

prison. Not only are the inmates encouraging and inspiring each other to become better citizens, but they are also taking active roles in the lives of our Nation's youth by discouraging them from repeating the same mistakes they made by joining gangs or using drugs and alcohol.

According to the Federal Bureau of Prisons, 35 to 40 percent of all released prisoners are re-arrested within the first 12 months of release. Of the LeBlanc Toastmasters' 55 released alumni, 2 have been re-arrested, which is one tenth of what the statistics would have predicted. I would like to applaud the Sabine River Toastmasters for helping these 53 men who have built new lives for themselves after being released from prison.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask that you join me and our colleagues in celebrating the week of October 17, 1999, as Toastmasters Week and recognizing the many opportunities in communication and public speaking that Toastmasters International, and specifically the Sabine River Toastmasters, have promoted and realized for East Texans and Americans all across the nation.

IN HONOR OF JOHN BIG DAWG THOMPSON

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 5, 1999

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor John Big Dawg Thompson.

John Big Dawg Thompson, legendary Cleveland Browns superfan, is the heart and soul of the Cleveland Browns and the Cleveland Browns' Dawg Pound. Nationally recognized, Big Dawg's passion for the Cleveland Browns has touched the spirit of football fans everywhere. Members of Congress have even felt Big Dawg's devotion when he testified before a House committee as the Browns fan who could best convey the trauma to fans from the teams' sudden move to Baltimore.

Driven by heartfelt emotion and determination, Big Dawg served further as a crucial player in saving the team's name and colors and in bringing the Browns back to Cleveland. Big Dawg's big heart was never silenced throughout the years Cleveland was deprived of a team. Due in large part to his efforts, the Cleveland Browns are now back.

Celebrated as one of football's most famous fans, Big Dawg was inducted this year into the Visa Hall of Fans at the Pro Football Hall of Fame in Canton, Ohio. Big Dawg's role evolved back in 1985 when he donned a dog mask after Browns players Hanford Dixon and Frank Minnifield coined the term Dawg Pound to refer to the barking bleacher fans at the old Cleveland Municipal Stadium. Soon thereafter, the media discovered Big Dawg influencing Browns backers everywhere to wear, not only orange and brown, but dog masks and dog collars. With a new meaning to Cleveland's home field advantage, the Dawg Pound became an explosive force in leading the Browns to victory.

Not just a football fan, Big Dawg also serves as a community leader and a devoted family man. As a kid-friendly fellow, Big Dawg has made numerous appearances at local schools and local events. He is also featured on the

box of his new Big Dawg Crunch cereal. Big Dawg has even earmarked royalties from cereal sales to go toward the American Diabetes Association and the Lomas Brown Jr. Foundation. Congratulations to Big Dawg for his charitable services, his devotion to his family, and for being the Cleveland Browns' number one fan. Keep the tradition alive!

My fellow colleagues, join me in honoring John Big Dawg Thompson.

TRIBUTE TO BRIGADIER GENERAL TERRY LEE PAUL, UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS

HON. FLOYD SPENCE

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 5, 1999

Mr. SPENCE. Mr. Speaker, it is with pleasure that I rise to recognize Brigadier General Terry Lee Paul, the Legislative Assistant to the Commandant of the United States Marine Corps. General Paul retired from active duty on Friday, October 1st, after 30 years of exceptional service in the Corps.

For the last 10 years, General Paul has been in charge of the Marine Corps Office of Legislative Affairs. During this time, many Members of Congress and staff have come to know General Paul as a very reliable and articulate spokesman for the Corps. His straightforward approach and extensive knowledge of policy and programs has especially been of great benefit to those of us on the Armed Services Committee. Through the effective communication efforts of General Paul, the Congress has become familiar with the details of important programs, which are essential to the mission of the Marine Corps, such as the V-22 Program, the Advanced Assault Amphibious Vehicle, the KC-130J, and the Maritime Pre-positioned Force-Enhancement, among others. General Paul has tirelessly endeavored to inform Members and staff on issues ranging from the capabilities, technological advances, concepts of operations, and funding requirements of necessary programs, to the basic needs of Marines in the field and of their families on base.

Although, General Paul is well known for his in-depth knowledge of the legislative issues and operational requirements of the Marine Corps, he is also greatly respected as a dedicated leader, who possesses a deep and abiding passion for what it means to be a Marine. General Paul is, above all, a Marine of unquestionable devotion to duty, impeccable integrity, absolutely sound character, and dedication to professionalism. Through his assignments as a Senator Liaison, a Special Assistant to the Commandant, and, finally, as the Legislative Assistant to the Commandant, General Paul has always effectively communicated the message of "making Marines and winning battles." Because of the efforts of General Paul, the United States Marines Corps is better equipped and more prepared to carry out its mission in these demanding times.

As Chairman of the Committee on Armed Services, I have a special appreciation for the outstanding work that General Paul has done. His involvement in briefings and hearings before the House, as well as in Congressional Delegation travel to points around the world,

has ensured that these activities were carried out in an efficient and instructive manner. General Paul has set a high standard for others to emulate. His total devotion to the Corps is evident in every action that he has taken, and he is to be commended on his more than thirty years of exemplary service to our Nation. I would like to wish General Paul and his lovely wife, Sharon, much continued success in their future endeavors.

HONORING LARRY PISTORESI

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 5, 1999

Mr. RADANOVICH, Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Larry Pistorosi, Sr. for 50 years of perfect attendance at the Chowchilla Rotary Club.

Larry Pistorosi, Sr. has been a member of the Chowchilla Rotary Club since the day it was chartered in 1946. Pistorosi is an active auto retail salesman, but has been able to keep perfect attendance for 50 years. Perfect attendance did not mean that you had to attend all the local Rotary meetings. It you had to miss a local meeting, you could make that meeting up at another Rotary club in a different town. Through the years, Larry Pistorosi has attended Rotary meetings in 20 different states. In fact, planning a vacation for the Pistorosi's was quite an ordeal. Vacations were planned around Rotary meetings. Larry would get the Rotary director out to see where and when the Rotary meetings were to be held.

Pistorosi also has a family history of perfect attendance in the Rotary. His dad, Pete Pistorosi, a charter member of the Chowchilla Rotary Club, also received the perfect attendance award. Pistorosi said when he first joined, his dad kept after him to have perfect attendance. After the first two years of perfect attendance he was challenged to keep on going. The father and son team are the only tow in the local club to receive the award. The former president of the Chowchilla club said his goal is to keep his perfect attendance to the day he is forced to quit.

Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to honor Larry Pistorosi for his perfect attendance at the Chowchilla Rotary Club. I urge my colleagues to join me in wishing Larry many more years of continued success.

NATIONAL PARKS AIR TOUR MANAGEMENT ACT OF 1999

SPEECH OF

HON. PATSY T. MINK

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 27, 1999

Mrs. MINK of Hawaii. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my support for H.R. 717, the National Parks Air Tour Management Act of 1999.

Although this bill does not go as far as I would like, particularly with respect to overflights in National Parks in Hawaii, H.R. 717 is a step in the right direction.

For years I have received complaints from people who visit National Parks in Hawaii