

Bureau to develop and deploy Agribusiness Development Teams. These teams have helped to improve Afghanistan's agricultural livelihood. They have provided outreach, education, and infrastructure support to officials from the Afghan Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation, and Livestock and to local farmers. The advice given by these Guardsmen who are also agricultural experts betters the changes for economic stability and alternative livelihoods for Afghanistan's rural citizens.

For the families of Army National Guard personnel, General Vaughn has overseen the development of the 325 Army National Guard Family Assistance Centers. These centers provide long-term informational, referral, and outreach support for geographically dispersed military families.

General Vaughn's leadership has strengthened both the National Guard and the United States. I am proud that he is a Missourian who has given so much of his time to our country. I trust that Members of the House will join me in congratulating General Vaughn and his family for their contributions to the United States of America.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF VIETNAM VETERAN SERGEANT OTIS HERMAN GLENN, JR. OF BUNCOMBE COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA

HON. HEATH SHULER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 5, 2009

Mr. SHULER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Otis Herman Glenn, Jr., a Vietnam Veteran and recipient of the Purple Heart.

As a sergeant in the United States Marine Corps, Sgt. Glenn fought valiantly in the battles of Khe Sanh and Con Thien in Southern Vietnam.

For his truly heroic and fearless service in Vietnam, Sgt. Glenn was awarded the Presidential Citation for Bravery. After being wounded in combat in 1968, Sgt. Glenn was awarded the Purple Heart. When his tour in Vietnam ended, Sgt. Glenn returned to North Carolina and married Mrs. Judith Glenn.

While Sgt. Glenn left the jungles and rice patties of Vietnam in 1968, the damage done to his lungs when in combat proved fatal in 2007. After 27 years of marriage, Mrs. Glenn watched as the effects of Vietnam slowly ended her husband's life. Mrs. Glenn made a pledge to properly honor her husband's passing.

In April of 2009, Mrs. Glenn was accompanied by family and friends as Sgt. Glenn's name was read in front of the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial Wall. Because his death was not classified as killed in action, Sgt. Glenn's name is not eligible to be engraved in the Wall. However, his name will be added to the Vietnam War Honor Roll Book to serve as a lasting reminder of his service and sacrifice.

I would like to recognize Judith Glenn for her tireless efforts to memorialize her husband, and I ask my colleagues to join me in fulfilling Judith's promise to pay tribute to her beloved husband.

It is with great respect that I commend the service of this brave Marine who joined hands

with countless other patriots to fight for our great nation. I hope that today's generation of young men and women will follow the shining example of patriotism and dedication to freedom modeled by Sergeant Otis Glenn and the other heroes of the Vietnam War.

TEACHERS OF DREW MODEL SCHOOL HONORED FOR THEIR DEDICATION AND COMMITMENT TO ACHIEVING ACADEMIC SUCCESS FOR ALL

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 5, 2009

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of National Teacher Appreciation Week and to honor the teachers of Drew Model School for their outstanding and tireless efforts to raise academic achievement levels for all students at this institution.

The teachers and staff at Drew Model School approach each student with the belief that every child learns best within a social environment that supports and respects his or her unique development. Their programs encourage children to develop independence of thought and confidence of character while learning at their own pace. Additionally, Drew faculty members incorporate the traditional approach of children working, learning, and developing in mixed-age groups with the academic experience of gentle guidance under a specially trained teacher.

I am proud and grateful for the enthusiastic teachers at Drew Model School and would like to recognize Suneeta Maheshwari, Carol Oakes, and all Drew Model School educators who have shown admirable dedication to their students at this exemplary school.

Teachers make a difference in all of our lives, and today, as well as everyday, I would like to extend my warm thanks for their hard work and service to America's children. I ask my fellow Members of Congress to join me in honoring Drew Model School teachers whose commitment to quality education is extraordinary and dedication to academic achievement is unmatched.

TRIBUTE TO COMMANDER KEITH ALAN WILLIS

HON. HOWARD COBLE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 5, 2009

Mr. COBLE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay final tribute to one of North Carolina's native sons and a veteran of the United States Coast Guard. A beloved son, husband and father, Commander Keith Alan Willis, U.S. Coast Guard, passed suddenly while serving as Commanding Officer in Coast Guard Cutter TAHOMA (WMEC 908) since May 2007. He most recently served as the Coast Guard Liaison as Commander, U.S. Second Fleet after having served as Assistant Coast Guard Liaison at U.S. Fleet Forces Command and Joint Forces Command from August 2004 through August 2006. Commander Willis was a 1989

graduate of the United States Coast Guard Academy, with a Bachelor of Science in Government. In 2000, he completed a Master's Degree in Public Administration from Troy State University, and in 2004, he completed a Master's Degree in National Security Policy from the U.S. Naval War College.

