

Mount Garfield and drug-related calls to law enforcement dropped from 34 to zero. These astounding figures appeared in a report presented to Congress in support of the GREAT program.

Dennis was nominated for the award by Colorado State Trooper and Western Slope Coordinator of GREAT, Don Moseman. His nomination was chosen out of more than 3,000 principals across the nation.

It is with this, Mr. Speaker, that I say thank you to Principal Dennis Dearden for his dedication to our youth and the fight he has waged against gangs and violence. In addition, to our thanks, Dennis deserves our congratulations on being named Principal of the Year. Clearly, Dennis is eminently deserving of this high honor.

CONTINUING REMARKS HONORING
DON K. CLARK, DIRECTOR OF
THE HOUSTON DIVISION OF THE
FBI

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 1, 2000

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise this evening to commend a true Texas and American hero, Don Clark. Mr. Clark strode stoically into Houston like the lone sheriffs of lore. Standing alone, he quickly took matters into his own hands. Not only did he face down the criminal elements that plagued our fine city, but he also pierced that invisible wall that separated minorities from high ranking, law enforcement posts. Mr. Clark leaves his impressive imprint upon the city of Houston, and I congratulate him on his well-deserved retirement. He will be missed, but he will never be forgotten.

Given his vast accomplishments, it should not surprise anyone that Mr. Clark is a native Texan. Like a true Texas hero, he forged a legacy upon hard work and dedication. He built this foundation upon his commitment to academia and military training. He received a Bachelor of Science degree in Engineering and a regular Army commission as a 2nd Lieutenant from Prairie View A&M University in 1967. As a long-time supporter of this Historically Black University, I take pride in the fact that Mr. Clark achieved such high excellence at this institution. He also attended Long Island University and completed course work for a Master of Science degree in Public Administration and graduated from Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government Program for Senior Managers in Government.

Mr. Clark served in the U.S. Army from May, 1967, to November, 1976, attaining the rank of Captain in the Infantry. In 1973, I am proud to say that he was selected by the Chief of Staff of the Army to command an Airborne Ranger Company in a newly created ranger battalion.

Because of his outstanding academic and military achievements, Mr. Clark earned his position as a Special Agent of the FBI on November 7, 1976. His impressive service included assignments in Miami, New York, Los Angeles, Newark, San Antonio, and Washington, D.C. His extraordinary experience included foreign counterintelligence, counterter-

rorism, violent crimes, organized crime/drug and other FBI investigative programs.

Because of Mr. Clark's diligence, he obtained far greater responsibilities, and as an African-American, I proudly watched as he rocketed through the ranks. And his brilliance was clearly evident during several high profile FBI investigations. In 1979, during the Iranian Hostage Crisis, Mr. Clark supervised the Iranian terrorism investigation and handled the movement of the Shah of Iran from New York City to San Antonio, Texas. Moreover, in 1985, Mr. Clark played a key role in the supervision of the terrorist attack aboard the Achille Lauro ship which claimed the life of passenger Leon Klinghoffer.

Mr. Clark's work with high profile cases continued into the 1990s. In February, 1993, Mr. Clark was assigned to manage the World Trade Center Bombing investigation. On April 1, 1996, while serving as the Special Agent in Charge in San Antonio, Mr. Clark was detailed to serve as one of the Special Agents in Charge of the Freeman crisis in Jordan, Montana.

On July 2, 1996, Texas history was forever altered when Director Freeh appointed Mr. Clark as the Special Agent in Charge of the Houston Division, one of the FBI's Top Ten Field Divisions. He has been a model government official and a model citizen for the Houston community. He is living proof that commitment brings one's aspirations into vivid reality.

Mr. Clark maintained numerous responsibilities while working for the FBI. He is a member of the International Association of Chiefs of Police and the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives. He has attended the FBI's Executive Development Institute, is a trained SWAT member, bombing instructor, and police training instructor.

Mr. Clark's dedication is not only evident in his own work, it is also manifest in his numerous achievements, including high school class valedictorian, Who's Who in America's Colleges and Universities, Distinguished Military Graduate receiving a regular Army commission, and many awards and recognitions from both the U.S. Army and the FBI.

