

HONORING CHAPLAIN EDWARD
BASTILLE ON HIS RETIREMENT
FROM SERVICE WITH VETERANS
ADMINISTRATION PALO ALTO
HEALTH CARE SYSTEM

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 4, 2006

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a remarkable individual, Chaplain Edward Bastille who has dedicated his life to the service of facilitating the recovery of our veterans. During his tenure at the VA Palo Alto Health Care System (VAPAHCS), Chaplain Bastille coordinated and implemented numerous programs and services that meet the needs of an ever-diversifying residency.

As an inspiring leader, Chaplain Bastille, himself a 100 percent disabled service-connected Vietnam combat veteran, was responsible for hiring a talented and progressive clergy at VAPAHCS including: the first nun in the VA as a Eucharistic Minister, the first Catholic Dean in the VA as a Fee Basis Eucharistic, the first Buddhist Chaplain in the VA, the first Muslim chaplain, the first endorsed woman Mormon spiritual leader, and for hiring the first Indian Spiritual Leader.

Mr. Speaker, in addition to finding appropriate spiritual counselors for the patients of the VA, Chaplain Bastille established a number of ongoing services and training programs that the facility now offers to comfort and accommodate the healing process for both patients and families alike. A fine example of Chaplain Bastille's efforts is the establishment of the American Indian Cultural Center at Menlo Park, which includes a sweat lodge program to meet the spiritual needs of the Native American patients. This program received a VA Best Practice Award and has been emulated by other VA health care facilities.

Also, Chaplain Bastille assisted in revitalizing the Chaplain Program at the VA Northern California Health Care System (VANCHCS) by training staff, rewriting procedures, and providing operational leadership for three years.

For the families and other loved ones of patients at the VAPAHCS, he established a Memorial Rose Garden as an extension to the Chapel Garden. The Rose Garden provides a touching space for families to memorialize their loved ones at the health care center.

Mr. Speaker, Chaplain Bastille's extraordinary efforts to help humanity has not been

limited to the VA. For example, after Hurricane Mitch, Chaplain Bastille helped organize the Palo Alto aid effort: the Honduras Relief Project, which helped send three medical teams to Honduras through funding provided by 12 local churches. He organized the church fundraising and recruited hospital volunteers. For 18 years, Chaplain Bastille has also directed the Patient PTSD chorus and helped lead to trips to the Vietnam Memorial Wall in Washington, DC., and one trip to Russia to meet with Russian-Afghanistan PTSD Veterans.

Chaplain Bastille's invaluable work has been duly recognized. In 1991 he received a Commendation given by VA Secretary Derwinski. He also received the Distinguished Service Award in 1992 from the Military Chaplain Association for his work in Ethics and the Julius Varwig Award in 2003 from the National Council for Health and Human Services Ministries for the United Church of Christ. Aside from being a phenomenal and selfless public servant, Chaplain Bastille enjoys a family of three brothers, and his lovely wife, Louise, to whom he has been married for 21 years.

Before Chaplain Bastille became a spiritual counselor and leader, he served as an Air Force Specialist in Vietnam. He went on to be the Chaplain for this unit until 1978. Chaplain Bastille obtained his B.S. degree from Springfield College and earned his Master's in Theology from Andover Newton Theological School in 1975. In 1985, Chaplain Bastille continued at Andover Newton to complete his doctorate.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me and rise to pay tribute to this extraordinary individual, Chaplain Edward Bastille. He is a fine example of the power of one to make a difference in this world. As he retires to become the owner of an inn in Gilford, New Hampshire, I wish him every ounce of happiness and success.

THE RETIREMENT OF BUREAU OF
RECLAMATION COMMISSIONER
JOHN W. KEYS, III

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 4, 2006

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with my colleagues from California Mr.

CALVERT and Mrs. NAPOLITANO to express congratulations, best wishes, and warm thanks to Commissioner John W. Keys, III as he retires from a distinguished nearly 40-year career with the Bureau of Reclamation on April 14th.

Commissioner Keys began his career with Reclamation in 1964 as a civil and hydraulic engineer. Over the years, he worked his way up through the ranks, gathering valuable experience on numerous western water issues, including the Missouri River Basin, the Colorado River Basin, and the Columbia River Basin. In 1986 John began, what would eventually be a 12-year stint, as Regional Director for the Pacific Northwest Region of Reclamation. In this capacity he received the Interior Department's highest honor, The Distinguished Service Award in 1995.

John retired for the first time in 1998 to spend more time in Moab, Utah with his two loves, his wife Dell, and his airplanes. A certified commercial airline pilot, he owns a Cessna 182 and over the years has logged hundreds of hours of flight time. As if all of that wasn't enough, John also finds time to referee high school and college football games. Originally raised in Sheffield Alabama, he received a Bachelor's Degree in Civil Engineering from the Georgia Institute of Technology and a Master's Degree from Brigham Young University.

On July 17, 2001, John came out of retirement to be sworn in as the 16th Commissioner of the Bureau of Reclamation. Over the past five years, Commissioner Keys has traveled the country and worked tirelessly developing solutions to long-standing water conflicts. He was instrumental in the development of Interior's Water 2025 Initiative, the Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Program, and resolving the 75-year dispute regarding California's share of Colorado River water. It has been a pleasure knowing John personally. Commissioner Keys has served his government and country admirably and will be missed. Although we are saddened by his departure, we wish him the best of luck in his retirement.