

1922, Mr. Johnston has served with distinction as a Florida State Senator and the attorney for the city of Brooksville and the Hernando County School Board.

In addition to his personal service to the city, Mr. Johnston's son, City Council member Joe Johnston III, has continued the family's commitment to public service. At the council meeting where Mr. Johnston's award was first announced, it was his son Joseph who thanked his fellow council members on behalf of his family.

Mr. Speaker, the city of Brooksville is lucky to have a man like Joseph E. Johnston, Jr. to take an active role in our community. I am proud to recognize his accomplishments, and congratulate him on being named the 2006 Brooksvillian of the Year.

TRIBUTE TO JAMES AND CAROL
MCDOWELL

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 13, 2006

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my constituents James and Carol McDowell on the occasion of their 50th wedding anniversary, October 27, 2006.

Jim and Carol were high school sweethearts in Petaluma, CA, where they met when Jim was a senior and Carol was a sophomore. Recently, the couple's 17-year-old granddaughter learned that they had been married when Carol was right out of high school and exclaimed, "Gram, you got married at 18! How could you?"

Jim was the third generation to operate the family dairy ranch just outside of town. His son Michael, "Mike," now runs the operation as an organic farm, adding strawberries and tomatoes to the dairy operation. Mike and his wife Linda have two children, Ryan and Shannon.

Patrick, "Pat," the couple's other son, is Asian editor for the Associated Press, covering 34 Asian countries. He and his wife Solzck live in Bangkok, Thailand.

Mr. Speaker, 50 years together is a wonderful testament to Jim and Carol's love and commitment. Jim summed up what makes it work when he told me, "Carol has always been special." Congratulations to them on this happy occasion.

TRIBUTE TO SERGEANT MICHAEL
R. WEIDEMANN

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 13, 2006

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, it is with profound sorrow that I rise to recognize the loss of a brave soldier in Iraq, SGT Michael R. Weidemann, a resident of Newport who served his country with dignity and honor. I join his family and the people of Rhode Island in mourning this great loss.

Sergeant Weidemann was born in Canada and moved to Middletown, RI, with his family when he was 7. In 2001, he graduated from Rogers High School, where he attended the Newport Area Career and Technical Center

and participated in the automotive program. He was also an honor student and an active member of the JROTC program.

One month after graduating from high school, Sergeant Weidemann pursued his interests by enlisting in the Army as an auto mechanic and joined the 1st Battalion, 36th Infantry Regiment of the 1st Brigade, 1st Armored Division. After serving one tour in Iraq, Sergeant Weidemann was nearing the end of his second tour when, on October 31st, he was killed while on patrol near Hit, in Anbar Province.

Those that knew Sergeant Weidemann remember his optimistic personality, his loyalty, his hard work and willingness to fix everything. Most importantly, he had a positive impact on all who knew him. This loss certainly causes us all to reflect on the bravery demonstrated by our men and women in uniform as they carry out their obligations in the face of danger. When Sergeant Weidemann's Nation called him to duty to preserve freedom, liberty and security, he answered without hesitation. We will remember him as a patriot who made the ultimate sacrifice for his country.

Sergeant Weidemann is survived by his grandmother, Gertrude K.C. Miller; his sister, Catharine E. Weidemann; and his brothers, Richard L. Weidemann and Edward R. and Benjamin J. Berriault. May we keep his loved ones in our thoughts and prayers as they endure this difficult period, and may his memory live on forever.

We will also continue to hope for the safe and speedy return of all of our troops serving throughout the world.

RECOGNIZING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE CITY OF
BROOKSVILLE, FLORIDA

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 13, 2006

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, 150 years ago two rural communities, Melendez and Pierceville, merged to form the city we know today as Brooksville, FL. Located in the heart of Florida's Nature Coast, since its founding in 1856, Brooksville has grown into a community with a rich history and unique traditions.

Unlike many Florida towns, Brooksville is not named for a local resident or indigenous Indian Tribe, but for one of the 19th century's foremost spokesmen in the halls of Congress, Preston Brooks. Mr. Brooks of South Carolina was a Member of the U.S. House of Representatives from 1853 to 1856, and is the city's namesake. The citizens of Hernando County admired his defense of States' rights and voted to give the county's largest settlement his name.

In 1856, the city of Brooksville was still in an unsafe part of the State. Located in the north-eastern corner of the city is the historic Fort Desoto. This fort was used as a trading post and a military fort, providing protection as well as leading the economic growth of the region.

