

In Hawaii, I have visited dozens of schools and STEM teachers who are working day in, day out to inspire the next generation of leaders. These teachers engage their students through innovative programs like Waianae High School's Searider Productions and robotics initiatives, where our students compete successfully across our islands, nationally, and internationally.

The Hawaii Department of Education's winning Race-to-the-Top plan outlines efforts to increase students' access to highly qualified teachers in STEM and other hard-to-staff subjects. This bill can help supplement Hawaii DOE's efforts.

For his work on this bill in past congresses, I thank my former colleague Congressman Vern Ehlers, Republican of Michigan. Although he retired from his role as a legislator in December 2010, I look forward to his continued contributions as a nuclear physics professor. Thank you also to the other members of the Congressional STEM Education Caucus for their partnership in this and other initiatives to promote STEM Education.

MERCER ISLAND HIGH SCHOOL
MARCHING BAND

HON. DAVID G. REICHERT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 12, 2011

Mr. REICHERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of an outstanding marching band in my district—the Eighth District of Washington—that recently returned from a once-in-a-lifetime trip to London to perform in the invitation-only New Year's Day Parade there. It isn't the first time the band has performed on a grand scale and to a grand audience and it most certainly won't be the last.

The Mercer Island High School marching band, composed of approximately 200 young people, returned from their whirlwind trip to London just a few days ago. And although the winter storms slowed down 87 of the band's members, Mr. Speaker, their performance went off without a hitch. They marched from Trafalgar Square to Big Ben and on to the steps of Parliament. The bells of Westminster Abbey sounded out and the entire experience was, as their director Parker Bixby put it, "surreal."

One of the more notable things about the Mercer Island High School marching band's trip to London, Mr. Speaker, is that this is not the first time the band has performed at such a prestigious event. In 1996, the band performed at the Tournament of Roses Parade in Pasadena and played there again in 2006. What's more, the band will return to Pasadena for the Parade next year, as well. The band's engagements are well documented and internationally known.

The community of Mercer Island, with a population of 22,890, is remarkably supportive of the arts. The City's Arts Council, the Rotary Club, the Schools Foundation, other community groups, and many individuals comprise a community dedicated to young musicians and artists. It is indeed a testament to the community, Mr. Speaker, that the trip to London was even possible. Raising money is never easy, especially in our economic climate. However, the people of Mercer Island generously gave to help make the dream trip a reality.

Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate director Bixby for his tireless efforts, Mercer Island Superintendent Gary Plano for his support, Mayor Jim Pearman and the City Council for their support, and the people of Mercer Island for their generosity. Above all, I would like to thank the members of the band for working every day to create a product that is respected and admired around the world.

NEWTON HOUSING AUTHORITY
HONORS JONATHAN HACKER

HON. BARNEY FRANK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 12, 2011

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, after 39 years of dedicated service in the important cause of providing housing for people in need in our society, Jonathan Hacker is retiring next month as Director of the Newton Housing Authority.

Throughout the period when many in this country mistakenly put excessive focus on pushing homeownership for lower-income people in cases where it was not appropriate, Jonathan Hacker worked tirelessly on behalf of providing decent rental housing for people in that category. As he noted recently, "When I first assumed my position at NHA, our housing portfolio consisted of 226 units of federal public housing located in 4 developments along with 223 units of subsidized housing. Today, the NHA portfolio consists of 1,034 units of affordable housing operated under federal, state, and management portfolios." This feat—more than doubling the number of rental units available—is a rare example, unfortunately, of work by someone who understands the best way in which to respond to housing needs.

Public housing has not been a fashionable cause for many years, and our society has suffered from that. Jonathan Hacker was never deterred by these attitudes from working hard on behalf of people in need, and not just people in that sector but the entire City of Newton benefitted greatly from his work. As NHA Chair Tom Turner said in the announcement of Mr. Hacker's retirement, "Jonathan will be greatly missed. He has an amazing background and work ethic as well as 39 years of housing authority experience."

Mr. Speaker, in the hopes that Jonathan Hacker's example will inspire others to work as he has on the best solution to our housing needs, I ask that the statement from the Newton Housing Authority on his retirement be printed here.

JONATHAN HACKER, NEWTON HOUSING
AUTHORITY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO RETIRE

Jonathan L. Hacker, Executive Director of the Newton Housing Authority has announced his intention to retire in February after 39 years with the Authority.

Mr. Hacker began his career with the NHA in 1972 as Administrative Assistant. He was elevated to Assistant Executive Director in 1983 and to Executive Director in 1999.

When asked to reflect upon his career he stated, "When I first assumed my position at NHA, our housing portfolio consisted of 226 units of federal public housing located in 4 developments along with 223 units of subsidized housing. Today, the NHA portfolio consists of 1,034 units of affordable housing

operated under federal, state, and management portfolios. New housing opportunities have always been difficult to obtain in Newton due to factors that we are all familiar with. Our accomplishments have been extraordinary.

"We have received over 7.5 million dollars since 1992 for capital improvement funding from HUD to renovate and support our federally funded portfolio. Some of the work items include Section 504 handicap modifications at our developments, replacement heating plants, replacement windows, roofs, kitchen and bath modernizations, new fire alarm systems, balcony and canopy repairs, an emergency fire stopping project, and other improvements that make the lives of our residents easier and safer. During the initial years of the federal capital improvement program, these grants were competitive in nature. Our competitive proposals generated HUD grants in excess of 4 million dollars.

"On the State side, funds have been more difficult to come by. However, we managed to accomplish a one million dollar building envelope project, an emergency generator project which provides emergency electricity to our disabled residents at the New Hyde apartments, a replacement window program, building re-siding project, electric baseboard replacement project, drainage and surface improvements to the New Hyde site and have additional projects currently in the planning and design stage. State funded projects that are presently in the process of being federalized (Echo Ridge and Nonantum Village) are receiving significant infusions of funds, which will improve the infrastructure of these properties and enhance the lives of our residents.

"Our real property acquisition program has been amazingly successful, recently yielding 48 units of affordable housing with local inclusionary zoning funding, Community Preservation Act participation, and conventional bank financing. The Newton Housing Authority with the Commissioner's support elected to receive 6 million dollars in cash payments from developers of two luxury developments which would have otherwise provided 9 units of family housing for a finite period of time. Our election to receive cash has created appropriate sized housing conveniently located close to public amenities, which will remain affordable in perpetuity. NHA has demonstrated that it is the low cost producer of affordable housing acquisition in our city. This program creates the quickest path to creating permanently affordable housing.

"On other fronts, great accomplishment and personal satisfaction has come from our actions on behalf of victims of Hurricane Katrina, bringing Habitat for Humanity to Newton, devising an emergency management and evacuation plan for our residents, implementing and upgrading our Information Technology systems, dedicating units in our Wyman Street property for temporary emergency housing, federalizing two state funded developments, being named by HUD as a High Performing Housing Authority on multiple occasions, and being honored in November 1999 when HUD Secretary Andrew Cuomo named us as '... the nation's finest ...' in a Washington, D.C. awards ceremony. We were instrumental in gaining the necessary support from the Nonantum community to allow Nonantum Village Place, a HUD 202 development to become a reality. We have had numerous financial audits including the recently completed FY 2009 A-133 audit which have all been without finding or recommendations.

"We provided much comfort to Mr. Bill Britt, the 'Hermit from Chestnut Hill'. He along with a number of truly homeless individuals residing outdoors received our care

and personal resources. Although for the most part we were unsuccessful in encouraging these folks to obtain our public housing units, we provided clothing, bedding, meals and financial assistance where we could during the coldest times of the year.

"During the blizzard of 1978, we provided food, water, and medical supplies including prescription medications to our residents. Since motor vehicles were not permitted to be on the streets during this emergency we received special authorization to carry out our mission. We made the necessary arrangements with local family owned businesses to open their doors to us, extend credit, and provide emergency supplies so that we could bring sustenance to our residents.

"There have been so many important accomplishments over the years, each that impact our residents. It would not be possible to highlight them at this time."

Mr. Hacker acknowledged the current members of the NHA Board of Commissioners for their commitment, dedication, and professional manner in which they have approached their positions. "Howard Haywood, Rick Kronish, Mary Panaggio, Jeff Sacks, and Tom Turner have each made a difference in the lives of those under our umbrella. It is, after all, about those under our care. I am pleased with the recent appointment of Rick Kronish to our Board as the representative of organized labor. Rick's background in finance and his affiliation with the New England Council of Carpenters will be an asset as the Newton Housing Authority moves forward.

"As I move into retirement, I am comfortable knowing that I have done the best job possible in my capacity of Executive Director. I leave the Newton Housing Authority with solid financial reserves, a caring and dedicated staff, and innovative and progressive programs in place. The overall excellent health of the Newton Housing Authority will afford my successor the ability to move forward with the strength to address the challenges that lie ahead."

When asked to comment on Mr. Hacker's retirement, NHA Chair Tom Turner stated, "Jonathan will be greatly missed. He has an amazing background and work ethic as well as 39 years of housing authority experience. I am hopeful that his relationship with the NHA can continue on some level going forward."

Mr. Hacker plans to spend more time with his family, including two wonderful grandchildren, improving his golf game, enjoying the outdoors and developing new interests.

IN HONOR OF CAPTAIN ROLAND
SALCER

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 12, 2011

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Captain Roland Salcer, the longest working policeman in Ohio's history. Captain Salcer retired on January 1, 2011 from the Cleveland Heights Police Department after 60 years of dedicated service.

