

the House, the very first vote I cast was the vote to elect Tip O'Neill Speaker of the House in 1977. I had the honor of serving with Tip for ten years—his entire tenure as Speaker, which was the longest continuous term of any Speaker since the first Congress met in 1789.

Tip served in public life for 50 years, including 34 years as a Member of Congress. As Speaker, Tip worked with both Democrats and Republicans as a champion of working families. He was a master legislator who dedicated his entire life to Massachusetts and our country. Tip found joy in rebuilding communities, restoring neighborhoods, and helping families get back on their feet. He never tired of helping the middle class, helping students with student loans, and protecting the hard-earned benefits of seniors. Tip was an incredibly insightful public servant with a spirit of service who truly enjoyed the work of the American people.

The squawking of politicians in Washington may have been Tip's weekday passion, but the squawking of birds on the Cape is what brought him weekend peace.

The sweeping arm of the Cape reminds me of Tip's outstretched hand, greeting everyone he met.

Tip was a giant of American politics. While he made famous his "All politics is local" approach to public service, Tip's influence also was felt on the international level. One of his greatest accomplishments was crafting a peace agreement between rival factions in Northern Ireland. He, along with our late friend Senator Ted Kennedy, worked together to develop the "St. Patrick's Day declaration" condemning violence in Northern Ireland.

A public service powerhouse at the state, federal and international level of American politics, Tip embodied the values we strive for as servants of the People's business. As an Irish-Catholic politician from Boston, I am proud of Tip's successful international negotiations that helped to pave the way for peace in Northern Ireland. As an American, I feel privileged to have served with such an historic guardian of America's working families and middle class. And as a citizen of Massachusetts, I am pleased to introduce this bill to forever recognize a great defender of the natural beauty of Cape Cod.

HONORING THE 110TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNION GOSPEL MISSION TWIN CITIES

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 19, 2012

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the 110th anniversary of the Union Gospel Mission in the Twin Cities.

The Union Gospel Mission Twin Cities was founded in Saint Paul, Minnesota in 1902. After starting out as a refuge for the homeless and the downtrodden, they now serve as a beacon of hope for not just the homeless, but the jobless, lost, addicted, and battered.

Over the years, the Mission has expanded their operations from a small clinic off Jackson Street, to now include rescue homes for single mothers, opening learning centers, career development centers, child care centers, and medical clinics. As the community evolved, so

did the Union Gospel Mission to meet the needs of the community.

During the Second World War, Americans throughout the country were doing their part, and the men and women at The Union Gospel Mission Twin Cities were no exception. In 1942, the Mission created a day nursery for mothers, not only allowing these women to make sure their children were cared for, but allowing these same women to work in their communities as well.

Today, Union Gospel Mission Twin Cities is helping many Minnesotans by giving them the tools to find jobs, especially to those who have to overcome barriers to do so. One example is the WorkNet Career Development Program in the Twin Cities, which has helped hundreds of Minnesotans by providing access to the training, guidance, and tools needed to find and keep a job in a market where it has been increasingly difficult for many to do so.

The Union Gospel Mission Twin Cities provides direct assistance to those in need, in addition to the many different volunteer opportunities that give people an opportunity to give back to their community.

IN HONOR OF THE 2012 MAKE A DIFFERENCE DAY WINNERS

HON. MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 19, 2012

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, today, I would like to acknowledge the great work of the volunteers of Yardley, Pennsylvania, especially the students at Pennsbury High School who have been selected as one of the 2012 Make a Difference Day winners. Make a Difference Day is a celebration of the power of neighbors helping neighbors. Created by USA Weekend, this annual day of service mobilizes more than three million volunteers to create change in their community.

This group of outstanding volunteers from Yardley has made a substantial impact on their community by conducting a book drive and stocking the shelves of the library at the Feltonville Intermediate School. The leader of the project, Neha Gupta, founded Empower Orphans, a non-profit that has used \$325,000 in donations and grants to clothe and feed impoverished Indian children, create a sewing center, and set up libraries at four different schools.

But even within a few miles of her home in Bucks County, Neha, now 15, sees children in need. In the months leading up to Make a Difference Day, Neha and a group of volunteers gathered 3,000 titles and bought colorful furnishings for the library. Then, on Make a Difference Day, the team cleaned up the library, decorated it and stocked the shelves. Since October's project, Neha has started an Empower Orphans club at her high school and plans to hold a Make a Difference Day Project every year.

I want to congratulate Neha and the students of Pennsbury High School and thank them for their service and dedication to our community. I am honored to represent you in Congress.

