

officer, in addition to patrol and field training, he was also assigned to the Crime Abatement Team. He led the team to a record number of quality felony arrest and crime prevention efforts.

Captain Burk received promotions to Sergeant, Lieutenant and Captain, and currently serves as the Coordinator of Line Operations. In this capacity he has shaped and directed the Department's Comparative Statistic Model of data-driven policing, directed the campus high visibility campaign, and restructured the Field Training Program for all incoming officers.

All the while, he has worked on various university committees, including the Commencement Committee and Major Special Event Coordination Committee. In serving as Coordinator of Line Operations, he also managed the additional duties of Coordination of Auxiliary Functions, handling budget and grant management, and human resource functions.

Captain Burk has received 52 Letters of Appreciation from citizens, two Presidential Award for exceptional service to the University, a Lifesaving Award, 14 Commendations for outstanding police work, a Merit Award for exceptional service to the department, and a Valor Award for Heroic service. I applaud his career and wish him a wonderful retirement.

HONORING FATHER THEODORE HESBURGH

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 22, 2013

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, seventy years ago, a young man was ordained as a priest of the Congregation of Holy Cross and immediately volunteered to serve as a Navy Chaplain in World War II. At the time, duty to his church and commitments to his studies prevented him from serving in the Navy. Yet earlier this year, Father Theodore Hesburgh finally realized his dream: earning recognition as an Honorary Navy Chaplain.

This honor paid tribute to Father Hesburgh's extraordinary contributions—as a patriot of our country, as a leader of his Church, as a teacher and mentor, as a champion of the civil rights movement. He has been recognized by American presidents from Eisenhower to Obama. President Lyndon Johnson awarded him with the Presidential Medal of Freedom; President Clinton presented him with the Congressional Gold Medal, the highest honor Congress can bestow. These all paid tribute to a life that exemplified and gave meaning to the Navy Chaplain motto: “vocati ad servitium”—“called to serve.”

It is only fitting that Father Hesburgh would be honored by the Navy, which has a rich history with Notre Dame. As he has noted in the past, during World War II, “The Navy came in and kept us afloat until the war was over,” using the Notre Dame campus for the Midshipmen's School, constructing drill halls and headquarters at the school, and building classrooms on the site of what is now the Hesburgh Library.

Father Hesburgh was called to serve his faith and his fellow Catholics. He would take his first job at Notre Dame as chaplain for married veterans and would rise to serve as

President of the University. But what he has embraced most is performing the most basic duties of a C.S.C. priest: saying mass; assisting the needy and giving voice to the voiceless; serving the poor and the abandoned, the hungry and the homeless.

Father Hesburgh was called to serve the future of our country through his leadership in the field of higher education. He led Notre Dame for an incredible 35 years, yet his imprint extended further than a single campus. He demonstrated how to transform Catholic universities into exemplary institutions of higher education in modern times. He championed academic freedom and the pursuit of academic excellence. He has earned 150 honorary degrees, more than any other person in history.

Father Hesburgh was called to serve to advance the cause of human dignity and justice in our society. Appointed by President Eisenhower to the Civil Rights Commission in 1957, he would shine a light on the need for voting rights in the south. He would become known as an architect of the Civil Rights Act. He would find himself standing hand-in-hand with Martin Luther King Jr. at Soldier Field in Chicago, singing “We Shall Overcome”—a photograph of which is proudly displayed in the National Portrait Gallery.

Known as “Father Ted” to many, he understood the purpose behind the call to service, once charging a group of graduates to “be the kind of person who not only understands the injustices of this life, but is also willing to do something about them.” That is what Father Hesburgh has done every day for the past 70 years.

His students have been inspired by his message. Our country has been blessed by his leadership. The people have been strengthened by his presence. We are all grateful that he answered the call to serve.

On the 70th anniversary of his ordination and as we approach his 96th birthday, we know that Americans will long be blessed by the legacy of Father Theodore Hesburgh.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. VICKY HARTZLER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 22, 2013

Mrs. HARTZLER. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, May 21, 2013, I was unable to vote. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows: on rollcall No. 164, “yea;” on rollcall No. 165, “yea;” on rollcall No. 166, “yea.”

SARAH BOOTHBY

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 22, 2013

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Sarah Boothby for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Sarah Boothby is an 8th grader at Mandalay Middle School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Sarah Boothby is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Sarah Boothby for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

HONORING MR. RODRIC J. MYERS UPON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT

HON. CANDICE S. MILLER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 22, 2013

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, today Ranking Member ROBERT BRADY and I join together on behalf of the House of Representatives to pay tribute to Mr. Rodric J. Myers, Director of House Garages and Parking Security with the Sergeant at Arms, on the occasion of his retirement on June 14, 2013. Rod has served this institution with distinction for over 40 years—both as an officer with U.S. Capitol Police and with the Office of the Sergeant at Arms. His capable guidance, trusted mentorship, and steady leadership have been invaluable assets not only to his staff and colleagues, but to every Congressional office.

