

A World War II veteran and committed public servant, Pat Castagna began working for the bed and breakfast 18 years ago, after spending 34 years as a community postman for the U.S. Postal Service. He was honored in that position in 1973 for "recognition of efforts beyond the call of duty in bringing credit to the postal service."

Now property manager of the Grandview Bed and Breakfast, Pat has kept the house, grounds, and office running smoothly. His work has contributed to making Grandview one of the best in the area, winner of the 1998 Bed and Breakfast Excellence Award from the South County Tourism Council.

After 84 years, Pat still finds time not only to continue performing his job, but to contribute to the community as well. He was cited for most consecutive years of community service for his work on the Westerly Town Council, helping plan the Columbus Day Celebration for 25 years and serving as a member of a committee to memorialize those who died serving our country.

The Outstanding Older Worker award reflects the characteristics of "leadership, learning, mentoring, and community service," and was created by Experience Works to honor America's senior workforce. The importance of this segment of the workforce should never be underestimated, and Rhode Island is proud to have people like Mr. Castagna still hard at work in our community. On behalf of my home State, I would like to thank Mr. Castagna and all older workers for their dedication to their jobs, and I would like to wish them all great success in the future.

RECOGNIZING PRESIDENTIAL FREEDOM SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

HON. E. CLAY SHAW, JR.

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 28, 2005

Mr. SHAW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the outstanding dedication to community service displayed by ten high school students who were recently awarded the Presidential Freedom Scholarship.

This year's recipients are Maruan Almada of Fort Lauderdale, Jenna Ali of Deerfield Beach, Charity Lamerson of Boynton Beach, Monique Shepherd and Edwin Morales of Boca Raton, Shaina McGehe of West Palm Beach, Aaron Grossman of Royal Palm Beach, Jarrod Matthei of Pompano Beach, Joshua Miller of Parkland, and Stacey Blase of Palm Beach Gardens.

These ten fine young individuals have taken a leadership role in local community service projects and devoted significant time and energy to improving our district. They have each contributed more than 100 hours of service in the last 12 months alone.

Mr. Speaker, today we recognize these ten Freedom Scholarship recipients for their tireless efforts and leadership in working to improve the lives of others in our community. I wish these fine young men and women the best of luck in their future endeavors, with full confidence that their dedication to service will continue to both improve lives and inspire others.

TRIBUTE TO CHIEF ROBERT F. NOLAN ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 28, 2005

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, I am very proud to rise today to join family, friends, and community members in extending my sincere thanks and appreciation to my good friend, Chief Robert F. Nolan, who is celebrating his retirement after thirty-four years of dedicated service. His retirement marks the end of a distinguished career in law enforcement with the Hamden Police Department.

Recent times have brought a renewed public respect for our Nation's law enforcement officials and the very real dangers they face. From the tragic events of Columbine to the devastating attacks of September 11th to the catastrophic destruction of Hurricane Katrina, the skill, dedication and commitment of our law enforcement officials has been tested. From these tragedies lessons have been learned and higher expectations have been made for those who dedicate their lives to protecting our communities. In these times, we have looked to our police officers for guidance and reassurance.

Chief Nolan began his career as a patrol officer with the Hamden Police Department in 1971. In his over three decades of service with the Department, he served in many positions with the utmost of distinction and integrity. Throughout his career, Chief Nolan has always dedicated himself to ensuring the protection and safety of the Hamden community. Attending countless training exercises, workshops, forums, with both local and federal agencies, the Chief always availed himself of the most advanced law enforcement training available. His unparalleled leadership and dedication to law enforcement earned him the appointment of Chief, a rank which he has held for the last seven years.

I have perhaps never been so proud of our law enforcement officials than in the days immediately following September 11th. Chief Nolan along with twenty-two of his officers went to New York City to assist authorities at the police command center. It has been through outstanding efforts like these that the Chief has earned the respect and esteem of his Department, the citizens of Hamden, and all that have had the opportunity to work with him. Every community should be so fortunate.

With all of his work at the Department and in the community, Chief Nolan still made time to be of great assistance to myself and my staff. He has been an invaluable resource to us all and I want to extend my deepest thanks and sincere appreciation for all of his many years of support and friendship.

Chief Robert F. Nolan has demonstrated an unparalleled commitment and has left an indelible mark on the Town of Hamden—he will be missed. As he celebrates his retirement, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to join his wife, Shirley; daughters, Dawn and Robyn; his three grandchildren, family, friends, and colleagues in wishing him the very best for many more years of health and happiness.

AVTEX BOILER HOUSE IMPLOSION

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 28, 2005

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, September 19, 2005, was an historic day for Warren County in Virginia's 10th District. On that Monday, the largest and last major building in the American Viscose (Avtex) plant complex on Kendrick Lane in Front Royal, next to the South Fork of the Shenandoah River, was imploded. The site is now being prepared for redevelopment as a 165-acre technology-oriented business park, 240-acre nature conservancy park, and 35-acre community soccer complex.

The event marked the end of an era for the Front Royal and Warren County area which began over six decades ago. From 1940 to 1989, the Avtex plant was a hub for this community, employing more than 2,500 people manufacturing rayon, polyester and polypropylene fibers for the defense, space and commercial industries. But its closure in 1989, not only eliminated a great number of jobs, it left the site unsuitable for reuse.

Following its closure, the facility was identified by the Environmental Protection Agency as a Superfund site. However, before the EPA could begin its work on cleaning up the site, asbestos and lead-contaminated buildings had to be removed. Since 2000, the Army Corp of Engineers has been partnering with the Environmental Protection Agency, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality, the Economic Development Authority of Front Royal and Warren County and the FMC Corporation, a former owner of the site, in the Avtex cleanup efforts. These partners have done an amazing job of cleaning up this site and preparing for a new use.

Clean-up can be very costly. That's why securing federal assistance for the effort has been a priority for Senator JOHN WARNER of Virginia and myself for many years. However, the initial funding of \$12 million ended up being insufficient to cover the full cost of demolishing the buildings and removing the asbestos. In 2003, Senator WARNER and I were able to help provide an additional \$11 million in federal funds to finish the effort. It would have been unacceptable to leave the project half-done.

Monday was a very emotional day for many who had dedicated years of service to our nation at the Avtex site. While the occasion was tinged with sadness for many former Avtex employees who were on hand for Monday's ceremony, they are hopeful that their former work site can once again be an economic center for the region.

Former Avtex employees were recognized for their contributions over the years with yellow ribbons. Louise Bowers, an 83-year-old town resident, worked at the rayon plant for 46 years, over half of her life. Her father, the late Noah Martin, had a part in the history of this site having hauled sand used in the construction of the plant.

Mrs. Bowers went to work there in 1940, one of 19 young women hired that day. During World War II, she wound motors for the spinning room. She ended up in the "double-deck" or the lower part of the plant, where the syrup-like viscose liquid was poured through platinum "jets" or thimbles, forming tiny filaments