I am most proud of the fact that Mr. Clark earned two Bronze Stars for Bravery while serving in Vietnam and the FBI Medal for Meritorious Achievement during law enforcement action. These awards clearly reveal Mr. Clark's strength of character and dedication to our country.

Again, I wish Mr. Clark well as he embarks on his retirement. His exploits paint a vivid picture across the canvas that weaves among the United States, and for his work, he truly has earned his days of rest. I thank him for his efforts.

RECOGNIZING MR. BILL POLACEK

HON. JOHN P. MURTHA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 1, 2000

Mr. MURTHA. Mr. Speaker, I enclose in the RECORD, an article from the December 27, 1999 "Tribune-Democrat", of Johnstown, PA, concerning the community involvement and efforts of Mr. Bill Polacek.

It's these kinds of selfless acts helping individuals that are such a hallmark of the prin-

ciples that have made our Nation great, and of the personal spirit that must dominate our Nation not only during the Holidays but throughout the year.

I commend Bill Polacek, and I'm glad to enclose this article on his efforts.

AREA MAN MAKES SURE NEEDY HAVE
CHRISTMAS

(By Tom Lavis)

Bill Polacek of Richland Township learned the true meaning of Christmas when he was only 6.

That's the reason that for the last three years, Polacek, 38, has donated a Christmas present to each man, woman and child who comes to Christmas Eve dinner at St. Vincent de Paul Family Kitchen at 231 Bedford St., Johnstown.

Polacek owns Johnstown Welding and Fabrication Industries, 1363 Broad St.

A tall dark-haired man who towers over most people, Polacek is one of nine children in a family where money was always tight.

"When I was 6, my father shattered his ankle right before Christmas and the only money coming in was 50 percent of his supplemental pay from Bethlehem Steel," Polacek said, as he and his family distributed gifts to the needy as they left the pantry.

"We weren't going to have much of a Christmas that year," he said.

"To this day, we don't know who it was, but someone left bags of groceries, presents and a small amount of money on our porch so that our parents could give us a nice Christmas. That's why I do this. I'll never forget what that gesture meant. My mother cried," he said.

Joe Bartko, director of the kitchen, said he admires Polacek because he and his family give without expecting any fanfare. He said it is heart-warming to have people like the Polaceks who think of the less fortunate.

"The people's faces say it all when they get a gift in addition to a meal," Bartko said. "It has gotten to a point that many of these people look forward to this because this is the only Christmas they will have. They have nothing."

After enjoying a traditional Christmas dinner that included turkey with stuffing, ham steak, mashed potatoes, corn, salad and pears and poppy-seed rolls for desert, people were treated to a gift when they left.

George Karadeanes, 61 who lives in the Solomon Homes, said everyone appreciates what the Polaceks are doing.

"Last year, I got a sweatshirt and some gloves," Karadeanes said, as he was sweeping his plate with a dinner roll to finish a last bit of turkey gravy. "I still have the gloves and they keep me warm. I have no family and this is my celebration."

Twelve-year-old Mikey Wiesinger of Kernville squealed with glee as he was handed a stuffed Barney doll. He was at the dinner with his parents, Brian and Diane Wiesinger, and his 13-year-old brother, Brian.

If any of the 25 volunteers who prepared and served the dinner or members of the Polacek family wanted to know if their efforts were appreciated, they only had to look at Mikey's face while he clutched the purple dinosaur to know that they brought joy to the boy's Christmas.

Ada Szweczyk, 62, of Johnstown, was chatting with friends at one of the long tables, and I noticed that her gift was on the table unopened. I asked her why.

"I'm saving it so I have something to open Christmas morning," she said.

This was the first year that Szweczyk attended the dinner when presents were given.

"I was surprised, but that man (Polacek) knows that Christ was born on Christmas and I hope God blesses him," she said.

A mountain of presents was stacked near the door of the pantry and Polacek; his wife, Shari; and their four children were busy distributing gifts to people who waited in an orderly fashion.

Mrs. Polacek said she is pleased that the family could bring some joy to people, and she wanted her children to learn that it is better to give than receive and that some people are struggling. The children are Bill Jr., 10; Blake 7; Madison, 4; and Carter, 10 months.

"Last year, we lost track of Blake and couldn't find him anywhere until we looked back at the tables where people were eating," Mrs. Polacek said.

