

most importantly, the students themselves. He served as the District's representative in staff contract negotiations, oversaw budget decisions, coordinated the recruitment, selection and assignment of teachers, principals and other personnel and put his imprint on every aspect of life and learning in the Jefferson Elementary School District.

As is the case in school districts across our country, Superintendent Rizzo was asked to do the impossible—educate a diverse student population in an environment of dwindling financial resources, all the while staying focused on preparing them to achieve to their utmost ability in an increasingly competitive world.

To do this, Matteo relied heavily on the skills he gained as an Assistant Superintendent, Principal, Vice-Principal and teacher—all within the Jefferson Elementary School District. His unsurpassed institutional knowledge and commitment to bettering the lives of young people will be sorely missed and not easily replaced. Fortunately, he leaves his successor with a legacy of excellence and community involvement that can be built upon in future years.

Mr. Speaker, Matteo Rizzo is a living example of the benefits of public education and the fruits of hard work. A product of local schools, he is a graduate of San Francisco State University, where he received a Bachelor of Arts in Mathematics, his California Teaching Credential and two Masters of Arts—one in Education and another in Educational Administration. He has been honored at every step of his career, including earning a "California Distinguished School" award for Fernando Rivera Middle School in 2001, while serving as the school's principal.

Mr. Speaker, Superintendent Rizzo has certainly earned his retirement. On behalf of the Congress of the United States of America, I wish to thank him for his exceptional service to our nation and wish him only the best as he now has time to travel with his amazing wife, Clydie, play a lot more golf, do a little more duck hunting and, as rumor has it, learn to play the guitar.

Matteo Rizzo, simply put, is a good man who spent his entire professional career doing good for his community. There's no need to tell that to the thousands of children he educated, or his son, Matthew, and daughter-in-law, Jill, but the rest of America can benefit from knowing that extremely capable and committed professionals like Matteo Rizzo show up at school districts across this country every day with no other goal than to move our country forward, one student at a time.

It is for these reasons and more that I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Superintendent Matteo Rizzo for his service.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF FORMER TEXAS GOVERNOR BILL CLEMENTS

HON. JEB HENSARLING

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 2, 2011

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, today I wish to pay tribute to a true Texas trailblazer, Governor William "Bill" Clements.

After the loss of his family farm during the Great Depression, a young Bill Clements went

to work as an oil-field roughneck, no doubt shaping him into the legendary man and governor Texas would come to know and love. Working his way from roughneck to CEO, the invaluable lessons he learned along the way led him to the White House as deputy secretary of defense for Presidents Nixon and Ford.

In 1978, he came home to a Texas politically dominated by the Democrat party to run for governor and, in an upset victory, he became the first Republican elected since Reconstruction. Bringing this experience to the office, Governor Clements changed business as usual in the state by demanding sound budgeting and management policies, taking a tough stance on crime and working toward education improvements. After losing his first re-election bid in 1982, Clements returned to the Governor's Mansion four years later for his second and final term. Governor Clements' hard work and dedication built a firm foundation for Texas's future, and is the reason Texas has remained the successful economic model it is today.

After retiring from public life, Governor Clements made his home in Dallas where he spent his days supporting the Texas treasures he loved so much. He was an avid supporter of the Boy Scouts and contributed generously to the organization. Perhaps one of his most significant contributions was the land he and others worked hard to obtain for the Scouts in Henderson County—known today as "The Clements Scout Ranch." As an Eagle Scout and Representative of Henderson County, I am especially thankful for Governor Clements' dedication to Scouting. I know that, because of his time and effort, generations of Scouts in and around Henderson County will enjoy many summers filled with camping, fishing, hiking and horseback riding.

We will always remember his infectious love for Texas. Bill Clements truly embodied the Lone Star spirit. While he will be missed, his legacy will live on in the hearts and minds of all Texans.

PLUMMERS LOCAL UNION 210 ANNUAL APPRENTICE GRADUATION BANQUET

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 2, 2011

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sincerity and respect that I offer congratulations to several of Northwest Indiana's most talented, dedicated, and hardworking individuals. On Friday, June 3, 2011, the Plumbers Local Union 210 will honor the graduating class of 2011 at the Annual Apprentice Graduation Banquet, which will be held at Tiebel's Restaurant in Schererville, Indiana.

At this year's banquet, the Plumbers Local Union 210 will recognize and honor the 2011 Apprentice Graduates. The individuals who have completed their apprentice training in 2011 are: Bruce Bigbie, Christopher Dodrill, Jacob Fredericks, Derek Gatlin, Robert Gorka, Travis Hamilton, Mario Hodalj, Joseph Hull, Brian Juris, Robert Piekarczyk, William Schuitema, Eric J. Smith, Jacob Wellsand, and Daniel Wydro, Jr.

