

TRIBUTE TO CONGRESSMAN JIM DAVIS, CONGRESSMAN CLAY SHAW, CONGRESSMAN MICHAEL BILIRAKIS AND CONGRESSWOMAN KATHERINE HARRIS

HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2006

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, as the 109th Congress comes to an end, I rise to honor the Congressional service of four outstanding members of our Florida Congressional Delegation; JIM DAVIS, CLAY SHAW, MICHAEL BILIRAKIS and KATHERINE HARRIS.

Together, these outstanding Members have decades of experience in public service and have worked on a broad range of issues of lasting importance to the great State of Florida.

I believe that public service is a truly a noble calling. Any person who assumes the challenges and responsibilities associated with this profession, and who makes the sacrifices necessary to achieve the success of these Members of Congress, merits the respect of our nation, and our thanks.

Legislating in the Congress requires men and women who are masters of the traditional skills of American government—compromise, negotiation and bargaining. While we may disagree at times on policy and share different political philosophies, our objective should always be to serve the best interests of our constituents, our state and our nation.

It is part of the genius of American government that the institution of Congress continues on and is not dependent on any particular individuals. Still, there is no doubt that the quality of people elected to Congress has a lot to do with the kinds and quality of legislation that becomes law. Each of these Members has, in his or her own way, left their mark on our laws and our nation.

I am therefore proud to join with my colleagues in the Florida Delegation and, indeed, the entire Congress, in thanking you all for your service and wishing you much happiness and success in all your future endeavors.

HONORING LARRY STEWART

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2006

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to speak about a very special Missourian.

Larry Stewart has spent the past 27 years selflessly giving to the people of Kansas City. Mr. Stewart is a kind-hearted businessman from Lee's Summit, Missouri, and until recently, was known to many only as the "Secret Santa." Every December since 1979, Mr. Stewart has wandered the streets of Kansas City quietly searching for people in need, and handing them \$100 bills.

This honorable tradition began with a generous tip to a stranger. Mr. Stewart had just been fired from his job, the week before Christmas, and drove to a drive-in restaurant to cheer himself up. As soon as he saw what the \$20 bill he had handed the waitress meant

to her, he withdrew \$200 from his bank account and drove around looking for people who seemed like they could use a lift. He has been handing out cash to people in need every December since. This year, with the help of a few special elves and four specially trained Secret Santas, he will hand out \$165,000.

Unfortunately, Mr. Stewart will also be spending this December fighting his esophageal cancer. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to keep Mr. Stewart in their thoughts, and use him as an example of kindness and generosity this holiday season.

TRIBUTE TO CONGRESSMAN JIM RYUN

HON. TODD TIAHRT

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2006

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker of the many friends and colleagues, who will not be returning for the 110th Congress, I am especially disappointed that my fellow Kansan JIM RYUN is one of them.

It was at an event in Wichita, where I first encouraged JIM to run for Congress. Most Kansans knew JIM as the world record holder in the mile run and as an American Olympic hero. I knew him as a loving father and family man and someone who cares deeply about his country.

JIM RYUN won a hard fought battle in 1996 and served honorably in this House for five terms. He was an effective legislator and tough advocate for the constituents of the Second District of Kansas. You only need to look as far as Fort Riley and Fort Leavenworth to see the results of Congressman RYUN's efforts. They not only survived the BRAC process, both installations have expanded missions and are well positioned for the future.

JIM RYUN not only stood strong for the men and women of the military, he has been a tireless fighter for the issues that are of greatest importance to his constituents. JIM RYUN is a budget hawk, defender of life and someone on whom you can always rely. He is a man of integrity and has already left an indelible mark on Kansas, our country and the world. He will be sorely missed.

HONORING ARKEMA INC., AXIS PLANT ON ITS 25TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2006

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Arkema Inc., Axis Plant on the completion of their 25th year.

For the past 25 years, the Axis plant has been an economically vital contributor to both the town of Axis and the State of Alabama. The plant began operations in 1981 as M&T Chemicals, producing inorganic and organic tin compounds. After numerous expansions over the years, the plant was purchased in 2004 by Arkema Inc., a global leader in the chemical production industry.

Since its inception, Arkema has earned a very respectable reputation as a world class

chemicals producer. They have amassed nearly \$7.3 billion in revenue and have over 18,400 employees in 40 different countries. With such immense size and diversity, Arkema Inc. brings countless opportunities to the people of the First Congressional District.

In particular, the Axis plant specializes in producing a wide variety of chemical additives, such as heat stabilizers and impact modifiers. Heat stabilizers are compounds added to PVC to slow color development during processing and extend the life of a product. Impact modifiers are added to PVC to make it less brittle and to increase its strength. These products are used in everyday items such as hair dryers, plastic piping, and vinyl siding.