Commander Willis' prior assignments included enlisted service from 1983 to 1985, during which time he was stationed on USCGC DAUNTLESS and at the Broadened Opportunity for Officer Selection and Training (BOOST) program in San Diego, California. After BOOST, Commander Willis reported to the Coast Guard Academy. Following graduation in 1989, he reported to USCGC HARRIET LANE in Portsmouth, Virginia, where he served as a Deck Watch Officer, Combat Information Center Officer, Weapons Officer, and Assistant Navigator.

Upon departure from USCGC HARRIET LANE in 1992, Commander Willis reported to Law Enforcement Detachment 8-G in Corpus Christi, Texas, where he served as Officer in Charge, and made deployments on a variety of U.S. Navy ships, and a deployment to the Middle East to assist in enforcement of the U.N. Sanctions against Iraq. Commander Willis reported to USCGC BEAR in Portsmouth, Virginia, as the Operations Officer from 1994 to 1997. In August 1997, he reported to the Coast Guard's Atlantic Area command staff, where he served until July 2001 as a member of the International Operations branch. In that capacity, Commander Willis helped direct and execute the Tradewinds series of exercises in the Caribbean, which included participation by fourteen Caribbean nations.

Commander Willis then reported to USCGC DAUNTLESS in Galveston, Texas, as Executive Officer in August 2001, after which CDR Willis reported to the U.S. Naval War College in Newport, Rhode Island, graduating in May 2004. Following graduation, Commander Willis then reported as Assistant Coast Guard Liaison to Fleet Forces Command and Joint Forces Command in Norfolk, Virginia, and served in that billet until assignment in August 2006 to the newly established position of Coast Guard Liaison to Commander Second Fleet.

Commander Keith Willis, born in Frisco, North Carolina, is remembered for his Christian faith, devotion to his family and dedicated service to the United States Coast Guard. May God rest his soul and provide comfort to his family.

PEARL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

HON. GREGG HARPER

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 05, 2009

Mr. HARPER. Madam Speaker, it was 1909 when a young Millsaps College ministerial student in Mississippi was sent to nearby Pearson Community on the old Illinois Central Railroad to organize a new Methodist congregation. The young pastor's name was James F. Campbell, Sr., and his new members of Pearson Methodist Church met to worship at the old Pearson School House. Although Reverend Campbell only served as pastor until

1910, his legacy was a stronger and larger community, and a church that this year proudly celebrates its centennial.

As both the congregation and community grew, the church relocated a bit north to the current day City of Pearl. There the members continued to meet in another local school until 1921. With a desire for their own permanent place to worship, the decision was made to purchase one acre of land. To construct their new church home, the members purchased the abandoned Union Jackson Methodist Episcopal Church South on Old Fannin Road. Built in 1850, the structure was dismantled and moved by wagon to its current day site. The original pulpit of the old Union church is still used to this day.

When the congregation began worshiping in the new building, they adopted the name Pearl Chapel Methodist Church, and thirty-six years later the name was changed by church resolution to Pearl Methodist Church. The congregation continued to grow, bringing many changes to the church as well as new buildings, such as new Sunday School rooms and administrative offices. In 1952, more improvements were made, such as the beautiful chancel rail, which is still in use today. During the next fifty years, the church saw many changes and improvement to accommodate the growing congregation. One final change was chosen in 1968 as the church adopted its modern day name of Pearl United Methodist Church.

Since 1909, eleven members have answered the Lord's call to ministry and the congregation has heard the word delivered from nine humble servants: Reverend James F. Campbell, Sr., Reverend F.L. Applewhite, Reverend E.R. Dickerson, Reverend L.T. Brantley, Reverend Jim Campbell, Jr., Reverend C.V. Bugg, Reverend George Thompson, Reverend Scott Larsen and Reverend David Patrick.

Many things change over the course of a century, but after hundreds of worship services, weddings, christenings, and baptisms, Pearl United Methodist Church in Pearl, Mississippi has remained faithful to its calling . . . serving God and the citizens in the Pearl community.

THE SAFE SCHOOLS IMPROVEMENT ACT

HON. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 5, 2009

Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California. Madam Speaker, today I am introducing the Safe Schools Improvement Act. My lead cosponsors Rep. MCCARTHY, Rep. ROS-LEHTINEN and I strongly believe this bill provides crucial support to our efforts to reduce the national drop-out rate and make schools safer for all students.

An unsafe school environment interferes with students' ability to learn. Children who are bullied miss more school, have lower self-esteem, and are more likely to drop-out or commit suicide than those who are not. Nearly 40 percent of middle-school and high-school students report that they do not feel safe at school and one in 10 high school drop-outs report that frequent bullying was a major reason they dropped out. As we move to reauthorize

the landmark No Child Left Behind law, we must examine and address how improvements in school safety can positively affect student attendance and academic achievement.

