

and the proceeds from the event are contributed to local charities. These are just a few of the many ways K-VA-T supports its communities.

The outstanding work of Jack C. Smith and K-VA-T Food Stores has improved the quality of life of thousands of citizens in my Congressional District in southwest Virginia as well as throughout eastern Kentucky and northeast Tennessee. The affects of his dedication to shaping the communities in this region will be lasting. I applaud the efforts of Jack C. Smith, and it is with great pleasure that I congratulate him on 50 years in the grocery business.

CONGRATULATING ARGYLE HIGH SCHOOL MARCHING BAND

**HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 10, 2005*

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Argyle High School Marching Band on winning the Class 2A State Championship.

The Music Program of the University Interscholastic League, UIL, is designed to support and enrich the teaching of music as an integral component of the public school curriculum in the state of Texas. Each year approximately 500,000 middle school, junior high and high school students reap the benefits of participation in the 10 UIL music events. This year the UIL State marching band championship was held in the San Antonio Alamodome on November 7-8, 2005.

The Argyle High School Marching Band won the state title 2 years ago, when they were last eligible to compete. This year, after successfully competing in regional and area UIL contests, the band was able to advance to the UIL State competition. After performing their original music and marching routine, the band was selected as one of the 7 top finalists out of a total 18 2A bands at the competition. The final performance determined that the Argyle High School Band won the UIL Class 2A State Championship.

I sincerely commend the Argyle High School Marching Band and their Director, Cindy Mikel, for winning the UIL Class 2A State Championship. Their hard work, dedication, desire to excel, and success in promoting and performing music deserves the highest recognition and congratulations.

RECOGNIZING THE 12TH ROUND OF INTER-KOREAN FAMILY REUNIONS NOVEMBER 5-10, 2005

**HON. XAVIER BECERRA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 10, 2005*

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, since the landmark Joint Declaration was signed during the inter-Korean summit that took place on June 15, 2000, 11 rounds of family reunions between South and North Korea have taken place. Over these 5 years, more than 10,000 people have been given the chance to do something they have not done in over 50 years—and that is to once again feel the

warm embrace of their family. This past Saturday, November 5, 2005, a 12th reunion began at North Korea's Mount Kumgang Resort and will last through today, November 10, 2005.

And so Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize this historic event, as these incredibly emotional and heart-warming reunions underscore the unimaginable pain experienced by families forced apart in 1950 at the outbreak of the Korean War. A renewed sense of urgency surrounds these reunions as divided family members are well into their senior years; many of whom have already passed away and were never afforded the opportunity to do that which so many of us are blessed to do daily: converse face to face with a daughter or brother or mother or father.

Great strides have been taken to expand the breadth and depth of these reunifications to allow for greater participation. In addition to the face to face meetings, South Korea has incorporated live television and video feeds for those family members who cannot make the trip to Mount Kumgang. South Korea has also committed to hold family reunions on a regular basis and institutionalize both the exchange of letters and the process of confirming the fates and whereabouts of separated family members. Already, the status of some 20,000 individuals—living and deceased—have been confirmed. Furthermore, South Korea is currently constructing a family reunion center that will serve as the permanent location for hosting future reunions.

A seldom-cited fact is that there are more than 10 million separated family members—a staggering one quarter of the nation's population—currently in South Korea. In addition, there are more than 500,000 Korean Americans here in our own country who also share the pain of having separated family members in North Korea.

The South Korean government has held talks with North Korea on the topic of including Koreans from all over the world in the reunification efforts. As a result of the second and third round of ministerial meetings that were held in 2000 between the two Koreas, 115 Koreans living overseas, including 84 Korean Americans, have been afforded the opportunity to see and be with their separated family members.

The South Korean government has stated that it will make all efforts possible to continue to create greater opportunities for Koreans living abroad to meet their divided family members. So far, about 1,000 Koreans living overseas have applied to participate in the reunions, 600 of whom live right here in the United States.

For these reasons, Mr. Speaker, I wish to recognize and pay tribute to the 12th round of inter-Korean family reunions. Perhaps it is also fitting for all of us here in this body to take a moment to reflect on the importance of family, recognizing that the time we spend with them is so precious and must never be taken for granted. I also wish to express my personal appreciation and commend the government and people of South Korea for all they have done to institutionalize these important reunions and encourage them to continue their full commitment to family reunification.

