

HONORING MS. ANITA BOURN 30  
YEARS AS A CONGRESSIONAL  
STAFFER

**HON. STEVEN M. PALAZZO**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 21, 2019*

Mr. PALAZZO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize one of my very own, Ms. Anita Faye Bourn, for thirty years of dedicated service as a congressional staffer. Anita's career with the U.S. House of Representatives began in 1989 when my predecessor, Gene Taylor, won the special election. Anita was hired on as a secretary, but quickly found her niche through constituent services. When I first took office in 2010, I had the opportunity to carry over staff from the previous administration. Anita was an obvious choice and to this day, has proven to be one of my most trusted staffers.

Anita was born and raised in Hattiesburg, Mississippi, with family, faith, and music at her epicenter. She would say her mother, Christine Bourn, is the heart and soul of the family. She has two sons, and a niece, to whom she is known as "Tee-Tee". Anita also claims a host of brothers and sisters in Christ through her church family at Shady Grove Baptist Church. Anita is a long-time member of the church music ministry and is deservedly considered the resident "rock star". I can attest to this as I have had the privilege of hearing her beautiful rendition of "God Bless America".

Anita's musical career officially began at the age of 12, when she started playing piano during church services. Since then, Anita has served as Director of the inspirational choir, the senior adult choir, and the men's chorus, while also directing the annual Easter and Christmas programs. One year, she depicted the Christian family in Tyler Perry's *Madea* style, which was undoubtedly an audience favorite. More recently, Anita was nominated as the Choir Director of the Year at the Gulf Coast Gospel Music Awards. Whether she is serving my constituents, or ministering to her community, Anita pours her heart into each of her endeavors.

In a few words, Anita is faith-filled, compassionate, vibrant, and a true expert in her field. I could not ask for a better representative among my staff. To close, I would like to share one of Anita's favorite bible verses, Romans 8:28: "And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to his purpose". Madam Speaker, I take this opportunity to express my gratitude to Ms. Anita Bourn for thirty exceptional years.

IN HONOR OF SUSAN MANHEIMER,  
RETIRING POLICE CHIEF OF SAN  
MATEO

**HON. JACKIE SPEIER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 21, 2019*

Ms. SPEIER. Madam Speaker, local law enforcement often establishes a link with children through use of a costumed character known as "McGruff the Crime Dog." Universally trusted, McGruff makes police and their awesome

duties accessible. However, in the City of San Mateo, McGruff is outmatched in popularity by Police Chief Susan Manheimer. Once you know Chief Manheimer, it's easy to see why many in a room give her a hug and ignore the dog.

She is a Chief who is tough but kind, patient with the just but impatient with the dishonorable, quick to draw a line in the sand when public safety necessitates it but equally quick to reach out to troubled youths or adults when the security of the community and human dignity require it. Many parents with troubled teens have come to know Susan under difficult circumstances. Most would tell you her influence was akin to a heavenly blessing wrapped in a dark blue uniform with a badge.

Chief Manheimer is now retiring. From all who know her, it is likely that one tear will be shed in joy because she earned family and recreation time and they are happy about her future. Another will be shed because the wisdom she exhibited must now be found amongst the rest of us. We wonder if we are equal to the task.

Her mantra is "community policing." The gift of her service is that she stressed both words equally. She first exhibited this talent as an officer in one of San Francisco's most challenging neighborhoods, the Tenderloin. She spearheaded a Safety Ambassador Program, a community improvement district, homeless outreach teams, and juvenile diversion and referral practices. Her résumé notes that she served with the SFPD decoy unit, as well as in violent-crime suppression and gang suppression. As her star rose within the department, it was obvious that the community trusted Susan Manheimer.

In 2000, she was welcomed as the first woman to serve as the San Mateo Police Chief. Under her leadership, and with the strong support of the outstanding men and women of the San Mateo Police Department, the community, city management, and her city council, the department received awards for the improved quality of life in San Mateo.

She built her department's practices based upon evidence about sustainable solutions that strike at the root of neighborhood safety and quality of life. Her department emphasizes building legitimacy, trust and engagement between the police and the community.

This is best exhibited by remarks of one of the past officers who managed the Police Activities League. When that officer would see a group of boisterous teens on a street corner, she could often recognize each of them and would wave. They were her team members, not a youth gang. Chief Manheimer, joined by an outstanding staff, built that close relationship with the community. In addition to youth sports, she also started homeless outreach teams and sought increased resources for the homeless. Crime was suppressed by working with neighborhood leaders. Youth crime plummeted in part because sports substituted for mischief.

Chief Manheimer's regional, state, national, and international professional accomplishments are too numerous to mention in full. These include serving on the Juvenile Justice Committee of the International Association of Chiefs of Police, serving as the first woman President of the California Police Chief's Association and the San Mateo County Chief's and Sheriff's Association, and serving on the Board of Directors of the Peninsula Conflict

Resolution Center. She holds a Bachelor's in Business Management from Saint Mary's College in Moraga and a Master's in Educational Leadership from San Diego State University.

It's been a privilege to call Susan Manheimer a friend. She can be riotously funny and is always the spark in the room of any gathering. When she shows up in uniform, her shoes are polished to Marine Corps standards. Her son, Jesse, is a Captain in the Corps. Ever competitive, Mom won't be outdone. Her daughter, Sarah, is an accomplished attorney. Susan is also the grandmother of Jackson, Lucas and Karina.

Madam Speaker, we were fortunate Police Chief Susan Manheimer has led the City of San Mateo with us. McGruff will someday come back in his uniform. Susan will walk amongst us in civilian attire. That's ok. In our childhood imaginations we adored McGruff. In the adult world, we will always love our favorite top cop. Happy retirement Police Chief Susan Manheimer.

CELEBRATING THE NAVAL SERVICE OF EDWIN EARL THOMPSON

**HON. BRIAN BABIN**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 21, 2019*

Mr. BABIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to thank a great sailor, Chief Edwin "Easy" Thompson, United States Navy (Retired), for thirty years of service as an Engineman Chief Master Diver (Frogman) in the United States Navy.

After enlisting in the Navy in 1944, Thompson served on the hospital ship *USS Haven* (AH-12) and evacuated wounded from the Marshall Islands, Guam, and other South Pacific Islands. During World War II, Mr. Thompson also served aboard a destroyer minesweeper in the Straits of Alaska. Thompson served on many ships during his career, but one of his greatest highlights was serving as a Marine Honor Guard when the Battleship *Texas* (BB-35) was turned over to the state of Texas in 1948.

From 1948 to 1952, Edwin Thompson was stationed on the Battleship *Missouri* (BB-63). On the *Missouri*, he participated in the battles of Inchon and Hungnam during the Korean War. Mr. Thompson has also pointed out that he was on the *USS Missouri* both times she ran aground.

In the 1950s, Easy joined the Underwater Demolition Team Two, Unit 22 and served alongside his friend, Michael Murphy who was killed in Vietnam during an underwater explosion. Michael Murphy's grandson, Navy SEAL Lt. Michael P. Murphy, posthumously received the Congressional Medal of Honor for his actions during SEAL Team One's Operation Red Wings in Afghanistan.

On January 17, 1966, a U.S. Air Force B-52 bomber armed with hydrogen bombs collided mid-air with a tanker while refueling over the Mediterranean Sea near Palomares, Spain. One hundred tons of flaming wreckage was spread over 15 square miles with one of the bombs tumbling into the sea. Thankfully, the three other bombs hit the ground and did not explode.

The Chief of Naval Operations created Task Force 65 consisting of 34 ships, 2,200 sailors,