

RECOGNIZING KATELYN SELOFF
OF CARROLLTON, TEXAS

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 7, 2006

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize Katelyn Seloff of Carrollton, Texas. Katelyn has been named one of the top youth volunteers in Texas for 2006 in the 11th annual Prudential Spirit of Community Awards.

Katelyn Seloff, age 13, is an eighth-grader at DeWitt Perry Middle School in Carrollton, Texas. She created a peer tutoring program to provide students with academic help without the pressures of being tutored by a teacher. Katelyn recruited 21 students to volunteer as tutors. Together they provided regular tutoring sessions for 15 students in need of assistance. Her efforts led to her selection as a Distinguished Finalist in this year's Prudential Spirit of Community awards program.

Today I salute Katelyn for her impressive community service activities. It is encouraging to see outstanding young adults like her making significant contributions to their communities. I thank Katelyn for her dedication to volunteering; she is a great example of the high quality of the young people in our North Texas schools. I am proud to represent her in the U.S. House of Representatives.

RECOGNIZING THE COMMUNITY OF
PALCO, KANSAS

HON. JERRY MORAN

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 7, 2006

Mr. MORAN of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the citizens of Palco, Kansas for long-term efforts to sustain and revitalize their community.

Mayor Leo VonFeldt is proud to call this town of 235 people home. "Palco continues to grow," VonFeldt said. "The community has done a lot to keep going forward."

Over the last ten years, the citizens of Palco have taken action to ensure that their community continues to be home to another generation of Kansans.

In 1996, a USDA Rural Development grant was supplemented by \$125,000 of local dollars in order to complete an expansion of Kyser Machine Products. This effort provided six jobs to the local economy.

The development of Keller Motors/Petro Plus & Quality Collision Repair was completed in 1998. This half a million dollar project included a \$250,000 owner investment, \$200,000 in local contributions and Federal funding of \$50,000. The result of this shared investment is that 6 employees now provide area residents a full service gas station, 24 hour fuel access and auto collision service. The business has made a positive contribution to the community. The significance of that contribution was highlighted when owner Myron Keller was recognized as the 2004 National Young Entrepreneur of the Year by the U.S. Small Business Administration. Keller said he was humbled by the award, which in his opinion belongs to the entire community.

"Our community recognizes that we can't just sit back. We must be pro-active and keep working hard for a better future," Keller said. "Nothing just happens in rural America. You have to make it happen."

In 2002, a dedicated effort was made to enhance local government services through construction of a new city building. The facility was funded by \$120,000 in local donations and includes a city office, ambulance service and fire department.

The following year, community food service availability was greatly improved when the Palco Community Development Corporation purchased and completely remodeled a local restaurant. The \$45,000 project has resulted in 6 day a week restaurant service. In addition, new ownership took over Palco's grocery store which preserved access to grocery service for local residents.

In 2004, an investment of \$132,000 from local and Federal sources resulted in the renovation and opening of the Palco Medical Clinic. The clinic provides residents with needed health care service. Also, Midwest Community Bank opened a facility in Palco which preserved local access to lending and investment opportunities. That same year, the city completed a two year community enhancement initiative. The \$2.2 million project established a home improvement program, a new sewer plant and construction of a new city street near the downtown area.

In the last decade, the citizens of Palco have leveraged more than \$3,250,000 of private, local and Federal investment into their community. Most recently, the town has taken on the task of developing a local day care facility. Community leaders hope to have the facility open by the fall of this year. According to Mayor VonFeldt this is just one more example of the community coming together to achieve a goal. "Citizens are willing to give of their time, energy and resources," VonFeldt said. "This is what makes Palco great."

For rural communities to survive and prosper into the future, citizens must be willing to create their own opportunities for success. Ongoing efforts to revitalize Palco are an example of how hard work, vision and community support can create just such an opportunity. Citizens throughout Kansas are working together to enhance the quality of life in their communities. Palco is a success story that demonstrates how teamwork and creative thinking can make a positive difference in rural America.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO CONSTABLE
PATRICK KETTERER

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 7, 2006

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Laughlin Town Constable Patrick Ketterer for his outstanding service to the community of Laughlin and his dedication to making that community a safer and more pleasant place in which to live and visit.

Patrick Ketterer has been a Laughlin resident since 1988, moving there from Rochester, Michigan. He serves in one of two elected positions in the Laughlin Township. He was initially appointed to the position to fill a va-

cancy and has since been reelected to the position four times. He is the longest serving elected official in Laughlin.

