

ON THE RETIREMENT OF SHERIFF
WARDIE PERNELL VINCENT, SR.

HON. G. K. BUTTERFIELD

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 1, 2013

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate my good friend, constituent, and public servant, Sheriff Wardie Pernell Vincent, Sr. upon his retirement from service as Sheriff for Northampton County, North Carolina.

Wardie Vincent was born on November 4, 1947, to Eugene and Norene Vincent in the town of Henrico, North Carolina. He attended Northampton County public schools and graduated in 1966 from historic Gumberry High School. On October 5, 1967, Wardie enlisted in the United States Army and courageously served the United States of America for two years. He was Honorably Discharged from military service and returned to his hometown where he and his wife Betty would rear three wonderful children.

Wardie Vincent's service in the United States Army introduced him to the important work of law enforcement and the value in maintaining safe communities. He applied the skills learned in the Army to excel in his desire to be a law enforcement officer and pursue training at Halifax Community College where he received a degree in Criminal Justice.

Wardie Vincent's first job out of college was as security guard with the Migrant and Seasonal Farmworkers' Association in the Town of Rich Square. He later became an undercover officer working with Bertie, Hertford, Warren and Martin Counties on a variety of critical assignments targeting drug use and gang activity. It would become clear that Wardie Vincent's unmatched skills and experience would lead him to seek the office of Sheriff for Northampton County.

At age 51, Wardie Vincent was elected Sheriff of Northampton County. He would be reelected three more times to this high office, most recently in November 2010 when he ran unopposed. Sheriff Vincent has served a total of fourteen years as the High Sheriff of Northampton County and has overseen the expansion of this office through the hiring of additional Deputy Sheriffs and a strategic crack-down on illegal drugs through the county's drug taskforce. He also modernized the Sheriff's office by securing grants and improved budgeting for updated technology and law enforcement tools. There is no doubt that the Northampton County has been made safer through the visionary leadership of Sheriff Wardie Vincent.

Sheriff Vincent and his wife Betty look forward to spending more time with their three children—Kimberly, Kenisha, and Wardie, Jr. and their five grandchildren—Saige, Kai, Omani, Myles, Caleb, and Kenadi.

Mr. Speaker, the retirement of Sheriff Wardie Pernell Vincent, Sr. will leave a great void in Northampton County. But I know he will continue to play a vital role in his community as a leader, advocate, and friend to his fellow citizens. I ask my colleagues to join me in offering our sincere appreciation for Sheriff Vincent's forty years of public service and best wishes upon his retirement.

TRIBUTE TO LILLIAN KAWASAKI

HON. JUDY CHU

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 1, 2013

Ms. CHU. Mr. Speaker, this month, the Los Angeles Area lost a wonderful leader, the environmental community lost a true champion, and I lost a dear friend. Lillian Kawasaki had served the city of Los Angeles since the early 1990s, and while she wore many hats throughout her years in public service, one thing remained constant among them all—she fought to make life better for those around her.

An elected member of the WRD Board of Directors since 2006, Lillian was the first Asian-American ever appointed a department chief in Los Angeles. Lillian began heading the Los Angeles City Environmental Affairs Department in 1990 under Mayor Tom Bradley, and she worked tirelessly to improve the air quality in Los Angeles, spearheading the Los Angeles City Clean Air Plan and the City CEQA Thresholds Guidelines and Environmental Justice Program. In addition, Ms. Kawasaki served on the California State University LA Foundation Board for more than 5 years. She had recently joined the California Small Business Development Center Network Advisory Board.

Lillian was determined to clean up the city that she loved. Beginning as a researcher at UCLA, she worked on wastewater nutrient recycling programs before moving over to the Port of Los Angeles's Environmental Management Division. As a scientist, Lillian understood that the air we breathe and the water we drink affects our communities, our children, and our future, and her passion for a higher quality of life of Los Angelinos is what drove her to public service. She dedicated her life to cleaning up the Los Angeles Area, and her work will be felt for generations to come.

The daughter of Japanese-Americans who were interned during World War II, Lillian was determined to commemorate this part of American history, and served as the co-chair of the Friends of Manzanar, a National Historic Site. Lillian was determined to give back to her community, and was a member of the Women's Foundation Donor's Circle, where she championed financial literacy for women and girls in her community.

Lillian left us not long ago, but her impact lives on. The lives she touched are forever changed for the better, as are the communities she dedicated her life to improving. Her life's work provides an inspiration for all of us. So, today, I bid farewell to a friend, a community leader, and a true role model to so many.

HONORING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF STRATFORD LANDING ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 1, 2013

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Stratford Landing Elementary School in Alexandria, which is proudly celebrating 50 years of providing an excellent education to the students of Fairfax, Virginia.

