

And when I first became a candidate for the position I am so honored to hold today, it was my dear friend, "Mr. Hollis," who penned the very first editorial endorsement for my candidacy, even though I was running as a Republican in a congressional district different from his.

Several years ago, "Mr. Hollis" began featuring someone from our community who had made a positive difference in the lives of others. One week, he chose my father's twin brother, Uncle James, to be in the spotlight.

Some months later, when Uncle James had passed away, I wrote "Mr. Hollis" a letter and thanked him for taking the time to recognize someone who had long since been out of the limelight but who so appreciated the attention and recognition that came from the pages of his newspaper.

And that, Mr. Speaker, is the real reason I rise today—to pause and pay tribute to a man who has spent almost all of his adult life writing about others, telling of their joys and sorrows—good times and bad—and for once, I want him to realize how truly special he is to all of us.

In some ways, I guess, I looked at this like when George Bailey, played by Jimmy Stewart in the 1946 hit, *It's a Wonderful Life*, realized that with the help of an angel named Clarence, it had been a wonderful life after all.

I know an entire community of friends and admirers join me in saluting M. Hollis Curl and wishing him many more years of editorials and commentaries. And to his wonderful wife, Glenda, their children, Mark and Julie, and their grandchildren—thank you for sharing this extraordinary person with us for all these years. May God continue to bless them all with good health and happiness.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO RICK HARLOW

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 8, 2006

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Rick Harlow in recognition of his heroic act in 2001 of saving a neighbor who was being attacked by three dogs.

During the harrowing 2001 incident, Rick was injured and subsequently spent 3 years in a care center. Mr. Harlow made the best of his tenure in the care center by playing his guitar for the elderly and even playing at an in-house wedding for a couple who met and married in the nursing home.

Mr. Harlow was born and raised in Washington State and initially came to Nevada in 1990 on assignment to construct architectural aerial maps of the Hoover Dam area. What originally began as a mere job appointment has evolved into a long term living arrangement, as Rick has been a proud Nevada resident for 16 years now.

Mr. Harlow has always been active and held a love for nature and the outdoors. In 1994 he suffered an unfortunate rock climbing accident where he fell 35–40 feet and sustained a compression fracture to his back in addition to a lacerated liver and ruptured spleen. Mr. Harlow underwent 3 years of recuperation and physical therapy to walk again. He is a proven fighter both for himself and others as he quite

valiantly demonstrated by rescuing his neighbor from that brutal dog attack 5 years ago.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor Rick Harlow. His passion for life is inspirational. I applaud him for his heroism and wish him the best with his future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF JACK RODGERS

HON. LYNN A. WESTMORELAND

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 8, 2006

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the extensive public service of one of Columbus, Georgia's finest residents, Jack Rodgers.

Jack is retiring from the Columbus Council this year after more than 20 years of service. Jack first came to Columbus in 1961, when it was a very different place. He has worked for Ford Motor Company, and also served as the chairman and CEO of his own mortgage company.

But serving in the corporate world was not enough for Jack—he began his service in the realm of government as well, winning election to the Columbus Council and then being elected as Mayor Pro Tem in January of 1999. Through his service on the Columbus Council, Jack has served as Budget Committee chairman and Ethics Committee chairman. He has been a delegate to the National League of Cities, and has been heavily involved in the Georgia Municipal Association, including service as a Finance Committee Member.

Jack has also served in a number of community organizations, including Rotary, and taught at Chattahoochee Valley Community College for 7 years.

Jack loves his family, and has been married to his wife, Barbara, for 43 years. They have two children and four grandchildren.

Although we hate to see Jack finish his service in the government arena, we are grateful that he will continue to be involved in the community as he moves into retirement.

Mr. Speaker, Jack Rodgers provides a role model to us all of service to others, and we are extremely grateful for his dedication.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF HONORABLE RICHARD A. BOSWORTH, SR.

HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 8, 2006

Mr. HALL. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to celebrate the life of Retired Senior District Judge Richard A. Bosworth, Sr. who passed away last year following a courageous battle with cancer. Judge Bosworth was born in Birmingham, Alabama on December 26, 1922. The Great Depression prompted his family to move to the South Plains of West Texas, where his father worked as a share cropper during the dust bowl years of the mid 30s.

Richard graduated from high school in 1939 and paid his way through Texas Tech College by working in the cotton fields during the summer months and working part-time jobs during

the school year. After graduating from Tech in December 1942, he was immediately called to active duty as an aviation cadet in the Army Air Corps. Richard obtained his pilot wings and commission as a 2nd Lt., and went on to fly 50 combat missions over Europe as a B-24 pilot. Richard's service was honored with the Distinguished Flying Cross and the Air Medal with three Oak Leaf Clusters among other decorations.

