

is located in Brazoria County in my congressional district. I am pleased to take this opportunity to congratulate the management and employees of BASF Freeport on 50 great years, and thank the people of BASF Freeport for their contributions to Freeport's economy.

The story of the BASF Freeport began when the owners of BASF Overzee N.V., a subsidiary of Badische Anilin- & Soda Fabrik A. G. (BASF), Ludwigshafen, Germany, and the Dow Chemical Company, Midland, Michigan, agreed to form Dow Badische Chemical Company. Dow Badische was endowed with the chemical process technology of the European parent as well as the managerial and marketing knowledge of their U.S. parent.

The new company chose a site adjacent to Dow Chemical's Texas Division of Freeport, Texas for its initial production. In December of 1959 the plant began producing Acrylic Acid and Acrylic Esters. In 1960 and 1961 the plants added production units for butanol and caprolactam.

Through the years, the BASF facility experienced tremendous increases in its capacity as well as in the number of production plants and employees that comprise the BASF Freeport workforce. For example, in 1967 BASF built a continuous butyl acrylate plant, while a new caprolactam complex was completed in 1968; and a new oxo alcohol facility was completed in 1970, adding 2-Ethylhexanol to the product line.

BASF acquired 100 percent ownership of Dow Badische in 1978. Soon after the change in ownership took place, two new chemical plants were constructed in Freeport, one an acrylic acid facility and the other a neopentyl glycol facility. Further significant expansions have included two acrylic monomers plants, an expansion to the polycaprolactam unit and most recently a new superabsorbent polymer plant.

In addition to its contributions to Brazoria County's economy, BASF has improved the life of the residents of Brazoria County through its steadfast support of numerous civic organizations. BASF has also earned the trust of its neighbors by making every effort to observe basic principles of safety and environmental performance in all its operations.

BASF Freeport's success is due to the commitment, hard work and innovative ability of its employees. I am certain that these same attributes will ensure a continued healthy growth for the company, which will, in turn, continue to benefit all of Brazoria County. It is therefore my pleasure to congratulate BASF Freeport on their 50th anniversary.

RECOGNIZING JOHN AND BONNIE ENSTROM FOR CREATING VETERANS LAKE PARK IN HONOR OF AMERICA'S VETERANS

HON. MICHELE BACHMANN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 10, 2008

Mrs. BACHMANN. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor two of my constituents, true community servants, Mr. John and Bonnie Enstrom.

The Enstrom's built the Veterans Lake Park in Ramsey, Minnesota to honor our fallen heroes. The park hosts the only monument in State dedicated to all Minnesotans who lost

their lives as a result of the global War on Terror. The monument also contains a list of veterans who died in the Iraq war to protect our Nation's freedom.

Over \$1 million has been personally invested by the Enstrom's to ensure that the park is well-kept and beautiful. Veterans visit the park and enjoy its quiet, relaxing environment. It has been seen as a safe haven to help the Vets mentally and emotionally recover.

Our Nation's heroes sacrificed their comforts and safety so that Americans can enjoy their continued freedoms. For their great efforts, veterans deserve much from the American people. Its efforts like those of the Enstrom's that truly show our appreciation for these heroes.

Madam Speaker, it is my honor to recognize and congratulate Mr. and Mrs. John Enstrom for their exemplary service to our Nation's heroes. The time and work that they both have sacrificed to serve the military men and women of our great State of Minnesota will not be forgotten.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 10, 2008

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS. Madam Speaker, on July 8, 2008, I was avoidably detained and missed three votes: H.R. 3981, H.R. 1423, and H.R. 4199.

Had I been present I would have voted "yes" on H.R. 3981, "yes" on H.R. 1423 and "yes" on H.R. 4199. (vote Nos. 471, 472, 473)

HONORING COLONEL PAUL J. KENNEDY OF THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS

HON. DAVID E. PRICE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 10, 2008

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor COL Paul J. Kennedy of the United States Marine Corps. Colonel Kennedy is finishing his tenure as the Marine Corps liaison to the House of Representatives, and will soon head to my home State to take command of the Second Marine Regiment, Second Marine Division at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina.

During the last 2 years, Colonel Kennedy has led the small contingent of Marines that serve as the direct interface between the Marine Corps and the members and staff of the House. Under his leadership, Colonel Kennedy and his colleagues have established strong professional relationships throughout this body, building trust, confidence, and mutual commitment between the Marine Corps and congressional leaders. His integrity, knowledge, and personal attention to the needs and interests of members have garnered great respect and appreciation throughout this Chamber.

I have particularly benefited from Colonel Kennedy's leadership as he has become an integral part of the efforts of the House De-

mocracy Assistance Commission (HDAC), which I lead along with Representative DAVID DREIER. During the last 2 years, our Commission has traveled to numerous far-flung destinations in the service of our mission to strengthen the capabilities of legislatures in developing democracies. Not only has Colonel Kennedy organized and escorted every single HDAC delegation, he has jumped at the chance to do so, foregoing travel to more luxurious destinations in favor of our trips to developing nations like Liberia, Afghanistan, and Haiti. He has strongly supported the mission of our Commission, and has moved mountains to ensure that we can carry out our work, no matter what complications arise.

As I have gotten to know Colonel Kennedy, I have been tremendously impressed, not just by his professionalism and integrity, but also by his commitment to the United States Marine Corps. He treats the men and women under his direction in the Marine Liaison office with great respect and has taken particularly seriously his duty to mentor young Marines of lower rank. As he leaves to take command of a 5,000-Marine unit, his attention to the development of younger Marines will no doubt be greatly valued.

Colonel Kennedy has also been able to share with members of Congress detailed and valuable insights into the war in Iraq. Having served as a Battalion Commander in Anbar Province in Iraq during Operation Iraqi Freedom II, Colonel Kennedy gained first hand experience in helping our nation confront the new and complex challenges that war has highlighted.

While Colonel Kennedy will be sorely missed by this institution, we can take comfort in the knowledge that a man of such tremendous personal character and ability will continue to serve and strengthen the United States Marine Corps and the 5,000 Marines under his command at Camp Lejeune. Let me offer my heartfelt appreciation and best wishes to Colonel Kennedy as he embarks on this new assignment.

IN SUPPORT OF THE SAN FRANCISCO BAY NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE COMPLEX

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 10, 2008

Mr. STARK. Madam Speaker, I rise today with my colleagues GEORGE MILLER (CA-7) and SAM FARR (CA-17) to introduce the San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge Complex Establishment Act. As its title indicates, this bill would unite the Bay Area's seven separate national wildlife refuges into a single wildlife complex in order to leverage greater federal funding for these unique habitats.

The Antioch Dunes, Don Edwards San Francisco Bay, Ellicott Slough, Farallon, Marin Islands, Salinas River, and San Pablo Bay National Wildlife Refuges together constitute our nation's largest collection of urban wildlife refuges, totaling more than 46,000 acres. Together, they are home to hundreds of wildlife species—including over 128 threatened or endangered animals and marine mammals that depend on these refuges to survive. Because they support endangered wildlife in close proximity to millions of people, these refuges face unique and growing challenges.