Northwest Indiana has a rich history of excellence in its craftsmanship and loyalty by its

tradesmen. These graduates are outstanding examples of each. They have mastered their trade and have demonstrated their loyalty to both the union and the community through their hard work and selfless dedication.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in congratulating these dedicated and hardworking individuals. Along with the other men and women of Northwest Indiana's unions, these individuals have committed themselves to making a significant contribution to the growth and development of the economy of the First Congressional District, and I am very proud to represent them in Washington, D.C.

TRIBUTE TO MR. SYLVAN SIEGAL

HON. CHARLES A. GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 2, 2011

Mr. GONZALEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Sylvan Siegal, a San Antonio native who bravely fought in the front lines of World War II. Last month, I had the honor of presenting the Bronze Star Medal to Mr. Siegal's brother—64 years after Sylvan Siegal should have received it for his combat service as an Army infantryman in World War II.

During World War II, Sylvan Siegal served in Rifle Co. "B" of the 406th Regiment of the 102nd Infantry "Ozark" Division which helped obliterate the Nazi army in central Germany.

After Sylvan died this past September, his brother, Ben Siegal, found his brother's Army documents among his belongings. It showed Mr. Siegal had earned the Combat Infantry Badge and was awarded the EAME Campaign Ribbon with 2 Bronze Stars, the Victory Ribbon, 2 Overseas Service Bars, Army Occupation Ribbon and the Good Conduct Medal.

Mr. Siegal passed away this past September, at the age 84. He is buried next to his beloved parents, Louis and Bluma Kagan Siegal.

Because Mr. Sylvan Siegal was proud of both his Jewish heritage and his service to our country, Ben Siegal chose his synagogue, Rodfei Sholom, for the medal presentation where Rabbi Aryeh Scheinberg delivered the following remarks:

When the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, and the United States declared war on Japan and Germany, American Jewish men and women responded to their country's call for the armed forces.

During the course of World War II, 550,000 men and women of Jewish faith served in every branch of the armed forces of the United States.

Twenty-two Jews attained senior rank in the Armed Forces—18 were generals, 6 were major generals, 12 were brigadier generals, 1 was vice admiral, 2 were rear admirals, and 1 was a commodore.

The total number of Jewish war casualties was 38,338; 11,000 Jews were killed, 7,000 in combat.

Approximately 26,000 Jewish men and women in uniform received citations for valor and merit. The number of awards totaled 49,315, including 3 Congressional Medals of Honor, 66 Distinguished Service Crosses, 28 Nag Crosses, 41 Distinguished Service Medals, 244 Legions of Merit, 1,434 Silver Stars, 2,047 Distinguished Flying Crosses, 191 Soldier's Medals, 28 Navy and Marine Corps Medals, 4,641 Bronze Star Medals, 13,212 Air Medals, and 14,550 Purple Hearts.

Today, we honor the heroism and patriotism posthumously of Sylvan Siegal, but we also pay tribute to the unsung heroism and patriotism of the American Jewish servicemen of World War II.

Before these men could engage the true enemy, they had to battle anti-Semitism while trying to enlist and later, when confronting the prejudices of their fellow soldiers who believed Jews were cowards, poor soldiers, and poor leaders. These Jewish GIs would go on to prove themselves in battle, but first they would be forced to fight for their comrades' respect as soldiers.

Dietary restrictions presented a challenge to traditional Jews. They were "eating Ham For Uncle Sam". "Uncle Sam" virtually ignored the ancient dietary restrictions of Jews, and many had to eat ham or starve.

Jewish service in World War II transformed Jewish world views. The transformation began during military training where many Jews broke out of their insular ethnic world and discovered the diversity of America.

Serving in World War II made American Jewish soldiers feel both more Jewish and more American. Many anti-Semitic soldiers were also racist. The seeds for the Black-Jewish alliance of the 1960s were sown during World War II.

Jews were fighting not just for their country, but also for the fate of European Jewry. Their Jewishness resonated as they searched for European Jews while on leave and then saw their worst fears confirmed in the emaciated bodies at the concentration camps.

Prior to the War, both Judaism and Catholicism had been outsiders to the American dream. Judaism assumed an American legitimacy unanticipated at the start of the war. Protestantism, Catholicism, and Judaism were deemed to share common values that made them the religions of democracy. Acceptance of the Judeo-Christian tradition in the armed forces would force Protestants to share the Christian label with Catholics and to include Jews as equal partners in America.

For post-war generations, the experience of the war changed the generation that fought it and helped launch the civil rights movement, the Great Society, and America's rise to global predominance.

For the Jewish people, patriotism, sacrifice and justice were the cherished ideals of a people who seek peace, but they were ready and are ready today, to sacrifice and pay a very great price for real peace.

May that peace come speedily in our time.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Mr. Sylvan Siegal for his dedication to our country, the military and to his faith.

RECOGNIZING THE CAREER OF NANCY JONES AFTER 36 YEARS OF SERVICE TO CONGRESS

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 2, 2011

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to recognize and thank Nancy Jones upon her retirement from the Congressional Research Service after 36 years of service to Congress. Ms. Jones has worked with issues regarding the rights of individuals with disabilities since she began her career at CRS in 1975, the same year the Education for all Handicapped Children Act, now the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), was enacted. She has been part

of every reauthorization of IDEA, working on issues relating to attorneys fees, the provision of services to infants and toddlers, and even the change in the name of the statute. In addition to work during reauthorizations, Ms. Jones has worked with congressional staff to provide insight regarding the implications of other statutes on the education of children with disabilities. For example, she analyzed the implications of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funds for these students, especially regarding the maintenance of effort provisions in IDEA, and she has been a part of bicameral, bipartisan briefings in preparation for the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) reauthorization.

In addition to education issues, Ms. Jones worked on the enactment of the first major civil rights act for individuals with disabilities, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), and in the more recent ADA Amendments Act (ADAAA). Prior to the 1990 enactment of the ADA, she participated in regular meetings with bipartisan staff thinking through how the ADA could be structured to best protect the rights of individuals with disabilities while not unduly burdening private entities. Because of her work, she was thanked in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD and was privileged to attend the White House ADA signing ceremony. Following enactment, she continued to inform Congress on the Supreme Court decisions about the ADA, and the regulatory and enforcement issues under the ADA. She wrote numerous reports and memoranda and assisted staff in understanding the Supreme Court decisions which were the impetus for the ADAAA and the implications of proposed legislative language.

After Hurricane Katrina, Ms. Jones worked extensively with staff on the question of emergency protections for individuals with disabilities. During another emergency, the H1N1 influenza pandemic, she analyzed the implications of the pandemic on employment issues for individuals with disabilities as well as issues regarding the provision of scarce medical resources.

Ms. Jones has also worked extensively on issues relating to genetic discrimination which ultimately resulted in the Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act (GINA). She analyzed whether ADA protections extended to genetic disorders, especially those that have not manifested, and addressed other issues unique to GINA.

This June, Nancy Jones will retire from CRS after 36 years of service. I commend Ms. Jones for her distinguished career and her dedication to ensuring a fully-informed legislative process, especially in matters involving the rights of individuals with disabilities. In any area where she was involved, the development of Federal law and the effectiveness of congressional oversight were well-served.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2012

SPEECH OF

HON. STEVE ISRAEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 1, 2011

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under

consideration the bill (H.R. 2017) making appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2012, and for other purposes:

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Chair, the Federal Emergency Management Agency's homeland security grant programs are dangerously underfunded in the legislation we are considering today. I rise in support of the amendment I have joined my friend and colleague from New York in offering which would restore funding to these critical programs.

When we debate and pass bills that fund the functions of the federal government, we have to make real decisions about what we believe are the priorities of our nation. In this bill, we see where funding for critical homeland security programs fall. In this bill, House Republicans have decided to cut more than \$1 billion from current funding from programs that go toward rail security, port security, and the Urban Areas Security Initiative. In this bill, House Republicans cut \$420 million for grants to firefighters and first responders.

Mr. Chair, I agree that we have to make tough decisions when it comes to funding the federal government. But balancing the budget on the backs of our nation's firefighters and first responders and at the expense of the security of our communities is irresponsible.

So, what are the Republicans' priorities? They choose to eviscerate funding for critical homeland security programs in order to fund tax cuts for big oil companies. They tell local fire departments that the federal government just can't afford to support them anymore, but then turn around and make sure that oil companies, who could collectively make more than \$140 billion in profits this year, are protected from paying their fair share.

Mr. Chair, those might be the priorities of the House Republicans, but they are not the priorities of the American people. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this important amendment and letting our nation's firefighters and first responders know that we are standing up for them here in Washington while they are standing up to protect our communities back home.

REVEREND PHARIS EVANS 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKEY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 2, 2011

Mr. VISCLOSKEY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure and admiration that I stand before you today to honor and congratulate Reverend Pharis D. Evans on his 50th Anniversary as Pastor of Clark Road Missionary Baptist Church in Gary, Indiana. I can truly say that throughout his many years of service, Pastor Evans has been one of the most dedicated, distinguished, and committed citizens of Indiana's First Congressional District. He will be honored at a lifetime achievement celebration hosted by Clark Road Missionary Baptist Church on June 10, 2011.

Reverend Pharis Evans graduated from Haywood High School in Brownsville, Tennessee. His passion and interest in theology grew from the church services he attended as a child, and he knew from a very young age that he was destined to be a preacher. He