

Guadalupe Parish in Oxnard, and as an assistant pastor at Christ the King Parish. In addition to his responsibilities to the church, Bishop Madera actively oversaw the pastoral care of 24 labor camps in Ventura County, lectured at the Camarillo Seminary of the Los Angeles Archdiocese, and hosted radio broadcast programs both at the local and international levels. He was also instrumental in the construction of the second part Our Lady of Guadalupe School in Oxnard, CA, as well as the rectory and the church.

In recognition of his years of commitment to the Catholic Church, Bishop Madera had the distinctive honor of receiving his ordination as auxiliary bishop for the Roman Catholic Archdiocese for the Military Services by the late Pope John Paul II in 1991. In this post, Bishop Madera was responsible for the pastoral care of 2 million Catholic men and women serving in the U.S. military and their families, the residents of the Department of Veterans Affairs hospitals, and the civilian employees of the U.S. Government living abroad.

Bishop Madera's work and outreach efforts are highly commendable. He has left the communities in which he has served a better place because of the sincerity and generosity of his services and faith. Through his post on the Archdiocese for Military Services, he reached out to provide comfort and guidance to Americans domestically and overseas. Even though he is now retired, his advocacy and commitment to service carries on as he currently volunteers to assist the Bishop serving the Sacramento area in California. For all these reasons, it is without doubt an honor to recognize him today as Bishop Joseph Madera continues to touch the lives of many people, leaving his mark of good will across the world.

TRIBUTE TO MS. NATALIE HIATT

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2007

Mr. CUELLAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Ms. Natalie Hiatt for having served in my office as a congressional intern in the winter of 2006 and the spring of 2007. She has performed her duties with utmost distinction, and I am proud to have this opportunity to recognize the tremendous work she has done on my behalf.

Ms. Hiatt is currently studying at the University of Oklahoma in Norman, OK, as a transfer student from the University of the Incarnate Word in San Antonio, TX. She will graduate in May 2007 with a bachelor of arts in public affairs and administration. Due to her exemplary academic record, Ms. Hiatt has received scholarships such as the Academic Scholarship Award through her participation in the honors program at the University of the Incarnate Word.

Ms. Hiatt has consistently gone above the call of duty in ensuring the efficient operation of my office and maintaining ties with constituents in my district as a part of the press team. She also provided valuable insight on various legislative bills, and her ability to work with others, as shown by her extensive involvement in the college community at the University of Oklahoma, was of great benefit to my legislative team. She has a bright future ahead

of her, and I am proud to support her as she moves on to the next phase of her life.

Madam Speaker, I am honored to have had the opportunity to recognize the benefit Ms. Natalie Hiatt brought to my congressional office and ask you to join me in honoring her. I thank you for your time.

HONORING VICKI CODY DURING THE MONTH OF THE MILITARY CHILD

HON. SILVESTRE REYES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2007

Mr. REYES. Madam Speaker, as we celebrate the Month of the Military Child I rise today to honor the mother of two military children, Vicki Cody. Army members and military families throughout the world know her as the wife of Army Vice Chief of Staff General Richard Cody, but today I want to recognize her contributions to our nation as the mother of Tyler and Clint Cody, two outstanding young men who grew up at military posts throughout the world and followed in the footsteps of their father serving as Army helicopter pilots.

Standing behind her three Soldiers, Vicki Cody is the glue that holds her family together. For over thirty years, she has been so much more than a wife and mother. Her many roles include nurse, cook, teacher, driver, volunteer, moving crew, painter, dog walker, bill payer, and fixer of all things broken. On top of all that, Vicki has added one more title: author.

In her years as a military spouse and the mother of two Soldiers, Vicki Cody saw the need to help other families facing the challenges of supporting their sons and daughters in uniform. Working with the Association of the United States Army (AUSA), her book, "Your Soldier, Your Army: A Parents' Guide," has reached thousands of families. At a time when every Soldier can expect to serve multiple combat tours, supporting the families they leave behind is critical.

I'd like to read a short excerpt from Mrs. Cody's book: "I have an advantage of having been part of this system for the past 30 years. I have a deep understanding of the military in general, and I have access to all kinds of information, resources, and support systems. Still, I know how scary it's been for me having both sons in a combat zone, and I think about all the parents out there who don't have that background. This must be very confusing and frightening for them.