Along with serving as the town Constable, Patrick Ketterer has given countless hours of service to the community through volunteer work. Some of his activities include serving with the Metro Volunteer Police (MVPs), volunteering as a Homeland Security reserve officer and working for the local Community Emergency Response Team as Team Trainer. He is also a member of the Kiwanis and Lions clubs, as well as the American Legion Post 60. On January 10, 2006, He received the Citizen of the Year award for 2005 from the Laughlin Town Advisory Board.

To the children of Laughlin Patrick Ketterer is known simply as "Santa." Usually arriving at holiday events by police car, fire truck, or even a horse and buggy, he has thrilled the children of the community for years by playing the role of Santa Claus.

Mr. Speaker, It is a privilege to honor Patrick Ketterer for his community service in the great state of Nevada.

CONGRATULATING THE ASIAN PACIFIC
AMERICAN TIMES ON ITS
10TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 7, 2006

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Asian Pacific American Times on its upcoming 10th Anniversary celebration and to honor the important contributions this paper has made over the last decade. On March 25, 2006, the APA Times will celebrate a record of substantial achievement and growth among its readership.

The Asian Pacific American Times began with a narrower mission and title than it has today as the "Philippine American Times," focusing on issues relevant to Filipino-Americans living and working in Colorado. Over time the paper realized even greater potential to reach more Asian-American communities and it broadened its coverage and objectives accordingly. In March 2003, the Asian Pacific American Times became "The Voice of Asian Pacific Americans in the Rockies."

Reading the Asian Pacific American Times today, it is not uncommon to see datelines from locations as varied as Denver, Washington D.C., South Korea, Mongolia, China, and the Philippines. This breadth demonstrates the APA Times' dedication to reporting on a wide range of issues important to emerging Asian communities. In addition to substantive reporting and editing, it is important to recognize the APA Times' devotion to community involvement. Having won the Asian Chamber of Commerce Small Business of the Year Award in 2003 and the Martin Luther King, Jr. Business Social Responsibility Award in 2005, the APA Times shows a clear commitment beyond routine journalism to greater support of Asian-American communities and cultural awareness. From volunteering in programs to participating in commissions to organizing special events, the APA Times and its employees go above and beyond their laudable work as a press outlet to become public servants and community leaders.

For their accomplishments, service, and hard work, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the employees of the Asian Pacific American Times on their 10th Anniversary and their many journalistic achievements over the last decade. I look forward to reading their work and witnessing their accomplishments for another ten years and beyond.

TRIBUTE TO PEACE CORPS
VOLUNTEERS

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 7, 2006

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Peace Corps as it reached its 45th anniversary on March 1, 2006. The Peace Corps is an outstanding organization that promotes peace through helping countless individuals who want to help build a better life for the community in which they serve.

Since the Peace Corps' inception in 1961, more than 182,000 Peace Corps Volunteers have been invited by 138 host countries to work in areas such as HIV/AIDS prevention, information technology, business development, education, and environmental preservation. The Peace Corps also works to empower people in various communities to take charge of their futures.

In addition to serving overseas, the Peace Corps' Crisis Corps Volunteers have helped their fellow Americans. In response to Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, the Peace Corps deployed approximately 272 Crisis Corps Volunteers to the Gulf Coast region to assist with hurricane response efforts, through an agreement with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). This deployment of volunteers within the U.S. was an historic first for the Peace Corps.

I would like to take some time now to honor current Volunteers from my District who are working on the front lines of humanity: Christina M. Burke serving in Nicaragua, Lisa M. Droege serving in Honduras, Cibeles Garcia serving in Ghana, Jesse S. Lovegren serving in Cameroon, Timothy A. Markin serving in Thailand. By engaging in this meaningful work, these volunteers are making significant contributions to individuals and communities throughout the world. Their family and loved ones should be justifiably proud of their service to the Peace Corps and the extraordinary way they have changed and improved people's lives.

Today, I ask that my colleagues join me in commemorating the 45th anniversary of the Peace Corps and its global mission towards world peace and humanitarian aid. The thousands of Volunteers serving overseas truly are representative of the honorable cause that defines the Peace Corps.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO CHIEF
WILLIAM TURK

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 7, 2006

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Chief William Turk of the Boulder City

Police Department, who has retired after twenty years of dedicated service.

Bill began working for the Boulder City Police Department in 1986. He started as patrol officer and worked his way through the ranks as a Detective, Sergeant, Lieutenant, and finally, as Chief of Police. Even though he was Chief of Police, he was always ready to serve as backup if needed. He learned this philosophy from the much larger Oklahoma City Police department where he served for ten years prior to coming to Boulder City. One night, he was responding to a call and requested another officer to assist him. When the dispatch said no units were available, he was stunned when the city's police chief himself showed up minutes later. The Chief had been listening to the radio traffic from his scanner at home.

