

with the same casual kindness that won her the love of her constituents back in Cleveland.

Most importantly, we will remember her courage. STEPHANIE was never intimidated by anybody or anything. When she saw injustice, she did something about it, even when the battle would be difficult and victory uncertain. She spoke for those in need of a champion. In her career, she transcended the barriers of race, class and gender that continue to undermine the great American creed of equal opportunity. In her work, she helped ensure that those barriers will not stop future generations of Americans from achieving their potential.

STEPHANIE loved warm words, but she preferred strong actions. Let her example help us to speak truth to power and stand up for justice. The best tribute we could offer to so passionate and committed a public servant is to continue her work.

HONORING THE SPECIAL
ACHIEVEMENTS OF JIM TUCKER

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 9, 2008

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today along with my colleagues from California, Mr. RADANOVICH, Mr. NUNES and Mr. CARDOZA to pay tribute and congratulate the distinguished public service and educational career of Mr. Jim Tucker. After 19 years, Jim Tucker is leaving his position as host of the Valley Press Show. Mr. Tucker will be honored at a reception held by Valley Public Television on Wednesday, August 27, 2008.

During his 19 years of service, Mr. Tucker has hosted the Valley Press Show and has interviewed more than 1,500 guests on more than 650 episodes and hosted 40 political debates. His guests included national, state and local politicians, celebrities, authors, historians, sports figures, religious, educational and community leaders, as well as, numerous members of our local Valley media. He planned, prepared, wrote, scheduled and hosted the weekly program. Valley Press is the signature KVPT public affairs program; it provides viewers with an in-depth look at major local area news stories. Mr. Tucker has been responsible for researching topics of interest and contacting the numerous guests for the program. Mr. Tucker has dedicated himself tirelessly to KVPT—Valley Public Television and to his community.

Mr. Tucker also taught journalism in the Mass Communications Department at California State University, Fresno. Due to his vast wisdom and knowledge of journalism and reporting, he has been honored with many distinctions recognition awards throughout the years. His awards include Outstanding Journalism Professor of the Year in 1996, twice nominee for a regional Emmy award and California State University of Fresno Provost's Award for excellence in Teaching in 1997.

For those who have had the wonderful opportunity to be one of the guests on Jim's show, it has always been a learning experience. The same dedication and knowledge of journalism he shared with his students at Fresno State was always demonstrated in his efforts to bring as much information as possible from his guests to the public at large.

That is what made his show one of the best of its kind, and why he had such a large following throughout the Valley and across the entire political spectrum. As a result, Jim Tucker is the quintessential journalist; always seeking answers to tough questions in an attempt to try and better inform the public, who are the critical link in making representative democracy work effectively.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate Jim Tucker upon his retirement from Valley Public Television. As a valley resident his journalistic integrity and credibility have been greatly appreciated. Upon his retirement, as he prepares to spend more time with his family and endeavors of interest to him, we thank him for his service and we wish him continued success and best of luck for the future.

HONORING THE DEDICATION OF
RUDDER HIGH SCHOOL IN
BRYAN, TX

HON. CHET EDWARDS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 9, 2008

Mr. EDWARDS of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the newly dedicated James Earl Rudder High School in the community of Bryan-College Station, TX.

There is something very special about the dedication of a new school. It is a place where so many lives will be shaped, so many memories made, a place where hopes for a better world will become a reality. Add to that that James Earl Rudder was a true American hero, and it makes the dedication of this high school a memorable event in the history of Brazos County.

Superintendent Cargill and Principal Piatt, thank you for giving me the privilege of being there, because the Rudder family has had a very personal impact on my life. Mrs. Earl Rudder was like a second mother to me, although in fairness, I should point out that she effectively adopted thousands of Aggies over several generations. That did not make her any less special to me, and I want to thank Ann, Linda, Bud and Bob for sharing for so many years your mother and father with all of us in your extended Aggie family.

I never met General Rudder, because he died just months before I enrolled at A&M in 1970, but like every American and every citizen of the world who benefited from the defeat of Nazi forces in World War II, I am the beneficiary of his indomitable courage on D-Day, which marked the beginning of the end for Hitler's plan of world domination.

In a more personal way, I paid for my graduate school education with the scholarship I received when I was awarded the Earl Rudder Award upon my graduation from A&M in 1974. Nevertheless, receiving that award has always been a source of deep humility to me, because I know that I could not even walk in the shadows of this great American's shoes.

I want to salute the school board members, Superintendent Cargill, Principal Piatt, and all who made this new school possible. James Earl Rudder High School is far more than brick, glass and mortar, because a school represents the very best of our values as a community. This school represents the commit-

ment of one generation to the next. It represents this community's willingness to tax itself to ensure that its children have a fair chance to reach their highest God-given potential.

It is in our schools and houses of worship that we witness our best sense of community, a sense that we truly are our brothers' keepers. It is in our schools that we Americans strive to provide for equality of opportunity for all. Ours is an imperfect, never ending journey, but in that march toward equality for all, we show our greatness and goodness as a nation.

Thomas Jefferson was the 33-year-old author of our Declaration of Independence. He was our third and one of our greatest Presidents. Yet, before he died, he made it clear that he wanted it etched on his gravestone that he was the founder of a university. In his wisdom, Thomas Jefferson understood the importance of education to our democracy.

Two centuries later, I believe that each of you who played a role in founding James Earl Rudder High School shares the right to be proud of your accomplishment. It is my hope that the life and values of Earl Rudder will be an inspiration to every student here from this day forward. We should never forget the story of Earl Rudder, because his is the story of the American spirit. It is a story from which we can all learn.

Born in the small town of Eden, Texas, Earl Rudder did not inherit material wealth, but his family, faith and education helped mold a true leader. Like so many Americans, he dedicated his life to helping others, to serving his country.

After graduating from Texas A&M in 1932, Earl Rudder was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the U.S. Army Reserves. He then chose the noble profession of teaching—first as a coach and teacher at Brady High School and later at Tarleton State College. In 1941, his country called him to duty, and did he ever answer that call. Rising through the ranks because of his integrity, courage and leadership skills, he was chosen to lead the 2nd Ranger Battalion by one of the most respected Generals to ever serve in the U.S. Army, General Omar Bradley.

His D-Day mission was to lead the best of the best up the 100-foot cliffs of Pointe du Hoc to disarm massive German guns that could have killed thousands of American G.I.s and put the Allied invasion of France at risk.

General Bradley said this about the responsibility given then Lt. Colonel Earl Rudder:

"No soldier in my command has ever been wished a more difficult task than that which befell the thirty-four-year-old Commander of this Provisional Ranger Force."

Two hundred and twenty-five Rangers began their mission on that perilous day when literally the fate of the world was in their hands. Only ninety-nine survived, but because of the heroism of Earl Rudder and Rudder's Rangers that day, our world survived the tyranny of Adolf Hitler. Lt. Colonel Rudder, this great Aggie and American, didn't stop there. He went on to lead a unit in the Battle of the Bulge and became one of the most decorated veterans of World War II.

Having every right to say his public service was completed at the end of World War II, Earl Rudder did what so many of America's veterans have done throughout our history. He spent the rest of his life in service to others