Richard later applied for and received a regular commission in the U.S. Air Force where he spent the next 30 years of his life holding assignments including Wing Commander of the 97th Bomb Wing (B-52s and KC-135 tankers). It was in the service that he met his future wife, Carolyn, who was working as a Red Cross nurse in Montgomery, Alabama. The two were married in 1959 in Sylacauga, Alabama, and had three sons, Rick, Brian, and Greg.

In 1972 he retired from the Air Force as a Colonel and enrolled in law school at Texas Tech University. Upon receiving his JD in 1974, he began practicing law in the Greenville area until he was appointed Judge of the Hunt County Court at Law in 1983. In 1985, he became judge of the newly created 354th District Court which covered Hunt, Rains, and, later, Rockwall Counties. Judge Bosworth served in the 354th until his retirement in January of 1996, after which he continued his work as a visiting judge throughout Northeast Texas. The Judge was an inspiration and a great source of encouragement to two of my sons who practiced in his court. One, Brett, has been honored to succeed Judge Bosworth and is just finishing his second 4 year term. Blakeley is practicing and doing well.

Judge Bosworth dedicated his life to serving his country, first as a member of the military community and later as a member of the judiciary. His dedication to strengthening this nation spanned more than six decades and included service in two branches of government. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the life of this wonderful patriot—Judge Richard Bosworth.

RECOGNIZING STUDENTS, TEACHERS, AND ADMINISTRATORS AT SUN VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL

HON. SUE WILKINS MYRICK

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 8, 2006

Mrs. MYRICK. Mr. Speaker, I would like to honor and recognize the students, teachers and administrators at Sun Valley High School located in Indian Trail, North Carolina. Over the past two weeks, Sun Valley students have given more than \$23,000 out of their pockets to help the less fortunate in their area. This money will go to a program called the Sun Valley Children's Christmas Party, which will help needy elementary children in their area who won't have a Christmas.

The Sun Valley Children's Christmas Party has been helping impoverished children for more than three decades. It began as a small project to help a handful of needy families experience the joy of Christmas. Today, thanks to the generosity of the Sun Valley community, 30 to 35 needy elementary children, and their families, will have a Happy Christmas this year.

I am most impressed by this effort because it is student driven. Not only do Sun Valley students raise the money, but on December 14th, a group of students will actually pick up the children at school and take them to Monroe Mall where they will purchase them new clothes, shoes, and coats. They take the children to visit Santa, have lunch at Chick-Fil-A, and end their visit by taking the kids to get ice cream. Later, Sun Valley students will shop for essential items, food, and new school supplies for the children, as well as toys and gifts for their brothers and sisters. Then on December 16th, the students will deliver all the gifts to the family as well as food for a Christmas feast.

Leading this student driven program are the co-chairs of the Children's Christmas Party, Student Council President Alexandra Knight Efrid, and Student Council Vice-President Paige Lillia Donham. Their hard work has not gone unnoticed. Likewise, the Student Council faculty advisors, James P. Wall IV and Christopher Martin, have also worked countless hours to help the students in their effort. I would like to recognize the efforts of students in the classes of Mr. Wall, Mr. Reynolds, and Mr. Faulkner. They raised the most money out of all the classes at Sun Valley, and Mr. Reynolds class alone raised over \$2,000 for this effort.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to say that I represent Sun Valley High School. In a day and age where people tend to think only of themselves, here is a shining example of a group of young people who know what Christmas is really all about. I commend them for their efforts to make their community a better place by helping the less fortunate during this holiday season. I hope that this wonderful effort will continue at Sun Valley for many years to come.

THANKING CINDY FOX VON GOGH
FOR HER SERVICE TO THE HOUSE

HON. HOWARD P. "BUCK" McKEON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 8, 2006

Mr. McKEON. Mr. Speaker, on the occasion of her retirement on January 2, 2007, we rise to thank Ms. Cindy Fox von Gogh for over thirty-two years of distinguished service to the United States House of Representatives.

Cindy began serving the U.S. House of Representatives in 1974 as the office Manager for John Dent (D-PA), Chairman of the Subcommittee on Labor Standards. In 1978 she embraced the role of Committee Archivist for Carl D. Perkins (D-KY), Chairman of the Committee on Education and Labor. While serving in this capacity Cindy was instrumental in expanding the use of computers in Committee office operations.

Milestones during her career at the House include; managing a Micro VAX computer system supporting the Full Committee and eight Subcommittees, implementation of a Novell Network and authoring a Personal Computer Reference Guide for staff. Cindy also created one of the first web sites in the House and was recognized by the Congressional Management Foundation with an award for one of the best web sites on Capitol Hill setting the standard of excellence in web design.

