

"These firemen must have an overwhelming desire to do for others while expecting nothing in return."

Preparation includes twice-monthly training programs in which they have live drills, study the latest videos featuring the latest in fire-fighting tactics, as well as attend seminars where they can obtain the knowledge they need to save lives. Within a year of becoming a volunteer firefighter, most attend the Tennessee Fire Training School in Murfreesboro where they undergo further, intensified training.

When the residents of my district go to bed at night, they know that should disaster strike and their home catch fire, well-trained and qualified volunteer fire departments are ready and willing to give so graciously and generously of themselves. This peace of mind should not be taken for granted.

By selflessly giving of themselves, they ensure a safer future for us all. We owe these volunteer fire departments a debt of gratitude for their service and sacrifice.

TRIBUTE TO SYLVIA LEWIS PARKS

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 16, 1996

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mrs. Sylvia Lewis Parks on the occasion of her retirement from Richland County School District One after 38 years of dedicated and unselfish service to the children of Columbia, SC.

Mrs. Parks joined the school system in 1958 as an elementary school teacher, where she quickly earned a reputation for her superior and innovative teaching style. After just over a decade of classroom teaching, Mrs. Parks began the first of numerous increasingly important positions within the school system, eventually becoming one of the top administrators in the entire system. Some of these positions were: Title One Coordinator; Director of Federal Programs; Executive Director for Development Programs; Executive Director for Development and Planning; and, Acting Associate Superintendent for Elementary Education. Mrs. Parks' most recent position has been Executive Director for Elementary School Services.

In addition to her work with Richland District One, Mrs. Parks has been a consultant to school districts and educational associations across the country including: the U.S. Department of Education, Seattle, WA, Public Schools, the Oklahoma City Schools, and the Fayetteville, NC, School District. She has been a presenter at the Overseas School-to-School Partnership in Gabon and Cameroon, West Africa, the South Carolina Association of Elementary and Middle School Principals, and the South Carolina Education Association.

While keeping a very busy professional schedule, Mrs. Parks has always generously found time to serve her community and to improve the lives of the world at large. She has been a member of the board of directors of the United Black Fund, the Columbia Urban League, and the Midlands Marine Institute. She previously served as president of the Richland County Chapter of the Assault on Illiteracy Program and was a member of the

South Carolina Coalition of Blacks and Jews, the Community Relations Council, the Seventy-Three Breakfast Club, and the Greater Columbia Chamber of Commerce. She is a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority and a former member of Jack and Jill of America, Inc.

Despite the numerous demands on her time, Mrs. Parks has always found time for her family. She is a dedicated wife, mother, and grandmother. She is a friendly neighbor and a warm smile to all who meet her. Over the years, she has served as a mentor to legions of students, teachers, and school administrators. Mrs. Parks is a dedicated member of the St John Baptist Church, where she has been a member of numerous committees and organizations.

Mr. Speaker, Sylvia Parks is a true Renaissance woman. I am proud to represent her in the Congress. While she will be missed at Richland School District One, I am sure her dedication and untiring devotion to our children will never end. I ask that you and the other Members of the House join me in saluting Mrs. Sylvia Lewis Parks as her family, friends, and colleagues gather to celebrate her retirement on Saturday, May 25, 1996, at the Clarion Townhouse in Columbia, SC.

MEDIA OBJECTIVITY

HON. NEWT GINGRICH

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 16, 1996

Mr. GINGRICH. Mr. Speaker, the professed objectivity of this country's mainstream media should be of concern to all Americans as they attempt to assess the vital issues of the day. News tinted with bias clearly prevents citizens from making truly informed decisions. I share with this body the following startling comments by Newsweek assistant managing editor and Washington bureau chief Evan Thomas from Inside Washington, a weekly public affairs show broadcast locally in the Washington area the weekend of May 11 and 12, 1996.

Apparently one member of the media establishment knows bias when he sees it.

There is a liberal bias; it's demonstrable. Boy, if you look at some statistics: About 85 percent of the reporters who cover the White House vote Democratic; they have for a long time. There is, particularly at the networks, at the lower levels, among the editors and the so-called infrastructure, there is a liberal bias.

There is a liberal bias at Newsweek, the magazine I work for. Most of the people who work at Newsweek live on the upper West Side of New York and they have a liberal bias.

I don't think it's so much Washington. It's New York. You have to look at which city we're talking about. It's where the networks are based—where the New York Times is based. I think the greatest liberal bias is amongst the people who work for large major news organizations in New York.

The network White House correspondent who writes for a conservative opinion magazine's bosses are liberal and they're always quietly denouncing him for being a right-wing nut.

The word liberalism is pretty much dead. Therefore, it's not a liberal bias; it's an anti-Republican, anti-right, anti-Christian Coalition bias. That's the bias.

I submit these observations into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD in the hopes they are

kept in mind when the topic of media fairness arises.

ROBERT A. FORTINSKY HONORED

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 16, 1996

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize my close personal friend Robert A. Fortinsky, who, on May 20, 1996, will receive the Distinguished Community Service Award from the Greater Wilkes-Barre Society of Fellows Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith. I am pleased to have been asked to participate in this event, and I take pride in honoring Bob on the House floor today.

In 1913, the Anti-Defamation League of the B'nai B'rith was established to fight defamation based on religious, racial, and ethnic prejudices and to promote education, and a more mature understanding of all humankind. Bob Fortinsky has embraced the principles of the Anti-Defamation League, and through his actions has become most deserving of the organization's Distinguished Community Service Award.

Born in Wilkes-Barre in 1929, Bob experienced a traditional Northeastern Pennsylvania upbringing with a strong commitment to academics. After graduating from Meyer's High School, he enrolled in Penn State university, but his education was interrupted in 1944 when he left college to serve his country in the U.S. Army.

While in the Army, Bob's leadership qualities became evident to his superiors who promoted him to Second Lieutenant. Upon attaining this rank, Bob became the youngest second lieutenant in the Army Chemical Corps. Following his service to his country, Bob returned to Penn State where he graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in chemistry.

Using the resources of leadership and a strong education, Bob established Fortune Fabrics, Inc. in 1949. Since that time he has established several other companies including Wyoming Weavers, Inc. in 1975 and Jij Enterprises, Inc. in 1983. Throughout all of his business dealings, he has always operated his businesses with adherence to the highest ethical standards and a commitment to producing the best quality products.

Bob's leadership is not only evident in his business successes, but in the community organizations and clubs to which he lends his skills and time. In 1972 and 1984, Bob was Chairman of the United Jewish Appeal Campaign, and from 1973 to 1976 he served as the President of the Jewish Community Center of Wilkes-Barre. Bob was Co-Chairman of the Jewish Community Center's Endowment Fund, and in 1985 he became Chairman of Israel Bonds. He also served as President of Temple Israel and later served as Chairman of the Board of Temple Israel. In 1988 he was honored by Wilkes University with the dedication of Fortinsky Hall.

Today, Bob Fortinsky continues to be active in many community organizations and private clubs. He is a Director of the Luzerne National Bank, and a member of the International Textile Society. In addition to being a Trustee of Wilkes University, he is a member of the university's John Wilkes Society. He became a