

Command and Staff College, and an assignment at the U.S. Air Force Academy as Air Officer Commanding of Cadet Squadron 29. He retired from the Army at Fort Hood, Texas on October 1, 1989.

In March 1991, as a newly elected Congressman, I was wise enough to hire Sam as my primary contact for the military and veterans communities in what was then District 11. Sam excelled in that role and became the District Director in January 1996. As a local veterans leader, his counsel and advice have been indispensable over the years.

Among many other accomplishments, Sam played a key leadership role in the successful fight to save the Waco VA hospital from closure and helped make it into a national center of excellence. The massive modernization of Fort Hood in the 1990s had Sam Murphey's fingerprints all over it. Countless soldiers and their families have benefited from Sam's hard work to make dramatic improvements in barracks, housing, and training facilities at Fort Hood. Sam was also instrumental in opening Gray Army Airfield to commercial aviation, providing land for the Central Texas Veterans Cemetery and Tarleton State's upper level institution in Killeen.

As a district director, it goes without saying that Sam is very active in local community affairs, but he also spends much of his free time to give back to the community. He continues to serve as Vice Chairman of the Board of Directors of Heart O' Texas Federal Credit Union. He is a past president of the University of Central Texas Alumni Association, and has taught government and business classes at the University of Central Texas and Central Texas College as a member of their adjunct faculty. He is a past chairman of the Harker Heights Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors and served 6 years as Commissioner on the Harker Heights Planning and Zoning Commission. He is a co-founder of the Harker Heights Economic Development Corporation and is a past president of the Central Texas—Fort Hood Chapter of the Association of the United States Army and of the Central Texas Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America. He is a graduate of Leadership Temple and Leadership Killeen and is a co-founder of the Leadership Belton program. He was recently named Chairman of the Harker Heights Chamber of Commerce Military Affairs Committee.

Sam and his wonderful wife Peggy, his much, much better half, are retiring at the same time to enjoy their beautiful family together in Harker Heights, Texas. Peggy is retiring after a career of service to the soldiers and families at Fort Hood, a place that I had the privilege to represent for 14 years and is very close to my heart. The Good Lord has blessed Sam and Peggy with two children, Steven and Kathleen and five grandchildren, Samantha and Steven Murphey, Hartley, Elle and Sophia Corsi.

May the Good Lord continue to watch over them and as Sam is fond of saying, "bless their little hearts."

Thank you, Sam for your personal friendship and for your service to the people of Central Texas and the citizens of our Nation. We wish you and your family all the best in the years ahead.

TRIBUTE TO GARY PLAYER

HON. LYNN A. WESTMORELAND

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 26, 2007

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Madam Speaker, I rise today to carry on a tradition started by the late Congressman Charlie Norwood, whose death this year was a great loss to Georgia and the U.S. House of Representatives. Each year on the eve of the Masters golf tournament in his hometown of Augusta, GA., Congressman Norwood would honor a golfer of great acclaim before his colleagues in the House.

This year, that tribute belongs to Gary Player, a world-renowned golfer whose accomplishments extend far beyond the links. In April, Mr. Player will tee up at the Augusta National for the Masters tournament for the 50th consecutive year, a remarkable achievement of longevity in any career. Few events in sports compare to the grace and beauty of the Masters tournament, and for a half century, Mr. Player has played an important role in one of the most cherished and most watched sporting events in the world.

Gary Player's record is the envy of countless golfers. It includes 159 victories worldwide. He holds nine major championships including: three Masters, three British Opens, two U.S. Opens and one PGA Championship. In addition, he has won the World Match Play Championship four times.

Outside the game of golf, Mr. Player has dedicated his life to family—he is celebrating his 50th wedding anniversary this year—and to serving the underprivileged.

In 1983, he established the Gary Player Foundation to address the education crisis in South Africa. The Player family started the Blair Atholl School—complete with a primary school of 400 students, a pre-elementary school for 75, a community resource center and a sports complex. The foundation ensures high-quality education, a nutritional feeding scheme and basic medical care for each child. Besides his foundation, Gary Player hosts the annual Nelson Mandela Invitational Golf Tournament, one of the largest charity events in South Africa. To recognize his many achievements, Gary Player was awarded an Honorary Doctor of Laws from the Saint Andrews University in 1995.

Gary Player has lived an incredible life and he doesn't take those blessings for granted. He has said, "I have been so lucky with golf, with my family, with my health, all I can be is thankful." Let us wish him continued luck and thanks for his accomplishments on and off the course. Mr. Player, good luck in Augusta.

ON THE INTRODUCTION OF THE DHS SAFE ACT TO ENHANCE THE SECURITY OF DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY BADGES, IDENTIFICATION CARDS, UNIFORMS, AND PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

HON. BOB ETHERIDGE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 26, 2007

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Madam Speaker, today I have introduced, together with my colleagues from the Committee on Homeland Security, Chairman Thompson of Mississippi and Mr. Rogers of Alabama, legislation that will prevent terrorists or others with bad intent from posing as Homeland Security officials or officers. This common sense bill will require the Department of Homeland Security to make sure that sensitive material—badges, identification cards, uniforms, and protective gear—is made in the United States. As these items would be vulnerable to theft in transit, it just makes sense to make sure they start and stay in America.

When the Department of Homeland Security buys identification cards overseas, there is no system in place to ensure that they are not stolen and misappropriated by terrorists, who could then pass into restricted areas with fraudulent credentials. In countries with less robust ethical and management standards for business, manufacturers might even be willing to sell uniforms or badges to the highest bidder. The men and women who serve in positions that protect our security are put at risk by a policy that does not secure these materials, and the practice of purchasing them overseas without appropriate safeguards must end.

It is certainly not uncommon for cargo to be hijacked or lost, particularly in the staging areas at our Nation's ports of entry. The potential theft of uniforms, badges, or ID cards by the truckload pose a clear threat. These items are meant to serve as validation that those charged with securing our country are who they say they are; misappropriation is unacceptable.

This legislation will not slow down the Department at all with regard to purchases; it merely ensures that sensitive materials are kept securely inside the United States when appropriate. The bill contains a waiver for small purchases and for material that will be used outside of the United States. It gives the Department the flexibility to procure materials outside of the United States if necessary and as long as steps are taken to prevent misappropriation.

This legislation is focused and targeted at the area of greatest risk in procurement. I urge my colleagues in the House of Representatives to support it.