

Betty testified for her bill before the House and Senate. I and other members of the Committee were impressed with her composure and the strength her plight. Consequently, the bill passed and was signed by the President on May 12th of this year.

I was also impressed with the outpouring of support from Betty's friends and neighbors in Grand County and the Town of Grand Lake, the communities along the western side of the Park. These people stood beside Betty as they valued her contributions to the community and the Park.

I was deeply saddened by Betty's passing. She died with her family around her.

In late August, I presented Betty with a framed copy of the signed law allowing her to stay. She was surrounded by friends and family who were gathered around the campfire just outside the cabin. All around us was the beauty and splendor of the Rocky Mountains and Betty got to enjoy her last days there secure in knowing that she had a right to enjoy and care for this property that meant so much to her and the community.

Betty opened her home to community events and was a valued member of Grand County. She was well regarded by everyone who knew her. Her cause became a labor of love and I was pleased to do what I could to help her. She will be missed by all those who were inspired by her love of life and her love of that special land along the Colorado River in the Park. I had hoped to visit her in future summers and enjoy her company and her neighbors around the campfire. She will always be there in spirit.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my colleagues for helping pass the Betty Dick Residence Protection Act. Our work for Betty shows that our government can be responsive to the needs of individuals as long as we take the time to listen, learn and care. I am proud of our work for Betty and for the principle of responsive government.

REMEMBERING ROGELIO SANCHEZ UPON HIS RECENT DEATH

HON. SILVESTRE REYES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 7, 2006

Mr. REYES. Mr. Speaker, today I remember a friend who passed away last week, former El Paso County Commissioner Rogelio Sanchez.

More than a friend, Rogelio was a public servant and part of the political lineage that enabled me to serve my city and my country in Congress. Born in Mexico, a valedictorian at Fort Hancock High School, a graduate of Sul Ross State University, a World War II veteran, and a teacher for many years in El Paso, Rogelio served the lower valley of El Paso, Texas, on the El Paso County Commissioner's Court for 36 years. At a time when minorities were not adequately represented in government, his leadership on Commissioner's Court and his persistent advocacy of diversity and opportunity opened the door for many Latinos to enter politics and public service.

He neutralized prejudice with his humor and easy-going manner and overcame discrimination with a record of accomplishment that includes roles in the construction of the Sun

Bowl, Trans Mountain Road, Thomason Hospital, the new country courthouse, the new county jail, and many senior citizen nutrition centers. His fingerprints on El Paso are some of our proudest structures.

In addition, his work holds a special place in my heart because he was responsible for initiating Head Start in El Paso, a Federal program the success and expansion of which ranks high among my legislative priorities.

Politics and public service in El Paso looked a lot different when Rogelio left Commissioner's Court in 1997 than when he first won election to office in 1960. The path he helped blaze ultimately led me to Congress. He was a giant for his people. He was an inspiration for me.

Nothing says more about a man, however, than his family. Rogelio was one of 10 children born to Rogelio and Petra Sanchez and the first among them to attend college. He is survived by his wife of 56 years, Mary, and their three children, Michael, Albert and Maricela. In addition to knowing Rogelio as a public servant, I knew him as a family man—and that is how I will remember him.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in mourning the death of Rogelio Sanchez and recognizing his legacy.

LT. LAWRENCE GARLOCK: STAFF OFFICER OF THE YEAR

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2006

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, one of the noblest professions is that of a law enforcement officer. The brave men and women who wear the badge of honor do so with a desire to protect and serve their communities. Day to day, law officers are thrust into dangerous situations, keeping the honest citizens safe from the outlaws of society. They perform their jobs with little recognition or thanks from the public, just the knowledge that they are making a difference.

Although the public may not always pay law enforcement officers the recognitions they deserve, their colleagues do. One of the highest recognitions a law officer can receive is to be named Law Officer of the Year. The honor signifies that the individual law officer is best of the department—the officer whose dedication to the profession surpasses his or her colleagues. Lt. Lawrence Garlock, with the Allen County, Ohio Sheriff's Department, is one such lawman.

For Lawrence, or Larry as he is more familiarly known, serving one's community as a law enforcement officer is a family tradition. A native of Lima, Ohio, Larry grew up with the influences of his father, Joseph, a Lima Police Officer, and his Uncle Tom, an Ohio State Highway Trooper. Those role models influenced Larry to join the Allen County Sheriff's Department in 1976.

Larry is not the only second generation law officer in his family. His older brother, Greg, currently serves as Chief of the Lima Police Department, and a Department. He also has a nephew, Jason, who is a Lima Police Officer. Larry even met his wife, Catherine, while they were both deputy sheriffs. Larry has had an impressive career with the Allen County Sher-

iff's Department. From 1979 to 1983, he was assigned to work the Department's Crime Prevention Unit. While serving in this unit, Larry was promoted to Identification Officer, with the rank of Detective, in 1981. In 1990, Larry was promoted to Sergeant, and then in 2001, he saw his rank change. He was made Special Sergeant in Charge of the Crime Scene Identification Unit. The following year, he was awarded the rank of Lieutenant. After nearly 24 years of going to crime scenes, collecting evidence, and maintaining a standard of excellence in the Identification Unit, Larry was transferred to the Detective Bureau, in 2005, and placed second in command.

In October 2006, Larry celebrated 30 years with the Allen County Sheriff's Department. There are only two other individuals in the entire department who have been there longer. Larry also has had the distinction of serving under three different sheriffs. Larry's service to his profession made him the ideal recipient for the Allen County Sheriff's Office Staff Officer of the Year.

The Staff Officer of the Year is an award given out to the sheriff's deputy who has made a positive impact on the community, works to maintain the efficiency of the office, and demonstrates an outstanding measure of professionalism in his or her work. Basically the award is bestowed on the deputy who takes utmost pride and seriousness in upholding his or her position.

The award of Staff Officer of the Year was a tradition that the Sheriff's Department upheld every year. Nominations for the award were submitted to the selection committee, and then a banquet was held for the awardee. In 2002, however, the Department was facing a financial crisis. Expecting to have to layoff 37 sheriff deputies, the Sheriff cancelled the award. He could not justify spending money on an award banquet if 37 deputies were losing their jobs.

In 2006, Larry sent a letter to the Sheriff, requesting for the reinstatement of the award. In the letter, he stated that the award would benefit morale of the deputies to be honored by their peers. The Sheriff agreed, and reinstated the award. The selection committee then decided to back-award deserving deputies with the awards, from the previously missing years.

Unbeknownst to Larry, he was nominated for the 2003 Staff Officer of the Year. His nomination was due not only to his professionalism while serving as a sheriff's deputy, but for his attention to detail regarding evidence logged in with the Identification Bureau. Larry demanded that evidence be collected to the letter of the law. His demand for excellence made it nearly impossible for the evidence to be ruled inadmissible in trial. His precision to detail, his diligence, and his impeccable work ethic earned him the respect of his peers; however, they also knew that if evidence was poorly or improperly collected, they were sure to hear about it from Larry. His nominator stated that, "Larry's ethics and diligence make the Sheriff's Office look better."

When Larry's name was brought up for nomination, the selection committee voted unanimously in favor of honoring him with this award. In a true bureaucratic time frame, Larry was awarded the 2003 Staff Officer of the Year, during the beginning of November 2006, for outstanding performance of duty. He is a more than worthy recipient.

As a former judge and prosecutor, I have a great admiration and respect for our Nation's