

We've been informed that there are at least six official complaints against Mr. Jennings for hostile workplace environment, including one for sexual harassment, that are now under investigation by the DOD Inspector General's office.

Our Executive Director Ann Mills Griffiths was interviewed a couple of weeks ago, and the Chairman of the Korea/Cold War Families of the Missing was reportedly being called today; we strongly oppose Mr. Jennings continuing as DPMO Director, his third position.

Our objections to Mr. Jennings are focused 1st on policy weaknesses and the manner in which he develops policy without substantive interagency integration and dismisses Vietnam's ability to provide answers, 2nd on his hostility toward the families, and 3rd his attempts to take total control of our annual meetings AND operations of the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command and all DOD-related organizations.

Mr. Jennings plan is increasing DPMO control over operations, and he has several senior personnel assigned to this task, already having published an innocuous-sounding Strategic Plan, but the real agenda is fussy in its portrayal.

Close attention by Congress is his greatest fear, as careful scrutiny would reveal greater intrusion into operations, inappropriate behavior toward DPMO staff and employees, mismanagement of tax-payer funds allocated for the POW/MIA accounting effort, implementing plans to circumvent GS guidelines and attempts to subvert the League and other nonprofit, humanitarian organizations.

Our Board of Directors unanimously voted NO CONFIDENCE in DASD Jennings and the current leadership of DPMO; we are joined by unanimous vote of the Korea/Cold War Families of the Missing Board of Directors, headed by Irene Mandra, New York.

Both have provided our separate views to Dep. Sec. of Defense Paul Wolfowitz and Assistant Secretary, International Security Affairs, Peter Rodman, as has The Chosin Few, the organization of Korean War veterans who survived the horrible battles at the Chosin Reservoir; their vote was straightforward—to seek Mr. Jennings' removal.

DPMO staff were directed to revise their charter documents to ensure that DPMO is the sole USG organization to negotiate with foreign governments, speak to Congress, the media, the veterans' community and the families on the issue, take control of all field operations worldwide, and to find a way to control and take over all annual meetings of POW/MIA families.

They cite one provision of the DOD regulations pertaining to the ethics code to back their plan to take control of the League's annual meetings, but ignore the provision that allows all DoD elements to respond to invitations to participate in non-government conferences and events, as they routinely do for the Legion, VFW, DAV and countless other community groups, never seeking to control them, or their agenda and program.

In S. 1245/H.R. 2996, the Defense Authorization Bill of 1983, Congress amended 157 of title 10, U.S. Code, to "authorize the Sec. of Defense to provide transportation for next-of-kin of certain persons who are unaccounted for to attend annual national meetings sponsored by the National League of Families of American Prisoners and Missing in Southeast Asia.

That authorization was amended by the 107th Congress to include the Korea/Cold War families by noting families of American military and certain civilians unaccounted for since the end of World War II, are entitled to DOD transportation to attend the annual meetings (plural).

When we raised this to Assistant Secretary for International Security Affairs Peter Rod-

man, Mr. Jennings, who had joined the meeting, stated that "Congressional intent is irrelevant."

For the past year, the League has endured repeated attempts by Mr. Jennings and his immediate front-office staff to take total control of our annual meetings, not only the agenda during which the briefings are presented, but even selecting the hotel, setting the date, and holding Congressionally-authorized transportation as leverage to force the League to accede to DPMO's demands.

Mr. Jennings has now gone too far, insisting on total control, contracted with another hotel in Crystal City, set the date one day earlier, has distributed his plan to all Vietnam War POW/MIA families and given instructions to the Military Services about transportation.

For the good of the issue and our system of checks and balances, as well as unity in pursuing answers from what are mostly communist-controlled countries, Mr. Jennings' control mentality must stop.

The League and the Korea/Cold War Families of the Missing have called for his removal, or resignation, in the best interest of the issue, the families and the USG, particularly DPMO employees, but also JPAC and other operational organizations and the Military Service Casualty Offices.

A TRIBUTE TO VERNON PARKER

HON. MARILYN N. MUSGRAVE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 21, 2005

Ms. MUSGRAVE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Vernon Parker. Little did I know as I sat in my Colorado history class in seventh grade my teacher, Mr. Vern Parker, was an extraordinary man.

The community where I grew up was small, and everyone knew everyone else. The school in Galeton was small, too. There were 17 students in my class. When we were in the seventh grade, one of our favorite classes was Colorado History. Evidently classroom space was limited, because we met in the music room and sat on folding chairs. It seemed a little odd not to have desks but we juggled our books on our laps and managed quite well.

Mr. Parker was enthusiastic about the subject and kept us all interested. I remember one quiz that he gave us, in particular. He gave us a list of towns and instructed us to identify those that were located in Colorado. Although I'm a native of the State, I wasn't sure about some of them. When I saw "Parker" on the list, I was convinced it was a trick question. After all, it was my teacher's last name. Needless to say, I didn't get 100 percent on that quiz.

