

Mr. Bragg attended California Polytechnic State University, Pomona where he met his wife Karolyn. His Scholastic career also includes a Master's degree from California State University, Fullerton in Comparative Public Administration, specializing in the Middle East.

In 1967, his venture into public service began when a newly married Mr. Bragg and his wife Karolyn, honorably served two years with the Peace Corps. He and his wife taught English as a second language at the university level in Turkey.

California and The City of Fontana are not the only beneficiaries of Mr. Bragg's talents. In 1978, he accepted a position with the R.M. Parsons Engineering Company and was contracted by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to build a new city on the Red Sea. Through this position, as a City Planner, Mr. Bragg was given the opportunity of a lifetime to see a new city develop.

The City of Fontana has capitalized upon Mr. Bragg's education and experience abroad. The pride he takes in his work is visible throughout downtown Fontana. Over 10,000 people from the community joined him to celebrate the opening of a library constructed under his guidance. His achievements with the revitalization of downtown Fontana will impact the community for years to come.

Throughout his extraordinary career Mr. Bragg has also led a harmonious family life. He and his wife Karolyn have been married for 42 years with 3 children, including 7 grandchildren.

I congratulate Mr. Bragg on his impressive 42 year career in public service and I wish him well in his retirement.

CENTENNIAL OF WILDEY THEATER

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 8, 2009

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the centennial of an important landmark in Edwardsville, Illinois.

The Wildey Theater first opened its doors in 1909 at 250–254 Main Street in Edwardsville. Originally a three-story opera house and meeting hall, the Wildey soon began hosting silent films and live productions. In 1927 it presented "The Jazz Singer," the first motion picture to include sound.

For the next few decades, the Wildey Theater was the most popular location for entertainment in Edwardsville. Unfortunately, in 1998 the Wildey could no longer stay at it and was forced to close its doors. The City of Edwardsville purchased the building and began renovating the historic theater. With the benevolent actions from the citizens of Edwardsville the Wildey is being restored to its earlier grandeur. Last month, it celebrated its 100th birthday with an outdoor showing of "The Wizard of Oz."

I want to congratulate Alderman Rich Walker, chairman of the Wildey Theater's development committee, and the citizens of Edwardsville who have put countless hours and made generous contributions to this historic landmark. I look forward to visiting a restored Wildey Theater as it begins its second century as a gathering place in Edwardsville.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 2009 U.S. PHYSICS OLYMPIAD TEAM

HON. VERNON J. EHLERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 8, 2009

Mr. EHLERS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the achievements of the members of the 2009 United States Physics Olympiad Team.

To be considered for the U.S. team, students take a series of challenging theoretical and laboratory exams. Out of thousands of students, the top 24 finalists are invited to participate in a 10-day physics camp hosted by the University of Maryland. This camp prepares the students to face the challenge of meeting physics students from all over the world in a brain-to-brain competition through nine days of intense studying, testing and problem solving.

At the end of training camp, five exceptional students will advance and represent the United States in July at a tremendous international competition in Mexico. This type of international physics competition is a meaningful endeavor where physics students from across the globe learn in new intellectual and experiential ways and establish working relationships that bridge geographic and cultural differences.

Last year, the U.S. five-member team brought home five medals: four gold ones and a silver.

The members of the 2009 team include: Yishun Dong, Yale Fan, David Field, Justin Holmgren, Patrick Hurst, Robert Kastner, Brian Kong, Kevin Lang, Dan Li, Patricia Li, Bowei Liu, Jenny Lu, Marianna Mao, Anand Natarajan, Joshua Orem, Thomas Schultz, Allen Yuan, Yunfan Zhang and Andrew Zhou.

I commend the American Institute of Physics, the American Association of Physics Teachers and affiliated sponsors for organizing this annual event and fostering a passion for science in these students.

I know my colleagues share my pride in the achievements of these students. Their success is a testament not only to their individual determination, but also to a group of exceptional teachers and coaches. The 2009 U.S. Physics Team coaches include Paul Stanley, JiaJia Dong, David Fallest, David Jones, Andrew Lin, Warren Turner and Qiu Zi Li. These coaches are all volunteers and usually full time teachers with extraordinary demands on their time. Unfortunately, very rarely do they receive recognition for their work with the physics team. I would like to thank each of them for the time and dedication they have shown to these students. The time spent with these students is a great service to the future of science and America.