Built on land once owned by George Washington, Stratford Landing Elementary School officially opened its doors with Principal Eleanor N. Hollandsworth on September 3, 1963 with an initial enrollment of 301 students in grades one through six. This student population would more than double the next year.

In response to a rapidly growing community and an influx of military families the following year, Stratford Landing underwent its first renovation in 1966, adding an additional hallway of classrooms.

As schools across the Nation began to implement kindergarten classes to comply with the Federal Head Start initiative, Stratford Landing opened its first half-day kindergarten program in 1968.

During the 1970s, Stratford Landing initiated one of the first Gifted and Talented Centers in Fairfax County Public Schools, developed to offer a unique academic program to qualifying students in grades three through six from multiple local elementary schools. Stratford Landing also expanded to include two preschool programs, which supported early intervention for young children identified with autism and developmental delays.

Over the years, the school underwent other renovations to add a gym, music room, day care facility, playground, 10-classroom modular unit, and seven learning environment trailers. It also created an English as a Second Language program to better meet the needs of students.

In 2009, Stratford Landing developed and continues to refine a Discovery Garden, supporting environmental and science studies. The school also began offering a full-day kindergarten program with the last phase-in by Fairfax County Public Schools for the 2011–2012 school year.

Stratford Landing continues to stay abreast of technological changes by adding Smart Board technology to all classrooms, increasing the number of mobile laptop carts, investing in hands-on voting systems, and using other technology tools to support the needs of 21st century learners.

Stratford Landing Elementary School, the parent-teacher association, and the school community continue to work in partnership to benefit student success and achievement both in the classroom, on the school grounds, and through diverse after-school programs. And while the school mascot and student fashions have changed over the years, Stratford Landing Elementary School has remained committed to providing an academically challenging and positive learning environment in which all students thrive.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to take this opportunity to commend Stratford Landing Elementary School as it marks 50 years of providing educational opportunities to the children of Fairfax County.

THE WATER FOR THE WORLD ACT OF 2013

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 1, 2013

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, as America prepares for the holiday season, it is important to pause and reflect on what we can

do for others as well as ourselves. I hope that Congress will give a gift of life, health and hope by helping people around the world with something that most Americans take for granted—safe drinking water.

Nearly 900 million of the world's poorest do not have clean drinking water, and fully 2.6 billion lack access to improved sanitation. This shortfall poses a significant challenge for development and security around the world, reinforcing a cycle of poverty and instability that represents both a humanitarian disaster and a national security threat.

Water-related diseases are particularly brutal in how they target children: 90 percent of all deaths caused by diarrheal diseases are children under 5 years of age, mostly in developing countries. In all, 1.8 million children under the age of 5 die every year, more than from AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria combined. The economic impacts are devastating—inadequate sanitation in India alone costs that country \$53.8 billion, or 6.4 percent of its GDP every year.

What's more, dirty water directly affects every area of development. Children cannot attend school if they are sick from dirty water, and adults suffering from water-borne illnesses overwhelm hospitals and cannot go to work. Hours spent looking for and collecting clean water mean hours not spent adding to a family's economic well-being. In short, the best intentioned efforts at development fail if the basic necessity of clean water is not met.

In this period of good tidings, there is good news with water. The solution to this problem is cheap and relatively straightforward. We don't have to spend millions searching for a cure. Sometimes something as simple as teaching the value of hand washing, or providing access to technology we already have is all it takes to save millions of lives and increase economic development. What we lack is leadership and accountability.

It is time for Congress to act again. The Water for the World Act of 2013 builds on current U.S. efforts to provide those in need with greater access to clean water and sanitation. And in this period of tight budgets, it is important that the Water for the World Act doesn't ask for any increase in funding, but rather improves the effectiveness, transparency and accountability of international aid programs. Given the strains on Federal resources and the depth of need, it is essential that we are able to target our efforts more efficiently.

The Water for the World Act also gives the State Department and U.S. Agency for International Development the tools needed to leverage the investments they are already making by elevating the current positions within the State Department and USAID to coordinate the diplomatic policy of the U.S. on global freshwater issues and to implement country-specific water strategies.

There is nothing more fundamental to the human condition and global health than access to clean water and sanitation. More needs to be done, and it needs to be done well. Taxpayers are rightly demanding better results and greater transparency from foreign aid. This bill provides the tools and incentives to do just that.

MCT INDUSTRIES

HON. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 1, 2013

Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with the gentleman from New Mexico, Congressman BEN RAY LUJÁN, to honor a great New Mexican business, MCT Industries, for its forty-year contribution to the manufacturing infrastructure of the American economy. On this day, we also honor Ted Martinez, the founder of MCT Industries, and the entire Martinez family for their substantial contributions and service to New Mexico and to the United States of America.

