

Eleanor, children, grandchildren, great grandchildren and great-great grandchildren.

Mike was born in 1919 in Blackwell, Oklahoma. Growing up during the Great Depression, he faced many hardships, but with great determination and a strong work ethic he strived to achieve a better life.

At the onset of World War II, Mike Faulkner answered his country's call. Serving in the Third Army, Mike was involved in many major battles throughout Europe. He stormed the beach at Normandy, survived the Battle of the Bulge and participated in the liberation of Dachau. It was at Dachau that Mike saw the cruelty of the Nazi regime. Mike later shared his story in a documentary on the concentration camps to remind generations to come of some of our world's darkest history.

Upon returning home, he moved to California where he attended Fresno College, known today as California State University—Fresno. He obtained a degree in Biology and a teaching credential. In 1955, he became a teacher with the Madera Unified School District. Many will remember Mr. Faulkner as their favorite biology teacher at Thomas Jefferson Middle School.

In 1960, the science teacher married his beloved Eleanor and together they raised 3 daughters, Glenda, Shirley and Joyce Ann as well as 2 foster children, John and Carolyn Sue Vogel.

One of the crowning achievements of Mr. Faulkner's career in education was as Principal at John Adams Elementary School in Madera, California. As Principal, he was known as a strict taskmaster who was quick to punish you when you did wrong but equally quick to recognize and reward a job well done.

Retirement couldn't keep Mike Faulkner out of the classroom. He continued to lend his years of experience to troubled youth at the Juvenile Hall and the Sugar Pine Continuation School. He served as a substitute teacher at Madera High School and when he wasn't substitute teaching, he spent time baking, sharing stories with friends, and caring for his beloved family.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Irvin "Mike" Faulkner posthumously for his tremendous service to his country and community. I invite my colleagues to join me in celebrating the life of Irvin "Mike" Faulkner and to express the condolences of a grateful Nation to the Faulkner family.

TRIBUTE TO VIVIAN TESSIERI ON
THE OCCASION OF HER RETIREMENT
FROM THE U.S. HOUSE
COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 31, 2006

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of the Democratic Members and staff of the House Science Committee to recognize a long-time member of the Committee staff—Vivian Tessieri.

Vivian will be leaving the Science Committee early next month after nearly 30 years of devoted service. She is one of the longest serving staff members in the history of the Committee and she will be greatly missed.

Vivian was hired by the Committee on Science in 1977, shortly after legislation

passed to significantly expand committee staffs. At that time, the Science Committee had 7 subcommittees and the minority staff (then Republican) grew from 4 to its present size.

I'm told that the rapidly growing staff needed someone to bring order to the chaos, and Vivian—then a young staff assistant with a number of years experience at the General Accounting Office—fit the bill.

Vivian's job has not been easy. Her first assignment was on an extremely busy subcommittee. Vivian jumped right in and brought unprecedented discipline to the operation.

Staff who worked with her assured me that Vivian's years on the Energy Subcommittee were some of its most productive—laying the foundation of energy policy still adhered to today. Vivian excelled at her job and was quickly promoted. When the Full Committee's legislative clerk retired in the early 1980s, Vivian was the obvious choice for that position.

She brought her enthusiasm for organization, common sense to ask questions, and savvy communications ability to the position and it has never been the same.

Generations of members and staff assume that Committee events automatically run smoothly and flawlessly, but the fact is that Vivian has been the force behind the Committee's administrative success.

Even in the midst of her daily workload—endless archiving, copying and maintenance of Committee records—Vivian has always found time to take a personal interest in staff members' legislative issues and keep them informed of related topics moving forward outside of the Science Committee's jurisdiction. She has a keen eye and depth of historical Committee knowledge that is unparalleled.

Only one other Committee employee has worked for the Republicans, then the Democrats, then the Republicans once again. This is a testament to Vivian's unparalleled professionalism and devotion to her job.

Those who have worked alongside Vivian through the years say that to describe Vivian is to combine a high level of competence with an unfailingly helpful, professional and friendly manner. She has been a delight to work with, always dependable and conscientious in her work, while maintaining her serenity and good cheer under pressure.

Vivian loves this institution. Her commitment to her work is a testament to her genuine desire to see members, Committees and staffs succeed for the constituents they serve.

People like Vivian do not come along very often and many times we don't realize their true value until they have gone. Regrettably that time has come. Vivian, we wish you nothing but success and happiness as you take your immense talents to the private sector.

HONORING CHIEF RICHARD CUPIT

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 31, 2006

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Chief Richard Cupit for 43 years of service to the Mundy Township Fire Department and community.

Over the past 43 years, Chief Cupit has saved lives, homes, and businesses. His ac-

tions have directly impacted the quality of life in Genesee County. His courageous actions saving a life in 1988 and the Chief's assistance during the Clara Barton Nursing Home disaster are just two of many acts that have been singled out by the State of Michigan and Genesee County.

The Mundy Township community has changed since Chief Cupit first started working as a fire fighter for the township in 1963. As he moved up through the ranks the community grew and the nature of firefighting changed. His work with the 800MHz Committee, the Hazmat Committee, the Local Emergency Planning Committee, the Genesee County, Michigan and International Fire Chiefs associations, reflect his strong commitment to serving the people of this community. As the director of county fire department coordination he exhibited the ability to work with a diverse group of peers with competing priorities and often under stressful and life threatening circumstances.

I ask the Congress to rise with me today and congratulate Chief Richard Cupit on a long and illustrious career as a fire fighter and a Fire Chief and extend our best wishes to him as he enters a new phase of his life.

TRIBUTE TO FOUR WWII U.S.
ARMY CHAPLAINS

HON. SUE W. KELLY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 31, 2006

Mrs. KELLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the heroism and courageous act of self-sacrifice of four U.S. Army Chaplains. On a chilly February day in 1943 during the perilous times of World War II, these four soldiers selflessly gave their life jackets to their fellow comrades as the USS *Dorchester* sunk to the depths of the Atlantic Ocean. The chaplains may have perished on that fateful day but their memory of sacrifice lives on forever.

The chaplains included: LT George L. Fox, LT Alexander D. Goode, LT Johnny P. Washington, and LT Clark V. Poling. The four honorable men represented differing religious faiths ranging from Catholic to Jewish to Protestant. Not only did each chaplain teach of their respective religion, but with their humble act exercised their faiths inherent principles of goodwill and charity toward others.

I would like to commend the American Legion Argonne Post No. 71 in Brewster, New York, who on Monday, February 6, 2006, will remember the four Army chaplains in ceremony. Honoring the requests of the Argonne Legion post I gratefully join them in remembering February 5th as Four Chaplain's Sunday. As a Nation, it's imperative that we follow the lead of the American Legion and join in honoring these four brave and courageous soldiers.

TRIBUTE TO MR. WILLIAM LEPSCH

HON. THOMAS M. REYNOLDS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 31, 2006

Mr. REYNOLDS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. William Lepsch on the occasion