TRIBUTE TO DR. MALCOLM PORTERA, CHANCELLOR OF THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA SYSTEM

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 19, 2012

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Dr. Malcolm "Mack" Portera, who recently announced his well-deserved retirement after leading the University of Alabama System for more than a decade. He was the fifth chancellor and the longest serving in the System's history.

In March, Mack Portera officially retired as Chancellor of the University of Alabama System, which includes the school's three campuses in Birmingham, Huntsville and Tuscaloosa.

Dr. Portera has a long and distinguished association with the University of Alabama, also holding the title of Vice President of External Affairs as well as interim president of the Birmingham and Huntsville campuses.

Over the years, Mack Portera's contributions to the University, higher education and business development in Alabama have been considerable. Even before he assumed the top leadership post at the University, Dr. Portera was already involved in top-tier business recruitment efforts in the state of Alabama, including Mercedes Benz.

Under his leadership as Chancellor of the University of Alabama System, total enrollment expanded from 45,000 to 58,000 students. Over the same period, the total budget for the three campuses more than doubled—increasing from \$2.1 billion in 2001 to \$4.6 billion today.

Prior to becoming Chancellor, Dr. Portera was the 16th president of Mississippi State University, and in 1996, he launched a successful business development and strategic planning company.

In 2003, he was inducted into the Alabama Academy of Honor, a group of 100 living Alabamians elected on the basis of service to the state.

Dr. Portera's impact has been felt both within and beyond the University System. He also serves on the Board of Directors of Alabama Power Company and in leadership roles for the Birmingham Business Alliance, the Riley Foundation, Southern Research Institute, the University of Alabama at Birmingham Health System, the West Alabama Chamber of Commerce, the Bryant-Jordan Scholarship Foundation, Operation New Birmingham, the University of Alabama at Birmingham Research Foundation, and the University of Alabama at Huntsville Foundation. He is the former chair of the Council of Presidents of the Southeastern Universities Research Association and Vice Chair of the Alabama Research Alliance.

Dr. Portera received his undergraduate and master's degrees from Mississippi State University and a Ph.D. in Political Science from the University of Alabama.

Not one to divert from his life-long devotion of giving to the community he loves so much, Dr. Portera plans to remain in Tuscaloosa offering his services as a part-time teacher.

I join the people of Alabama in extending to Dr. Portera our sincere gratitude for his tireless service to the University of Alabama System and to our state. His legacy is a strong

one and there are countless examples of where his service has benefitted the entire state and nation. May Mack and his lovely wife, Olivia, enjoy a happy and rewarding retirement with their children and grandchildren.

IN RECOGNITION OF DIANE LILLY

HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 19, 2012

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a dedicated and courageous citizen from my district in Massachusetts. Diane Lilly, a resident of Duxbury, will be retiring as a Trooper First Class from the Massachusetts State Police after 26 years of exemplary service.

Diane was born on December 13, 1956 in Dorchester, Massachusetts. She graduated from Cardinal Cushing High School in South Boston in 1974 and the University of Massachusetts, Boston, in 1980. Six years later, she graduated from the State Police Academy and began her long career of service to the state. Her work did not slow her passion for education or justice, however, as she graduated from Westfield State College with a Masters in Criminal Justice in 1990.

Diane comes from an extraordinary family of civil servants and community leaders, so it is no wonder she has chosen such an admirable career path. Her father, Leonard, was a Boston Police Officer and retired as Chief Court Officer in Boston Municipal Court. Her sister, Janet, also went to work at that court for many years and her brother, Michael, has been a corrections officer at Suffolk County House of Correction. Two of her other brothers, Lenny and Brian, have both worked as police officers in Massachusetts, while her brother, Kevin, runs the heart and lung machines during open heart surgery at Cape Cod Hospital.

Between 1987 and 2001, Diane worked out of the Norfolk County State Police Office. During this time she was instrumental in the Salvi and Sampson case that put a dangerous and prolific criminal behind bars for more than 30 years. She then began working with the Plymouth County Homicide Unit, where she was able to play an important role in the Matthew Cody cold case and the Magnarelli murder case. Since 2005, she has been a member of the Diversion Investigative Unit working on prescription drug abuse cases.

Bay Staters are safer because Diane—and her colleagues—have had the courage to take on the most dangerous issues facing our community.

As Diane retires after such a commendable life of public service, she will be able to spend some much deserved down time with her three dogs, Dermott, Maggie and Josephine.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor Diane Lilly on this remarkable occasion. I ask that my colleagues join me in wishing her a great retirement and many years of happiness with her family and dogs and thank her for making Massachusetts a safer place.

