

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