A native of Indianapolis, Indiana, Rod Myers joined the U.S. Capitol Police in June 1972. He both began and ended his career with the U.S. Capitol Police in the Capitol Division, first as a uniform patrol officer in and around U.S. Capitol, and eventually as the Administrative Specialist for the entire Capitol Division. Rod was responsible for time and attendance for approximately 100 officers, the daily roster assignment of officers, as well as working an assignment of his own outside of his administrative duties. Rod was—as everyone who ever worked with him will attest—the man who made the trains run on time. His 29 years of service with the department were marked by a remarkable devotion to detail and a demonstration of professionalism in the highest degree.

During Rod's long tenure with the U.S. Capitol Police he had the honor of working ten Presidential Inaugurations, as well as 40 State of the Union addresses. Needless to say, he had the opportunity to meet and greet numerous dignitaries and heads of state over the years, but perhaps his most cherished moment was a visit by his beloved Dallas Cowboys football team. Rod—being the U.S. Capitol Police administrative specialist—got this assignment himself.

On July 9, 2001, Rod was appointed Director of House Garages and Parking Security with the Sergeant at Arms. Throughout the past 11 years, he has worked tirelessly to establish parking protocols and procedures that enhance both the safety and security of Members and staff. Rod has crafted a comprehensive on-going training program for all Garages and Parking Security staff, coordinating with the U.S. Capitol Police and the Office of the Attending Physician to ensure that his staff is

prepared for any eventuality. He has worked closely with the Committee on House Administration over the years concerning every facet of the House parking regulations. Rod is also involved in continuity and contingency planning efforts for the Sergeant at Arms.

Rod Myers' profound compassion and deep commitment to this institution are second to none. From events such as 9/11 and the anthrax incident, to an earthquake, his gentle nature always projects a sense of assurance and calm to all who encounter him. His leadership by example and an ability to motivate are benchmarks in a long and distinguished career.

Please join me in commending the outstanding service of Mr. Rodric J. Myers, to the Congress of the United States and congratulating him on his retirement. We wish you well in all your future endeavors.

IN MEMORY OF MR. LONAL XELA
ROBINSON

HON. AL GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 22, 2013

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I would like to honor the memory of a gifted young man and community servant, Mr. Lonal Xela Robinson. With exceptional skill and purpose, he dedicated his life to helping those around him and enlightening his community through the arts.

Mr. Robinson was born in Champaign, Illinois on June 24, 1979. His parents instilled within him a love for community service and an evident compassion for all of God's creatures. While in high school, Mr. Robinson achieved the prodigious feats of writing the play "CHANGE" for the National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women's Club, Inc, as well as serving as vice president in charge of programs for the organization. His play, "CHANGE," won first place in a national convention held in New York City, judged by Broadway stage casts. Mr. Robinson later attended Langston University where he distinguished himself further by founding the Langston University Theatre and Drama Club, as well as traveling the country doing mission work with the Wesley Foundation and United Methodist Church.

After graduating college, Mr. Robinson went on to lead and write for the Houston Sun. Under his leadership, the newspaper expanded its presence and embarked on bold community initiatives in Houston. He led the organization in its adoption of Emancipation Park to present back-to-school rallies and talent shows for children in the community. He started the Houston Sun Presents program, which offered educational, instructive, and entertaining programs and services to the community. Along with his work in the community and leadership of the Houston Sun, Mr. Robinson wrote two yet-to-be published works of poetry, "Pieces of Me" and "Poetry for all Seasons." He also served in various organizations: ombudsman for the National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women's Clubs, Inc. and the National Council of Negro Women. He also received a number of awards for his contributions to the community, including the 4-H Club Spirit Award, Million Men

March Award, and the Houston Sun Beacon of Light: Men of Valor Award.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Robinson will be missed dearly by a multitude of family and friends. This family includes his mother, Dorris Ellis Robinson; brother, Sirrod Robinson; two sisters, Shuronda and Dorcaus Robinson; as well as a loving extended family. Mr. Robinson will be remembered in Houston as a thoughtful and intelligent young man who used the prime years of his life to make his community a better place.