RECOGNIZING THE 90TH ANNIVERSARY OF TWITCHELL TECHNICAL PRODUCTS

REP. MARTHA ROBY

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 19, 2012

Mrs. ROBY. Mr. Speaker, I stand today to recognize the 90th anniversary of Twitchell Technical Products—a thriving business in Southeast Alabama.

Mr. E.W. Twitchell founded E.W. Twitchell, Inc. nine decades ago. First established in Unionville, Connecticut, the company later relocated in 1930 to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. In 1945, the company came home to Dothan, Alabama, where its headquarters remain today. To date, Twitchell provides jobs that support nearly 300 families around Dothan. In our area, this company is a staple in the local economy and a cornerstone of the local community.

Mr. Speaker, without question, the number one issue that affects our nation and my home state of Alabama is the health of our economy and the ability to create new American jobs. I am especially aware of this fact from the many discussions I have had with small business owners and employers throughout the district. I was privileged to recently have such a discussion with representatives from Twitchell last month.

During a time when too many employers have been forced to shrink their workforce or even close their doors, I was encouraged to hear about Twitchell's achievements. Through innovation, Mr. Twitchell achieved success by changing and adapting to the needs of the market. Mr. Speaker, that is what the free market is all about. Free from government interference or unnecessary regulation, private companies adjust to the demands of the market and remain competitive. When that happens, both employees and consumers benefit.

For example, four decades ago the company acquired a local yarn extrusion venture that specialized in PVC coated yarns. The yarn weaves into a fabric used for everyday products, such as window shades, athletic goods, and outdoor furniture. The fabric continues to be Twitchell's best selling product, keeping the company in high-demand as it is one of only two manufacturers of PVC coated yarn and woven products in the U.S.

Here in Congress, we regularly discuss the many barriers that prevent job creation, such as costly federal regulations that stand in the way of private sector growth. My House colleagues and I are passing legislation to repeal these burdensome federal rules. We want to encourage small business owners who work hard to invest in their employees and their products, not discourage them. The House has passed nearly 30 pro-growth jobs-bills to reduce the mountain of federal regulations that limit an employer's ability to create jobs. We should never forget: government does not create jobs; the private sector creates jobs.

An economy built to succeed is an economy that is built on a foundation of small business entrepreneurship. Operating on the principles of persistence, innovations, and hard work, Twitchell is a model of American enterprise. It

is a privilege for me to stand here today to honor the legacy of Twitchell and to recognize the many dedicated employees who have made the company a success through the years. I congratulate Mr. Twitchell and his family for reaching this milestone, and look forward to the centennial celebration.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating Twitchell on its 90th anniversary and in wishing the company many more decades of success.

A TRIBUTE TO DOCTOR JOHN BYRD

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 19, 2012

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the retirement of Dr. John Byrd as the President of Simpson College in Indianola, Iowa.

This month, President Byrd announced that he will be retiring at the conclusion of the upcoming 2012–2013 academic year as Simpson's 22nd president. Dr. Byrd has been involved with higher education in numerous ways for more than 30 years and has been Simpson's president since 2005. Over his long career, Dr. Byrd has acquired valuable experience in academic services, planning and strategic services, institutional research, student affairs, financial aid and enrollment management. Dr. Byrd originally received his bachelors and masters degrees from the University of Missouri-Columbia, before earning his Ph.D. in health education from Southern Illinois University.

It goes without saying that President Byrd will certainly be missed on the Simpson campus. It was through Dr. Byrd's leadership that Simpson initiated a new strategic planning process to accompany new faculty initiatives. President Byrd's legacy will be felt for years to come through his work to increase diversity on campus as well as overseeing the college's plans for building renovation and construction. Dr. Byrd will leave Simpson next year with a completed Kent Campus Center, expanded Blank Performing Arts Center, updated Pfeiffer Dining Hall, as well as a new activities quad well under way.

Outside of Simpson, Dr. Byrd is known for his extensive involvement in the community, most notably the Indianola Rotary Club. Dr. Byrd also serves his community in his capacity as a member of the Village Advisory Council, Greater Des Moines Committee, as Secretary of the Board for the Iowa College Foundation Board of Governors, and as Chair of the Executive Committee for Iowa Campus Compact.

I want to thank President Byrd for his many years of service to the students and employees of Simpson College. It is an honor to represent all the great people of Indianola in the United States Congress, and I know that my colleagues in the House will join me in wishing Dr. Byrd, and his wife Nancy, happiness and good health as they enter this new chapter of their lives together.