

other functions of the No Child Left Behind law—despite significant research proving that Native children do better in all subjects when taught through the use of Native languages and culture.

Schools have felt pressure from the Bush administration to instead spend resources for Native language and culture on the goals of Bush's No Child Left Behind law. Title VII resources must be focused on Title VII goals—not siphoned off to support other goals of the Bush administration—especially at the expense of Native American children.

Native children have the right to the education they are promised—that means the highest quality education—including instruction in their language.

As a Nation, we must reaffirm our commitment to preserve, to honor, and to teach the living traditions, cultures, and languages of the First Americans who have and continue to contribute to the strength of our Nation as teachers, community leaders, business owners, artists, elected officials, and neighbors—and the brave men and women who have fought in our armed services.

Native Americans have identified the recovery and preservation of their languages as one of their highest priorities. As a country, we have a moral obligation to live up to our commitments to the First Americans.

It is my hope that Congress will do what is right—and recommit our Nation's resources to strengthen Native American languages for all Native people across the entire country.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TODD RUSSELL PLATTS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 28, 2006

Mr. PLATTS. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 178 which occurred on May 22, 2006, regarding H.R. 3858, the Pets Evacuation and Transportation Standards Act, had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

TRIBUTE TO THE 2006 RETIREES OF THE STERLING HEIGHTS FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. SANDER M. LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 28, 2006

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, on Friday, September 29, 2006, the Sterling Heights' Fire Fighters Union will host their Annual Dinner-Dance, honoring their 2006 retirees. This yearly event honors Sterling Heights firefighters for their dedication to their community and recognizes their commendable contributions to the city. I am pleased to be associated with this fine organization and to call many of them my friends.

I rise today to pay tribute to the careers of four retiring firefighters.

Kenneth Hall was appointed as a Sterling Heights firefighter on January 21, 1980. In November of that year, he received his Certificate of Completion for the Extrication and Rescue Training Program. On May 25, 2000, he was presented with the certificate of Spe-

cial U.S. Senate Recognition to commemorate his 20 years of service. In August of 2002 he added to his list of accomplishments by becoming a HazMat Team Member. Ken has been promoted two times in his career: Lieutenant on March 31, 1995, and Captain on September 17, 2001. He retired on January 30 of this year after 26 years of dedicated service.

Tom Lindeman was appointed as a Sterling Heights Firefighter on July 2, 1981. As part of his service, he counseled and taught young aspiring firefighters in the department's Explorer's Program. In 1989 he received a Certificate of Appreciation from Utica Community Schools for his efforts in the community. In 2001 he received an associate's degree in Fire Science. During his career, Tom was promoted four times: FEO on April 20, 1992; Lieutenant on January 4, 1996; Training Instructor on August 22, 1996, and Chief of Training on January 11, 2003. He was honored by his peers, being named Firefighter of the Year twice, in 1999 and in 2004. Tom retired last month on August 19, after 25 years of dedicated service.

Dave Poterek was appointed as a Sterling Heights Firefighter on May 21, 1979 after attending Western Michigan University. On May 4, 1981, he received a Police Department Citizen Citation for resuscitating a drowning victim. In 1984 he earned his Associates Degree in Nursing, and in 2004 he obtained his EMS Instructor Coordinator certificate. During his career he was promoted several times: Firefighter-ALS (Advanced Life Support) on April 18, 1992; Fire Lieutenant-ALS on July 5, 1994; Captain in 1996, and Battalion Chief on October 31, 2003. He retired on June 19 of this year, after 27 years of dedicated service.

William Riddock was appointed to the position of Probationary Firefighter with the Sterling Heights Fire Department on October 12, 1981. In 1989 he received the Meritorious Unit Citation for assistance at a house fire, rescuing a family from their balcony. He was a member of the Uniform Committee and participated in numerous of the department's Open Houses. In addition to receiving numerous Perfect Attendance Awards throughout his career, Captain Riddock was promoted twice: Lieutenant on July 22, 1996, and Captain on January 11, 2003. Captain Riddock is retiring next month on October 19, after 25 years of dedicated service.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing these four heroes, who have dedicated themselves to the community with valor, commitment and honor.

TRIBUTE TO MAIN STREET BAPTIST CHURCH

HON. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 28, 2006

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. Speaker, today we congratulate the Main Street Baptist Church in Point Pleasant, WV. On October 28, 2006, the Main Street Baptist Church will celebrate its 100th anniversary.

This church has helped change the lives of many in the Point Pleasant area and in the state. This is a wonderful time for the congregants of Main Street Baptist Church to

celebrate with loved ones and take time to reflect on the many accomplishments and improvements this church has made in the community.

I want to thank Main Street Baptist Church for their service to the community of Point Pleasant and all of their contributions to our great state. May your next 100 years be just as fruitful.

HONORING THE LUVERNIA FULLER FOUNDATION AND RECOGNIZING MAY 18TH, 2007 AS "ANSWER MY PRAYER" DAY

HON. JUDY BIGGERT

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 28, 2006

Mrs. BIGGERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Luvernia Fuller Foundation for the invaluable support it provides to cancer patients. In doing so, I join two local governments in the 13th District of Illinois in recognizing the Luvernia Fuller Foundation for its generosity. Both the Village of Romeoville and the City of Joliet in my district have declared May 18, 2007, Luvernia Fuller Foundation "Answer My Prayer" day.

This not-for-profit organization was established on January 20, 2004 by the son of cancer patient, Luvernia Fuller. Unfortunately, like too many people stricken with cancer, Luvernia Fuller lost her battle. Inspired by his mother, Brian Fuller established the Foundation to provide emotional and monetary assistance to cancer patients and their families.

"Answer My Prayer" day was created to raise awareness and support for cancer patients. The Luvernia Fuller Foundation's goal of "Answer My Prayer" day is not only to raise money to help provide necessary medical treatment and medicine for cancer patients, but also to educate the public about cancer and to celebrate the dignity of cancer patients.

As representative of the 13th District of Illinois, I am extremely pleased that such a fine foundation is based in my district and is providing life-saving assistance to the people of Illinois. I wish the Luvernia Fuller Foundation continued success in its mission and hope that we all set aside May 18th as "Answer My Prayer" day to help and remember those who have been or are currently afflicted with cancer.

IN MEMORY OF FORT WORTH FIRE CHIEF CHARLES GAINES

HON. KAY GRANGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 28, 2006

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor one of the most dedicated public servants of District 12 and the Fort Worth community that I represent, Fort Worth Fire Chief Charles Gaines. On September 23, 2006, Fire Chief Gaines died at his home at the age of 49. Through hard work and commitment in his chosen profession, Chief Gaines was known nationally as an outstanding fire chief.

While Chief Gaines' tenure in Fort Worth was a short four years, his impact on the community, on the men and women of the Fort