"There he was eating a turkey dinner and joining right in with some of the folks. We try to teach the kids that in terms of values, you get what you give."

Also on hand were Mr. Polacek's mother, Sarah, and stepfather, George Mihalaki of Windber. Polacek's father, John is deceased.

Mrs. Mihalaki said that one act of kindness many years ago has left an impression on the entire family.

"We created the Polacek Family Human Needs Fund, where we all initially donated money to give to a charity," she said.

"Now we have fund-raisers during the year to raise a little more. We usually earmark the money to one charity a year."

But the St. Vincent de Paul effort is separate from the family's donation.

Mr. Polacek said he usually gives up to \$2,500 for the gifts.

"I buy from Boscov's and they generously give a discount on each item," he said.

"That way we can give more gifts and the store even gift wraps each present."

The dinner also marked the first time that someone spent the afternoon singing carols for the people.

Shawn McConville of Geistown entertained to the delight of every one on hand.

It was a wonderful Christmas celebration. There was good food, good music, laughter and fun. Most of all, there was love.

TRIBUTE TO MRS. ANNIE JEAN CAMPBELL

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 1, 2000

Mr. THOMPSON. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to stand here today on the first

day of "Black History Month" to record yet another first for African-Americans in my home state of Mississippi. On November 2, 1999, Mrs. Annie Jean Campbell became the first African-American woman to be elected to serve on the Board of Supervisors in Montgomery County, MI.

Mrs. Campbell, the daughter of Joe and Annie Roby not only became the first African-American woman to be elected to the position, but she is the first woman ever. Mrs. Campbell has lived in Montgomery County all of her life and is dedicated to the service of the people. As wife and mother of three, Ms. Campbell has already exemplified the patience and understanding needed to be an effective representative to the public.

Mr. Speaker, as I stand here and think of the accomplishment Mrs. Campbell has made, I become re-energized in the fact that there is always a possibility to change and that Mississippi continues to progress and create a new legacy.

MARKING THE RETIREMENT OF JOHN P. WEISS

HON. SAM GEJDENSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 1, 2000

Mr. GEJDENSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend John P. Weiss for nearly thirty years of service to the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service. John is more than an extraordinary public servant, he is a humanitarian and a great advocate on behalf of the American people.

On January 3, 2000, John Weiss officially retired as Officer in Charge of the Hartford, Connecticut INS Office. John's leadership and commitment to excellence has ensured high quality and efficient service for immigrants and their families living in Connecticut. John set a standard that all of us in public service should work to emulate.

In 1988, my office was inundated with calls from U.S. citizens who were filing their I-130 petitions for their foreign born spouses at the INS Service Center in Vermont. Unfortunately, the processing time in Vermont was quite

lengthy. After approaching John with this problem and expressing the frustration of my constituents, he agreed to look into the problem. John then implemented a new processing policy for I-130 and I-485 petitions filed by citizens on behalf of their spouses. He clearly empathized with the stress they were feeling due to being separated from their spouses. John allowed the Hartford INS office to begin accepting I-130 petitions from citizens for their spouses. This accelerated the processing time tremendously. He truly made a positive difference in the lives of thousands of people. Families were able to reunite much sooner than they had originally expected.

I have remarked many times throughout the years that Connecticut is indeed very lucky to have such a compassionate and caring individual such as John Weiss running the INS office. John's career is quite distinguished. One of his most remarkable assignments began in 1973 when he was assigned to investigate Nazi war criminals. John spent a great deal of time interviewing Holocaust victims and chronicling the atrocities that occurred during the Second World War and tracking war criminals who might have attempted to fraudulently enter the United States. I know this was an experience that deeply affected John's life and perspective on the world.

Whenever John Weiss learned about a problem or an individual with extenuating circumstances, he took steps to address it. It never mattered how busy he was with his duties, he always made time to address the needs of every constituent. In this respect, he is a model for all of us in public service.

Mr. Speaker, John Weiss is a public servant in the very best tradition of our country. He has worked tirelessly on behalf of the citizens of Connecticut and provided the highest quality service. He has also brought a sense of compassion to his work.

I am proud to be able to join his former colleagues and members of the community in thanking John for his service and commitment to bettering the lives of immigrants and their families.