

Texas courts. He started his legal career in the Harris County District Attorney's office as an Assistant District Attorney, and then he became the Chief Prosecutor of the 209th District Court.

In 1982, Judge McSpadden was elected as a judge for the same court and, for the last 30 years, he has continued to preside over the 209th. His extensive knowledge of the justice system and his incredible work ethic have gained the respect of many in the law profession. Over his career, he has earned the respect and admiration among lawyers and judges within the legal community: he is always among the highest rated judges by members of the Houston Bar Association and was the highest rated judge in Harris County in the 2011 Houston Bar Association Judicial Qualification Poll. Our community has benefited greatly from the many, many years of service that he has dedicated. In addition, Judge McSpadden has been recognized by the Houston Police Officer's Association and Harris County Deputy Sheriff's Association. He has also been honored and named Champion of Crime Stoppers by the Bay Area Crime Stoppers. These organizations recognized that he has not only dedicated his professional time to helping others, but he has dedicated his personal time to helping the next generation as well. In 1994, Child Advocates honored him for his efforts to help children. He has been also honored by the Samaritan Center and the Assistance League of Houston for his work with inner city youth. Judge McSpadden is a positive mentor to young males at risk. In 2002, he was the first recipient of the Chuck Norris Team Spirit Award for his work with Kick Drugs Out of America. He continues to serve on the advisory boards of many non-profit organizations. By giving his time and lending his hands, Judge McSpadden has changed many lives, and I want you to know that our Nation is a better place because of his commitment to helping our communities become safer.

Prior to his three decades of public service in the courtroom, Judge McSpadden also served his country as a United States Marine. While enlisted, he even found time to win the Marine Corps Tennis Champion title. He is a 3-time Big 8 Conference Tennis Singles Champion and still enjoys playing at River Oaks Country Club.

The impact of Judge McSpadden's work is far reaching. He truly is an unsung hero whose efforts are felt in communities, neighborhoods and homes across Texas each and every day.

Judge McSpadden's achievements at the 209th and in the community far surpass these recognitions. His innovation, determination and compassion for serving others make him one of the best judges in the Nation. Judge McSpadden is a close personal friend, excellent lawyer, tremendous judge, and amazing public servant for Texas.

And that's just the way it is.

TRIBUTE TO ANGI CORROTHERS

HON. SUE WILKINS MYRICK

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 21, 2012

Mrs. MYRICK. Mr. Speaker, Angi Corrothers is retiring from public service after 32 years of

dedication to the constituents of the 9th Congressional District of North Carolina.

She has been a valuable asset to my staff, and to the staffs of both Congressman Alex McMillan and Congressman Jim Martin before me. She truly exemplifies what it means to be a public servant.

She has spent many years patiently guiding constituents through the process of getting the benefits that they deserve. But it's through Angi's compassion and kindness that she helps anyone who needs it and gives of herself without a second thought.

Angi has truly been a delight to work with for these past several years. She has a great sense of humor, and we will miss hearing her stories and her wonderful, heartfelt laugh.

She will be greatly missed by myself, her colleagues, and the countless constituents that she helps, but we wish her well as she enjoys a well-deserved retirement.

HONORING OPERATION HELPING HAND

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 21, 2012

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Operation Helping Hand. Operation Helping Hand was started in May 2004 as a project of the Tampa Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America, MOAA, with the primary mission to support and assist military patients being treated at the James A. Haley VA Hospital and their visiting families. It was noted that some of the families visiting their wounded, sick, and injured active duty military patients were unable to pay for motels, and were sleeping in their cars. That proved to be enough justification to offer necessary services.

Over the course of eight years, Operation Helping Hand has helped over 750 of our active duty military wounded and injured, and countless family members, assisting with their personal needs while in Tampa, helping with the family's mortgage and bills back home, or whatever the service member or family needed to allow their primary focus to remain on healing, whether it be in Tampa or back home where the family resides.

Aside from responding from their daily needs, Operation Helping Hand sponsors Bronze Star, Purple Heart and other medal or retirement ceremony receptions and hosts a monthly dinner for the patients that is attended by an average of 250–300 people. These monthly dinners honor our wounded and injured active duty military patients who are given proper recognition, and flowers and gifts at each monthly dinner.

In October 2012, the 100th consecutive monthly dinner will be held. By its stated mission, Operation Helping Hand will continue to do all possible to aid the Tampa patients and their families as long as their services are required.

Operation Helping Hand's efforts to improve the quality of life for severely injured services members is truly inspiring. It is with great honor that I rise today to recognize their tireless commitment to those who have served our country. I look forward to watching this organization grow and further its mission of as-

sisting and supporting the families of injured service members.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. NIKI TSONGAS

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 21, 2012

Ms. TSONGAS. Mr. Speaker, I missed votes on the day of September 19, 2012 because I was unavoidably detained back in my District. Had I been present, I would have voted for H.R. 5044, the Andrew P. Carpenter Tax Act. As a member of the Armed Services Committee, I recognize the sacrifices made by our nation's servicemembers. It is appropriate and fair that when the student loan debt of a fallen servicemember is forgiven, his or her family members should not be hit with an income tax bill on that debt forgiveness. H.R. 5044 is a small step toward honoring their service and ultimate sacrifice on behalf of our nation, and I support it.

THE DOCUMENT

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 21, 2012

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, on a spring day, 55 men walked from a cobblestone street into the Pennsylvania state house. They had important business to discuss, and guards kept watch to keep any curious people at bay. The men, all respected, half university-educated, had an average age of 42 years old. The youngest was a mere 27. In their first order of business, they formally nominated one man to be their leader: General George Washington.

This was the scene 225 years ago when our Founding Fathers met in Philadelphia. The 13 colonies had declared and won independence from King George, and were operating under a "league of friendship" or the Articles of Confederation. They knew that the fledgling nation was tinkering on failure: it could not regulate commerce between the states, raise revenue, or support a national defense. A few months before, a man named Daniel Shays had led a group of farmers, who wore hats adorned with twigs, to rebel in Massachusetts. The new nation had some trouble spots of anarchy. Something had to be done.

Over the next few days, the men debated in secret. There was no transparency, no reporters and no visitors. Men from large states, like Edmund Randolph of Virginia, argued for a strong national government, while men from smaller states, like William Patterson of New Jersey, balked at this. Alexander Hamilton of New York tried to convince his colleagues to follow the British government—"the best in the world"—a mistake to a group of proud patriots who had just defeated King George III. Their differing ideas led to compromises and a new government. Largely influenced by James Madison, credited as the Father of the Constitution, a Constitution was written that established three separate branches of government on the federal level, a decentralized national government with enumerated powers and individual state governments empowered with