Bill left Oklahoma City seeking a department where he could actually have time to solve problems he was called out to. Boulder City, with its low crime rate, fit the bill. Many officers have the belief they need to make as many arrests and citations as possible, but not Bill Turk. He believed in Community Policing. Boulder City residents would often notice pink slips on their cars, warning them of a parking violation, instead of tickets. Cars also received courtesy reminders if their doors were left unlocked. Once, several businesses were repeatedly complaining about kids leaving their bikes all over the sidewalk by a pizza parlor they frequented. The problem was the kids had no other place to put their bikes. Sitting behind the police station was a bike rack that never got used. The department donated the rack to the pizza parlor. Problem solved. These are just a few examples of how Bill worked hard not only to make the town safe but also to make it a better community.

Mr. Speaker, Bill Turk is a well-respected model of honesty and integrity. His career will stand as an example to all those who set forth to protect and serve. It is an honor to recognize him on the floor of the House and I wish him the best with retirement.

IN CELEBRATION OF THE LIFE,
CAREER AND RETIREMENT OF
LARRY BLEVINS

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 7, 2006

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, my colleague, Mrs. TAUSCHER and I, rise to pay tribute to Donald Lawrence Blevins who is retiring from Plumbers and Steamfitters Local 342 after a distinguished career including fifty years as a Steamfitter, four years as an Instructor, ten years as Director of Training, nine years as Business Representative and another eight years as Business Manager/Financial Secretary.

Larry Blevins was born April 10, 1937, in Arbuckle, California; two years later, his family relocated to the city of Tormey near the Union 76 oil refinery. It was here in December of 1954 that Larry first embarked on his career as a Steamfitter working as a permit hand for Fluor Maintenance on a two-week turnaround. Realizing his potential, Larry joined the Steamfitters Local 342 Apprentice Program in January of 1956 and four years later graduated from the Laney Tech Trade School in Oakland, California.

Upon graduation, Larry's first General Foremen's position came while working Travel Card out of the Chico Local in 1961 and 1962 at a Titan missile base. Larry's elevation to a supervisory position was a rare feat for a Travel Card worker and came as a direct result of his outstanding skill level and ability to learn quickly. Larry was further rewarded for his commitment to Local 342 and elected to the Apprentice Committee in the General Election of Officers on December 10, 1967.

In the early 1970's, Larry was encouraged by Brother Vern Gosney to start regularly attending Membership Meetings and become more involved with the organization and operation of the Local. Brothers Les Reed and Tom Irvin also worked closely with Larry and were the first to recommend that he begin teaching. He took all of this advice to heart and began regularly attending meetings and started taking night school classes to learn supervisory techniques and engineering skills. It wasn't long before Larry began instructing the Local 342 Apprenticeship Training Program and subsequently earned a Life Time Services Teaching Credential through the State of California.

Starting in 1977, Larry embarked on another career path and undertook the task of running the Training Center as Director of Training. It was during his ten years as Director that the school was expanded to accommodate larger classes of apprentices to help complete the many projects within the Local's jurisdiction. As the need for apprentices grew, Larry also oversaw the expansion of the Journeyman Training classes. These classes were designed to upgrade the skill levels of the Local's journeymen and keep them current with the industry's expanding technological advancements. Larry understood the need to stay on top of the changing industry and worked diligently to keep pace.

On December 11, 1988 in the General Election of Officers, Larry won a three-way race for Business Representative over Contra Costa County with more than 53% of the vote. While overseeing Contra Costa County, the Local worked major projects such as: the TKC Rebuild at Chevron in Richmond, the CoGeneration Power Plants throughout the area's refineries, major expansions throughout Chevron, and Clean Fuels projects at Chevron, Shell, Tosco and Unocal. Almost overnight Larry's jurisdiction went from just a couple hundred UA members to more than 2,000. Larry's skills helped ensure that the work was manned with qualified craftsmen and the jurisdiction of the Local was protected.

After three terms as Business Representative, Larry put in his bid for nomination to the Local's top position, Business Manager/Financial Secretary. On December 14, 1997, with the largest turnout for any election in Local's history, Larry was elected with 88% of the votes cast. The Membership's confidence in him was high enough in the General Election of Officers in 2000 and again in 2003 that he was reelected unopposed.

With Larry's leadership and the assistance of many dedicated members, Local 342 has one of the finest and most progressive training centers in the country. Larry also worked tirelessly as a Board of Trust member to stabilize the Health and Welfare Plan and amend the Master Labor Agreement to improve the conditions on the work site. Larry negotiated an increase in the Total Package that provides