HONORING GERALD R. BENNETT, MAYOR OF PALOS HILLS, IL, 25TH CELEBRATION IN PUBLIC SERVICE

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 1, 2006

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mayor Gerald R. Bennett of Palos Hills, IL. Mayor Bennett has given 25 years of public service to the Palos Hills community.

As a native of Chicago's southwest side, Mayor Bennett attended Brother Rice High School. He then continued his education at Lewis University of Joliet and graduated from the University of Illinois—Chicago.

Mayor Bennett began his public service in 1979 by serving as alderman from the Second Ward of Palos Hills. Upon the completion of his term he was elected as mayor of Palos Hills in 1981, a position he has continued to serve for the past 25 years.

As mayor, Mr. Bennett has transformed the city of Palos Hills into a progressive community which seeks to unite all of Chicago's southwest suburban towns. Because of his exemplary leadership, Mayor Bennett has served as founder and president of the Southwest Conference of Mayors for the past 23 years. He is also the chairman of the Board of Southwest Central Dispatch, an intergovernmental police and fire 911 service.

I ask my colleagues to join me today in recognizing the many achievements of Mayor Gerald R. Bennett. It is my honor to acknowledge Mayor Bennett for his outstanding leadership and commitment to public service, in the city of Palos Hills and the Third Congressional District of Illinois.

HONORING JAMES ''BUTCH'' LANGHORN

HON. TIMOTHY H. BISHOP

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 1, 2006

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize James ''Butch'' Langhorn, an American patriot and good friend, for a lifetime dedicated to serving and defending our nation and the First Congressional District of New York in particular.

Since I was elected to Congress, it has been my honor and privilege having Butch working alongside me in my Long Island office. Butch was recently appointed Special Assistant to the Sheriff of Suffolk County. Although I will miss Butch tremendously, this important and highranking position is a well-deserved opportunity to continue his impressive career on Long Island.

Indeed, Butch is a consummate professional whose diligence and commitment constitute a shining example of public service. His tireless efforts and steadfast dedication have been invaluable assets to our constituent service operation, and I am confident that they will prove equally beneficial to the Sheriff, his office and his jurisdiction.

Time and again, Butch has risen above and beyond the call of duty, going the extra mile to provide the best service possible to our constituents, particularly veterans, many of whom know Butch personally and respect his impeccable record and integrity. I have often said that Butch is the best veteran's staffer in the U.S. House of Representatives. If there is someone better, then I want to meet that person.

As a young man, Butch attended Riverhead High School on Long Island before enlisting in the U.S. Army. He served four years on active duty, including a tour in Vietnam. Shortly after his return, Butch joined the Air National Guard as a technician and was attached to the 106th Air Rescue Wing located at Gabreski Air Force Base on eastern Long Island. Butch was awarded multiple decorations and reached the senior rank of Chief Master Sergeant for his countless achievements, particularly for excellence in managing the base's personnel and finances.

Throughout his military service, Butch was always keenly aware and interested in Long Island's political environment. He was elected to and remains the current Democratic Town Leader of the Town of Riverhead.

Butch's dedication to his community compliments his military record and civilian occupation. He has coached Little League baseball and Pop Warner football, and was awarded the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Memorial Award for the active and positive role that he has played for his church and in his community.

Butch currently resides in Riverhead with his wife, Linda. They have two children, Kelli and Michael; and four grandchildren, Katherine, Kameron, Kyler-Ann, and Danielle.

On behalf of my staff and New York's First Congressional District, I thank James ''Butch'' Langhorn for over four decades of public service, through which a common thread runs—his genuine commitment to his fellow veterans and Long Islanders. I wish him continued success, good health, and the best of luck in the future. Butch will be missed but always remembered with the highest degree of fondness, respect and gratitude.

RECOGNIZING FEBRUARY AS AMERICAN HEART MONTH

HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 1, 2006

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge February as American Heart Month. Heart disease is an increasing issue in today's society. The risk of this detrimental disease can be prevented, if only we stop to recognize the warning signs.

Heart disease, strokes and other cardiovascular diseases are the leading causes of death in the United States. In 2003, collectively these diseases killed 910,600 of our citizens. Moreover, heart disease is the number one killer of women in America. Statistics show that more than 70 million Americans currently suffer from some form of cardiovascular disease. It is critical that we take action now to reduce the number of people who fall victim to these ailments.

As a member of the Congressional Heart and Stroke Coalition, I feel it is my duty to raise awareness of the seriousness of cardiovascular disease. The coalition is comprised of several members of the House and the Senate. Together, we act as a resource center on heart and stroke issues such as biomedical research; quality and availability of care; health promotion and disease prevention. We also work to advance public policy aimed at fighting cardiovascular diseases. I believe in the importance of knowing the warning signs of this condition. More knowledge about this disease increases the chance of survival for our fellow countrymen.

Several things can be done to maintain a healthy heart. The first step is to be screened for heart disease, which includes having cholesterol and blood pressure checked. Next, it is important to start a conversation with health care providers about personal risks of heart disease. Most often, this includes a discussion of the family's history of stroke. Many doctors have advised that quitting smoking, losing weight and becoming more active through even moderate exercise greatly decreases the risk of cardiovascular disease. These are just a few things we can do to help reduce the risk of heart disease. The American Heart Association's website is a great resource for helpful facts, statistics, and warning signs of these impeding conditions. I believe it is crucial to heed these warnings.

Mr. Speaker, the heart is truly a vital organ pumping blood throughout our bodies everyday. I ask that you will join me in promoting heart healthy programs. Together, we will ensure Americans keep their hearts healthy.

CELEBRATING THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF TEXAS WESTERN'S 1966 NCAA BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

SPEECH OF

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 28, 2006

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in celebration of diversity in sports and civil rights in America first pioneered by Texas Western's 1966 NCAA Basketball Championship victory. On its 40th anniversary, I join my colleagues in recognizing the lasting impact this title game has etched into the history of American culture.

The Texas Western 1966 NCAA Championship triumph over the University of Kentucky is to this day acknowledged as the turning point for not only college basketball but American sports in general.

When no other schools in the Southeastern Conference or the former Southwestern Conference would award them athletic scholarships, African Americans had been recruited by and playing for Texas Western since the 1950s.

The university's most controversial move, however, came when the 1966 Miners were the first team in NCAA basketball to have an all-black starting lineup. Winning the title game was perhaps not as a great a feat for Coach Don Haskins as was placing five all-black starters against five all-white starters in 1966.

Haskins' daring insight combined with the players' undeniable athletic talent produced a game that would rupture the social structure of college sports and forever change the face of American sports.