

Domestic Water Operations in 1990 and was named Chief—Water Resources and Rights Officer in 1992. That position included overseeing Irrigation Operations, Water Rights and Domestic Water Operations. He was responsible for overseeing the construction and operation of the new domestic water facility that MID completed in late 1994.

He had previously held positions as water division manager for the City of San Luis Obispo from 1985 to 1990 and as water treatment operator and treated water supervisor for Stockton East Water District from 1978 to 1985.

As General Manager of MID, Mr. Short has been actively involved in water policy matters at the local, state and federal levels. In the late 1990s, he was instrumental in the development of the Vernalis Adaptive Management Plan (VAMP), a 12-year program intended to protect San Joaquin River fall-run salmon; to gather information on the effect of San Joaquin river flows on delta environmental conditions and water supply operations, and; to provide flows from the Tuolumne River and other San Joaquin Tributaries to meet California's 1995 Water Quality Control Plan. Mr. Short played a major role in the development of the San Joaquin River Agreement to provide a framework for implementation of VAMP, which began in 2000, and he led non-federal implementation of the program as Coordinator of the San Joaquin River Tributaries Group Authority, an organization representing local water agencies on the Stanislaus, Tuolumne, Merced and San Joaquin Rivers.

In 2006 and 2008, Mr. Short worked closely with Senator Dianne Feinstein and Members of the San Joaquin Valley Delegation in the House to draft provisions for the San Joaquin River Restoration Settlement Act to protect the water supplies and operations of "Third-Party" agencies like MID during implementation of the San Joaquin River Restoration Settlement. He has continued to advocate for the interests of local public water agencies in the San Joaquin River Basin as a leading member of the San Joaquin River Tributaries Association.

Mr. Short also has been a leading voice on policy matters for public owned electric utilities in the Central Valley and throughout California. He is the former President of the California Public Utilities Association (CMUA), an 80-year-old organization that represents consumer-owned utilities before the California Legislature and regulatory bodies. While serving on the CMUA Board of Directors as its President, Mr. Short led a reorganization of CMUA to improve its effectiveness in representing the interests of public power agencies. He continues to serve on the CMUA Board of Governors.

Mr. Short also currently serves as Chairman of the Transmission Agency of Northern California (TANC), a joint powers authority composed of 15 public power agencies. TANC is the Project Manager and largest participant in the California-Oregon Transmission Project, a 340-mile-long transmission line that brings power to California from the Pacific Northwest to improve the reliability of California's electric grid. Mr. Short joined TANC in 2003 as MID's Commissioner and was elected Chairman in 2008.

In addition, Mr. Short is the President of M-S-R Public Power Agency, an entity organized in 1980 by MID, Silicon Valley Power and the City of Redding Electric Utility to acquire elec-

tric generation and resources for its member agencies. In June, 2012, Mr. Short was invited by the House Committee on Energy and Commerce to testify on behalf of M-S-R and the Southern California Public Power Authority at a hearing about implementation of Federal Clean Air Act regulations.

After his retirement from MID, Mr. Short will serve as Executive Director of the San Joaquin Tributaries Authority, an organization formed in 2012 to represent local water agencies on the Stanislaus, Tuolumne and Merced Rivers.

Mr. Speaker, please join Mr. Costa and me in honoring Modesto Irrigation District's General Manager Allen Short on his retirement and thank him for his exemplary leadership and service to the District.

MY FINAL SPEECH IN CONGRESS

HON. DONALD A. MANZULLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 27, 2012

Mr. MANZULLO. Mr. Speaker, it's difficult for me to come to the floor today after 20 years in Congress and say "goodbye" to my constituents and fellow colleagues.

When I was 10 years old, I decided I wanted to be a Member of the United States House of Representatives. I want to thank everybody for making possible my boyhood dream. After I graduated from law school, I immediately settled in a town of 3,500 people, Oregon, Illinois, the county seat of Ogle County. I raised beef cattle on a small farm, and at age 38 met Freda, the woman who changed my life dramatically.

In 1990, I ran for Congress and lost in the primary. I decided I would not run again, until Freda encouraged me to fulfill that boyhood dream. In 1992, I won the March primary and the November election against incredible odds. How this unknown country lawyer, with no political experience and who lives outside a town of 42 people, could get elected to Congress is a testament to what we call the "American Dream."

During the Freshmen retreat in Baltimore, Kay Cole James, who later became President George W. Bush's Director of the Office of Personnel Management, warned us that if we ever took for granted the magnificence of the great monuments in Washington—the U.S. Capitol, the Lincoln, Jefferson, and Washington monuments—then it was time to leave. Every time I've seen those monuments—now thousands of times after 20 years—I've thought of Kay's wise counsel. And I've never grown tired of seeing them and what they stand for.

