

City's eastern and southern areas, allow drainage and treatment of the two existing tunnels, and provide an alternate delivery water system in the event service is disrupted in either of the two existing tunnels.

Since the September 11 attack, Local 375 members have worked on every aspect of restoring the City's vital systems to full service. They helped restore the Cortlandt Street Subway Station and lines that had been buried by debris and flooded by broken water mains after the collapse of the Twin Towers. Hundreds of tons of debris were removed from the tunnels while engineers ensured that the rescue and recovery work could proceed safely.

Local 375 members worked arduously from the time they were dispatched to Ground Zero immediately following the September 11, 2001, attack. Dedicated professional and technical workers performed flawlessly in cleaning up the site in dangerous demolition operations. In addition to strategic planning for the job, they monitored air quality and tested for anthrax. They even assisted in recovery and rescue efforts, and conducted DNA testing for victim identification. Members inspected adjacent buildings to ensure that all fire protection systems were working.

Few people outside of New York City know who is responsible for the life sustaining work that they do, but the fact is that without Local 375, New York could not exist as a City. I commend the union's leaders and the entire membership, many of whom reside in my Congressional District, for their contributions to our City and for performing their difficult jobs in a manner above and beyond the call of duty.

IN HONOR OF POLICE OFFICER
CHARLES J. BRONSTON, JR.

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 8, 2003

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of Police Officer Charles J. Bronston Jr., on the occasion of his retirement from the Bay Village Police Division that spans thirty-five years of dedication to the Force and honor to the Badge—Badge No 1. On April 8, 1968, Officer Bronston pledged his life to protecting the safety of others and was sworn in as Patrol Officer.

Growing up on the North Coast solidified Officer Bronston's love for the great outdoors and crystallized his deep commitment to his community on the Bay. His outstanding work and personal dedication to helping others was clearly reflected throughout his tenure of service. Officer Bronston's great enthusiasm for life, his kind and friendly nature, and his immediate willingness to help others elevated him to the highest level and best example of what a police officer should be.

Officer Bronston is so highly regarded within the Bay Village Police Division that its leaders informally judge all recruits against the stellar performance of Officer Bronston. Officer Bronston consistently went above and beyond the call of duty to protect and assist those who live and work in Bay Village. A true mentor, guide and friend, Officer Bronston's professionalism, expertise, sense of fairness, superior sense of humor, integrity and genuine

concern for others have served to assist and improve numerous life situations for many people. In addition, his interest in protecting his community extends beyond Bay Village into neighboring suburbs, as is reflected in his ongoing membership of the first SWAT Team for the Westshore Enforcement Bureau.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honor, gratitude and recognition of Officer Charles J. Bronston upon his retirement as full-time Police Officer with the Bay Village Police Division. His exceptional and courageous service on behalf of the citizens of Bay Village and beyond have served to lift the spirits and the lives of countless individuals, families within Bay Village and all along our western shores. We wish Officer Bronston, his wife Martha, children Charles III and Michael Scott and grandchildren Felicia and Cory many blessings of peace, health and happiness throughout his retirement. We also wish him many clear summer days of great fishing along the rolling waves, bays and shores of Lake Erie.

COMMEMORATING THE CAREER OF
MRS. JANE LAKIN UPON HER RETIREMENT FROM TEACHING FOLLOWING A 40 YEAR CAREER

HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 8, 2003

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor one of the true heroes of Tennessee's Second Congressional District. For forty years Mrs. Jane Lakin has changed the lives of thousands in the Knoxville community through her dedicated service as an elementary school teacher at both the Alice Bell and Spring Hill schools. Having seriously considered a career in teaching myself and having taught briefly at T.C. Williams School in Northern Virginia, I can say without hesitation that this career is one of the most challenging and rewarding any person can undertake.

Each Member of this body understands the vital role teachers play in shaping the lives of our youth and I believe every teacher is to be commended. However, to dedicate forty years of one's life to improving and enhancing the education of children is truly exceptional.

During Mrs. Lakin's career America has experienced tremendous change. While the Nation grieved the tragedy of President Kennedy's assassination and witnessed the triumphant raising of our Flag on the Moon, Mrs. Lakin walked each morning into a classroom and changed a student's life. As America grew through the turmoil of Viet Nam and later hailed our victory of the Cold War, Mrs. Lakin taught our children, one class at a time, the value and joy of learning. The world has changed and our Country has grown during the past 40 years, but Mrs. Lakin's love of educating the young men and women of Knoxville has never wavered.

On behalf of the entire Second Congressional District, I want to thank Mrs. Lakin for her tireless work and her consistent encouragement of her students. Whether or not these students ever have the opportunity to tell her, she has changed their lives for the better and we are all in her debt.

The Knoxville News Sentinel recently published an article on Mrs. Lakin and her retire-

ment. I would like to include this article in its entirety in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. I hope that women and men teaching today will look to Mrs. Lakin's example as an inspiration and a confirmation of the tremendous value they bring to our Country.

[From the Knoxville News Sentinel, June 9, 2003]

SPRING HILL TEACHER RETIRES AFTER 40 YEARS

(By Ed Marcum)

There's an odd thing about working with your former fourth-grade teacher, said Jackie Pena, who teaches kindergartners at Spring Hill Elementary School. Even after you have grown up, it's hard to forget that you once sat at a little desk in her classroom. Pena said that's why it was hard for her to think of Jane Lakin as just another one of the teachers at Spring Hill.

"The hardest thing was to get used to not calling her Mrs. Lakin," Pena said. Lee Ann Parker, who was a classmate of Pena's in the fourth grade, agreed. Parker, the music teacher at Spring Hill, said it felt funny to call Lakin by her first name. "You just don't say that to your teacher," she said.

Lakin has retired after 40 years' teaching in the Alice Bell/Spring Hill community. "Forty years and six months," Lakin said to be precise.

Irene Patterson, guidance counselor at Spring Hill, got to work closely with Lakin over the years.

"A lot of seasoned teachers get set in their ways, but she was always willing to try something new," Patterson said. "And she did a lot of things for children that no one knew about."

"She would come into my office and say, 'Irene, I noticed that such-and-such student is wearing her big sister's worn-out shoes, so I've bought her a pair.'"

The student would get a new pair of shoes anonymously. Patterson said Lakin brought in such gifts a number of times.

Pena remembers that Lakin was always eager to help new teachers.

"She has always made people feel welcome and has been a mentor to new teachers," Pena said.

Lakin, who lives in Ritta, moved to Knoxville in 1962 from Chattanooga, where she had taught for a year. She found a position at Alice Bell Elementary and taught there until 1991, when that school was consolidated into Spring Hill Elementary.

Lakin said when you spend your whole career teaching in the same general neighborhood, you end up teaching the children of the children you have taught, and you run into former students most every time you go to the grocery store.

"I never really meant to stay here 40 years, but it just worked out that way," she said. Teaching has changed since 1962, Lakin said. Teachers had more flexibility then.

"In those days, the things you taught were mostly by your own design. Now someone tells you what to teach," she said.

Lakin said she and other teachers stayed on the lookout for ideas to try out in the classroom. She said she became a "pack rat," always scrounging thrift stores or yard sales for craft items, plastic boxes or any materials that might come in handy in class. She said plastic boxes are essential for storing supplies.

"Teachers ought to buy stock in plastic boxes," Lakin said.

There are so many classroom requirements now that a teacher's time in the classroom is much more regimented, Lakin said.

"You just feel like you can't do something unless it will be on a test. There's no time for fun things," she said.