Originally settled by four families, Brooksville eventually grew into a flourishing commercial and residential community. The Howell family settled in the northern part of the city, the Mays family in the eastern sec-

tion, the Hale family in the western section and the Parson family in the southern region. These four families helped contribute to the growth of the city and of the entire region.

Today Brooksville houses numerous modern medical facilities, a community college, three city parks, an outstanding library, thriving shopping centers, and a regional airport.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the city of Brooksville on its 150th anniversary. It has taken the combined efforts of generations of proud Brooksvillians to grow and strengthen this great city and make it what it is today. I wish the city of Brooksville the best of luck with their anniversary celebrations and good fortune during their next 150 years.

TRIBUTE TO OFFICER JERRY A.
HOWARD

HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 13, 2006

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Jerry A. Howard on his retirement from the United States Capitol Police. Securing the United States Capitol Building and ensuring the safety of all individuals who work and visit here is a great responsibility that Officer Howard faithfully undertook for 33 years of honorable and dedicated service. While Officer Howard's presence on Capitol Hill will be missed, his retirement is a celebratory occasion and I wish him and his family continued success as they embark upon this next chapter in life.

Officer Howard began his career with the United States Capitol Police on November 12, 1973 with the House Division Second Relief, working traffic duty until 1994. He was then transferred to inside details until his retirement. Officer Howard received numerous awards and citations during his years of service.

Officer Howard is a charter member of the U.S. Capitol Black Police Association, where he served as Chaplain, and for the last six years was Vice President of that association.

Prior to working for the United States Capitol Police, Officer Howard served two years in the United States Marine Corps from 1968 to 1970, including 13 months in Viet Nam. He joined the Marine Corp Reserves in 1975 and retired in 1995 as a Gunnery Sergeant in the VFMA-321 Air Wing.

Officer Howard and his wife Gloria will celebrate their retirement years in the new family home in Goldsboro, North Carolina.

This is a special occasion for Jerry and Gloria's five children; Frank, Trey, Larry, Sherry and Shannon, and their four grandchildren; DaJuan, Jayme, Taveon, and Kameron, two daughters-in-law; Gloria and Quianna and their extended family members; Lorie and Paul Southern. Officer Howard is thankful to his parents, the late Robert and Alean Howard, who encouraged him to succeed in life, and his nine siblings for their continued support and encouragement.

Officer Howard protected this Nation during wartime overseas and at home, here at the U.S. Capitol. He is a patriot, guided by loyalty, honor and duty. This Nation is indebted to Officer Howard for a lifetime of service. His retirement is well deserved, and I congratulate him on achieving this milestone.

IN HONOR OF MRS. MARY BALL
MORTON

HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 13, 2006

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to pay tribute to Mrs. Mary Ball Morton upon her retirement after 28 years of dedicated service working for the Delaware Department of Services for Children, Youth and Their Families.

The Delaware Department of Services for Children, Youth and Their Families mission is to provide and manage a range of services for children who have experienced abandonment, abuse, mental illness, neglect, or substance abuse. Its services include prevention, early intervention, assessment, treatment, permanency, and after care. The Department attracts and retains proud and talented individuals who are motivated to "Think of the Child First" in all that they do.

Mrs. Morton has been an inspiring example of a person who "thinks of the child first" all of her professional life. Mrs. Morton's distinguished career has had many different facets, yet they all reflect back to a person who has been steadfastly dedicated to improving the lives of children. Initially, Mrs. Morton worked to develop foster care policy, and ensure that the foster care throughout the State was adequate and working to improve and enrich children's lives. During Mrs. Morton's career, she has overseen the administration of the State of Delaware's adoption program, court liaison services, quality assurance and improvement programs.

Mrs. Morton's commitment to children is constant; now that Mrs. Morton is retiring from State employment, she is focusing her energy and support on the 21st Century Fund for Delaware's Children. The 21st Century Fund for Delaware's Children will provide a critical bridge between the limited resources of State and non-profit agencies and underserved children by supporting activities that will help children develop socially and academically.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I would like to wish Mrs. Morton success in all her future endeavors, and I would like to thank her for her years of dedicated advocacy and for her years of personal friendship.

INTRODUCING DR. SHELLEY
SEKULA-GIBBS

HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 13, 2006

Mr. HALL. Mr. Speaker, I am honored today to introduce and welcome Dr. SHELLEY SEKULA-GIBBS, the newly elected Member of Congress from the 22nd Congressional District who will be sworn in tonight.

Dr. SEKULA-GIBBS is a 5th generation Texan and a medical doctor and teacher. Tonight, she will make history when she becomes the first female physician to serve in the U.S. House of Representatives.