Even though one of the boys in our class was Mr. Parker's nephew, who called him by his first name, I still was in awe of my teacher and I tried to do my best. Once Mr. Parker complimented me on my performance in a talent show and his praise gave me confidence and helped me more than he could ever know.

We were unaware of the incredible experiences Mr. Parker had before he came to be our teacher. We didn't know the hero that stood before us.

Mr. Parker served in the United States Army in the special unit known as "Wolfpack", which worked with friendly South Korean troops during the Korean War, and he was struck by

lightning at Fort Riley between tours in Korea. He served from 1949 until he was wounded in 1953. During this time, he was awarded two Silver Stars for gallantry in action during a battle in which he destroyed a Communist tank using a bazooka. In that same battle, he was wounded by an exploding artillery shell and was awarded the Purple Heart.

When he went home, he married his sweetheart Sylvia Howard in 1953. Vern and Sylvia made sacrifices, and he earned his Master's degree from Colorado State College of Education in 1959. They were blessed with three children—Jim, Jerry, and Joe.

Mr. Parker began teaching school at Galeton, Colorado in 1958. He went on to become the principal of Galeton's elementary and junior high schools. He was the school Superintendent in Briggsdale, Colorado, for three years and he continued teaching in Weldona, Colorado, from 1976 to 1979.

When Mr. Parker retired he opened and ran a small business. He was a member of the Lions Club and the V.F.W., a Boy Scout leader, and a volunteer fireman. Vernon's love of teaching and working with young people has stayed with him always and he takes great pleasure in the accomplishments of his former students and scouts. He has served his community and his country well.

My classmates and I liked him a lot, and we thought he had a good sense of humor. Recently, I acquired one of the textbooks we used in his class. Every time I come across the book, it brings back good memories and I always stop and thumb through it.

I am proud to have been a student of Vernon Parker, and I know Congressman FRANKS is as well. Mr. Speaker, I'm very thankful for the positive influence Vern Parker had on my life as my teacher and I'm also very thankful as an American for the sacrifices he has made for our freedom and liberty. May God bless our teachers who positively influence young people, and may God bless our precious veterans who have made sacrifices on our behalf.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE COMPLETION OF THE WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE TREEHOUSE AT CRADLE BEACH CAMP

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 21, 2005

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the completion of the state of New York's first wheelchair accessible treehouse at Cradle Beach Camp in Angola. This 650 square foot structure that sits among the trees eleven feet above the ground is another important chapter in Cradle Beach Camp's mission to provide rewarding and educational summer camp experience to children with disadvantages or special needs. This innovative treehouse will provide a valuable learning and recreational asset for wheelchair-bound campers.

Since 1888 Cradle Beach Camp has provided rewarding summer break fun and learning to disabled children and children who would often not be able to attend a camp. Now approximately 900 children every year are given an unforgettable experience, participating in energetic and entertaining activities

while learning about themselves as well as their new friends.

The activities of Cradle Beach Camp are organized to follow the 40 developmental assets that have been identified by the Search Institute—an organization that provides resources to promote healthy children. By focusing on a child's development, the Cradle Beach Camp program helps their attendees learn about themselves and steer them away from damaging and dangerous activities later in life.

Cradle Beach Camp has always looked for challenges and innovative ways to enhance the stay of their campers. Cradle Beach's newest project is no different. The camp has overseen construction of a large treehouse capable of allowing children in wheelchairs to study and enjoy themselves in the treetops. This large treehouse capable of fitting 25 people will allow all campers to appreciate the simple joy of spending time surrounded by nature.

In closing Mr. Speaker, I wish to recognize this great achievement by the inspirational Cradle Beach Camp whose mission in its own words is "to provide children with a chance to learn more about themselves and their abilities, instead of their limitations." I would also like to recognize the generosity of the people of Western New York whose donations and volunteer efforts have made this project possible. Just as it has done many times in the past, the Cradle Beach Staff led by its president, Jeannine L. Higgins, and many other Western New Yorkers, have provided generously to help the mission of this wonderful camp continue well into the future.

TRIBUTE TO WDIA RADIO STATION

HON. HAROLD E. FORD, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 21, 2005

Mr. FORD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor WDIA radio station in Memphis. The station is celebrating nearly sixty years of broadcasting with a new compact disc anthology featuring the rhythm and blues, soul and hip-hop classics that have made Memphis famous.

From its beginnings in 1948, as the first radio station in the United States featuring programming by African-Americans for an African-American audience, WDIA has introduced America to such world wide legends as B.B. King who recorded his first single at WDIA, Rufus Thomas and Isaac Hayes.