"So, I want to use my knowledge, experiences, candor, insight—whatever I have I want to share with other families. I'm a little old-fashioned in that I still believe in the power of the human touch or connection. I also believe each of us can make a difference. Sometimes it's something as simple as reassuring a frightened mom or dad and letting them know there's a toll-free number they can call to get in touch with the rear detachment of their Soldier's unit, or maybe there are terms they don't understand, or why the mail takes so long, or why their Soldier hasn't been able to call for weeks. Sometimes they just need a little knowledge of a very complex and vast organization. I wish I could wrap my arms around all the parents out there."

From there, the book goes on to explain in simple but powerful terms how important fam-

ily is to every Soldier. As a military mother and wife, Vicki describes how families can best support their loved ones in uniform throughout the stressful deployment process as they make preparations, execute their combat mission, and readjust when they return home.

At a time when we are calling up our troops to bear an enormous burden, our military families need all the help and support we can give them, and Vicki Cody has stepped up to the plate again and again to offer her wisdom and the warmth of her heart as she speaks to the families of military members both in person and through her inspirational written words.

I am working with the AUSA to send copies of Mrs. Cody's book to every Member of Congress, and I urge each of you to read it and share the supportive and helpful guidance with the military families who live in your districts. While there is not an Army post or other military installation in every Congressional district, our soldiers, sailors, airmen, and marines come from every corner of our Nation—from the smallest towns and biggest cities. These troops are the ambassadors of their hometowns as they serve in defense of our Nation throughout the world, and we must support them and the families they leave behind.

Vicki Cody and her fellow military spouses and parents are unsung American heroes. Without the support of their families, our military could not accomplish their mission, and we owe every mother and father, sister and brother, husband and wife, son and daughter, a great debt of gratitude.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF PASTOR PAUL HIRAM WELCH

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2007

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, on behalf of the U.S. Congress, it is with great honor that I rise today to recognize Pastor Paul Hiram Welch for his lifelong service and dedication to the First Pentecostal Church in Pensacola, FL.

Pastor Welch discovered his calling at the early age of three when he was introduced to the ministry by his father, D.L. Welch, upon his establishment of First Pentecostal Church of Pensacola. Pastor Welch's love for the ministry only continued to strengthen. He followed in his father's footsteps and chose to lead the spiritual growth of the community. At the age of 16, Pastor Welch preached his first revival and began his own evangelical ministry upon graduating from high school.

He returned to Pensacola in 1956 to serve as Associate Pastor and 3 years later, he married Shirley Ann Lane of Montgomery, AL. Members of the congregation came to know them as Brother Paul and Sister Shirley. In the mid-70s, Brother Paul was named Pastor of First Pentecostal Church in Pensacola. The impact Pastor Welch has had on the community is immeasurable; so many have come to know and love the Lord through his service to God.

The selfless contributions of this man are not limited to just one church. Pastor Welch has served as a member of the Florida District Board of the United Pentecostal Church International for more than 32 years and now

serves as an honorary board member. He also serves on the board of Lighthouse Ranch for Boys in Hammond, LA.

Through his leadership and dedication, Pastor Paul Welch has honorably and spiritually served the church and the northwest Florida community. But he is also a loving husband and father, and Pensacola is truly blessed to have him as one of her own.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the U.S. Congress, I would like to offer my sincere gratitude to a man who has served as an inspiration to us all. A deep sense of personal service to his faith for so many years is something to truly be admired and honored.

HONORING THE ACHIEVEMENT OF
COPPELL HIGH SCHOOL BAND

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2007

Mr. MARCHANT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Coppell High School Band for their accomplishments and commitment to the City of Coppell. The Coppell High School Band represents one of the finest organizations in Texas and in the City of Coppell. The band, which is composed of over 350 members, represents the school with pride and dedication that is shown through their hard work, perseverance, and achievements. The Coppell Band has received a variety of National and local awards and honors such as the Tournament of Roses Parade and has been a 7-year consecutive winner of the Texas State Solo and Ensemble Championship. I commend the Coppell Band of past and present for their dedication during challenging periods of growth and laud their accomplishments of becoming a premier north Texas organization for families and students to become involved in. I honor the Coppell High School Band on this milestone and look forward to the future as the city and this organization continues to be a shining example in north Texas. It is with pride that I serve such a distinguished city in my congressional district and give my sincere congratulations to the Coppell High School Band.

FREEDOM FOR OSCAR SÁNCHEZ
MADAN

HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2007

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to speak about Oscar Sánchez Madan, a political prisoner in totalitarian Cuba.