RECOGNIZING AND COMMENDING CONTINUING DEDICATION AND COMMITMENT OF EMPLOYERS OF MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL GUARD AND THE OTHER RESERVE COMPONENTS

SPEECH OF

**HON. TODD TIAHRT**

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 8, 2005*

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, the summer invasion of Kuwait by Saddam Hussein in 1990 initiated one of the longest continual military mobilizations in our nation's history. Since then, our military has been continually engaged in the Middle East and other theaters. The attacks in New York, Virginia and Pennsylvania on September 11th, 2001 have only served to expand the scope and increase the operational tempo and intensity of our armed forces.

For the past 15 years, our citizen-soldiers, found in the Reserves and Army and Air National Guard, have been increasingly mobilized and deployed. Since the Global War on Terrorism began in 2001, 433,000 members of the reserve component have been mobilized for active duty. These troops, like our active-duty force, risk their lives on the front-lines for our nation's security and freedom while being separated from friends and family. But unique to our National Guardsmen and Reservists, these deployments often involve year-long absences from civilian employment and a corresponding financial hardship.

National Guard and Reserve mobilization also has a dramatic effect on civilian employers. Across the nation businesses are losing their top employees to the call of national service. Despite the strain on their businesses, the vast majority of employers embrace this challenge with pride. Not only do they adhere to the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act, many businesses go above and beyond in support of their deployed employees and the families left behind. They deserve our nation's respect and thanks.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I am honored to support House Resolution 302, sponsored by Mr. POMBO of California. This important resolution recognizes and commends the dedication and commitment of employers of the members of the National Guard and the other reserve components. I encourage this entire body to strongly support this resolution, along with the businesses and reservists it commends.

OLD JAIL ART CENTER SILVER ANNIVERSARY

**HON. RANDY NEUGEBAUER**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 10, 2005*

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate the Old Jail Art Center in Albany, Texas on its 25th anniversary. The Art Center first opened on December 19, 1980 and, as the name indicates, is located in the first permanent jail built in Shackelford County. The historic location in combination with the excellent permanent art collection and other exhibits gives Albany an important cultural

center that receives over 30,000 visitors a year.

Texas Monthly magazine has called The Old Jail Art Center the best small-town museum in the state and it is easy to see why. It has a permanent collection of over 1900 works of art, including modern paintings by artists such as Thomas Hart Benton, Pierre-Auguste Renoir, and Pablo Picasso. The museum's Eastern Art Collection displays thirty-five Chinese terra-cotta tomb figures from the Han and T'ang dynasties. The Old Jail Art Center provides art education opportunities with 43 Big Country school districts. In addition, the museum offers historical archives and serves as a research library for Shackelford County. I am pleased to honor this full service art center that contributes to the cultural and educational opportunities for my constituents in the 19th Congressional District of Texas.

I would like to congratulate all those involved with making this museum such a success. The citizens of Albany and all Texans can be proud of the Old Jail Art Center and its programs.

#### VETERANS DAY

### HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 10, 2005

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to America's 24.5 million living veterans who have served and sacrificed for our country—including the 28,000 veterans in my district.

Veterans Day is the time to honor the servicemen and women that have protected this country and the freedom we hold so dear. Throughout history, our veterans have served our nation with great distinction and honor. Today, we recognize both those who have worn the uniform and those who are currently serving.

That is why I support several key pieces of legislation that serve to benefit our nation's veterans. I am proud to be a cosponsor of H.R. 2131, the New GI Bill of Rights for the 21st Century. The new GI Bill would repeal unfair tax burdens on military families, provide veterans with affordable health care, education, and job training benefits, and strengthen our support for men and women in uniform, including our National Guard and Reservists.

On this Veterans Day, our servicemen and women continue to risk their lives in Iraq and Afghanistan to protect our country. Recently, the 2,000th soldier was killed in Iraq and more than 15,000 troops have been wounded there. During the Iraqi conflict, my district has suffered the loss of many brave servicemen who did not return to their families. They are Marine Corporal Jorge A. Gonzalez; Army Sergeant Atanasio Haromarin; Army Private First Class Jose Casanova; Marine Private First Class Francisco A. Martinez Flores; Army Specialist Leroy Harris-Kelly III; Marine Corporal Rudy Salas; Lance Corporal Benjamin M. Gonzalez; Lance Corporal Manuel A. Ceniceros; Specialist Private First Class Marcos O. Nolasco; and Corporal Stephen P. Johnson. These men, our fallen soldiers, are heroes. My heart and prayers go out to their families and friends.

