

Allan's cabinetmaking expertise and craftsmanship are evident in his body of work. He has worked tirelessly alongside other House employees to make the House more secure following the events of September 11 and the anthrax incident of 2001.

His reputation in the shop for light-hearted humor and quick wit made for long-lasting friendships and camaraderie in the shop. He brought a unique brand of comedy and teamwork to the cabinet shop, which serves the House from behind the scenes.

He made a long-term commitment to excellence and improved services to the House community. In addition, Allan's dedication to his craft and customer service skills made him an extremely valuable member of the service team. Allan has dedicated his life to making the CAO and the United States House of Representatives a better place.

After his retirement from the House, he plans to enjoy country living, fishing, and hunting. He also plans to keep busy working in his own shop in southern Maryland.

On behalf of the entire House community, I extend our congratulations to Allan Bowles for his dedication and outstanding contributions to the United States House of Representatives. We wish him many wonderful years in fulfilling his retirement dreams.

HONORING ANTHONY THOMPSON ON HIS RETIREMENT

Mr. DOLD. Mr. Speaker, on the occasion of his retirement on March 3, 2016, I rise to thank Anthony Thompson for over 34 years of outstanding service to the United States House of Representatives.

Anthony began his career with the House, in November 1981, as an apprentice cabinetmaker in the House cabinet shop. Over the next 34 years, he was promoted to various positions, to include lead cabinetmaker, or "third man"; assistant foreman; and eventually became manager of the House cabinet shop. His accomplishments are far too lengthy to list in this tribute; however, there are two examples of his contributions that are worthy of recognition.

Anthony designed and constructed the first offsite House floor furniture set which may be used, heaven forbid, in the event that the House Chamber is unavailable for use. He has been instrumental in the design and construction of all the succeeding sets of furniture as well.

He was also involved in the design and construction of the House floor stenographer's table that sits to my right. The table was designed with new technology in mind, while still matching the original design, look, and feel of the existing dais.

On a more personal note and equally worthy of recognition, Anthony has dedicated his life to making the CAO and the United States House of Representatives a better place. He has passed along his many years of cabinet-

making experience to staff and coworkers so that they can continue the extremely high standards of quality craftsmanship that have come to be expected of the House cabinet shop. Upon his retirement, he plans to use his extraordinary talents continuing to make beautiful, one-of-a-kind pieces of furniture for the private sector.

On behalf of the entire House community, I extend our congratulations to Anthony for his many years of dedication and outstanding contributions to the United States House of Representatives. I am honored to call him a friend, and I wish him all the best in the years to follow.

TRIBUTE TO ANDREW JACKSON LANGUAGE ACADEMY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS) for 5 minutes.

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise to highlight and pay tribute to one of Chicago's most effective public schools, the Andrew Jackson Language Academy.

Andrew Jackson was opened in 1894 to serve children from the crowded tenement community surrounding the Polk Street station, a port of entry for immigrants. That very same year, one of the first public school kindergartens was established in Chicago. Since 1981, this school has offered foreign language instruction to its students.

In 1988, Andrew Jackson Language Academy moved into a new, up-to-date facility. The building is equipped with science and computer labs, a library, media center, and a large outside area for play and gardening activities.

Today 550 students from diverse racial, ethnic, and religious backgrounds attend the school. Students at Jackson receive extensive instruction in Chinese, French, Italian, Japanese, and Spanish. The curriculum not only emphasizes the skill of understanding and using these languages, but also introduces students to the geography, history, and tradition of other cultures. As a result, students are more adequately prepared for the international marketplace and for success in the 21st century.

The Andrew Jackson Language Academy is a well-organized, safe, and orderly school with an excellent student code of conduct, and the dress code has been developed to promote a suitable learning environment. It has a wealth of school spirit, which is promoted through the Merit Club, family reading night, Project Backpack for the Homeless, musical performances, student ambassadors, Big Sisters and Big Brothers, a Chinese painting workshop, and the Weigi workshop. French and Italian shops are ongoing. Japanese students are learning to work in class, and Spanish students from kindergarten through eighth grade are working hard on building their Spanish skills.

The Dads Club at Jackson is very active and sponsors a number of family events such as the annual basketball fundraiser, family skate night, the daddy-daughter dance, and a number of other ways for dads to be involved.

The Andrew Jackson Language Academy has a very strong and actively engaged local school council. Its chairperson is Ms. Angela Bryant; principal, Ms. Marilou Rebolledo; secretary, Ms. Margaret Kempster; members, Mr. Kevin Lopez, Ms. Mary Clare Maxwell, Ms. Tara Roden, Mr. Jeff Sadoff, Mr. Luis Oviedo, and Mr. Stephen Smith.

The parents council at Jackson Language Academy is actively engaged and involved, led by Heather Alvarez, president; vice president, Rubi Alvarez; recording secretary, Emerlie Ilarde; Virgil Nita; and treasurer, Pamela Alfaro.

I commend and congratulate all of those who work to make and keep the Andrew Jackson Language Academy the great Chicago public school that it is.

Someone—perhaps a philosopher—once said: It takes great souls to make great schools. We thank all of those who have been involved in making the Andrew Jackson Language Academy the great school that it is. It takes great souls to make great schools.

A FALLEN OFFICER REMEMBERED

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. EMMER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. EMMER of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in remembrance of fallen St. Joseph, Minnesota, police officer Brian Klinefelter. It has been 20 years now since Brian was killed in the line of duty, and this loss is still felt in our community today.