Mr. Speaker, it is my great honor to recognize the administration and staff of the Arkema Inc., Axis Plant and their continuing leadership in the chemical production industry. It is my sincere hope that they will continue to set highly commendable examples for others in their industry, and I rise today to recognize and thank Arkema Inc., Axis Plant for its contributions to the local economy and to the quality of life enjoyed in the State of Alabama.

HONORING FEDERAL JUDGE PAUL BROWN

HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2006

Mr. HALL. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to pay tribute to one of the outstanding Federal judges in our Nation, U.S. District Judge Paul Brown, who is retiring after 21 years of distinguished service on the bench in the Eastern District of Texas. Judge Brown has been my good friend for many years, and he is a respected and beloved Judge and member of the community in Sherman, Texas.

Judge Brown represents the finest qualities of jurisprudence. Hanging on his wall in the Sherman Federal Courthouse are Socrates' four qualities for a good judge—to hear courteously, to answer wisely, to consider soberly, and to decide impartially. Judge Brown embodied all of these qualities, and he dispensed justice accordingly. He was highly regarded, well-respected, and was a role model for many.

Paul Brown was the youngest of a family of six raised on a farm near Pottsboro, TX. He graduated from Denison High School and although underage, he got his parents' consent to join the U.S. Navy when World War II broke out. He served as a minesweeper in both the Atlantic and Pacific theaters and as a part of the occupation forces in Japan. He was discharged as an Electrician's Mate 2nd Class in June, 1946.

He returned to his studies and received a law degree in 1950 from The University of Texas before being recalled to active duty in the Korean War. He saw combat aboard a minesweeper which was sunk by mines, and he received an honorable discharge in December of 1951.

Judge began his practice of law following the war and following President Dwight Eisenhower's election, he went to work as an assistant U.S. Attorney in Texarkana under U.S. Attorney William Steger, who would become his mentor, good friend, and fellow colleague

on the bench in the Eastern District until Judge Steger's passing this year. He served as Assistant U.S. Attorney from 1953 to 1959, then followed in Judge Steger's footsteps as U.S. District Attorney from 1959 to 1961.

While in Texarkana, Judge Brown met and married Frances Morehead, and the two returned home to Sherman, where Judge Brown practiced law for a number of years. In 1985 Senator Phil Graham recommended him to President Ronald Reagan for a new judge's position created for the Eastern District of Texas, and Judge Brown was confirmed that year. He held court in Beaumont, Paris, Sherman, and Texarkana, and as the caseload in Sherman grew, he eventually presided over the Sherman courthouse exclusively.

Premiere cases over the years included intellectual property, patent cases, and criminal cases precipitated by the bank and savings and loan failures of the 1980s and 1990s. In recent years he noted the increase in drug cases and expressed his regret that, in spite of all the efforts that have been made to prosecute drug dealers, the nation is not making much progress in curtailing the use of drugs. No matter what type of cases came before him, Judge Brown always enjoyed the work and ran an efficient and orderly courtroom. His personal work ethic and judicial integrity have been remarkable, and his reputation for punctuality has been legendary.

At his retirement reception, hundreds of local attorneys, area judges and friends and family paid tribute to Judge Brown. The Eastern District Chief Judge, Thad Heartfield, speaking for the fifteen judges on their court, has recommended that Congress name the U.S. District Courthouse in Sherman the "Paul Brown U.S. Courthouse." Judge Heartfield noted that Judge Brown has demonstrated the finest qualities of a U.S. district judge: knowledge of the law, courtesy, patience, wisdom and compassion. It will be my pleasure to introduce legislation to that end.

As we near adjournment of the 109th Congress, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the life of a great American, outstanding public servant, and respected jurist, the Honorable Paul Brown, U.S. District Judge for the Eastern District of Texas.

COMMENDING NATALIE WILSON
CRAWFORD

HON. JANE HARMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2006

Ms. HARMAN. Mr. Speaker, although women have climbed to the highest reaches of outer space, the number of women who have risen to positions of prominence within the U.S. aerospace industry can be counted on one hand. I am therefore particularly proud to commend a fellow Californian, Mrs. Natalie Wilson Crawford, for her four decades of service promoting the security of the American people through her work at the Santa Monica headquarters of RAND. In 1964, Mrs. Crawford became a member of the professional staff of the RAND Corporation, an internationally known and highly respected think tank, and has since held a broad range of research-related senior management positions.

For the past nine years, Mrs. Crawford has been a Vice President of RAND and the Direc-

tor of Project AIR FORCE, RAND's first research division founded in 1946 under the name of Project RAND. For 60 years, Project AIR FORCE has been the Air Force's only federally funded center for studies and analyses; and it has provided independent, objective research on a full range of issues critical to national defense.