HONORING HEROES FOR VICTIMS
2013 CONGRESSIONAL VICTIMS'
RIGHTS CAUCUS AWARDS

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 22, 2013

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, RAINN, Merced's Community Violence Intervention and Prevention Task Force, Michele Steeb, Martha Herm, LaWanda Hawkins, and Suzanne Beaudoin are six selfless individuals and organizations that have changed the lives of innumerable victims around the country.

Recently, the Congressional Victims' Rights Caucus honored these very special advocates and organizations during our annual VRC Awards Ceremony for going above and beyond for victims.

Congressman JIM COSTA and I serve as co-chairs of the Victims' Rights Caucus.

I nominated RAINN, the Rape Abuse and Incest National Network, for the Suzanne McDaniel Award for Public Awareness. Just like Suzanne, RAINN has pioneered efforts in the victims' rights community.

RAINN was founded by my friend Scott Berkowitz. It began with the creation of the National Sexual Assault Hotline and has grown to assist and advocate for victims in a variety of innovative ways. Although Scott is from New Jersey, he's a lot like a Texan, and that is why I respect him so much.

Scott and his organization RAINN do not stop until they reach their goal. And their goal is to prevent sexual assault and serve the victims of this awful crime. RAINN never gave up advocating for the SAFER Act (Sexual Assault Forensic Evidence Reporting Act), a bill to end the rape kit backlog. This organization knows firsthand the importance of testing rape kits in order to bring justice to victims and put perpetrators behind bars. Because of RAINN's unceasing efforts, the SAFER Act was signed into law as part of the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act earlier this year.

RAINN's National Sexual Assault Hotline has served more than 1.5 million victims, and the number of victims affected by RAINN's other services and advocacy are countless. Groups like RAINN turn victims into survivors.

Merced's Community Violence Intervention and Prevention Task Force, nominated by VRC co-chair Congressman JIM COSTA for the Lois Haight Award of Excellence and Innovation, is helping to prevent crime before it happens.

This organization is a collaboration of local leaders formed in 2006 in response to gang related violence in the Merced community.

The Task Force makes Merced a safer place by educating the community about vio-

lence, promoting character development, and providing information for families and youth.

From Gang Awareness Workshops to Merced County's first anonymous "text a tip" line, the Task Force has contributed greatly to the Merced community. Organizations like this Task Force are critical to stopping our citizens from becoming victims.

Congressman COSTA's fellow member of the California Delegation, Congresswoman DORIS MATSUI, a particularly active member of the Caucus recognized a leader in her community, Michele Steeb. Ms. Steeb, the CEO of St. John's Shelter Program for Women and Children in Sacramento received the Allied Professional Award for her dedication. Under Ms. Steeb's guidance, St. John's Shelter Program has expanded into more than just a safe place for women and children but a program to help victims thrive. The unique assistance offered like parenting classes, financial management classes, and on-the-job training empower the victims under Ms. Steeb's care to take on the world. Leaders like Michele Steeb transform the lives of crime victims.

Like Michele Steeb, Martha Herm runs a domestic violence program with innovative, community-based components that have led to the betterment of Peoria, IL for years. Ms. Herm is the Executive Director at the Center for the Prevention of Abuse, which she has lead for many years. The Center for the Prevention of Abuse is well known and highly regarded in Congressman AARON SCHOCK's district. To honor Ms. Herm's leadership, Congressman SCHOCK nominated this hero to victims with the Ed Stout Memorial Award for Outstanding Victim Advocacy. This award honors the memory of Ed Stout, the Director of Aid for Victims of Crime of St. Louis, MO—one of the nation's three oldest victim assistance organizations—who died in 2005 following a 30+ year career of inspiring crime victims and those who serve them.

Through Ms. Herm's efforts, the Center has grown from serving mainly women and children to serving all populations and working to stop violence before it starts. In the words of Mike McCoy, the Sheriff of Peoria County, "Martha Herm is a constant voice for those in need."

LaWanda Hawkins is another one who helps those in need. Congresswoman KAREN BASS nominated her for the Eva Murillo Unsung Hero Award. Ms. Hawkins is an inspiration to her community and mothers around the country.

I won't forget the story Ms. Hawkins shared with us during the award ceremony. One day she was in her car, listening to a story on the radio about a young man that was murdered. She prayed for the young man and his family the whole car ride, only to find out later that it was her own son, Reggie. He had been tragically murdered.

Ms. Hawkins never wanted another family to feel the pain she felt when she answered the phone that day notifying her that the young man she heard about on the radio was her son. She connected with other parents who experienced similar tragedies. They realized that their cases were not being solved, and they were left out of the criminal justice process. Ms. Hawkins knew that this was not right and in 1996, founded Justice for Murdered Children. Through her organization, she provides a variety of services to families of murdered children, including legal assistance,