We have learned that freedom is not free and no one has paid a higher price and sac-

rificed for our freedom than our veterans. I join the rest of the nation in remembering their service to our country. Let us renew our efforts to keep our promises to our veterans. We can do that by making sure that legislation is passed that will help our veterans. Our nation's veterans and service members need to know that their families will be taken care of while they sacrifice so much.

I urge my colleagues to keep our promises to our veterans and fight for the improvement of services to them.

#### HONORING THE HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES TO THE NORRISTOWN AREA HIGH SCHOOL HALL OF CHAMPIONS ASSOCIATION

### HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 10, 2005

Mr. GERLACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor five distinguished gentlemen on the occasion of their induction into the Hall of Fame of the Norristown Area High School Hall of Champions Association.

The Norristown Area High School Hall of Champions Association was established in 1977 to honor and commemorate the accomplishments of distinguished alumni of the Norristown Area High School.

The 2005 Annual Hall of Fame inductees will be: James R. Caiola, posthumously; Salvatore P. Carfagno; Carl G. Sander; David G. Fry; and Guy Reinbold.

James R. Caiola, Class of 1926, was a Norristown area attorney for nearly sixty years. Additionally, Mr. Caiola was very active in his community and was instrumental in the founding of the Norristown Fraternal Order of Police Lodge, No. 31. He also prepared the first pension plan for police officers and was active with Camp Rainbow, a camp for underprivileged children. Mr. Caiola passed away in February of this year.

Salvatore P. Carfagno, Class of 1943, is also being honored for his notable accomplishments after graduation. Mr. Carfagno served as director of nuclear engineering and the head of the engineering department of the Franklin Institute in Philadelphia from 1948 to 1989. Mr. Carfagno also served as a consultant to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission and has published numerous technical papers and has given lectures throughout the United States and several foreign countries.

Carl G. Sander, Class of 1948, had an impressive career with Scott Paper Company where he served as a regional marketing manager. Therefore, he joined McCormick and Company where he served as managing director of a subsidiary in England. From 1976 to 1979, Mr. Sander continued his career in England with Country Kitchen Foods. Upon Mr. Sander's return to the United States in 1984, he demonstrated the spirit of entrepreneurship and started his own company, the Carl G. Sander Co., a food brokerage company in Jacksonville, Florida.

David G. Fry, Class of 1973, is the head of the structural chemistry department of Hoffman-LaRoche Company in New Jersey. He has published more than 35 research papers and is involved in numerous research programs for drugs intended to combat both hepatitis C and HIV/AIDS.

Guy Reinbold, Class of 1974, has had an outstanding career in the hospitality industry. He has worked as the director of food and beverage services at the Marriot Waterfront Hotel in Baltimore and he has previously worked locally at both the Whitford Country Club and the Chadds Ford Inn. In 1999, he was appointed the director of culinary development for Marriot Hotels and, in 2000, he was named vice president of culinary for Marriot International.

Mr. Speaker, it is a pleasure to rise and recognize these remarkable and talented individuals who have all excelled in their respective fields and brought honor to the Norristown Area High School and Community.

#### NORTHWEST INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT "A SALUTE TO HURRICANE VOLUNTEERS"

### HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 10, 2005

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to salute those individuals and organizations that opened their hearts and dedicated both financial and emotional support to the evacuees of Hurricane Katrina and Hurricane Rita. All of the states along the Gulf Coast have endured terrible hardships during this hurricane season, and I know that the generosity of North Texans played a vital role in bringing some peace into their lives.

Today, I want to specifically thank the students from Northwest ISD for their outstanding collective fundraising effort. Northwest ISD students collected \$13,517.58 for Hurricane Katrina victims. Additionally, Gilley-Tarpley Associates agreed to match the donation up to \$5,000.00, for a total of \$18,517.58.

The district-wide relief effort, which began in September, was organized by the Northwest High School Student Council, PAL, and the Key Club organizations.

I stand here today to sincerely thank the students in Northwest ISD and Gilley-Tarpley Associates for their generous donation. I am proud to call these people fellow Texans. Through their contribution, they not only stand as devoted and giving American citizens, but they serve as an inspiration to others.

#### IN MEMORY OF R.C. GORMAN

### HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 10, 2005

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of R.C. Gorman, a close family friend and a legendary Navajo artist known as "the Picasso of American painters."

R.C. grew up using the earth as his canvas. His pallet was the desert of the Southwest and his tools were the rocks and sands around him. After years of mastering his craft, he found a home in Taos, New Mexico, and began to carve out a voice in the world of Native American art.

For four decades, R.C. was a pioneer. He opened the first Native American-owned art