

Institute for Defense Analysis, and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and continues today at the University of California, Berkeley. He has made major waves in spectroscopy, radar systems, and now astrophysics and astronomy.

The most notable of his achievements and the one that we celebrate now earned him a share in the 1964 Nobel Prize for Physics. Dr. Townes is most famous for his work on the precursor to the laser. This technology has contributed billions of dollars to our economy and we use it in everything from listening to music and buying groceries to manufacturing cars and conducting surgery. Scientists use lasers today to study everything from the big bang to nuclear fusion.

This transformational technology can be traced back to an epiphany and a thought experiment on a Washington D.C. park bench in 1951. Three years of hard work and experimentation later, Dr. Townes and his team delivered a functional 'maser.' By 1958, Bell Labs had filed a patent application for what we now call the laser.

While we cheer Dr. Townes' hard work and the sweeping impact of his technology, we must also acknowledge his dedication to defending this idea. One of the most famous chapters in the history of the laser is the steadfast opposition Dr. Townes and his team faced from several eminent physicists. His perseverance pushed the research forward.

In addition, Dr. Townes is one of only two people who have ever won both the Nobel Prize and the Templeton Prize. The Templeton Prize honors those who have made exceptional contributions to affirming life's spiritual dimension, and Dr. Townes received the prize for his papers and talks that sought harmony between scientific discovery and religious faith.

It is an honor to recognize this man and his numerous contributions to physics and scientific inquiry. I thank him for his devotion to discovery, and for sharing his optimism and genius with all of us.

BELCHER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
OF CLEARWATER, FLORIDA
CELEBRATES ITS 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. C.W. BILL YOUNG

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 12, 2010

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Madam Speaker, a major celebration takes place in Clearwater, Florida, this Friday as Belcher Elementary School celebrates its 50th anniversary of educating Pinellas County's youth.

Under the direction of Principal John DiLeo, Belcher Elementary moved into its new brick building on January 4, 1960 and under his leadership for the next eight years it grew into a fixture of the community. Principal DiLeo left Belcher in 1968, but missed the school so much that he returned for another 10 year stint as principal from 1978–1988.

He was the first of seven principals that have each left their mark on Belcher. Lisa Roth is the current principal and since arriving in 2003 she has helped usher Belcher into the new age of high technology including white boards in the classrooms.

Belcher has always been on the cutting edge of technology. It was in 1989 that the entire school was wired for cable television and with that came the Belcher Bobcat News or BBN. It was the county's first student produced news show for an elementary school, brought to life by fifth-grade teacher Linda Calahan, who continues to oversee production of the program.

Eight years later, Belcher took the next technological leap as the school was wired for internet access, which brings the world to the fingertips of every student.

Many of the advancements at Belcher Elementary have come through the support of the school's award-winning PTA organization. In addition to the events the PTA sponsors for the students and staff, the organization has taken special pride in the improvements it has made to the school facility and grounds. One of its landmark achievements was the opening of a nature center, which turned some unused area on school grounds into a native Florida ecosystem. With Florida's beautiful weather, this has become an outdoor classroom where students learn and where they work to maintain its natural elements.

Belcher's motto is "Believe—Act—Achieve" and the students, teachers, volunteers and support staff live that out every day. Likewise the core values of Belcher's staff—Education, Integrity and Community—are widely apparent with the many awards the school has received. Most recently, Belcher was recognized with a 2009 Bronze Award for the National Alliance for a Healthier Generation Program. It is a Positive Behavior Model School and has received a Golden School Award for community involvement for the last 26 years.

Madam Speaker, some of the Belcher Bobcats joined us for a visit here at the Capitol last week and they all will be back home Friday for the school's big celebration. It is my hope that my colleagues will join me in congratulating the students, faculty, staff, parents and volunteers of Belcher Elementary School for 50 years of educational excellence.

HONORING THE LIFE OF MR. JIM
BOREN

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 12, 2010

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise on behalf of myself and Congressman DAN BOREN of Oklahoma to pay tribute to Dr. James Boren, a man who made a profound impact on our country through his public service and political activism. Dr. Boren's celebrated life came to an end on April 24 when he passed away at his home in Tahlequah, Oklahoma, at the age of 84.

As my colleagues may know, Dr. Boren was the second cousin of our colleague, Congressman BOREN, and first cousin to his father, former U.S. Sen. David Boren of Oklahoma.

Dr. Boren served our country valiantly in World War II as a sailor in the Pacific, where his ship was struck by multiple Japanese kamikaze planes in the Battle of Okinawa. Following his distinguished Naval service, he embarked on a career in government.

He served as Chief of Staff to Senator Ralph Yarborough until 1960 when he joined

John Kennedy's presidential campaign. Following Kennedy's victory, Dr. Boren received an appointment from the State Department for an assignment in Latin America. During his tenure in Latin America, he established the volunteer organization Partners of the Americas.

Despite his remarkable career in public service, Dr. Boren's greatest impact was felt through his political activism. He dedicated much of his attention to government inefficiency and corruption. No one in Washington was safe from one of his satirical assaults. In 1972, he famously raced the United States Postal Service on horseback from Philadelphia to Washington, D.C., in order to highlight inefficiencies.

Dr. Boren believed in the power of humor and satire to inspire political activism among the people. He never was without a witty remark pertaining to politics or government. During his Presidential campaign in 1992, the Apathy Party candidate notably stated, "I have what it takes to take what you've got."

Personally, I will always remember his memorable line, "if you are going to be a phony, at least be sincere about it." That's just one of the gems from his two books, *When in Doubt Mumble* and *How to be a Sincere Phoney, a Handbook for Politicians and Bureaucrats*.

In addition to his political work and writing, Dr. Boren spent three decades as a scholar-in-residence at Northeastern State University in Oklahoma, teaching younger generations about the importance of activism.

Dr. Boren is survived by his beautiful wife Norma, his two sons, two stepsons and his three grandchildren.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join us in honoring the remarkable life of Dr. James Boren. His friends and family will miss his wit and humor, and everyone in this chamber can thank him for this famous quotation, "When in doubt, mumble; when in trouble, delegate; when in charge, ponder."

HONORING THE SERVICE OF
CAPTAIN JOHN C. MIKO

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 12, 2010

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Captain (Ret.) John C. Miko as he prepares to retire as Vice President of Government Relations for the Electronics, Intelligence, and Support Operating Group of BAE Systems. Captain Miko's life of dedicated service to this country throughout times of conflict and times of peace is truly remarkable, and it is a great privilege to recognize him on this day.

Following the example set by his family's military service, Captain Miko attended the United States Coast Guard Academy and received a commission as an Ensign upon graduation. After serving aboard the Coast Guard Cutter Unimak for 16 months, he went to flight school at NAS Pensacola, Florida. Within his aviation specialty, he had a variety of important and challenging flying assignments. Captain Miko served as an instructor pilot and spent three years as an exchange pilot with the British Royal Navy. In addition, he commanded a large Coast Guard Group and Air