

Repeatedly, Yousify would travel at his own expense back to Seattle when CIS requested new fingerprints again and again and he once risked his life in Iraq to have fingerprints taken there. He was sworn in as a citizen last October and is now able to continue serving with the Northwest Medical Teams.

A neurologist from China who specializes in treating patients with multiple sclerosis contacted my office. This young doctor was trying to teach medicine in this country but was having trouble working with CIS. We tracked down her work authorization and it was sent to her and she is now poised to begin teaching medicine at Stanford.

Wade Bain from Trinidad wanted to join American Special Forces but couldn't get the national security check completed in order to do so. We were able to help him and he received his citizenship, allowing him to join Special Forces.

These individuals didn't want to become Americans for personal gain; they wanted to become Americans to serve others. They embody the American ideal of helping others regardless of personal cost.

It is vitally important that we implement immigration reform. We need a bill that strengthens our borders and protects this nation, but that also makes it simpler for good people to become Americans. We need a bill that provides a way for immigrants who are in this country illegally to register and become documented, lawful immigrants. There must be penalties for individuals who've violated American immigration laws. However, we must encourage undocumented individuals to "get right" with our government and register.

We must face the reality of immigration in this country. In Washington State, the immigrant population has grown by 42 percent in the five years between 2000 and 2005—which is an increase from 8 percent to 10.6 percent of the overall population—and the jobless rate in the state has hit a 6 year low. Immigration is not just compatible with but is a necessary component of economic growth. Going forward, as we work to strengthen our border in the interests of homeland security, we must also recognize the economic importance of immigration reform. I look forward to voting for a bill that appreciates the importance of both when safeguarding the security and economic future of this country.

CONGRATULATING NANCY AMOS

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 4, 2006

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Nancy Amos for being named the 2006 Woman of the Year by the Dallas-Fort Worth Chapter of Women in Transportation.

Ms. Amos attained her Bachelors in Business Administration from Texas Wesleyan University. She then went on to receive her Masters Degree from the University of Texas at Arlington. Ms. Amos is an avid member of the American Heart Foundation, the Fort Worth Chamber's Foundation Board, and the founding member of UTA Fort Worth's Advisory Council. She and her husband Charley reside in Arlington, Texas and have two children as well as two grandchildren.

Through her remarkable clout and ingenuity in her twenty-five years in the field of public transportation, Ms. Amos has definitely raised the bar for the advancement of women in this area. One of Ms. Amos' many highlights was her active involvement in the introduction of the Trinity Railway Express to the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex as the coordinator for the acquisition of the Rock Island and Pacific freight railroad. This laid the groundwork for the only commuter rail in Texas.

Mr. Speaker we are truly fortunate in my community to have the type of dedicated professional that Nancy Amos personifies, and I wish her every success during the continuance of her future endeavors.

CONGRATULATING BOB RUTLEDGE
ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT AS HEADMASTER OF
ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL SCHOOL

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 4, 2006

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, it is a real pleasure to rise today to honor Mr. Bob Rutledge, a man who has devoted practically all of his adult life to the benefit of literally thousands of young men and women who live in Mobile, Alabama. In just a few days, Bob will be stepping down as headmaster of St. Paul's Episcopal School in Mobile.

For the past 33 years, Bob has been an integral part of the school's history and development, and he leaves behind a rich legacy that has helped to make St. Paul's one of the finest schools in Alabama.

Bob began his career in education in the Florida public school system where he served as a teacher and coach of both the football and track teams. In 1971, he moved to Jackson, Mississippi, where he served at St. Andrew's Episcopal School as the director of the upper school, director of athletics, and varsity football coach.

In 1973, he joined the staff of St. Paul's, initially serving as the school's head football coach and athletic director. In no time, it became apparent that Bob Rutledge's influence and leadership extended far beyond the athletic field.

In 1984, Bob assumed the role of upper school director, and a few years later, he was tapped assistant headmaster as well as admissions and alumni director. And in 1994, the Board of Trustees appointed Bob headmaster, making him only the sixth person to hold this important position in the school's rich history.

Mr. Speaker, without a doubt, Bob Rutledge has worked tirelessly to help transform St. Paul's into one of the premier college-preparatory schools in the southeast. Moreover, he has worked hard to build a school that is recognized throughout the state for its top-notch staff and first-rate faculty.

Without question, Bob Rutledge is an outstanding example of the quality of individuals who have devoted their entire life to the field of education. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join with me in congratulating Bob on his remarkable career and his many, many contributions. I know his lovely wife, Martha, as well as his family, friends, and the entire St. Paul's community join with me in praising

Bob for his accomplishments and extending our sincerest thanks to him for his many efforts over the years on behalf of the young men and women who have been a part of St. Paul's Episcopal School.

BAHIA GRANDE'S NATIONAL COOPERATIVE CONSERVATION AWARD

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 4, 2006

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and the Bahia Grande Restoration Project's 60 partners upon their receipt of the Department of the Interior's 2005 Cooperative Conservation Award. This award acknowledges the collaboration activity among diverse agencies working to restore our environment.

The legacy we leave our children and our grandchildren is the condition of the Earth beneath our feet. Some of the most fragile—and at the same time, most important—parts of that legacy are the delicate wetlands that buffer our continent.

The project's participants have demonstrated an understanding of this delicate intersection of wetlands and our continent by finding new and creative ways to sustain the Bahia Grande wetland in South Texas.

Through their teamwork and innovativeness, the Bahia Grande partners have managed to walk the line between environmental and economic prosperity to achieve an ecologically and economically successful community. Federal, state, local and tribal governments, as well as private groups, nonprofit institutions, and nongovernmental entities have worked together on discerning a path to solve what seemed to be an unsolvable problem, further exemplifying the cooperative spirit this award honors.

The Bahia Grande suffered from the construction of the Brownsville Ship Channel in the 1930s, which blocked the natural tide action necessary to maintain the basin under water. The basin eventually dried up and began blowing clouds of dust, jeopardizing the health of nearby residents and damaging area schools.

With the help of many people, these consequences were addressed and mitigated. By allowing the Port of Brownsville to flood the Bahia Grande, the moisture will prevent the dry sand from blowing around and affecting the health of those in the area.

What was once an idle dust bowl plaguing surrounding cities has now become the largest wetlands restoration effort in U.S. history. Once completed, more than 10,000 acres of the Bahia Grande wetland system will be permanently flooded and restored.

I ask the House of Representatives to join me today in honoring the active support and involvement of those contributors in the Bahia Grande Restoration Project. Mr. Speaker, they have recognized the importance of environmental conservation on our lives; and for that, we must recognize them.