Cindy's contributions to Committee operations were achieved while she maintained her commitment to publish into the archives the Committee Legislative Calendar chronicling Committee proceedings as an official historical document of the House.

Kindhearted, professional and dedicated are words used by her colleagues to describe Cindy. She is known throughout the House as a person you can rely on to do what's right. She has earned the reputation as a person with a calm demeanor and respect for everyone.

Mr. Speaker, Cindy is truly an inspiration in nonpartisan service to the Committee and the House. She served six Chairmen irrespective of which party was the majority. We are grateful for all Cindy has done during the past thirty-two years serving the Committee, this institution and the citizens of our country. Her service to the House is respected by the Chairmen, Members and staff that have benefited from her expertise, institutional knowledge and unwavering disposition.

On behalf of the Committee and the entire House community, we extend congratulations to Cindy for her many years of dedication and outstanding service to the U.S. House of Representatives. We wish Cindy many wonderful years fulfilling her retirement dreams.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JO ANN DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 8, 2006

Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, due to a medical treatment, I was unable to attend votes on Friday, December 8, 2006. Had I been present, I would have voted the following:

H.R. 6406—"Nay". To modify temporarily certain rates of duty and make other technical amendments to the trade laws, to extend certain trade preference programs, and for other purposes.

H.R. 6111—"Yea". Tax Relief and Health Care Act of 2006. I was particularly interested in a provision of this bill that provides an increase in payments to Medicare physician payments. I am concerned with the reimbursement rates and the Gross Domestic Product-based formula known as the Sustainable Growth Rate (SGR) used to calculate healthcare services rendered. Using the SGR formula, without this fix, Medicare was scheduled to cut physician payments by nearly 5 percent effective January 1, 2007. I believe that we need to reform our reimbursement structure to keep physicians participating in both Medicare and TRICARE. The constituents in my district, both the doctors and patients, have called my office to let me know this is particularly important to them, especially as the number of enrollees in both programs is increasing. I was very pleased this provision was included in H.R. 6111.

REMEMBERING THE SACRIFICE OF
FIVE FEDERAL FIREFIGHTERS

HON. JERRY LEWIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 8, 2006

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to memorialize the heroism and devotion to duty of five U.S. Forest Service firefighters, who gave their lives in the line of duty protecting families and homes from the ravages of a ferocious wildfire that overwhelmed their truck.

The 41st Congressional District includes a series of rugged mountain ranges with thousands of acres of national forest, but also thousands of homes and families. They include some of the most beautiful scenery in Southern California, but they are also home to some of the most dangerous wind-driven wildfires during our annual season of Santa Ana Winds.

I have come to know and deeply respect the firefighters who protect these homes and fight these fires. They are among the most professional and resourceful in the nation. Their heroism and tenacity have made the mountains a safer place to live.

So it is with the deepest sorrow that I ask my colleagues to join me in mourning the loss of five of these brave federal firefighters during the Esperanza Fire in the mountains east of San Bernardino. Those who gave their lives in the line of duty were Engine Captain Mark Loutzenhiser, Fire Engine Operator Jess McLean, Assistant Fire Engine Operator Jason McKay, Firefighter Daniel Hoover-Najera, and Firefighter Pablo Cerda.

Mark Loutzenhiser, a father of three, was a vital member of his hometown of Idyllwild, California. He coached youth sports and was considered a friend by nearly everyone in town. He had 21 years of firefighting service and was a certified emergency management technician. He had previously worked as a hotshot crewman for the Vista Grande Hot Shots and also as a volunteer firefighter for Riverside County. He is survived by his children and his wife Maria Loutzenhiser, a Forest Service employee who joined Mark on the firelines until the birth of their children.

Jess McLean had seven years of firefighting service and had been a hotshot for three years with the Vista Grande Hot Shots. He was a hometown hero—graduating from Banning High School in 1997 and attending fire science classes at Crafton Hills College. He was a resident of Beaumont, CA. He is survived by his wife Karen McLean and his mother Cecelia McLean.

Jason McKay spent four years as a volunteer firefighter in the High Desert town of Adelanto before joining the Forest Service five years ago. He also served on the Mojave Greens Type II crew. He was a certified EMT and earned an associate's degree in fire science. He was a resident of Phelan, also in the High Desert. He is survived by his mother Bonnie J. McKay and his father Robert McKay.

Daniel Hoover-Najera began his firefighting career with the Tahquitz Type II crew in 2005 and was serving as a seasonal Forest Service employee this year. He worked on the Tahquitz Type II crew in 2005 and was a seasonal employee in 2006. Just 20 years old, he