She has dedicated herself to serving the citizens of Houston for several years. Before her election, she served for three terms as an

At-Large member of the Houston City council. In that role, she helped advance property tax reform and strengthen the city's police force. She also helped found the Ellington Field Task Force, which kept Ellington Field open and operating as a Joint Reserve Base.

She has also volunteered countless hours to serve the citizens of south Texas. She served as a volunteer medical doctor and teacher at the Baylor College of Medicine, she shapes the next generation of healers.

She helped found the Provider Health Network, a group that cares for uninsured patients. As president of the "Healthy Houston Foundation" she raised money for clinics that provide medical care to the needy. She has also volunteered her time to take care of our Nation's veterans in several Veterans Hospitals across the Nation.

As a businesswoman and community leader, Dr. SEKULA-GIBBS has brought together municipalities, organizations, and businesses to create jobs and economic development in the south Texas region. She understands the importance of reforming our current tax code and reducing our debt.

As a founding member of the Sylvan Rodriguez Foundation—an organization that provides students in the Houston area with the opportunity to study space, medicine, and science—she is committed to advancing America's technological and scientific leadership. As a mother and grandmother, she also understands the importance of strengthening families and communities.

While Dr. SEKULA-GIBBS will be sworn in today, she will only be with us in Washington for a short time. She had a very successful special election—she received over 77,000 votes en route to victory. She ran a good campaign for the 110th Congress, but she faced many difficult procedural challenges.

Despite her short run, the future looks bright for Dr. SEKULA-GIBBS. I look forward to working with her in the final weeks of this Congress, and I wish her the best of luck in the future.

A TRIBUTE TO CONGRESSMAN
JAMES CLYBURN

HON. MAJOR R. OWENS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 13, 2006

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, in the past I have often had the delight of saluting my departing colleagues with a tribute in Rap poetry. At this point, however, circumstances have been reversed and I am departing. As I leave it will be my pleasure to offer some brief portraits in words describing the very able women and men I leave behind. I would like to begin with JIM CLYBURN. I visited his State on two different occasions and I was impressed by the fact that everyone had very strong opinions about JIM. They either feared him or they admired him. That is one sign of true greatness. The composite opinion of JIM which emerged was one of a great conciliator, a leader with a keen understanding of the fact that politics is the art of compromise but the compromise must always be an honorable and productive one.

A lighthearted summary of JIM's special assets is reflected in the following Rap poem.

MISTER JIM

With a bounty of transportation bucks
Freshman Clyburn showed he was clever;
All the South Carolina clubhouse boys
Danced Dixie up and down
Cheering Mister Jim and diversity forever.
Mister Jim
Made Mister Charlie look cheap,
Sowing his seeds of sunburned charm
A lots more dollars
Congressman Clyburn managed to reap.
Before he agrees to negotiate
Mister Jim dangles the right bait;
From smoke filled rooms
He emerges with fat surprises;
Mister Jim
Never despises compromises.
Mister Jim rescued
Bill Clinton's Black politics career;
When affirmative action fumbling
was about to end it
Mister Jim talked to Bubba
And convinced him to merely mend it.
Mr. Jim can display
Warm understanding affectionate appeal
But the world is a better place
Cause Mister Jim
Knows how and when to deal.

TRIBUTE TO ANTHONY ZAGAMI

HON. NICK J. RAHALL, II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 13, 2006

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Anthony J. "Tony" Zagami, a true public servant who will retire from the U.S. Government Printing Office at the end of this year.

I have known Tony since the mid-1960s, when I was an intern in the office of Senator ROBERT C. BYRD, D-WV, and Tony was a Senate page. Over the years, Tony has been a great friend to me, to my family and to the people of West Virginia, and he will certainly be missed here in the legislative branch.

However, let no one argue that Tony has not earned his retirement. After spending 25 years working for the U.S. Congress, Tony left Capitol Hill to become the General Counsel of the GPO. When he departs at the end of the year, he will have set a record as the GPO's longest-serving General Counsel.

Throughout his career, both here on the Hill and at the GPO, Tony was known for his dedication and commitment to public service. He has been the recipient of numerous awards and recognitions for outstanding performance and achievement.

I thank Tony for his outstanding service and for his friendship over years. The qualities he embodies are getting harder and harder to find nowadays.

May God bless this admirable man and his family as he begins his next chapter.

TRIBUTE TO BUCK O'NEIL

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 13, 2006

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Buck O'Neil, an internationally renowned, distinguished Kansas Citian, who died on October 6th at the age of 94.