

classroom and for her work with students. The Region V Education Service Center named her Outstanding Principal while the Council on Exceptional Children presented her with the Will L. Smith Award. Similarly, Lamar University inducted her into their Administrator's Hall of Fame.

The Second Congressional District of Texas honors Ms. Gail Krohn for her many years of service to the Nederland Independent School District. The lessons and ideals that she taught will resonate with students and generations for years to come.

And that's the way it is.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF
VIRGINIA PIERCE AND THE
WOMEN AIRFORCE SERVICE PILOTS
OF WORLD WAR II

HON. TOM MCCLINTOCK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 9, 2010

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the service and achievements of Virginia Pierce from Alturas, California. During World War Two, Mrs. Pierce flew as a member of the Women Airforce Service Pilots (WASP). These aviators were the first female flyers to be trained on U.S. Military aircraft. During the time when the need of the country was greatest, these brave women flew fighter, bomber, transport and training aircraft in the defense of American freedom and liberty.

I was a proud cosponsor of the legislation that recognized these women's service, and I rise today to recognize Virginia Pierce and congratulate her on receiving the Congressional Gold Medal.

IN CELEBRATION OF EBBY
HALLIDAY'S 99TH BIRTHDAY

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 9, 2010

Mr. SESSIONS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Ebby Halliday Acres as she celebrates her ninety-ninth birthday today. Ebby has truly made a lifelong impact on the Dallas community and real estate industry through her many entrepreneurial and philanthropic endeavors.

Ebby Halliday Realtors was founded in 1945 by Ebby and her beloved husband, Maurice Acers. Their company began with only fifty-two homes in North Dallas, and has since grown to become one of the largest privately owned residential real estate firms in the country. Success for Ebby Halliday is not simply a result of her hard work and entrepreneurial spirit. She is notorious for the personal care and attention she gives to her employees, agents, and buyers. She has received numerous awards recognizing her professional success over the years. To name a few, Ebby received the Horatio Alger Award in 2005, the Visionary Award from Foundation Fighting Blindness, and the Linz Award in 2008.

Ebby is also celebrated in the Dallas community for generously donating her time and efforts, as well as significant financial support, to numerous philanthropic endeavors. St. Paul Medical Center, United Way of Metropolitan Dallas, and the Communities Foundation of Texas are only three of the many nonprofit organizations and causes that have been personally touched by Ebby's love for her community and dedication to making the City of Dallas a better place.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in expressing our heartiest congratulations to Ebby as she celebrates her ninety-ninth birthday. May we all strive to match Ebby's passion for improving our communities and her unwavering commitment to success.

NATIONAL PEACE CORPS WEEK

HON. JARED POLIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 9, 2010

Mr. POLIS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of the National Peace Corps Week that is celebrated from March 1 through March 7, 2010.

The Peace Corps traces its roots and mission to the early 1960s, when then Senator John F. Kennedy inspired Americans to serve their country in the cause of peace by living and working in developing countries. The Peace Corps celebrated its 49th anniversary on March 1st.

As of September 30, 2009, 7,671 Peace Corps Volunteers are making significant and lasting contributions to improve the lives of individuals and communities in 76 countries. Since 1961, nearly 200,000 Volunteers have served in 139 countries around the world and in their local communities in the United States when they return home.

The Peace Corps has become an enduring symbol of our nation's commitment to encourage progress, create opportunity, and expand development at the grass-roots level in the developing world.

That is why I strongly support federal funding to ensure a strong and vibrant Peace Corps program.

Throughout its history, the Peace Corps has adapted and responded to the issues of the times. In an ever-changing world, Peace Corps Volunteers have met new challenges with innovation, creativity, determination, and compassion.

Peace Corps Volunteers work in Africa, Asia, the Caribbean, Central and South America, Europe, the Pacific Islands, and the Middle East. Volunteers have made contributions around the world in agriculture, business development, information technology, education, health and HIV/AIDS, youth, and the environment.

Peace Corps Volunteers will arrive in Indonesia in spring 2010 and will work as English teachers in high schools and at teacher training institutions. In mid-2010, Peace Corps Volunteers will return to Sierra Leone after a 16-year absence. Volunteers will focus on secondary education and work with their host communities on grassroots initiatives and community development projects.

Peace Corps Volunteers have strengthened the ties of friendship and understanding between the people of the United States and those of other countries. Their work around the globe represents a legacy of service that has become a significant part of America's history and positive image abroad. Their desire to make a difference has improved the lives of millions of people around the world as well as here in the United States.