On a cold night in January, Officer Klinefelter was nearing the end of his shift when he heard of an armed robbery over the radio dispatch and decided to help his fellow officers pursue the robbers. Not long after, Officer Klinefelter was tragically shot and killed in his brave attempt to protect his colleagues and the community he loved.

The men and women in blue are some of the finest this Nation has to offer, and Officer Brian Klinefelter is proof of that. Every morning they put on their uniforms, not knowing if they will safely return to their loved ones at the end of the day. The sacrifices they make are done because of their selfless love of country, community, and neighbors.

The night Brian was killed, he left behind his wife, Wendy; his newborn daughter, Katelyn; along with numerous family members and friends. Wendy and Katelyn, we haven't forgotten you, and we have not forgotten Brian—the incredible life he lived and the brave sacrifice that he made.

□ 1045

FREE HOUSTON METRO HOT LANE ACCESS FOR DISABLED VETERANS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE) for 5 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, this morning I spent some time, and last evening, communicating with leaders of my transit system, Houston METRO, that has received numerous awards; and I applaud them for working very hard, sometimes against odds, to provide mobility for the great citizens of the Houston, Harris County, metroplex area.

I had a particular beef, or a particular issue, that we have been working on since last November, and that is to give disabled veterans in this very vast territory of Texas the ability to ride on what we call the HOT lanes for free.

My premise is simple. When we ask our men and women in the United States to put the uniform on, we ask, with no qualifications, meaning no restraints, that they are expected to defend the United States to the utmost. In the course of that, some fall in battle, lose their lives, or are veterans who ultimately come to their demise by their age and illnesses. Therefore, I think it is enormously important that, when they make a request that helps them in their mobility, whether it is to doctors' offices and family or going back to school, there should be no barriers, no restraints.

So today my METRO board is meeting, and I made contact again, as I did this past week, with the committee, late into the night, to say that there should be no delay, no barrier in allowing those lanes to be used for free by disabled vets.

I want this in the RECORD because I will pursue and persist, even to the extent that an emergency board meeting will need to be called. There just simply is no reason to delay. November, December, January, February, and near March, there is no reason to delay.

I am waiting for the decision, and I will look forward to the Disabled Veterans of America and others reaching out to my office so that together, collectively, we can make sure that not only does this happen in Houston, Texas, but that it be a policy across America.

We should find a way to be able to assist those who have willingly, without any hesitancy, and unselfishly, put on the uniform.

RESPECT FOR THE THREE BRANCHES OF GOVERNMENT

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I want to turn the attention of my colleagues to another issue of justice, and that is the fair existence of and respect for the three branches of government.

This involves vets and nurses and schools and school teachers and families across America. It is a process that the Congress goes through every year.

We call it the budgeting process; and it is an act of Congress and the administration, we hope, working together.

That is the time that the Congress works on the plan for the American people; and it is, of course, the time when the President works on the plan for the American people. It includes reports like this, an economic report of the President. It includes the budget, which is the roadmap for the American people.

Let me be very clear. We are all elected; but there is one person—in this instance, one man—that has been elected by all of the people, and he has submitted a budget.

I would not ever imagine in my tenure in Congress that we would have this Congress overlook a 41-year tradition for the American people, on their behalf, whether you are for it or against it: the right of the representative of the President, in this instance, Shaun Donovan, the President's Budget Director, to make his presentation before the United States Congress.

If I were not standing on this floor, Mr. Speaker, I might simply break down and cry, because I love this institution. I love the constitutional processes documented in the Constitution of the three separate branches of government. We have often disagreed, but we have and should never disrespect.

G. William Hoagland, who was the Republican staff director at the Senate Budget Committee for much of the 1980s and 1990s, now senior vice president of the Bipartisan Policy Center, could not recall a year, since the Martin budget process took effect in the 1970s, when a President's Budget Director was not invited to testify, Republican or Democrat.

While the last budget of an outgoing President is usually aspirational and sets a tone for what he or she hopes will be followed up by, it is not and has not been a time to not see the President's budget. The President's budget is good for education and job creation and national security, and it does not cut, as the Republican budget does, Mr. Speaker, 46 percent in education.

Where is our collegiality?

Shame on us. Let the President's man speak on the budget.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 50 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana) at noon.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer:

Merciful God, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

As we meditate on the blessings of life, we especially pray for the blessing of peace in our lives and in our world.

As You have created each person, we pray that You would guide our hearts and minds that every person of every place and background might focus on Your great gift of life and so learn to live in unity.

May Your special blessings be upon the Members of this assembly in the important, sometimes difficult, work they do. Give them wisdom and charity that they might work together for the common good.

May all that is done this day in the people's House be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. FITZPATRICK) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. FITZPATRICK led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

TEAM VERMILLION'S EFFORTS TO BEAT LEUKEMIA AND LYMPHOMA ARE A FITTING TRIBUTE TO STEVE VERMILLION

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the legacy of a dear friend and long-time public servant, Steve Vermillion, who passed away in 2012 from acute myeloid leukemia.

Steve began his career here in the House in 1986, working for colleagues like JIM SENSENBRENNER and Lincoln Diaz-Balart. He was a strong defender of democracy and human rights, especially when it came to U.S. policy toward Cuba, and he helped cofound the