To truly comprehend the success of MCT Industries, it is important to first understand the remarkable people behind the company. Born on September 18, 1947, Ted Martinez and his five brothers and sisters grew up in a home with no indoor plumbing. Just like his ancestors who homesteaded the Trujillo land on which he grew up, Ted began working on a ranch at 5 a.m. each morning.

Ted learned of the importance of hard work from his parents, Manuel and Isabel. He watched his parents each work several jobs to support the family. Together, Manuel and Isabel ran a general store, while Isabel also served as the postmaster of the only post office in the area. When Manuel was not working in the general store or on the ranch, he also drove a school bus.

From a young age, Ted had big dreams. Knowing he wanted to do more than run the ranch, he decided to leave home and get trained in welding at the Job Corps in San Antonio, Texas. Although he completed the 12-month program in just six months, Ted could not find a job because of his youth. While looking for work, he lived in his car behind a gas station and ate only one meal a day. Finally, he came upon Eidson Metal in Albuquerque and applied for a job. After a great deal of persuasion and negotiation, the foreman hired Ted. Just two months later, Ted became the foreman of the water tank crew at Eidson Metal.

In 1969, Ted married Anedina, a woman from nearby Garita, New Mexico, whom Ted had known since he was 12. Dina's father, Benerito, served as the foreman of the New Mexico State Highway Department, and kept a ranch of his own, while his wife, Mary, worked as a nurse's aide in Las Vegas, New Mexico. Although Ted and Dina did not have much, their future looked bright. Dina soon became pregnant with their first child.

Even though Ted was working 60 hours a week at Eidson Metal and Dina had a job at the Department of Agriculture, times were tough. Wanting a better life for his family, Ted quit his job when Dina was eight months pregnant with their daughter, Claudine, to start his own business. With \$200 and a welding machine, Ted and Dina set out on their own.

As their workload steadily grew, they decided to formally incorporate a business. On June 8, 1973, Ted and Dina founded Martinez Custom Trailers. Having saved up \$42,000 they were able to purchase five acres of land. It would be another two years before they saved up enough money to construct a building. Living at the shop in their mobile home,

Ted and Dina were able to monitor business around the clock. It was during this time that they welcomed to their home their precious son Bennie. A year after Bennie was born, Dina quit her job at the Department of Agriculture to work full time at the family business.

By 1980, Martinez Custom Trailers ran full-scale production lines of various commercial trailers, and employed 25 people. Ted soon decided to expand from building commercial trailers to building trailers for the federal government. Driven by his profound respect for the military, Ted bid for and won his first federal contract for the Army M353 general-purpose trailer.

Using his Army contracting experience, he bid jobs with Sandia and Los Alamos National Laboratories and successfully landed contracts in the nuclear transportation industry. Martinez Custom Trailers proudly contributed to the nuclear disarmament effort in the USSR by collaborating with Sandia on an inspection trailer for USSR nuclear warheads.

In recognition of Martinez Custom Trailers' success, in 1984, President Ronald Reagan recognized Ted as New Mexico's Small Business Person of the Year.

Business was so successful that, in 1987, Martinez Custom Trailers evolved into a more expansive enterprise, MCT Industries, Inc. Ever eager to expand his federal client base, Ted won a major contract to produce a self-propelled diesel powered U.S. Air Force Maintenance Stand that was slated to be deployed worldwide to service the largest aircraft in the Air Force. With this contract, MCT was able to create even more New Mexican jobs, reaching a height of 240 dedicated employees.

In 1992, 28 years after he had taken a risk by leaving the ranch to enter the Job Corps training program, Ted was inducted into the Job Corps Hall of Fame to celebrate his exceptional career.

After the tragic attacks of September 11, 2001, and the ensuing overseas military involvements, MCT was quickly able to develop and build trailers to support these campaigns. To enable soldiers to rapidly extinguish a fire during convoy operations, the Army needed to field-test two different types of foam fire suppression systems to verify they could perform in combat. In less than four months, MCT designed, built, tested and deployed trailers to Iraq that accommodated both fire suppression systems. Program leaders informed MCT that in less than a week, these systems saved \$1 million in Mine-Resistant Ambush Protected, MRAP, vehicles and more importantly, protected the lives of soldiers.

Ted and the Martinez family have always displayed a fierce commitment to the wellbeing of their employees. In 2003, MCT hosted President George W. Bush. Just before President Bush addressed 4,000 people and honored MCT as an exemplary small business, the family joined him in a roundtable discussion on the vital impact small businesses have on the U.S. economy. When President Bush asked Ted about the secret of his success, without missing a beat, Ted said "my employees."

The new millennium continued to bring blessings to the Martinez family with the birth of the third MCT generation when Diego Dylan Martinez was born on April 21, 2007. His brother Dyson Cruz Martinez quickly followed 22 months later on February 13, 2009.