

As Members of Congress, we must do our part to equip our teachers with the best tools and resources possible to educate our children—who are our most precious resource and deserve every effort we can make to give them the opportunity to succeed.

I thank all the dedicated teachers in the First District of Iowa during National Teacher Appreciation Week for continuing to provide their best to our children and empowering them to reach their full potential.

IN RECOGNITION OF MUSTANG
SUD'S 50 YEARS OF SERVICE

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 16, 2016

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a milestone for the Mustang Special Utility District (SUD). On May 13, 2016, this local government entity will celebrate fifty years of utility service to residents and businesses in northeast Denton County.

The organization started as a small water supply corporation in 1966 with less than 50 connections. The Mustang SUD now covers 100 square miles and 11,000 connections as a provider of retail water and sewer utilities within its designated boundaries, encompassing cities and communities between Pilot Point to the north and Oak Point to the south.

The Mustang SUD is governed by an elected board of directors. The nine directors are elected to three year terms and must be retail customers of the organization and reside within the district's boundaries. Since 2011, the organization has been deemed a "Superior Public Water System" by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ).

To be designated "Superior," the system must meet the TCEQ's stringent criteria for overall excellence in the operation of a public water system. These standards include excellent efforts in protecting public health, ensuring reliable operations and water supply for the system's customers, compliance with regulatory requirements and environmental stewardship.

It is my privilege to represent the customers of the Mustang SUD in the U.S. House of Representatives.

HONORING MR. HAL RICHARDS

HON. JEB HENSARLING

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 16, 2016

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor and congratulate a dear friend, Mayor Hal Richards of Terrell, Texas. Hal is an outstanding community leader and servant for the people of Kaufman County.

Hal was born in 1953 in El Paso while his father served in the Army at Fort Bliss. After the military, his father's job as a petroleum engineer took him across Texas to wherever the next oil boom struck. The Richards family even lived in Venezuela for a period of time. Ultimately, the family settled in Garland, Texas where he was an active musician in the Garland High School band and even played in a

slightly lesser known garage band, The Monotones.

After graduating high school, Hal took his talents to Texas A&M where he served as the drum major in the Fighting Texas Aggie Band. He graduated in 1975 with a degree in political science, and later he earned his MBA.

Hal met his wife Christi while at A&M and they married in 1976. They found their way to Terrell in 1981 where he opened a tractor distributorship and raised his family. The folks of Terrell are glad they did. In 2001, Hal sold the tractor dealership and took over his father's manufacturing company, Catco, where he continues to oversee operations.

Hal decided to give back to his adopted town and ran for city council, and served for one term before being elected Mayor of Terrell in 2007. As mayor, he has been instrumental in the growth of "Terrell America," the adopted slogan. Hal has served his community in a number of other capacities including: Chairman of the Terrell Chamber of Commerce, Assistant Scout Master, member and past president of the Rotary Club, and his church's vestry. Not surprisingly, Hal was also recently named Citizen of the Year. And if he wasn't busy enough, Hal finally realized a lifelong dream of becoming a pilot in 2003.

Hal and Christi have three sons, Jason, Travis and Chad. Like their dad, they are all proud Texas A&M graduates as well. It is truly an honor to represent Hal Richards in the United States House of Representatives. On behalf of the Fifth District of Texas I would like to congratulate Hal for a job well done as Mayor, and thank him for his tireless commitment to his family and community.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO THE "FROGMEN" OF THE U.S. NAVAL COMBAT DEMOLITION UNITS IN WORLD WAR II

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 16, 2016

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I had the privilege of meeting on March 30 with William "Bill" Dawson of Waldorf, Maryland, in the Fifth Congressional District. Bill is the last living member of the first class of Naval Special Warfare Operators to train for duty with the U.S. Naval Combat Demolition Units that were the precursor to today's Navy SEAL teams. He is ninety-one years old and a retired Washington, D.C. firefighter who remains deeply proud of his service to our nation and to his community. I was honored to receive from him a copy of his book *Before They Were SEALs They Were Frogs*, which recounts the story of the Naval Combat Demolition Units during the Second World War and his own service in the Pacific.

First created in 1943 and led by Lt. Draper L. Kauffman, the first Naval Combat Demolition Units were tasked with the reconnaissance of amphibious landing sites and the demolition of enemy obstacles that would hinder the advance of invading Allied forces. After their specialized training at Fort Pierce in Florida, including the series of grueling tests that is now considered to have been the first-ever "Hell Week," the first Navy "Frogmen" deployed to the European and Pacific theaters of operation in support of combat operations.

Navy Frogmen were instrumental in clearing obstacles on Omaha Beach and Utah Beach during the Normandy invasion on D-Day in 1944, and many were killed or wounded performing their dangerous missions. In the Pacific, Frogmen demonstrated similar gallantry during the operations to liberate the Philippines, Guam, Borneo, and many other places that had been occupied by Japanese forces and that were instrumental in the advance toward victory. Frogmen were training for cold-water operations in preparation for an anticipated invasion of the Japanese home islands when the war ended.

The Underwater Demolition Teams that succeeded the initial Naval Combat Demolition Units saw action in Korea and Vietnam, and it was in the early 1960's that the Navy decided to transition them into the Navy SEAL teams we know today, in a reflection of their broadening role beyond the water's edge. Americans are grateful for the extraordinary service and sacrifices of our Navy SEALs, among the most skilled, experienced, and courageous to serve in defense of our nation. I'm proud to represent many Navy personnel and veterans in Maryland's Fifth District, which is home to Pax River Naval Air Station, the Naval Surface Warfare Center Indian Head Division, and Webster Field. I join in thanking Bill Dawson and all of those who were our nation's first Navy Frogmen for their gallant service in defense of freedom and for their crucial role in the history of U.S. Naval Special Operations.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JAMES A. HIMES

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 16, 2016

Mr. HIMES. Mr. Speaker, on May 13, 2016, I was unable to be present to cast my vote on roll call No. 190, Motion on Ordering the Previous Question on the Rule (H. Res. 725). Had I been present for roll call No. 190, I would have voted "NAY."

I was unable to be present to cast my vote on roll call No. 191, the rule providing for consideration of the House Amendment S. 524—Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act of 2016 (H. Res. 725). Had I been present for roll call No. 191, I would have voted "NAY."

I was unable to be present to cast my vote on roll call No. 192, on approving the Journal. Had I been present for roll call No. 192, I would have voted "AYE."

CONGRATULATING BENJAMIN FRANKLIN PLUMBING FOR BEING RECOGNIZED AS A FINALIST FOR THE 2016 SECRETARY OF DEFENSE EMPLOYER SUPPORT FREEDOM AWARD

HON. BILLY LONG

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 16, 2016

Mr. LONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Benjamin Franklin Plumbing, of Springfield, Missouri, for being recognized as a finalist for the 2016 Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award.