I also hope that some of the Olympiad students will consider running for public office and add their expertise to the policy world! I am very thankful for these future leaders and ask that you please join me in congratulating them on their wonderful achievements. We wish the top five the best of success as they represent the United States at the 40th International Physics Olympiad competition to be held in Merida, Yucatan, Mexico.

JACK KEMP

HON. DAVID DREIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 8, 2009

Mr. DREIER. Madam Speaker, we were all saddened by the passing of our former colleague Jack Kemp who served with such great distinction in this House and in former President Bush's cabinet. He was most famous for his football career and the following poem from Capitol Guide Albert Carey Caswell reflects on his wonderful life.

JACK, YOU WENT DEEP!

In the game of life . . . going long or deep . . .

What, steps must we so take . . . to so make our lives complete?

All upon this earth, so very deep!

As left behind, when our time runs out to reap!

All in the calls that we so make, all in the hearts that we so touch . . . so very deep!

Whether, on fields of green . . .

Or walking upon, those most hallowed halls of Congress seen . . .

Jack, you . . . always went deep!

A Jack of all trades, a Renaissance Man God so made . . . all in our hearts to keep!

A Fine Father, A Fine Husband . . . and a Good Friend!

A True Leader, of both Women and Men!

Whether, on fields of green . . . or in those halls of Congress seen . . .

As Jack, was always well armed to compete! For this man could lead!

A Man of character and class, soft spoken . . . who in our hearts now lasts!

As why Bob Dole, saw your fine soul . . . and wanted to make you his VP!

As why all of Buffalo knows, to what a fine man Jack Kemp so rose!

For in the game of life, when . . . he came up to that line . . .

He would always shine, and go deep . . . and not think twice!

And, for all of his leadership . . . and all of his accomplishments so bright. . .

The greatest thing of all, for which we so weep tonight!

Is that Family Man, so very bright . . .

For it was once said, "In the end, the love you send" . . .

"Is equal to the number you make!"

Upon, looking at his family's Christmas cards!

The tears in our eyes, now run so very hard! Knowing what his fine life and love . . . had so meant!

For Love of God and Country, and Family your life was spent!

But, for you Jack . . . you kind soft spoken man . . .

Heaven, could not wait!

As why, In the Game of Life . . . Jack, your life was so complete!

As Jack . . . yea! You, went deep!

In honor of a warm hearted man, Congressman Jack Kemp . . . A great leader on and off the field . . . a fine father, a great husband and a family man . . . during the Memorial Day Concert at The Capitol, Dan Snyder asked me if I had written anything for his friend Jack. Inspired by his request and Jack this tribute was written.

WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY

HON. EDWARD J. MARKEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 8, 2009

Mr. MARKEY of Massachusetts. Madam Speaker, I rise to commemorate World Environment Day, which is recognized every year on June 5th. World Environment Day was established by the United Nations in 1972 during the commencement of the Stockholm Conference on the Human Environment. For the last 37 years, World Environment Day has been one of the ways that the United Nations has increased awareness in every country about our environment through its goals of giving a human face to environmental issues, empowering people to become active agents of sustainable and equitable development, promoting an understanding that communities are pivotal to changing attitudes towards environmental issues, and advocating partnership which will ensure all nations and peoples enjoy a safer and more prosperous future.

This year, the theme for World Environment Day appropriately focuses on taking action to combat global warming. This year's anniversary comes as people from nations all around the globe are calling for action to move towards a clean energy future that will not only drive economic growth but also protect our planet. As the world readies for the United Nations Climate Change Conference this December in Copenhagen, this anniversary also serves as an important reminder of the need for global action as the international community prepares to come together to discuss the path forward.

The scientific debate about whether humans are causing global warming is over. The reports issued in 2007 by the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change underscored the clear need for all countries to take action to reduce global warming pollution. In Copenhagen, the United States and the international community must now turn to how to take action to address it.

