

Mr. Catlett has served Monroe County for nearly 40 years, making him the longest serving county judge in Arkansas. Unfortunately for us, he has recently announced his intent to retire at the end of this year. This will end a journey which began on July 26, 1966 when Judge Catlett won the Democratic primary and was sworn in later the same year—he was 40 years old.

Since then, Judge Catlett has served 19 terms as county judge and has always called Monroe County home. He has shown the courthouse unmatched respect, specifically through a major renovation which raised the standard for beautifying county courthouses in Arkansas and across this country. It cannot be debated: Tom Catlett was a citizen who worked tirelessly for the growth and prosperity of Monroe County.

Perhaps his service is best summarized by a statement he recently made when he announced his retirement, "I am sure that when I look back on my life, I will see the last 38 years as the happiest times of all." Judge Catlett is a man who took pride in his work and is honored to be in a position to help his county excel. Judge Catlett's thirst for improving his community remains unquenched and I expect even after his retirement this year, the name Tom Catlett will permeate the accomplishments of Monroe County for years to come.

On behalf of the Congress, I extend the utmost respect and deference for a man befitting such titles as county judge, community leader and example to us all. Tom Catlett is a roll model and I am honored to recognize him in this Congress.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE COMMUNITY OF STOCKTON, MISSOURI

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 2, 2004

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, let me take this means to recognize the citizens of Stockton, Missouri, for their efforts in recovering from a tragedy. On the evening of Sunday, May 4, 2003, this small Missouri community was struck by a powerful tornado. It has taken months to restore what took minutes to destroy, but this community has shown strength and resolve in the face of great challenges.

The utter destruction visited upon Stockton is difficult to grasp unless seen. It is measured in terms of what is no longer there. The absence of businesses, homes, churches, even 100 year-old trees, act as a daily reminder of what happened. The Stockton town square was particularly hard hit. Like most town squares in small communities throughout Missouri, Stockton's was an important center of economic activity. Most of the buildings leveled in the downtown area were businesses. The local business owners took it upon themselves to form the Downtown Business District Committee. This committee, open to all business-owners, created a means of mutual support and a forum for discussion of common problems and issues. One important task was to set up guidelines for reconstruction of the town square. The first building on the square to reopen was the pharmacy of Ray Zumwalt. The rebuilding of the pharmacy, along with all

of the other buildings in Stockton, did not happen overnight. It was a gradual process. But as bricks were laid and roofs repaired, the mending of the spirit of this town could be seen, not just in the buildings, but in the people as well. The return of hope to a community that has lost so much is a very important thing.

Today, the community of Stockton is busy preparing for a four-day event commemorating the one-year anniversary of the tornado. This event will serve as a reminder of that day, and as a celebration of all that has been accomplished in such a short period of time. Some questioned whether the town could survive. With this city-wide event, scheduled to take place May 1 through May 4, the people of Stockton will answer with a resounding "yes".

The following individuals deserve special recognition for their efforts to help the people of Stockton: Jerry Uhlmann, Charles May, Gayla Weber, Dick Hainje, Dennis Moffett, Dan Best, Brad Gair, Jonathan Hoyes, Fred May, Jeff Wall, Peggy Kenney, R. Bruce Martin, Kristi Perrin, Richard Barnes, Sheila Johnson, Cynthia Davies and Gale Roberts. These individuals from the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the State Emergency Management Agency and the Department of Natural Resources provided direction and support in the community's efforts to rebuild.

Mr. Speaker, there are days such as the May 4, 2003, when we are reminded of the awesome and unforgiving power of nature. In minutes, lives, families, and whole communities can be uprooted. The people of Stockton made the decision to rebuild, not retreat. It takes strength and courage to face the challenges posed by such a disaster. They have faced this time of trying with such great resolve, have overcome setbacks with such perseverance, they serve as an example to us all of what can be accomplished when the people of a community based on strong traditions of support, compassion, and dedication come together to help their neighbors. Stockton has a lesson to teach us all: the values of family, community, and helping those in need are still alive and well in this country. I am sure my fellow Members will join me in honoring the citizens of this outstanding community and thanking those who have done so much to help.

COMMENDING MIKE PACINI

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 2, 2004

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mike Pacini. Mike Pacini is currently a Boulder City Council Member and has sat on the council since 1997, when he was the youngest candidate elected to that position. In 2003 Mike Pacini was elected President of the Nevada League of Cities and received the Honor of Nevada's 2003-2004 Public Official of the Year. I urge the House to join with me in congratulating him on his recent honors.

CONGRATULATING PETTY OFFICER THIRD CLASS DAVID L. BROWN, UNITED STATES NAVY, ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RECEIPT OF THE PURPLE HEART

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 2, 2004

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride and pleasure that I rise to pay tribute to Petty Officer Third Class David L. Brown, former member of the United States Navy, on the occasion of his receipt of the Purple Heart.

This recognition—long overdue—was made last week as the result of injuries Petty Officer Brown received during the Vietnam Conflict in 1968.

On January 3, 1968, Petty Officer Brown, who served as an equipment operator in country for a total of 13 months, and his unit were involved in action with enemy combatants near Hue City during the Tet Offensive. During the engagement, a lieutenant positioned nearby was wounded by enemy fire. Petty Officer Brown rushed to his aid and while trying to drag this officer out of the line of fire to safety, he was hit in his hands by an enemy mortar round. He immediately received aid from a corpsman, but he and his unit continued to be pinned down by enemy fire for eight days. Petty Officer Brown was eventually evacuated from Hue City and continued his naval service, serving for a period of ten months aboard the *USS Ranger*.

Following his return to the United States, he served as a ship superintendent at Northrop Grumman Ship Systems' Ingalls Operation in Pascagoula, Mississippi, until his retirement. However, he never received the recognition he was due as a result of heroic services rendered during the Tet Offensive.

In an effort to determine his eligibility for the Purple Heart and other medals and decorations associated with the injuries he sustained in Hue City, Petty Officer Brown contacted my predecessor, former Congressman Sonny Callahan, and requested his assistance in contacting the appropriate officials on his behalf.

Over the next two years, Mrs. Kay Williams, a member of Congressman Callahan's district staff and now a member of my district staff, worked diligently with officials with the National Personnel Records Center, the Department of the Navy, and the National Archives and Records Administration on this issue.

Without question, Mrs. Williams tirelessly pursued every possible avenue in an attempt to secure this recognition for Petty Officer Brown, and in recent weeks was able to contact Mr. Glenn Morichika. Mr. Morichika, a resident of Honolulu, Hawaii, is the only surviving witness to the events of January 3, 1968. Thankfully, Mr. Morichika was able to provide an eyewitness testimony as to Petty Officer Brown's actions.

As a result of this testimony, and the tremendous efforts of Mrs. Williams, Petty Officer Brown was finally awarded the Purple Heart, the Combat Action Ribbon, and the Meritorious Unit Commendation. This recognition, while long overdue, is certainly well-deserved and is a testament to the dedication to duty and concern for his fellow troops that marked Petty Officer Brown's exemplary service in the United States Navy.