Peace Corps Volunteers provide hope and meaningful assistance to people affected by HIV/AIDS. The tireless efforts and dedication of Volunteers have made the Peace Corps a key partner in the global response to the HIV/AIDS pandemic. Peace Corps Volunteers are uniquely suited to work in HIV/AIDS awareness and prevention because they are trained in the local language, live and work in the communities where they serve, and know how to share information in a culturally appropriate way.

Peace Corps Response provides returned Peace Corps Volunteers the opportunity to serve again in rewarding, high-impact, short-term assignments. Since its inception in 1996, this program has sent more than 1,000 returned Volunteers into the field in over 40 countries. Peace Corps Response Volunteers are deployed to crisis situations such as disaster relief following natural catastrophes, as well as to nonemergency interventions such as HIV/AIDS awareness.

Through Peace Corps service, Volunteers worldwide learn more than 250 languages and dialects, and they receive extensive cross-cultural training that enables them to function effectively at a professional level in different cultural settings. Returned Peace Corps Volunteers are leaders in all sectors of our society.

My home state of Colorado is a very service-oriented state and its first lady, Ms. Jeanne Ritter, wife of Colorado Governor Bill Ritter, was a Peace Corps volunteer who served in Tunisia in a center for the disabled.

My district, the Second Congressional District of Colorado, has a strong tradition of volunteerism and I would also like to take this opportunity to recognize in particular the great work of 38 constituents who are currently serving as Peace Corps Volunteers in countries like Togo, Costa Rica, Peru, Zambia, Honduras, Malawi and the Dominican Republic, among others. Thank you very much for your contributions to the people and communities of these nations and for serving as ambassadors of peace, hope and opportunity.

In addition, I am very proud that the University of Colorado at Boulder—our state's flagship higher education institution—ranks second in the nation among colleges and universities for the most alumni joining Peace Corps in 2009 with 95 active volunteers and continues its great tradition of national and international service. Historically, the University of Colorado at Boulder ranks 5th for most alumni Volunteers in America, with 2,206 alumni having served as Peace Corps Volunteers since 1961.

It is indeed fitting to recognize the achievements of the Peace Corps and honor its Volunteers, past and present, and reaffirm our country's commitment to helping people help themselves throughout the world. I urge my colleagues to join me in celebrating the National Peace Corps Week and the 49th anniversary of this wonderful program.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JIM JORDAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 9, 2010

Mr. JORDAN of Ohio. Madam Speaker, I was absent from the House Floor Thursday afternoon.

Had I been present, I would have voted "no" on rollcall numbers 87, 88, 89, and 90, and "aye" on rollcall number 91.

HONORING BROTHER JOE ADAMS

HON. GEOFF DAVIS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 9, 2010

Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Brother Joe Adams for his outstanding service as chaplain to the Kentucky State government. On March 16, 2010, the Kentucky House of Representatives will celebrate Brother Adams' retirement after twenty-eight years of service.

Brother Adams was born and raised in Kentucky, and began preaching at the age of fourteen. In 1966, he enlisted in the United States Air Force. Serving for four years, Brother Adams spent his last year in Vietnam.

Following his service to his country, Brother Adams enrolled in Western Kentucky University to study Accounting and began preaching in Simpson County. He later pursued a master's degree in Child Development and Family Living, but soon realized he was being called to devote his life to full-time ministry.

Brother Adams has been a pastor at several Baptist churches across Kentucky. Since 1983, he has dedicated himself to working with community and State officials through the God and Country Ministry. In addition to his duties as chaplain to the Kentucky State government, Brother Adams has contributed to the Commonwealth as a member of numerous boards and committees, including the Bardstown/Nelson County Chamber of Commerce, the Bardstown Public Housing Tenant Relations Committee, the Non-Public School Commission, and chairman of Christian Home Educators of Kentucky.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in commending Brother Joe Adams for his service to our country and the Commonwealth of Kentucky. He has touched thousands, literally being the hands and feet of his Lord Jesus Christ reaching into many dark places with the light of truth, hope, and love. May God richly bless him as he and Sandra enter the next chapter in their lives of service.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 9, 2010

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Madam Speaker, on Thursday, March 4, 2010, I was unable to be present for the recorded vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass H. Res. 1079, as amended. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on rollcall vote No. 91.

JOSEPH FINNERTY: A JOB WELL DONE

HON. BARNEY FRANK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 9, 2010

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Madam Speaker, mixed emotions describe the way I and the people of New Bedford feel about the retirement of Joseph S. Finnerty, as Executive Director of the New Bedford Housing Authority. Running a housing authority and a city is no easy job, as people well know. But Joe Finnerty has never been one to complain about this task for which he volunteered and which he has performed in an extraordinary fashion for thirty-five years. No one can begrudge him his retirement after all that service in such a demanding position, but Joe can't begrudge us our feelings of regret that he's leaving. As Executive Director of the Housing Authority, Joe Finnerty has served not just the residents of public housing, but all of the people of New Bedford, by the great contributions he has made to the quality of life for those residents and for the city as a whole.

