

By bringing the vast majority of our troops home in the coming months we will show both the Iraqis and the world that we are serious, that we believe the military mission is done, and that it is time for the Iraqis to take accountability for their country.

Mr. Speaker, by voting to redeploy in the coming months, I vote for accountability in Iraq. We can delay no longer. As a Congress we have a responsibility to support the troops, to honor our commitment to veterans, hold the Iraqi government accountable, and continue to press the President to change course and end this war.

I have made this clear before, and I will repeat it again here, today. Too many lives are at stake: I have crossed the Rubicon on this war.

Yet the President has chosen another path. While the American people continue to throw their hands in the air, this administration continues to ignore the painful consequences of its disastrous strategy. With his own veto last week, the President made clear his strategy will not change—unless we do something about it, here today.

We all know our troops will do anything their country asks—but let us not ask them to sacrifice everything for the wrong mission. We have a responsibility to get it right.

RECOGNIZING THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF BEECHER COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT PROJECT HEAD START

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 15, 2007

Mr. KILDEE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 40th anniversary of the Beecher Community School District Project Head Start. A community celebration is planned for Friday, May 18th in Flint, Michigan. The celebration will be attended by alumni, current and former staff, parents, students and other members of the community.

The Beecher Community School District is a delegate program of the Genesee County Community Action Resource Department. Over the past 40 years the Beecher Head Start program has served over 6,000 students. It is a comprehensive program providing medical, dental, nutrition, and child development. The teachers and social workers make home visits to assess the needs of the child and work to fully involve parents in the child's progress. This year 357 pupils benefited from participation in the program.

Madam Speaker, please join me in congratulating the Beecher Community School District Project Head Start on 40 years of successfully preparing youngsters for school and enhancing the social and reasoning skills of thousands of students.

THANKING TINA TATE FOR HER PUBLIC SERVICE

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 15, 2007

Mr. HOYER. Madam Speaker, today I pay tribute to the career and personal achievement

of one of the House's own—Tina Tate, who will retire on May 17 as the Director of the House Radio and Television Gallery after 34 years of service to this wonderful institution.

During the last three and one-half decades, Tina has worked tirelessly with the People's House and the media to chronicle the sometimes tumultuous but always lively day-to-day history of the Congress. She has gracefully assisted Democrats and Republicans in their interaction with the press during a period when technological advances changed the manner in which the media informed the American people about their government.

In 1969, Tina moved from her native Georgia to Washington, DC, with her husband and young son. Three years later, during the Nixon Administration and Carl Albert's Speakership, she was hired as the first female employee of the House Radio and Television Gallery. At that time, there were only three national television news organizations, and it was still one year before CBS radio took the bold step of launching a "news on the hour" service.

In 1981, she was selected Superintendent of the Radio TV Gallery—the first female to head that office. This was the first year of Ronald Reagan's Presidency and the fifth year of Thomas P. "Tip" O'Neill's service as Speaker. Since then she has overseen the historic coverage of the transition of power in the House, first from Democratic to Republican hands in 1994, and then a return to Democratic governance in 2006.

During her service, Tina served five Speakers of the House, guiding the House and those who cover it with integrity, honesty and a desire to help all sides succeed in a rapidly changing, frequently challenging environment.

Madam Speaker, Tina has left her mark on Congress and those who cover us for the people. For the press, she has been an advocate and steady hand in working with Congress to expand openness and access. For Members of Congress, she has been a faithful guardian of the institution's interests and the precedents that protect this body.

In addition to helping reporters gather news within the halls of Congress, Tina and her office have helped more than 5,000 members of independent radio and television organizations cover every national political convention. That makes sense, since once a nominee became President she oversaw their subsequent State of the Union Addresses.

Tina not only arranged logistics, she innovated. She developed new platforms for coverage, whether that be utilizing Statuary Hall to allow Members to talk to national and local media, or paving the way for new technologies like HDTV to find their place in the coverage of newsworthy events. She has had a hand in making all of this work and finding new ways to open up our government.

Tina's contribution will continue into the future. Since 2000, she has been working to establish a necessary and appropriate foothold for the electronic media in the Congressional Visitor's Center. As the technology and press have changed in 34 years, so have their needs and the needs of Members of Congress. She foresaw that growth and has worked with us to make the House successful in the years to come.

Let me close by thanking Tina for her service, friendship and gracious guidance. She

leaves the House of Representatives the better for her service.

HONORING BRIDGES . . . A COMMUNITY SUPPORT SYSTEM, INC., AS THEY CELEBRATE THEIR 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 15, 2007

Ms. DELAURO. Madam Speaker, I am honored to rise today to extend my sincere congratulations to Bridges . . . A Community Support System, Inc., of Milford, Connecticut, as they celebrate their 50th anniversary. This is a remarkable milestone for this outstanding organization dedicated to providing support and mental health services to those in need.

Originally founded in 1957 as the Milford Family Counseling Association, the organization's mission initially focused on addressing the mental health needs of children in the Milford community. The organization expanded and so did its scope of services—including adult psychiatric services, drug and alcohol prevention services and opening its doors to the neighboring communities of Orange and West Haven. As the needs of our communities and its residents changed, so did the agency as well as its name. Designated in the 1990s by the State of Connecticut as the Local Mental Health Authority, the organization made its final name change in 1999 to Bridges . . . A Community Support System to better reflect its purpose and mission.

Today, Bridges, working with local agencies and organizations, is able to provide a multitude of programs to those most in need. From individual counseling to bereavement support; teenage drug and alcohol prevention to vocational and social rehabilitation services, Bridges and its dedicated staff have continually identified the changing needs of our community. The partnerships they have established allow them to provide comprehensive services to their clients—making a real difference in the lives of thousands of children and families.

In building upon the vision first established with the Milford Family Counseling Association, Bridges has been able to provide those coping with the challenges of mental illnesses with one of life's most precious gifts—hope. Through its gift of hope, Bridges has left an indelible mark on our community and the thousands of lives they have touched. In its 50 year history, Bridges has established itself as an invaluable resource as well as respected advocates—not only for their clients, but community leaders and policy-makers alike.

Today, Bridges is continuing its legacy of helping people live more fulfilling and productive lives by providing clients with "Pathways to Health, Hope, and Recovery." For its many invaluable contributions to our community and for all of their work on behalf of our children and families, I am proud to stand today and extend my sincere congratulations to the Bridges . . . A Community Support System on their 50th anniversary.