Born on December 27, 1924, Captain Roland Salcer was raised in East Cleveland and knew at an early age that he wanted to work as a policeman. Before achieving his goal of becoming a police officer, Captain Salcer served as a sergeant in the U.S. Army's tank corps for three years during World War II. During his stint in the Army he fought in the historic Battle of the Bulge.

On January 1, 1951 Captain Salcer began his career with the Cleveland Heights Police Department as a third-class patrolman. For the past 33 years he has served as a captain. During his tenure with the Cleveland Heights Police Department, Captain Salcer formed Ohio's first suburban police narcotics unit, played an integral role in a 1971 drug bust, and only used his firearm once. He has a stellar reputation as a reliable officer who has always treated people with dignity, fairness and respect. Not only is Captain Salcer the oldest and longest working police officer in Ohio's history, he is also the second longest working officer in the country's history.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor of Captain Roland Salcer. At the age of 86, Captain Salcer has served and protected the people of Cleveland Heights with courage for 60 years.

HONORING THE CAREER OF MINNESOTA TWINS PITCHER BERT BLYLEVEN

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 12, 2011

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize former Minnesota Twins pitcher and 2011 inductee into the Major League Baseball Hall of Fame, Mr. Bert Blyleven.

Mr. Blyleven pitched for 22 years at the major league level, including 11 seasons as a member of the Minnesota Twins. During his career, he amassed an astonishing 3,701 strikeouts and used his magnificent curveball to help pitch two teams to World Series victories, including the 1987 Minnesota Twins.

Since 1996, Bert has been a proud member of the television broadcasting team for the Minnesota Twins and has delighted hometown fans with his color commentary.

Mr. Blyleven is a mainstay of the Minnesota sports community and his election to the Hall of Fame is long overdue. He is hereby circled.

HONORING WILLIAM (BILL)
NESMITH

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 12, 2011

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor William, Bill, Nesmith, who will retire from his position as Hillsborough County's fire chief on January 15, 2011.

Mr. Nesmith has provided Hillsborough County with 41 years of service in the fire community. After spending 24 years with Tampa Fire Rescue, he joined the Hillsborough County Fire Rescue as assistant chief in 1994 and just 2 years later became fire chief.

Under his leadership, the Hillsborough County Fire Department merged with Hillsborough's Emergency Medical Services to become Hillsborough County Fire Rescue, which he oversaw. Hillsborough County Fire Rescue saw immense growth after this, more than doubling its number of firefighters.

During Chief Nesmith's tenure as Fire Chief, eight new fire stations were opened and

equipped with state-of-the-art equipment. In addition, he was instrumental in ensuring that all engines and ladders were staffed with paramedics, providing Hillsborough County's residents with the highest level of pre-hospital care.

Mr. Nesmith has a quite impressive repertoire of accomplishments that coincide with his career. He was able to continue his formal education, receiving a bachelor in arts and a master in arts in industrial technology education from the University of South Florida. He served on numerous boards and committees, including the International Association of Fire Chiefs and Florida Fire Chiefs' Association, and has been the recipient of the Harvey Grant Excellence in Rescue Award and Hillsborough County's Distinguished Service Award.

Public servants like Mr. Nesmith keep our communities safe in our most pressing times of need. His talents will be missed, and I wish him the best in the future.

JAMES MANNING, JR.

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 12, 2011

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the service of Mr. James Manning, Jr., to the people of Neptune, NJ. Mr. Manning stepped down from his position on the Neptune Township Committee on January 1st of this year after 15 years of dedicated and uncompromised service to the people of his hometown and the people of Monmouth County and our great State of New Jersey.

As a lifelong resident of Neptune, Jim, as he is known to his friends, joined the Neptune Township Committee on January 1, 1996, as one of the youngest elected officials in the history of the Township. But this was not the first act of public service for Mr. Manning. Jim was already living the words of the great President Abraham Lincoln who said, "He has the right to criticize who has the heart to help." By the time of his first successful election, he had already served on a number of municipal boards and worked in many campaigns and volunteer organizations. His election was recognition and reward for his service to the residents of the Township; recognition which was reinforced five more times as he continually won reelection no matter the political environment.

Mr. Manning during his 15 years of service was honored by his peers to act as mayor in 1998, 2003 and in 2007. He also served numerous times as deputy mayor and police commissioner and served on many boards as a governmental representative and liaison to departments such as Administration, Finance, Police, Courts and Public Safety as well as the Board of Health and Welfare. He also made great strides in increasing the service while controlling the costs associated with the Department of Public Works to which he served as liaison during his entire tenure on the Township Committee.

But as any great public servant, his service did not define him but was a compliment to the individual. A native of Neptune and son of Flo and James Manning, Sr., Jim worked for 12 years for Jersey Central Power and Light and today is employed serving the citizens of