Madam Speaker, tomorrow, March 10th, some of Joe's close friends, who know well what an extraordinary asset he has been to the city and people of New Bedford, are gathering with him to provide a well-earned salute. As you know, our business will keep me here in D.C. at that time, so I am taking advantage of this forum to send him my best wishes, not simply personally, but because the example of a man who has dedicated so much of his life to the important job of running a public housing authority, and done it so well, ought to be held up for those who sometimes become unduly pessimistic about the good that can be done in government. And I ask that the article by Jack Spillane, from the New Bedford Standard Times, be printed here for that purpose.

[Jan. 26, 2010]

RETIRING HOUSING CHIEF LOOKS BACK ON REIGN WITH PRIDE

(By Jack Spillane)

Few people in New Bedford have positively affected more people's lives over the last 35 years than Joseph S. Finnerty.

Entrusted with the housing care of thousands of low-income city residents since 1975, Joe Finnerty has presided over an era in which the city authority rebuilt much of its aging public housing stock, de-leaded more than 2,000 units, and put into motion rebuilding projects that will eventually make scores of housing units accessible to the disabled.

Under the leadership of the 73-year-old Finnerty—who will retire at the end of this month—the New Bedford Authority has, for decades, provided stable and reliable housing for thousands of low-income city residents.

But it's something else that Finnerty—a member of a political family long active in city and local Democratic politics—seems most proud of. During Finnerty's long tenure as executive director, the New Bedford Housing Authority did not lose any of its public units to market-rate housing. (Any apartments lost to demolition have been replaced by other units elsewhere in the city.)

That's a monumental achievement in an era when housing rental rates far exceed the ability of people who work in minimum-wage jobs to afford any type of housing.

Finnerty is a staunch defender of the need for government-sponsored public housing.

"I don't see why you don't want to provide housing that's affordable to people so that they can raise their families," he said.

Public housing's biggest beneficiaries are the elderly, children and the disabled, he noted. "It provides affordable rents so that a family is not struggling to maintain a decent environment."

Finnerty's philosophy notwithstanding, it's not unusual to hear local complaints that New Bedford possesses too much government housing, that people are moving down from Boston because the housing is more affordable in New Bedford and Fall River.

Finnerty says he doesn't understand the attitude.

It would not be progress, he said, to return to the massive slum and tenement districts that blighted American cities in the 1930s and 1940s.

"We can do a lot better than that now, and we are doing better," he said.

"Public housing is no different than public health. It's no different than public transportation. It's a vital part of an urban community," he said.

"There are judges, university presidents and community leaders who grew up in public housing, or who for a significant time in their lives lived in public housing," he noted.

And the cities, Finnerty said, take responsibility for most of the public-housing stock necessary to their surrounding towns and suburbs. (By and large, suburban communities have limited their public housing to elderly units, leaving their own low-income families and disabled to relocate in the cities.)

Finnerty seems like a model for what a good, low-end, urban private landlord should have been.

He touts the importance of mixing working tenants with non-working ones in public housing. And he was always a no-nonsense manager who made it clear to bad public-housing tenants that he would evict them. (He's even been consulted by private owners of low-income housing about how to keep developments safe and secure.)

"Public housing is not a right, it's a privilege," he said.

Many public housing tenants are ambitious, working two jobs, and some eventually get themselves out of public housing, Finnerty said.

"People who live in public housing are not different. They are intelligent people. Their character is the same as the people who live in non-public housing."

The job of a housing authority in a city the size of New Bedford (just short of 100,000 people at the last census) is not a small one.

There are some 4,355 government-supported housing units in New Bedford that were either directly or indirectly under Finnerty's management—more than 2,500 federal and state units, and an additional 1,600-plus Section 8 vouchers for private housing.

Finnerty, who worked for 13 years as a teacher and coach in the Fairhaven school system, originally thought he would preside over the housing authority for a comparatively short period. A political appointee of popular former Mayor John Markey, he thought he would return to public education, perhaps as a principal or superintendent.

(Finnerty, by the way, was one of the founding members of the board that built Greater New Bedford Regional Vocational-Technical High School and is a former trustee at both UMass Dartmouth and South-eastern Massachusetts University.)

But at the housing authority, Finnerty said there were always important projects proceeding and he wanted to oversee them to completion.

"I saw it (the public housing stock) as really an investment for the city," he said. "And it was definitely needed."