

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

on issues affecting the District's water supply and hydroelectric operations.

In 1995, Mr. Nees helped negotiate a settlement agreement with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, FERC, MID, the City and County of San Francisco, CCSF, conservation groups and state and federal agencies. The agreement included minimum stream flow schedules at La Grange Dam to benefit fish; a program to monitor Chinook salmon populations and habitat in the Tuolumne River; and programs and activities to enhance habitat in the Tuolumne River downstream of Don Pedro Dam.

The following year, Mr. Nees developed and implemented a communications plan for TID and participated in the development of the 1996 Fourth Agreement with the City and County of San Francisco that apportioned costs among CCSF, MID and TID arising from the Districts' responsibilities as FERC licensees for the Don Pedro Project hydroelectric facilities.

In 1998, Mr. Nees represented TID on the San Joaquin River Group Authority during development of the Vernalis Adaptive Manage-

ment Plan, VAMP, and the San Joaquin River Agreement, which together established and implemented an alternative means of meeting the San Joaquin River flow objectives contained in the State Water Control Board's 1995 Water Quality Control Plan for the San Francisco Bay/Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Estuary. Initiated in 2000, the 12-year VAMP program also included protective measures for fall-run salmon and studies of how different San Joaquin River flow levels affect delta resources and water supply conditions.

Mr. Nees led TID's voluntary effort to develop a groundwater management plan that included mitigation of overdraft conditions, as well as conservation, recharge, and conjunctive-use activities. When state law made the program mandatory in 2011, Mr. Nees oversaw TID's effort to comply with the requirements for agriculture water use efficiency and improved water measurement and conservation.

Mr. Nees also has been TID's lead on a variety of other complex water supply, operations and environmental compliance matters for the District. These include overseeing develop-

ment of TID's municipal water treatment system, including the 2000–2002 installation of an infiltration gallery in the river to serve both as a future diversion point for a treatment facility for domestic water, and provide more river flow in the critical portion of the Tuolumne River below La Grange Dam for fish habitat.

Since 2009, Mr. Nees has worked on the relicensing by FERC of the Don Pedro Project. The current hydroelectric license expires in April 2016. Bob assembled a relicensing team consisting of TID, MID and outside consultants, and Bob has lead the team through all the key steps in the relicensing process, which is now nearing its conclusion.

Those of us who work on California water issues will miss Mr. Nees' expertise and his calm and steady hand.

Mr. Speaker, please join Mr. COSTA and me in honoring Turlock Irrigation District's Assistant General Manager for Water Resources, Robert Nees on his retirement and thank him for his exemplary leadership and service to the District.