

I offer my condolences to his wife, Patricia; children, Dana and Keith; and their families. In this time of sorrow, may the thoughts and prayers of friends and family comfort them and may his memory bring them peace.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TIMOTHY V. JOHNSON

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 28, 2004

Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, due to the ice and snow storm in the Washington, D.C. area last night, my flight, American Airlines No. 1548 from Chicago's O'Hare International Airport to Washington, D.C.'s Ronald Reagan National Airport, was significantly delayed by 3½ hours. I therefore missed the two votes for the evening, Roll Call Nos. 6 and 7. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on H.R. 1385, an act authorizing the United States Postal Service to issue a special stamp to benefit breast cancer research; and I would also have voted "yea" on H.R. 3493, the Medical Devices Technical Corrections Act.

HONORING MARY LEIBHAM

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 28, 2004

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mary Leibham for 33 years of dedicated public service. Ms. Leibham will retire from the District Attorney Compliance and Closure Unit in early February. On Saturday, January 24, she will be honored at an event held at the SOS Club in Modesto, California.

Mary was born in North Dakota, but was raised in Sacramento, California. For the past 25 years, she has lived in Modesto, California. In 1971, Mary's extensive career in the Department of Social Services began as she transferred to the District Attorney Family Support Division as a family support officer. She returned to the Department of Social Services as a welfare fraud investigator in 1979. Less than a year later, Mary went back to the District Attorney Family Support Division as a family support officer and has since served as a senior family support officer, Family Support Program analyst, and is currently serving as Manager II, supervising the Compliance and Case Closure Unit (formerly District Attorney Family Support Division).

Ms. Leibham has had numerous accomplishments and has been involved with many noteworthy projects. She is the recipient of the 2001–2002 California Family Support Council Director's Award, as well as the 2001–2002 California Family Support Council Contribution in Training. Mary has participated in the Welfare Reform Task Force, the CDDA FSO College Committee, and the Stanislaus County Employee Mentoring Program-AIM Project for Everett Elementary and Chrysler Schools.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mary Leibham upon her retirement from public service. Although her career in public service has ended, her contributions will be felt for generations to come. I invite my colleagues to join me in wishing Mary a fulfilling retirement.

CELEBRATING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SAN ANTONIO HISPANIC CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

HON. CIRO D. RODRIGUEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 28, 2004

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. Mr. Speaker, seventy-five years ago, in 1929, the consul general of Mexico in San Antonio, then as today a center for trade between the United States and Mexico, formed what was to become the highly successful San Antonio Hispanic Chamber of Commerce. This week the Hispanic Chamber celebrates its 75th anniversary with pride in its past accomplishments and optimism for its future successes.

As the oldest organization of its kind, the San Antonio Hispanic Chamber of Commerce continues to be a leading advocate for Hispanic, minority, and woman-owned businesses in San Antonio through individual business advice, networking, and advocacy. Widely respected today as a positive force in the business life of our community, the Hispanic Chamber, like its membership, had to overcome social and economic barriers on the path to success.

Chartered in 1929 by Don Enrique Santibanez, the chamber focused on improving political and economic ties between the United States and Mexico. That mission remains central to the 21st Century Hispanic Chamber, which plays a lead role in promoting trade between the United States and our neighbors to the south in Latin America. The San Antonio Hispanic Chamber of Commerce has helped make San Antonio the gateway to the Americas.

Facing active discrimination, the early chamber had to do more than the typical chamber of commerce. Not only did it seek to promote business growth, it sought to develop Hispanic civic participation in the power centers of our community. As we continue to the battle against negative stereotypes the chamber continues its mission of training its members to become community leaders.

And it has met with great success. For those of us in Congress, the San Antonio Hispanic Chamber of Commerce serves as a great resource and source of inspiration. Locally, the Hispanic Chamber provides leadership, expertise, and encouragement to the vibrant and growing Hispanic business community. Their success is our success.

I would like to commend Chairman Leo Gomez and the 2003 Board of Directors for their leadership over the past year. They have continued the Chamber's tradition of molding Hispanic community leaders and advancing minority business interests. I know that the chamber's new chair, Elaine Mendoza, will take the chamber to new levels of success. Of course, the Hispanic Chamber's achievements reflect the hard work, dedication, and leadership of its staff, headed by chamber president Rita Elizondo. Our thanks to all of you for what you give to our community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to recognize the achievements of the San Antonio Hispanic Chamber of Commerce as it marks 75 years of progress.

RECOGNIZING BETTY LUCINDA ETCHISON

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 28, 2004

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Betty Lucinda Etchison for her nearly 58 years of committed service to the McLanahan Corporation. Her presence with the company will be sorely missed.

Betty Lucinda was born in Geeseytown, Pennsylvania, in 1928 to George J. and Rebecca H. Etchison. After graduating from Hollidaysburg High School in 1946, she began her journey through the McLanahan and Stone Corporation as a stenographer. At the time, she was only a temporary employee; but after proving herself as a capable worker, Ward McLanahan hired her as a full-time employee.

Under the direction of James Craig McLanahan, Ms. Etchison further disclosed her vast capabilities, quietly earning recognition for her incomparable performance on the job. Shortly after the company became the McLanahan Corporation, Ms. Etchison's distinguishing loyalty was acknowledged, as she became Michael McLanahan's personal secretary and remained in the same position for the next 31 years. Working tirelessly to overcome the obstacles of having to learn and master continually changing technology, Ms. Etchison flourished under her final boss, Sean McLanahan.

To the enjoyment of local citizens, her spirit and dedication translated into every aspect of her life. Ms. Etchison has been a life-long member of the Scotch Valley Grange, helping to prepare food and treating the crowds by playing the piano at numerous functions and selflessly contributing her time and musical talent to the Lutheran churches of Frankstown and Geeseytown. Her uncompromising sense of duty to the community in which she lives has been a source of inspiration.

Having worked diligently for four generations of the McLanahan family, Ms. Etchison has demonstrated an unyielding enthusiasm and care for the company which she has served. For her incomparable generosity, service to the McLanahan Corporation, and unabated commitment to excellence, Betty L. Etchison deserves the highest recognition. The legacy she has left behind is one that every American should emulate, and her contributions will not go unnoticed by the business for which she worked nor the community in which she lives. I would like to congratulate Ms. Etchison on her accomplishments, and I wish her the best of luck in her retirement.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. HAROLD ROGERS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 28, 2004

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, January 27, I was unavoidably detained due to the inclement weather and was not present for roll call votes numbers 6 and 7. The votes were on H.R. 1385 and H.R. 3493, respectively. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on both measures.