Swearing-in day, the first week of January of 1993, was overwhelming. I saw my name on the voting board and saw mom and Freda in the gallery. Our three kids were on the floor of the House with me. As the time came for us to raise our right hands to be sworn in, my life paraded in front of me within a few seconds: the little 10-year-old boy dreaming of this very moment, the virtually unbeatable odds to get elected, the unspeakable honor of becoming a Member of the House of Representatives, the lives given on battlefields to preserve this country's government, the people who had served from the time of the First Congress under the Constitution.

On swearing-in day, our family made a special trip to view the Emancipation Proclamation at the National Archives, where it was on display only for a few days. We had to get permission to get in before regular hours. Just the five of us stood in front of that document, and my heart pounded. I was from his State. He gave his life to protect the God-given freedom of others.

(The newspaper article written about that experience with the Emancipation Proclamation caught the eye of Loretta Carter Haynes, whose family members generations ago were slaves in Washington, D.C. For years she had been trying to get the National Park Service to ring the bells in the Old Post Office in downtown Washington to commemorate the District of Columbia emancipation act of April 16, 1862, which predated the more famous proclamation by Lincoln six months later. Our office intervened, and today those bells ring faithfully every April 16).

As the Speaker started the ceremony and asked us to raise our right hands and repeat the Oath, my eyes were flooded and my voice cracked as I tried to repeat the words of office, but was unable to voice them because of the awesomeness of the occasion. The kids looked at me then and at the next nine swearing-ins, when the same thing happened every time. This, perhaps, was one of those monuments of which Kay Cole James had spoken.

Committee Assignments are very important in Congress, but I chose two committees that many Members shy away from: Small Business, because I had been raised in small business my entire life and could relate to the people running small businesses, and Foreign Affairs, where I had developed an interest in international relations, especially Asia, when I studied at American University in Washington between 1964 and 1967. Four years later, I was also appointed to what is now known as the Financial Services Committee.

It's hard to imagine the significance of my choosing Small Business and Foreign Affairs committees, especially since few Members ever ask for them as their first choice. I eventually became the Chairman of the Small Business Committee in 2001, where I expanded the services of the Small Business Administration while cutting unneeded personnel by 25 percent and its budget by nearly \$300 million dollars over the course of my six-year term. Because of my interest in Asia and service on Foreign Affairs, the Speaker appointed me as the first Chairman of the US-China Inter-parliamentary Exchange.

There was an Exchange meeting in Beijing between me and President Jiang Zemin in 2003. As we were discussing various issues, I asked myself and prayed how I ended up with this great honor of representing the House of Representatives.

People have asked what I consider to be the most memorable events of my career. Was it interacting with presidents? Meeting a certain foreign leader? No: it has been the opportunity to mentor students and many of my young staff. In November of this year, I received a note from a constituent who also attends the same church as I do in Leaf River. He had helped in our 2012 primary. He wrote to me thanking me for a conversation I had with him in November of 1999 while he attended an annual Youth Conference I hosted. In his letter to me, he stated: "I shared with you some of the struggles I was experiencing

as a new Christian in a hostile high school environment. Your words of encouragement touched me deeply, and you wrote me a note in my little book that I have kept for almost 13 years. I scanned this note today and wanted to send it to you as a way of saying thank you for being a mentor to me, both when I was just a kid in high school and now as an adult who is interested in a career in public service. Your model for serving the people of the United States as an extension of your service to God is something worthy of great respect and admiration."

He then attached a copy of the note I had written him: "November 19, 1999. Adam, continue to believe that people who really care need to stay involved, even when circumstances dictate the opposite. Be of good cheer. God Bless. Donald Manzullo, United States Congress."

I've always believed that God has a purpose and a plan for every life. After the 2012 primary, Freda and I received a letter from a lady who attends our church in Leaf River: "I know God has a plan for your lives so I'm not going to say I'm sorry about the outcome of the election—'cause I'm not. It's just time to put your fishing boat and nets away, and 'Follow Him.'"

Where He leads, I don't know.

In closing, my mind goes back to my dear, fellow Illinois congressman, Abraham Lincoln, who, in his Gettysburg address, stated: "The world will little note, nor long remember what we say here, but we can never forget what they did here. It is for us the living, rather to be dedicated here to the unfinished work which they who fought here have thus far so nobly advanced."

Years from now no one may remember the many times I spoke on this House floor or the causes I championed. People might look at my portrait hanging in the Small Business Committee hearing room and wonder, "Who is he?" But the answer is simple. We all have a part in Lincoln's unfinished work. I am just one man, whose deep love for this country caused him to leave his private sector job and enter into a life of public service. For that great honor, I will always be grateful to the citizens of the 16th Congressional District of Illinois who allowed me to serve on their behalf. I encourage all Members to truly remember whom they represent: not a political party; not organizations but people.

TRIBUTE TO MARY JESSIE GONZALEZ ROQUE

HON. CHARLES A. GONZALEZ
OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, December 27, 2012

Mr. GONZALEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life of a very special woman, Mary Jessie Gonzalez Roque, known by her friends as "Susie." She was an inspiring community leader, a trusted staff member, and a dear friend who is sadly no longer with us.