The Safe Schools Improvement Act would require schools that receive funding from the Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act to implement an anti-bullying policy that protects students from bullying and harassment. It also requires these schools to collect data regarding bullying and harassment incidents and would allow them teach students about the consequences of bullying and harassment.

Today's children are the economic engine of our future, and we are relying on schools to provide the education they need. Congress must therefore help schools provide safe places for students to learn. If we do not, we risk losing more children to the streets, to depression, or even to suicide. America's children deserve our support. They deserve the Safe Schools Improvement Act.

RECOGNIZING THE SIGNIFICANCE OF CINCO DE MAYO

SPEECH OF

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 4, 2009

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to show my support for H. Res. 230.

This resolution recognizes the historical significance of the Mexican holiday of Cinco de Mayo.

On May 5, 1862, untrained, outnumbered, and outgunned Mexican forces—determined to protect their land—successfully defended the town of Puebla against the French. Against overwhelming odds, they managed to drive back the invading French army, achieving a total victory over soldiers deemed among the best trained and equipped in the world and embarking the end of the European domination in America.

General Ignacio Zaragoza Seguín led the Mexican Army at the Battle of Puebla. He was born in la Bahía del Espíritu Santo, in what was then the Mexican state of Coahuila y Tejas, now the city of Goliad, Texas, in the United States. A Statue of General Zaragoza now stands in San Agustin Plaza in the downtown historic district of Laredo, Texas.

Although the Mexican army was eventually defeated, the Battle of Puebla has come to represent a symbol of Mexican unity and patriotism in the history of Mexico.

I am honored to celebrate this important day in Mexican history and to lend my support to this resolution.

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION TO AWARD THE CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL TO THE CREW OF THE APOLLO 11 MISSION TO THE MOON

HON. ALAN GRAYSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 5, 2009

Mr. GRAYSON. Madam Speaker, it is with great pride that I introduce legislation today to

award the Congressional Gold Medal to four brave and exemplary Americans: Commander Neil A. Armstrong, Command Module Pilot Michael Collins, and Lunar Module Pilot Edwin E. "Buzz" Aldrin, Jr.—the crew of the 1969 Apollo 11 mission to the Moon. Additionally, this legislation would award a Congressional Gold Medal to John Glenn, the first American to orbit the earth and the man who helped set NASA firmly on the path of human space exploration. Forty years ago, five hundred million people watched as Armstrong took those fateful steps onto the Moon's surface, the first time humans had set foot on another world. In words that were as poetic as the occasion was meaningful, Armstrong said, "That's one small step for a man, one giant leap for mankind." He was shortly followed on the Moon's surface by Aldrin, as Collins circled overhead.

I was eleven years old that day, and I watched the Moon landing, joining much of humanity in celebrating this tremendous collective accomplishment. My family was on vacation, but I had persuaded my parents to let me stay in the hotel room alone all day and watch television, so I could see these giant men take those giant steps. Their mission was a landmark for America, for the world, and for all time. Americans are still inspired by these men, and their mission to travel over 250,000 miles of dead space to reach our closest celestial neighbor. I remember at the time thinking that humankind as a species is capable of true greatness. While wolves howl at the moon, humans visit it.

On this journey, the Apollo 11 crew showed remarkable bravery protected for days from the lifeless vacuum by only a thin metal shield. They collected more than forty pounds of lunar samples, took photographs, and deployed experiments to study the solar wind, lunar dust, enable laser ranging, and forever carry out passive seismic measurements. Their footprints remain on the Moon today. The entire endeavor was the culmination of an intensive effort by tens of thousands of scientists, engineers, and other dedicated individuals to meet the challenge laid down by President John F. Kennedy eight years earlier. President Kennedy encouraged Americans to rise to challenges, like this one, and the American people responded with ingenuity, discipline, and a spirit of cooperative effort. This journey took political will, scientific and technological risk-taking, inspiration, and the heart and soul of millions of Americans supporting the space program. And it took the competence and courage of Armstrong, Aldrin, and Collins to make Apollo 11 the success that it was.

As the culmination of the U.S.-Soviet space race that commenced with the Soviet's launch of Sputnik in 1957, Apollo 11's success signified the United States' ability to establish preeminence in space. It also helped inspire a generation to pursue careers in science and engineering, and to believe in the power of American society. Alone in that hotel room, watching TV, I certainly felt a lasting sense of meaning, that connection to those three brave astronauts. These astronauts represented in that moment America's destiny, a destiny shared by the thousands of men and women who worked to make it happen. This includes John Glenn, of course, another brave pioneer of human space exploration who had made their journey possible.

Madam Speaker, I thus think it is only fitting that in this fortieth anniversary year of the