Mr. Sánchez Madan is an independent journalist who has been a contributor to the independent press agency Cubanet since 2005. His straightforward articles as an independent journalist in totalitarian Cuba have helped interested observers of the Cuban tragedy throughout the world to learn the truth about the nightmare that is the Castro regime. Because of his commitment to accurate reporting, he persistently chronicled the brutal violence and rampant corruption of the Cuban

tyranny. Mr. Sánchez reported the truth in totalitarian Cuba, with the knowledge that any freedom of the press, any effort to shed light on the regime's atrocities, is met with brutal repression.

According to a Cubanet report, Mr. Sánchez Madan was arrested and detained by state security thugs on February 25, 2007 because of articles he had written describing problems confronted by the oppressed people of Cuba on a daily basis. He also reported on corruption by a government official in the town of Pedro Betancourt. After being detained, several state security agents questioned Mr. Sánchez Madan, demanding to know whether he was an independent journalist or had studied journalism. All the documents he carried on him pertaining to a story he was working on were confiscated.

Despite being forced to endure incessant repression, beatings and several unwarranted detentions in the last year alone, he remained committed to the people of Cuba and to exposing the truth concerning the tyranny. According to reports, on April 13, 2007, state security thugs confronted Mr. Sánchez Madan with trumped-up charges that he posed a "pre-criminal social danger". In little over one day, he was arrested, tried and "sentenced" to 4 years of torture in a totalitarian dungeon without even so much as the presence of a relative or a defense lawyer.

Mr. Sánchez Madan finds himself in an infernal cell in the totalitarian gulag whose depraved conditions are described by the U.S. State Department as "harsh and life threatening." The State Department also reports that police and prison officials beat, neglect, isolate, and deny medical treatment to detainees and prisoners. It is a crime against humanity that people who work for freedom, who expose the truth and who work for the restoration of human rights to the Cuban people, are locked up in these condemnable conditions.

Madam Speaker, Mr. Sánchez Madan is one of the many heroes of the Cuban democratic movement locked in the dungeons of a maniacal tyrant for exposing the truth about the realities of totalitarian Cuba. No matter how horrifically brutal the consequences of a dignified struggle for liberty, these men and women represent the best of the Cuban nation. My colleagues, we must demand the immediate release of Oscar Sánchez Madan and every political prisoner in totalitarian Cuba.

HONORING THE MESQUITE INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT
EDUCATION FOUNDATION

HON. JEB HENSARLING

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2007

Mr. HENSARLING. Madam Speaker, today I would like to honor the Mesquite Independent School District Education Foundation for their dedication to the Mesquite community where they enrich the education and development of the city's 35,000 children. The Foundation promotes community awareness and student development, provides educational funding and encourages creativity. Their work has supplied valuable funds through grants for programs to supplement school budgets. Their efforts help students in Mesquite have access to the best educational experience possible.

The Foundation has been instrumental in financing many programs that kids enjoy today. Such funds have been used to purchase "hands-on consumable science lab materials" to provide students with interactive laboratory equipment. Other grants have secured reading materials for pre-school children to increase pre-kindergarten reading readiness levels.

To date, the Foundation has raised over \$800,000 and has awarded more than \$200,000 in grants to campuses and individuals. Soon, the Foundation will be formally announcing their next round of grants totaling an additional \$200,000.

As the Congressional representative of Mesquite, Texas, it is my distinct pleasure to honor the Mesquite Independent School District Education Foundation today in the United States House of Representatives.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TIMOTHY J. WALZ

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2007

Mr. WALZ of Minnesota. Madam Speaker, I was unavoidably absent from the chamber yesterday, April 25, 2007. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall vote 259.

THE VIRGINIA TECH TRAGEDY

HON. JAY INSLEE

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2007

Mr. INSLEE. Madam Speaker, in the aftermath of the terrible tragedy at Virginia Tech, as people try to make sense of this senseless act, we must remember to find strength in community. Last week, I spoke to Korean-American leaders in my district who expressed their deepest sympathies to all those affected by this tragedy—the same sense of sorrow shared by all Americans. I expressed my hope that the Korean-American community would not be targeted in any way, in the aftermath of this situation.

I am proud that so far this fear hasn't materialized, but I rise today to remind Americans not to place blame on this or any other group. Korean Americans should feel no communal sense of guilt or responsibility for this act. Their own pride in their achievements and contributions to American society should remain undiminished.

Rather, we all should keep the victims, their families and the Virginia Tech community in our thoughts and prayers at this difficult time. We can do this by supporting efforts like that of Washington State Senator Paul Shin, who has been working with local Korean Americans to start a fund for the victims' families. We also should work together to make sure that college campuses across our Nation retain their openness and continue to be bastions of hope and opportunity.