge in Solano County, California.

Judge Harrison was appointed to the bench in 1990 by California Governor George Deukmejian. He twice served as Presiding Judge of the Courts and was Supervising Judge of the Civil Division for four years, the Criminal Division for two years and the Vallejo Branch for two years. He is a past judge of the Juvenile Delinquency and Dependency Calendars and past probate judge. He currently serves as President of the Solano County Law Library Board.

He served as a member of the Executive Board of the California Judges Association and was a member of its Public Information and Education Committee and the Probate and Mental Health Committee. He served as President of the organization in 2000–2001.

Judge Harrison was also a member of the Judicial Council of California, the policymaking body of the California courts, which is the largest court system in the Nation. He served as Vice Chair of the Council’s Internal Rules and Project Committee and Chair of the Internal Litigation Management Committee. He has also served as an instructor and facilitator for the California Center for Judicial Education and Research, the educational arm of the Judicial Council which provides continuing education to California’s judges, and is currently co-chair of the Presiding Judges and Court Executive Officers Executive Committee.

For the last eight years, Judge Harrison has served by appointment of the Chief Justice of California on working groups and task forces dealing with judicial selection, court fees, the transfer of court facilities to the state, and court security.

Madam Speaker, Judge Harrison has served his community well and has distinguished himself throughout his career as an attorney practicing in Vallejo, California and as a member of the bench. It is therefore appropriate that we acknowledge his many contributions and wish him well on his retirement.

CONGRATULATING MARY ALICE D’ARCY ON HER RETIREMENT

HON. PETER J. ROSKAM

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 29, 2010

Mr. ROSKAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate a special constituent from my congressional district, Mary Alice D’Arcy, on her upcoming retirement. For the past thirty years, she has had a remarkable impact on Easter Seals DuPage and the Fox Valley Region.

Since 1981, Mary Alice has served as President and CEO of Easter Seals, one of the largest out-patient pediatric rehabilitation centers in Illinois. Under her leadership, Easter Seals was awarded the highest possible accreditation for outpatient rehabilitation from the Commission for Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities in 2007 and 2010.

Mary Alice has been an important advocate of the organization’s mission to enable infants, children and adults with disabilities to achieve independence. She has dedicated her life to helping these individuals in overcoming obstacles, and has been a great friend and mentor to families across the State of Illinois.

Madam Speaker and Distinguished Colleagues, please join me in recognizing her extraordinary service and wishing her every happiness in the well deserved respite of her retirement.

HONORING THOMAS DREWES OF RARITAN TOWNSHIP, NEW JERSEY

HON. LEONARD LANCE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 29, 2010

Mr. LANCE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to Mr. Thomas Drewes of Raritan Township, New Jersey.

At the end of 2010, Thomas Drewes will retire from the United States Department of Agriculture’s Natural Resources Conservation Service after 36 years of dedicated public service.

Throughout his long and distinguished career Mr. Drewes has been an enthusiastic advocate for the importance of soil health and has inspired many educational and outreach efforts in New Jersey. Thomas Drewes has made a real difference in his community and throughout New Jersey as a lead conservationist.

Over the years Mr. Drewes has received numerous awards for his contributions to conservation. In 2005 Mr. Drewes was nominated by his peers and selected to receive the New Jersey “State Conservationist Award” for his leadership in conservation in the Garden State. In 2010 the New Jersey Association of Conservation Districts presented Mr. Drewes with a “Special Recognition Award” for his commitment and dedication to conservation in New Jersey. That same year Mr. Drewes received the “Employee Choice Award” from the New Jersey Conservation District Employees Association.

It gives me great pleasure to share the remarkable efforts of Mr. Thomas Drewes of Raritan Township, New Jersey with my colleagues in the United States Congress and with the American people.