

Kennedy. Rhonda was named Tennessee Principal of the Year in 2005.

We all know how important principals are to our communities. Anyone with children can tell you it's the principal who sets the tone for a school and the huge impact that has on the quality of education our kids receive. Rhonda has shown that she is innovative, energetic, and dedicated to our kids and we can't thank her enough for that.

Among her achievements is the successful implementation of a program to assist special needs students. Rhonda also created a "Learning Lab" to improve literacy skills at her school.

Principal Kennedy's work has helped improve achievement at her school and brought parents, students, and our teachers together.

HONORING DEWBERRY'S 50TH
ANNIVERSARY

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 7, 2006

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the Dewberry Companies' 50th anniversary.

Dewberry was established as a small land design and survey practice on Friday, April 13, 1965, in Arlington, Virginia. Currently, Dewberry has more than 1,800 employees in 30 offices nationwide. The company has expanded from a small business to a nationwide company with over 1,800 employees and 30 offices. Dewberry provides an array of services, including civil engineering, surveying, design-build, environmental sciences, land development, security and homeland defense.

The company has assisted in major projects in the Northern Virginia area including the full planning and engineering of services for Kings Park (a residential community in Fairfax County), Tysons II, the Dulles Toll Road, and assisted with work for the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority. Moreover, Dewberry has consulted for the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development during presidential-declared disasters.

Dewberry has been a strong member of the community through various charitable and scholarship programs. An example would be the Dean Meyers Scholarship fund, named for a Dewberry engineer who tragically lost his life in the DC sniper attacks of 2002. This scholarship which is awarded annually to a civil engineering student from a rural Pennsylvania high school has grown to \$100,000. Dean Meyers was a civil engineer who worked for Dewberry until his tragic death in October of 2002 when he became a victim of the Washington, DC area sniper attacks. Dewberry has also donated \$20,000 to the victims of the tsunami and another \$20,000 to the victims of the 2005 Gulf Coast hurricanes.

The founder of Dewberry, Sidney O. Dewberry, has not only propelled the success of Dewberry, but has served in numerous positions within the community including the Blue Ribbon Commission on Higher Education, and the Commission on Transportation. Additionally, he has served as member of the Commission on Fiscal and Spending Priorities in Fairfax County, as chairman of the Arlington

County, Virginia Planning Commission, and as chairman of the Fairfax County, Virginia Engineering Standards Review Committee. Currently, Mr. Dewberry is the Rector of George Mason University Board of Visitors and part of the George Mason University Foundation Board of Trustees.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I would like to commend and congratulate Dewberry on all of its contributions and accomplishments. They have served their community well, truly meriting recognition. I call upon my colleagues to join me in the applauding Dewberry's past accomplishments and in wishing the company continued success in the years to come.

HONORING RETIRED NEW YORK
STATE ASSEMBLYMAN RICHARD
J. KEANE

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 7, 2006

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, it gives me a tremendous sense of pleasure to honor the personal accomplishments and the long career in public service of a great elected leader and wonderful friend, former New York State Assemblyman Richard J. Keane.

Dick Keane is, as I said, a close friend of long standing. In point of fact, I succeeded Dick Keane as a member of the New York State Assembly in the 145th District. In all truthfulness I can say that no new member had a better mentor than I did.

Like me, Dick Keane is a lifelong—and tremendously proud—resident of South Buffalo, New York. A product of a large and politically prominent family in South Buffalo, Dick's career began protecting the public as a Buffalo Firefighter. From there, Dick went on to serve on the Erie County Board of Supervisors and was the first Democrat to serve as Chairman of its successor body, the Erie County Legislature. Dick was elected to a vacant seat in the State Assembly in 1976, and served in that seat proudly for 22 years.

But in Albany, Dick had two official duties that brought him great joy—his management of the Assembly's baseball team, and the Presidency of the American Irish Legislators Society of New York State, the latter being an organization in which I would later serve as Historian.

Each year, the American Irish Legislators Society of New York State honors one of its own, a former member of the State Legislature who made a significant contribution both to public service and, usually, to the Society itself. On Monday, March 13th, in Albany, NY, Dick Keane will be the Society's 2006 honoree. That that event, it will be my distinct honor to present Dick with a commemorative copy of these remarks and to join with my successor in the State Assembly, Assemblyman Mark Schroeder, in honoring Dick Keane's service to New York State and to his community.

Mr. Speaker, owing to my past service as Historian, I want to close with a bit of history. Ireland provided to the United States a number of wonderful gifts, but none more valuable than its people. Since the first days of landing on American soil, the Irish people have demonstrated a commitment to public service that

is unrivalled by any other ethnic group. From police and fire service to elective office, Irish Americans represent what is best about America—that if you work hard, play by the rules, love your family and your community and give as much as you can back to that community, the vaunted American Dream can be yours.

Dick Keane is a public official and a private citizen utterly worthy of that description and of the respect of those whose lives he made better for that service. It is my distinct honor to recognize him here today.

HONORING NANCY SANDERS
PETERSON

HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 7, 2006

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, it is always a privilege for me to rise and acknowledge outstanding Tennesseans. Today I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Nancy Sanders Peterson, the president and CEO of Peterson Tool Co. Inc., for her contribution to our community in Tennessee.

Nancy has been recognized many times for her business success and she was recently inducted into the YWCA's Academy for Women of Achievement. This distinction honors women for their community leadership and Nancy is a wonderful addition.

She is a dedicated volunteer who has contributed her time and talents as a mentor for young women. Whether teaching money-management skills to Girl Scouts or speaking on university campuses, Peterson is a wonderful role model. And Nancy has counseled fellow female entrepreneurs on how to expand their businesses.

Congratulations and many thanks to Nancy Peterson for her unlimited energy and enthusiasm and her service to so many young women.

THE RETIREMENT OF U.S. MARINE
CORPS GUNNERY SERGEANT
LORENZO V. CHANCE

HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 7, 2006

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Gunnery Sergeant Lorenzo V. Chance, who is retiring after more than 22 years of service in the United States Marine Corps.

Gunnery Sergeant Chance was raised in Fayetteville, North Carolina where he graduated from Cape Fear High School in 1983. He began his military career at Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island, South Carolina, where he attended basic training in 1984. His assignments included the MOS's of Rifleman, Administrative Chief, Drill Instructor, and Marksmanship Instructor.

Throughout his distinguished career, Gunnery Sergeant Chance has served in a wide variety of assignments in the Marine Corps including:

September 1984–1986—Administrative Clerk, HQMC Manpower Branch;