

## THE HALL OF FAME

In our country 'Tis of Thee. . . .  
 All in this our Nation of the free. . . .  
 But stand, the greatest of all Americans in-  
 deed. . . .  
 Are but all of those who go off the war, for  
 you and me. . . .  
 The ones who answer That Call To Arms. . . .  
 Who put themselves, and their families all in  
 such heartache and grave harm. . . .  
 To our Nation's Hall of Fame, belong. . . .  
 The ones who now so lie in the soft cold dark  
 graves, so all alone. . . .  
 And all of those others who come back home.  
 . . . .  
 Without arms and legs, and burns upon their  
 bodies own. . . .  
 Our best and our brightest, our very bravest  
 who so fight this. . . .  
 Her most magnificent names. . . . are all but  
 in our Nation's Hall of Fame!  
 Men, like SPC Tim Hall. . . . of the 173 Air-  
 borne, who stood tall. . . .  
 As a mortar attack, left him dying. . . .  
 As it was but then his brave heart to him,  
 started crying. . . .  
 Not to give up or to give in. . . . as this war-  
 riors new battle would begin!  
 With his two fine legs gone, he told himself  
 it was time to move on. . . .  
 Get Up. . . . Get Moving. . . . Get Airborne!  
 As so deep down in his heart, so worn. . . .  
 Was the courage and the faith, to somehow  
 move on. . . .  
 Another Hall of Famer born. . . . with his  
 profiles in courage soars. . . .  
 To new heights. . . . To Teach Us. . . . To So  
 Beseech Us. . . . oh Tim what form!  
 As he so Reaches Us, and somehow carries  
 on!  
 As one of Nevada's Finest Sons. . . .  
 There's gold in his heart, this one!  
 For this man is Army Strong!  
 Hooah, for in his heart beats such a song!  
 A song of Strength In Honor, all day and all  
 night long!  
 And if I had a son, I wish he but shine like  
 this one. . . .  
 As thy will be done, for he's in The Hall of  
 Fame this son!  
 Showing us all to what new heights a heart  
 can run!  
 America's Son!  
 So on this Christmas morning as you awake.  
 . . . .  
 Or during the Festival of lights, would you  
 so take. . . .  
 So take the time to remember, all of these.  
 . . . .  
 Selfless Souls, who so bring us peace!  
 Who our Nation's Hall will never cease!

RECOGNIZING THE RETIREMENT  
 OF JUDGE FRANK BELL FROM  
 THE FIRST JUDICIAL COURT OF  
 FLORIDA

**HON. JEFF MILLER**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 16, 2010*

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Judge Frank Bell, upon his retirement from presiding on the county and circuit benches for the past 38 years. Judge Bell spent his career serving the northwest Florida community, and I am proud to recognize his dedication and service.

Judge Bell was born and raised in Pensacola, Florida. After graduating from Pensacola High School, Judge Bell enlisted in the Army. After serving on active duty and in the reserves, Judge Bell attended the University of

Southern Mississippi, where he received a B.S. in accounting. He furthered his education at the Cumberland School of Law, Samford University, where he graduated in 1966.

Judge Bell returned to his native Pensacola to practice law. He worked as a sole practitioner, in addition to prosecuting both capital and non-capital cases. In 1972, he was chosen by the people of Escambia County, Florida to serve as a County Judge, and in 1985 he was appointed to the First Judicial Circuit Court of Florida, a job which Judge Bell has carried out with honor and distinction for 25 years.

Judge Bell adheres to the judicial philosophy that impartiality must be preserved to ensure fairness in our legal system. In Judge Bell's view, it is of the utmost importance that judges "convince the litigants that all we want is a fair fight for the party." Some Americans view the justice system with fear and trepidation; however, Judge Bell believes that when citizens experience a fair and impartial judiciary firsthand their opinions change completely. According to Judge Bell, citizens, "after serving on a jury where they see the system work, they develop a positive attitude." Judge Bell's unwavering commitment to upholding the law in an unbiased manner is a prime example of our legal system working at its best and is a great credit to his beloved community.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am honored to recognize Judge Frank Bell for his service to northwest Florida and to the United States of America.

ADVANCING PEACEFUL NEGOTIATIONS IN THE ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN CONFLICT

SPEECH OF

**HON. SAM FARR**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 15, 2010*

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I believe that we must advance a negotiated peace process in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. However, I have concerns that H. Res. 1765 only addresses one of the issues that is impeding lasting peace in the region. For the United States to be an honest, effective broker of peace, we must take into account the roles that all parties play in the conflict.

Particularly now, as we try to rebuild the potential for direct talks, we must weigh our actions based on how effectively they will advance the likelihood of all parties coming to the negotiating table. I strongly support American diplomatic efforts to mediate a two-state solution, and I believe we must direct our efforts towards balanced measures that lay the strongest possible foundation for a peaceful resolution.

TRIBUTE TO RAY ABRIL, JR.

**HON. JOE BACA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 16, 2010*

Mr. BACA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask Congress to pay tribute to an outstanding

friend, mentor and community leader, Mr. Ray Abril, Jr. Ray passed away on December 14, 2010.

Born in Colton, California on June 5, 1932, Ray was raised in South Colton where he dedicated his life to his community and to the improvement of education in the Colton Joint Unified School District.

Ray graduated from Colton High School in 1950. A veteran of the Korean War, he courageously served four years in the Navy.

Ray first became involved in education in the early 1970's, motivated to serve because of the poor state of many local schools at the time. In 1973 he won his first election to the Colton Joint Unified School Board.

Ray often liked to joke that he had a PhD from USC, "The University of South Colton." Throughout his 28 year career with the Colton School Board, Ray played an important part in improving schools. During his time as board member he worked to improve student performance, enhance school safety and increase the number of college-bound students.

A strong advocate for education, Ray was instrumental in advising me on many legislative policy decisions over the years, including my PROUD Act. As a board member, Ray became affectionately known as "The Godfather of the Colton Joint Unified School District." He held the office of Clerk for thirteen years and served as Board President for six years. Ray retired from the Colton Joint Unified Board of Education after 28 years of dedicated service.

Because of Ray's lifelong commitment to education, the Colton Joint Unified School Board decided to recognize him by including his name in the campus of the new high school in Grand Terrace. When complete, the school will be known as the Grand Terrace High School at the Ray Abril, Jr. Educational Complex.

An active member of the community, Ray was involved in a number of organizations including the San Bernardino Countywide Gangs and Drugs Task Force, the Knights of Columbus and the San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools Advisory Committee. Ray was also a co-founder of the Mexican-American Parent & Student Organization, a group that advocated educational improvements in Colton.

His legacy of work on local issues such as the BNSF rail crossing and his founding of Colton First had a lasting impact on communities across the Inland Empire. After his many years of service, Ray was awarded the Assistance League of San Bernardino's "Living Legend Award" during its 50th anniversary celebration.

Ray was a loving family man. He and his beloved wife Hortensia were married for 53 years before her unfortunate passing. Ray leaves behind his daughters Melinda Medina, Rebecca Gonzales, Nellie Carnero as well as his three sons, Nick, Michael and Dominic. He also leaves behind 19 grandchildren and 29 great-grandchildren.

The thoughts and prayers of my wife, Barbara, Mayor pro tem Joe Baca, Jr., Jeremy, Natalie, Jennifer and I are with his family at this time. I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering a superb American citizen and dedicated community leader. He will be greatly missed and I extend my sincere condolences to his extended family upon the very sad loss of Mr. Ray Abril, Jr.