In its first years on the air, WDIA experienced great success and was the most popular station in the city. In 1954, WDIA expanded its signal to broadcast from South-West Missouri through the Mississippi River Delta to the Gulf Coast. This expansion brought its blues, gospel, and soul to ten percent of the United States' African-American population.

With its enormous success, WDIA has remained focused on improving the Memphis community and has earned the title of "the Goodwill Station." Throughout its distinguished history, WDIA has aided the community by announcing job openings, connecting individuals with agencies to help them resolve problems, establishing over 100 Little League teams for black children, and sponsoring charitable events to raise funds for community initiatives.

Almost sixty years since its launch, WDIA continues as a driving force in radio. From Bobby O'Jay and the Fun Morning Team, to the Bev Johnson Show to the Davis Brothers in the afternoon, to Ford Nelson and Mark Stansbury's Gospel Sunday, WDIA is not only the "Mother Station" for African-Americans, it is stands as a symbol of entertainment, entrepreneurship and philanthropy for our region and the entire nation.

Mr. Speaker, it is in recognition of and appreciation for WDIA's nearly six-decade-long history and its continued presence in the Memphis community that I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to WDIA AM 1070, the Goodwill Station.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. WILLIAM D. DELAHUNT

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 21, 2005

Mr. DELAHUNT. Mr. Speaker, on June 8, 2005, I inadvertently voted in the negative on rollcall 233 on H.R. 2744. It was my intention to be recorded as "yes" on this measure and I offer this clarification for the RECORD.

IN HONOR OF RAYMOND J. FATZ

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 21, 2005

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I am extremely proud to recognize an outstanding American who retires from Federal civilian service after 37½ years. On July 1st, Mr. Raymond J. Fatz of Herndon, VA, completes a long, and lustrous career in the Federal Government, which began as a soldier in the United States Army in 1967.

Mr. Fatz' extraordinary leadership and accomplishments as the senior executive for the Army's environmental, safety and occupational health programs have had a positive, direct, and lasting impact on the Soldiers and on the Army's ability to complete its peacetime and wartime missions—past, present and future.

I came to know Ray Fatz through his work on clean-up issues at Fort Ord. To anyone who has heard me preach about Fort Ord, you know how deep into the details I am. Whether it be cleaning up the UXO, filtering the contaminated water plume, or capping old landfills, I am passionate about getting clean up right. Ray Fatz not only understood this, he relished it. He went after Fort Ord clean up with a spirit that speaks volumes of his commitment to public service and dedication to Army environmental principles. Though Fort Ord has been a tough nut to crack, I'm happy to say that under Ray Fatz's leadership, we are on a path to getting Fort Ord clean, back into the hands of civilians, and ready for an economic boom.

It has been Ray's collegial style and quiet diplomacy that has enabled him to navigate the difficult issues of military environmental stewardship. During times of tighter budgets but increased demands, Ray has done a masterful job of allocating resources where they can do the most public good. In that respect,

we all should take a page out of Ray's rule book.

Today, I wish Ray Fatz the best in his well-deserved retirement. He can now improve his golf game, go fishing and spend more time with his family.

Mr. Fatz, I thank you, the Army thanks you, and your country thanks you for your extraordinary service.

RECOGNIZING STEVEN HAO

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 21, 2005

Ms. LOFGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Steven Hao for his selection as a finalist in the USA Biology Olympiad, sponsored by the Center for Excellence in Education.

Steven was selected as one of twenty students from more than 5,400 who will compete in the National Finals. The four gold medalists from the National Finals will represent the United States at the International Biology Olympiad in Beijing, China. We hope that these students will achieve the outstanding success of the 2004 U.S. Team, who won an unprecedented four gold medals, a feat accomplished for the first time in Biology Olympiad history.

The Biology Olympiad promotes education and creativity in a way that is vital to a youth's development. These types of activities encourage students to explore the fields of science and engineering. This kind of innovation will drive the United States' economy into the future. As a Member of Congress from Silicon Valley, I fully understand the importance and impact that these studies have on America's prosperity.

I am proud to stand here today to recognize Steven for his accomplishments at the USA Biology Olympiad. Steven was also recently recognized for winning a prize at the 56th Intel International Science and Engineering Fair Project for his project on "The Effects of Oxidative Damage on Protein Translation Efficiency." I urge him and all students to continue to take an interest in these fields, so that the U.S. will continue to lead the world in scientific research.

HENRY J. HYDE UNITED NATIONS REFORM ACT OF 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 17, 2005

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2745) to reform the United Nations, and for other purposes:

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 2745, which focuses on reform at the United Nations. I do so not because I am against the mission of the U.N. to the contrary, I support the U.N.'s role in facilitating diplomacy, mediating disputes, keeping the peace and feeding the hungry. Moreover, I continue to advocate for a much larger role for