Mrs. Crawford's international reputation as an expert on air and space power made her especially well suited for this role. During her tenure, she worked closely with senior leaders of the Air Force to build a powerful research agenda in areas such as geopolitical strategy, aerospace force development, resource management, and manpower.

The Air Force has formally honored Mrs. Crawford many times. She has twice been awarded the Air Force's Decoration for Exceptional Civilian Service. In 2003, she received both the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Air Force Analytic Community and the Lieutenant General Glenn Kent Leadership Award. She has also been the Department of the Air Force's Woman of the Year. Today, the members of the United States House of Representatives have the opportunity to add our expression of appreciation for her loyal and dedicated service.

In October, Mrs. Crawford stepped down from her administrative roles in Project AIR FORCE. However, she will continue to act as a senior advisor to RAND's chief executive officer and she will be a senior mentor to the USAF Scientific Advisory Board, a group with which she has been affiliated since 1988.

I thank Natalie Crawford for all that she has done to ensure the safety and security of the United States, and I wish her every success in her future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING MR. G. FRED
SCHUTZ FOR HIS TREMENDOUS
LEADERSHIP

HON. JOHN R. "RANDY" KUHL, JR.

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2006

Mr. KUHL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank a tireless and unselfish community leader from my congressional district, Mr. G. Fred Schutz.

Born in Buffalo, New York, in 1928, Fred joined the U.S. Naval Reserve at the age of 19, and then transferred to the U.S. Air Force for 8 years during the Korean conflict. In 1988, Fred ended his military career with the U.S. Army reserve-retiring as a command Sergeant Major of the 98th division. During his 22 years of service, he received 9 personal medals and 21 service awards.

After active duty, Fred returned to Canandaigua, New York to work for the Penn Central Transportation Company and later became a small business owner. Fred has been a dedicated leader, being instrumental in many crucial projects including: the founding of a downtown park—The Commons, and the revitalization of Phoenix Street.

He has also organized the Memorial Day parade for as long as anyone can remember and, for the past five years, has led the 9/11 (patriot day) ceremonies. Fred has worked tirelessly to retain the VA medical facility in Canandaigua; he has fought to establish a

museum for military art and has lobbied for a ship to be named after the city of Canandaigua. Fred continues to provide sage advice and economic assistance to veterans who are seeking records, medical treatment, and transportation or lodging.

For a number of years, Fred has served a free Thanksgiving turkey dinner for homeless or needy veterans in the area. His concern for others is evident in his employment of handicapped and older veterans and his enthusiastic fundraising for camp good days and special times, the Make a Wish Foundation, and a church summer carnival.

Fred has also volunteered as a fireman for 20 years. He has been an American Legion member for 53 years, having served as a post, county and district commander and has served on numerous committees on the local, state and national level. Fred was a financial contributor to the Vietnam moving wall in 1999 and instrumental in organizing the ceremonies commemorating the 50th anniversary of the Korean war.

He was named Seventh District Legionnaire of the Year in 2003 and Seventh District Humanitarian of the year in 2005. The city of Canandaigua named him volunteer of the year in 2006 and recently named a day in his honor.

Again, I thank Fred for his tremendous contributions, and I look forward to continue working with Fred to help those in need and do what is best for our community.

IN HONOR OF THE INAUGURATION
OF THE DEMOCRATIC PACIFIC
UNION (DPU)

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2006

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the members of the Democratic Pacific Union. On the 60th anniversary of the end of World War II (August 14, 2005), the Democratic Pacific Union (DPU) was formally inaugurated in Taipei, Taiwan. The ceremony drew 76 dignitaries from 23 countries, including the presidents and vice presidents of Taiwan, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Nicaragua and Palau. The Union's goal is to promote democracy and encourage contacts among its 28 member democracies. Taiwan Vice President Lu Hsiu-lien was elected Chair of the Union.

Since its inception, the Union has established a Secretariat and published its first quarterly, planned regular regional meetings in the East and the West Pacific regions, initiated the Pacific Economic Advisory Group and the Pacific Congressional Caucus, and additionally established a training program for typhoon and flood disaster reduction. The DPU has offered scholarships to students of member states to study in Taiwan, planned a Pacific university network in Taiwan, and invited distinguished women to come to Taiwan to discuss women's issues in the Pacific region. Other initiatives have been introduced to promote democratic values and prosperity among member states.

There is little question that the Democratic Pacific Union has achieved a great deal during its short history. Its goals of promoting and spreading democracy are laudable and complement with our values. We should encourage the leaders of the Democratic Pacific