

House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky. Madam Speaker, I rise this evening to honor John Bach, a pillar of our law enforcement community, and a recent retiree from the Kenton County Sheriff's Department.

Mr. Bach's career is one that embodies dedication and service to this country. From 1966 to 1970, he served with the 777th Tactical Air Squadron based out of Pope Air Force Base, North Carolina, and was also part of the 556th Reconnaissance Squadron in southeast Asia.

After completing his military service, John pursued a degree in business that he completed at Northern Kentucky University. John was quick to answer the call to service in our community. Throughout his career in law enforcement, he protected our communities in the line of duty at the Elsmere Police Department, the Boone County Police Department, the Independence Police Department and the Kenton County Sheriff's Department.

I would like to thank John for his brave service to our Nation and for helping to make the communities of northern Kentucky safer for all of our residents as part of local law enforcement.

Madam Speaker, I would like to wish John and his wife, Linda, all the best as they enter this new chapter of their lives.

#### PASSPORT PROCESSING BACKLOG

(Mr. LAMPSON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LAMPSON. Madam Speaker, on Friday I joined Congressman GREEN, who just spoke, and Congresswoman JACKSON-LEE, who will speak shortly, at the Houston passport office.

Some people had been in line for hours, and some of them had driven hundreds of miles. Most were frustrated and confused. Many had applied months ago to comply with the new passport laws, but the last Congress failed to provide Federal agencies the resources they need to uphold our laws.

These passport delays have inconvenienced thousands across our country. Some State Department estimates range up to 12 weeks or even longer to process passport applications, forcing some people to either cancel travel plans or lose deposits.

We can't have homeland security without adequate resources. It is not enough to talk tough, we must follow through. The State Department has said that it would temporarily suspend the law to some countries so Americans can take their trips. Forcing agencies to suspend laws because they lack the capacity to enforce them sets a dangerous precedent.

We need more agents to provide border security, customs and immigration enforcement officers and Federal pros-

ecutors and immigration judges to uphold our laws. Let's fix this problem now before it gets much worse.

#### NOE ALEMAN—BORDER AGENT

(Mr. POE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, Noe Aleman is a 12-year veteran of the U.S. Border Patrol in the El Paso sector. He and his wife, Isbell, who have no children of their own, plan to adopt his wife's three fatherless nieces from Mexico.

They hired a U.S. immigration lawyer and paid him \$40,000 to help with the process. The girls were given temporary visas, but when they expired after 6 months, Agent Aleman went to the immigration service to find out why.

Aleman was arrested for harboring illegals and making false reports on the application. Apparently the lawyer listed the girls as adults instead of minors. In any event, Aleman was prosecuted and convicted. The girls were arrested and deported back to Mexico and live in an orphanage where they have been for 2 years.

Today, Aleman went to a Federal penitentiary. And yes, he was prosecuted by the same U.S. Attorney's Office, the same judge heard the case as the Ramos and Compean cases.

Unfortunately, every time a border agent is prosecuted in the Western District of Texas, the U.S. Attorney's Office has a credibility problem; and this case is automatically suspect and suspicious.

And that's just the way it is.

#### PASSPORT PROCESSING BACKLOG

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, just last week I joined my colleagues Congressman GENE GREEN and Congressman NICK LAMPSON on trying to address the ongoing crisis in our communities, because we have a regional office for passports. Overnight stays, early morning arrivals, families crying and families not being able to be reunited, people traveling for hundreds of miles, and the reason is passport backlog because of no extra staff.

Let me thank the staff who work so hard to ensure that those who came could be served. We asked the State Department today to provide us with temporary permanent workers to carry out the responsibility.

I would also say if there are waivers now being made for places like the Caribbean and Canada, I would only beg that information be given to travelers so they don't go to the airport and not have the necessary documentation.

Madam Speaker, I close by saying I am reading today as well that the U.S. military is getting ready to arm the

Sunnis. I would say if the Iraq war has come to this, it is time to bring our soldiers home. This is not the way to run a war.

#### HONORING SOUTHCO AS ROLE MODEL

(Mr. KUHL of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KUHL of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the special environmental achievements of a vibrant small business located in my district.

Southco, a manufacturer of access hardware, has reduced the amount of hazardous waste it generates from more than 3,200 pounds in 2002 to zero just 3 years later in 2005. Through systematic changes in their manufacturing process, they have completely ceased producing hazardous waste.

Moreover, Southco has committed to reducing its consumption of electricity by 15 percent over the next 3 years. Clearly Southco is a role model for our Nation's businesses when it comes to preserving our precious resources. There is a lot of talk about environmental conservation and energy independence, but through innovative thinking, Southco has delivered tangible results in the private sector and provided an excellent example.

This month, the Environmental Protection Agency has made Southco a member of its National Environmental Performance Track Program, designed to honor leaders who have demonstrated a commitment to reducing their negative impact on the environment.

I would like to personally thank Southco for being an excellent corporate citizen.

Madam Speaker, Southco is a leader in these efforts, and deserves our praise for its forward-thinking, socially conscious practices.

#### CONGRATULATING THE CEDAR VALLEY, IOWA

(Mr. BRALEY of Iowa asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Madam Speaker, I rise this evening as a proud resident of Waterloo, Iowa. Recently, Forbes named the Waterloo-Cedar Falls metro area as the "13th best place for business and careers" among small metro areas in the United States.

There is nothing unlucky about this number 13. I have lived in Waterloo for almost 25 years, and I can tell you from experience that the people of the Cedar Valley have made all of the difference there. The last decade has brought a renewed commitment to civic improvement, and these investments have paid off.

Investments in things like good schools, an expanding workforce and an