As all Representatives know, good staff makes a Member, and they are essential to the operations and effectiveness of Congress. Susie was a valued employee of mine who retired after thirty-three years of dedicated service to the 20th District of Texas.

Susie's parents immigrated to the United States from Mexico before she was born so

that they might have a piece of the American dream. They raised Susie, their first born, and her four siblings in San Antonio. Susie exhibited her value of education throughout her elementary, high school, and college careers. She parlayed this love of education and her skill at helping others into a job as a teacher at Burbank High School in San Antonio during the 1970–1971 academic year.

In 1971, Susie obtained a summer job in the District Office of my father, the late U.S. Congressman Henry B. Gonzalez. She was hired full-time to handle casework for the 20th District of Texas and her summer job turned into a thirty-three-year career. Susie expressed pride in working for my father, a notable figure in Texas and U.S. politics. He was celebrated in San Antonio as being a man who gave a voice to those who could not speak for themselves. Susie was vital to my father's efforts in this endeavor because she worked in close contact with people who could not navigate through the often convoluted systems of federal bureaucracies by themselves.

I was blessed to be elected to represent the 20th District of Texas in 1998. Like my father before me, I recognize the value of providing good constituent services to those whom I represent. Therefore, I hired Susie to continue in her casework position so that she could continue to provide important services for constituents. Her many accomplishments led me to promote her to be my District Office Director.

Additionally, Susie was a leader in our community and an incredible advocate for Mexican-American women. She was one of the founding members of the Mexican American Business and Professional Women's Club of San Antonio. Throughout her life she fought to help Mexican-American women achieve equity in the workplace and the community.

In the five and one-half years that Susie worked for me, she proved herself invaluable to me, my staff, and the constituents of the 20th District of Texas. I am sincerely proud to count myself among those who have had the opportunity to know and work with Susie. She was part of the Gonzalez family. She was there not only for the ups and downs of political life, but she also shared in our family's joys and sorrows through the years. Her enduring dedication to serving the 20th Congressional District will continue to set the standard for service to our community. Susie enriched all of our lives and that is why we mourn her today and will greatly miss her tomorrow.

COMMENDATION OF JEANNINE CAMPAU PALMS

HON. HANSEN CLARKE
OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, December 27, 2012

Mr. CLARKE of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, today I honor the contributions of Jeannine Campau Palms.

Ms. Palms has dedicated her life to preserving a safe and clean environment for future generations and working towards justice for all people. Among her many accomplishments, the creation of the Buhr Park Children's Wet Meadow is particularly noteworthy. The Buhr Park Children's Wet Meadow is a group of wet meadow ecosystems in Buhr

Park, Ann Arbor, Michigan. The meadows preserve habitat for local plants and wildlife, filter stormwater runoff, and serve as an educational site for both children and adults.

The Buhr Park Children's Wet Meadow is one example of Ms. Palms' life's work. A life committed to creating sustainable communities, promoting social justice, and preserving our nation's natural resources.

H.R. 1845, THE MEDICARE IVIG ACCESS ACT

HON. SANDER M. LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, December 27, 2012

Mr. LEVIN. Madam Speaker, I support this bipartisan legislation, H.R. 1845, but I must express concern about once again violating regular order in bringing this bill to the floor today. Neither the IVIG Access Act nor the Strengthening Medicare and Repaying Taxpayers (SMART) Act went through the committee process, thus depriving Members of the opportunity to discuss these policies in an open forum.

One consequence of this lack of dialogue is that this bill does not provide any funding to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to implement the new Medicare Secondary Payer rules, something that could have been corrected in committee were Members able to do so. This is yet another example of placing additional burden on an already woefully underfunded administrative agency.

HONORING ROBERT NEES

HON. JEFF DENHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, December 27, 2012

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with my colleague, Mr. COSTA, to acknowledge and honor Robert Nees, Turlock Irrigation District's Assistant General Manager for Water Resources, who is retiring on December 31, 2012; and to thank him for his dedicated 33-years service to the District.

Established in 1887, the Turlock Irrigation District, TID, was the first publicly owned irrigation district in the state. In 1893, TID built La Grange Dam on the Tuolumne River in partnership with Modesto Irrigation District, MID, to divert water into their canal systems. In addition, TID operates Don Pedro Dam, Reservoir and Power House, facilities that it owns jointly with MID. Today, TID provides irrigation water to more than 5,800 growers on 150,000 acres of farmland and serves electricity to 100,000 accounts.

Mr. Nees joined TID in 1979 as the District's Public Information Officer and developed TID's first legislative and public affairs program. In 1993, Mr. Nees became TID's Water Resources and Public Affairs Administrator, taking on responsibility for all of TID's water-related issues, and in 1995 he was named as TID's Assistant General Manager of Water Resources and Regulatory Affairs. Mr. Nees' current title is Assistant General Manager of Water Resources and his responsibilities include overseeing TID irrigation operations and working with local, state and federal agencies