

narcotics. In 2005, Midwest HIDTA, which encompasses Missouri and five other States, arrested more than 9,000 individuals for various drug violations, seized more than 650 pounds of meth, almost 7,000 pounds of cocaine and seized nearly 1,700 firearms. Of these individuals, roughly 1,400 were charged with methamphetamine offenses.

This program is a key component of our national drug enforcement policy. HIDTA's greatest strength is that it is a cooperative endeavor among local and national officials who coordinate and devise a strategy to effectively curtail drug trafficking in the U.S. I believe this is a worthwhile amendment, and I encourage my colleagues to support its adoption.

TRIBUTE TO WILLIAM "BILL"
LAWRENCE

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 16, 2006

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in profound sadness to express my deepest sympathy and condolences to the family and friends of William "Bill" Lawrence. Bill was a dear friend of mine who touched the lives of all who came in contact with him and I am privileged to have known such a wonderful person.

Bill was truly a great man who dedicated his life to our country. He began this service at the young age of 16 when he enlisted in the Navy. Following his four years of naval service in China in 1927, Bill was honorably discharged, and he chose to make his home in San Francisco. Once again, Bill sought a job that would benefit the public. He first worked as a cable car conductor on the Market Street Railway, one of the few union jobs in San Francisco at that time.

In 1938, Bill began working for the U.S. Postal Service in San Francisco, and he became an active and dedicated member of the Golden Gate Branch 214 of the National Association of Letter Carriers. He delivered mail in the City of San Francisco for 35 years and worked as Secretary of Golden Gate Branch 214 of the NALC for 6 years. Bill remained a member of the National Association of Letter Carriers until the day he died.

Bill's dedication to his local community was even more evident when he began his political career. In 1970, Bill was elected to the Brisbane City Council and over the next two decades he continued in that position, serving twice as Mayor. In an effort to better his community, he oversaw the construction of Crocker Industrial Park. After his tenure on the City Council, Bill continued to act as the Legislative Liaison for the California State Association of Letter Carriers.

Bill's love of public service and his desire to improve the quality of life of Brisbane residents led him to join the Brisbane Lions Club.

His unfaltering dedication was obvious, as he insisted in participating in every Lions Club initiative. Each year, Bill Lawrence painted 1,800 Easter eggs and volunteered at the Christmas tree lot. He continued to attend meetings, even after his hearing and eyesight began to fade.

Although Bill Lawrence officially retired at the age of 65, he could not imagine not serving his country and local community. He refused to allow age and deteriorating health to stand in the way of public service. For the past 30 years, Bill has served as Brisbane's "Santa Claus," bringing smiles to many families during the holiday season. Only last year, at age 97, Bill finally was forced to retire from this post, which brought so much joy to him and children throughout the community.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to be able to call Bill Lawrence my friend. He always said that his love of politics stemmed from the rewarding feeling he got from helping people. Indeed, Bill helped thousands of people throughout his lifetime. His naval service, postal work, and political activism allowed him to touch lives throughout the world for the past 98 years. It is rare to come across a man who not only dedicated his life to his country but also to his family, his dear wife, Honey Bee, and his children and grandchildren. Bill Lawrence will be sorely missed by the residents of Brisbane as well as by all who knew him, but Bill's legacy of love for his country and for public service will forever remain alive in our hearts.