Last month, the United States took a major step forward when the House Energy and Commerce Committee reported out the American Clean Energy and Security (ACES) Act. This comprehensive energy legislation will unleash a clean energy revolution here in America that will create hundreds of thousands of jobs, strengthen our national security by reducing our dependence on foreign oil and stop global warming. This legislation will build upon the progress we have already made with the passage of the 2007 energy bill and the clean energy provisions included in the recovery package. With the leadership of President Obama and Speaker PELOSI, the United States is finally poised to head to Copenhagen as a leader rather than a laggard in taking action to transition to a clean energy future and reduce heat-trapping emissions.

This U.N. event is an important reminder of our global needs and I want to bring it to the attention of all the Members.

GEORGE S. "BUCK" BLESSING

HON. CORRINE BROWN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 8, 2009

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida. Madam Speaker, this communication is forwarded on behalf of the constituents of Congressional District Three and myself as we pay tribute to the life of George S. "Buck" Blessing. We are all saddened by the loss of his presence in this life but joyful that he has gone to be with his Heavenly Father.

On this occasion, we join with the immediate family and loved ones in saying farewell and praising God for his life. George S. "Buck" Blessing was dearly cherished and well respected by his loved ones, his colleagues, and the community. His service in the Army in World War II illustrates his dedication to America and its ideals. Please rest assured that your extended family from Congressional District Three joins your immediate family and community in recognizing George S. "Buck" Blessing's outstanding service to this nation. As you experience the stage of grief, please find comfort in God's words and wisdom. He is a constant power of strength in these times and will continue to lift you and your family.

Remember, we join Reverend Charles Belz and your friends and family in celebrating George S. "Buck" Blessing's tremendous life. We are all with you in this time of transition. There is an emptiness that only those who have lost a close relative can understand. May the sympathy of those who care make the sorrow of your heart less difficult to bear. If my staff or I may assist you or your family in any way, please do not hesitate to call on us.

In closing, I know that George S. "Buck" Blessing would be extremely proud of the tremendous work his grandson, Nick Martinelli, is doing in my office on behalf of the armed services and veterans. Nick Martinelli is carrying on his family's strong tradition of service to this nation, and I am very thankful for the contributions he makes every day.

HONORING LYNN MORTON-WEIL

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 8, 2009

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today along with my colleague, Representative LYNN WOOLSEY, to honor and recognize Lynn Morton-Weil, who is retiring after more than 21 years of service to the people of Sonoma County.

During her tenure as a county employee, Ms. Morton-Weil worked in six departments as well as serving as personal assistant to three county supervisors, Tim Smith, Mike Cale and currently, Valerie Brown. As such, she embodies much of the Board's institutional memory.

In addition to her official duties, she helped establish the Sonoma County Regional Park Foundation and served as its first Executive Director. She also administered the first Community Partnerships for Youth grant, which included developing the application process,

contract and monitoring criteria and served as Project Director of the Sonoma County Juvenile Prevention Commission.

Recognizing the importance of public service and involvement, she has dedicated countless hours to both candidates and causes.

She takes pride in living in a television-free household, so her retirement hours will be filled with her passions: gardening, hiking, cycling, music, theatre, dance and most especially, her friends, family and her eagerly anticipated English springer spaniel puppy.

Madam Speaker, Lynn Morton-Weil has served her community and her county well for much of her adult life. It is therefore appropriate that we honor her for her public service and wish her well on her retirement.

HONORING LYNN MORTON-WEIL

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 8, 2009

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today along with my colleague, Representative MIKE THOMPSON, to honor and recognize Lynn Morton-Weil, who is retiring after more than 21 years of service to the people of Sonoma County.

During her tenure as a county employee, Ms. Morton-Weil worked in six departments as well as serving as personal assistant to three county supervisors, Tim Smith, Mike Cale and currently, Valerie Brown. As such, she embodies much of the Board's institutional memory.

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FEDERAL EMPLOYEES PAID
PARENTAL LEAVE ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

HON. NITA M. LOWEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 4, 2009

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 626) to provide that 4 of the 12 weeks of parental leave made available to a Federal employee shall be paid leave, and for other purposes: