

her long involvement with our educational system and was elected treasurer of the school's PTA. From 1970 to 1973 she served as Vice President, then President of the PTA at J.H.S. 149; from 1973 to 1979 she was an Educational Assistant at the Development Learning Program at P.S. 5; from 1979 to 1980 she was an Educational Assistant at the Development Learning Program at P.S. 156; from 1980 to 1981 she was an Educational Assistant in Early Childhood at P.S. 30; in 1982 she was an Educational Assistant at P.S. 124; and in 1983 she was named Assistant to the Director at the Milbrook Senior Citizen Center.

Mrs. Fleet has also been very involved with the community. From January 1970 until July 1999 when she retired, she served at Community Board #1 in several capacities: Chair of the Education Committee, Treasurer, Health Committee, and Chair of the Housing Committee. She also served in Upward Bound Program at Fordham University, as Assistant Treasurer of the Mott Haven Center Community Advisory Board, and on the Joint Advisory Board of Eastside Settlement House.

Mrs. Fleet was married to the famous jazz guitar player William A. Fleet, Sr., who passed away in April 1994. She has four children, William, Evelyn, James, and Francis, and four grandchildren, James, Jr., Jawann, Jayanna, and Michelle.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mrs. Eula D. Nelson Fleet for her achievements in education and her enduring commitment to the community, and in wishing her a happy retirement.

A SPECIAL TRIBUTE TO JAKE N. VAN METER, JR., FOR HIS HONORABLE SERVICE TO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

**HON. PAUL E. GILLMOR**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 9, 1999*

Mr. GILLMOR. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to rise to pay special tribute to a true American patriot from Ohio's Fifth Congressional District, Jake H. Van Meter, Jr.

On October 7, 1967, Jake H. Van Meter, Jr. paid the ultimate sacrifice while protecting the values and ideals of democracy. On that fateful day, some thirty-two years ago, Sergeant Jake H. Van Meter, Jr. was serving as squad leader with Company C, 1st Battalion, 5th Cavalry. His Army unit was sent to the Con Thien area in the Republic of Vietnam to help relieve an outpost of United States Marines. During their mission, his unit came under heavy and intense enemy fire during an attack on the Marine outpost.

During the firefight, Sergeant Van Meter demonstrated extreme bravery as he exposed himself to fierce enemy fire to draw attention away from his troops and enable them to take cover. With several of his men lying wounded, Sergeant Van Meter left his position and began removing them from the field of fire. In his efforts to save the lives of his men, Sergeant Van Meter was wounded, but he continued until they were pulled to safety.

At approximately two o'clock in the afternoon, while laying down a heavy amount of covering fire in the midst of the firefight, Sergeant Jake H. Van Meter, Jr. was killed by

enemy gunfire. He was just twenty-four years old. For his gallantry in action and in keeping with the highest traditions of military service and the United States Army, Sergeant Jake H. Van Meter, Jr. was posthumously awarded the Silver Star on March 15, 1968.

Jake Van Meter was an ordinary young man from LaGrange, Ohio when he entered the United States Army. He lived on Factory Street and worked as a die cast operator for General Motors Corporation. However, when Jake was drafted, he accepted his responsibility, and began his duty in Vietnam on October 22, 1966. Unfortunately, his tour of duty was to have ended just 12 days after his death.

Mr. Speaker, the story of Jake H. Van Meter, Jr. should make our hearts swell with admiration and pride. He courageously placed his life on the line for his men and his country. He fought for America, for democracy, and for freedom, and paid the supreme price for the preservation of those principles.

Mr. Speaker, as we celebrate Veterans Day, let us remember the men and women who have served in our armed forces. It is often said that America prospers due to the unselfish acts of her sons and daughters. Jake Van Meter's brave actions in Vietnam demonstrate that statement very clearly. I would urge my colleagues to stand and join me in paying special tribute to Jake H. Van Meter, Jr.—a faithful husband and father, a loving son, and a true American hero.

THE RETIREMENT OF PATRICIA LAGREGA AS TOWN CLERK OF COLCHESTER, CONNECTICUT

**HON. SAM GEJDENSON**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 9, 1999*

Mr. GEJDENSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Pat LaGrega for nearly thirty years of service to the community of Colchester, Connecticut. Pat is more than an extraordinary public servant, she is a humanitarian and a personal friend.

On November 15, 1999, Pat LaGrega will officially retire as Town Clerk of Colchester after more than twenty one years in the position. In small towns across America, Town Clerks maintain all of the records so vital to guaranteeing that our system functions efficiently and effectively. In many respects, the Town Clerk is the institutional memory of so many small communities across eastern Connecticut and the nation. Over more than two decades, Pat has worked tirelessly to ensure that the citizens, elected officials and business owners of Colchester receive the best possible service. She has supervised a modernization process which has computerized the Town Clerk's office to ensure that records will be accurate, safe and available to citizens and others in a timely fashion. Even before the widespread use of computers, Pat was well known for meticulous recordkeeping and attention to detail. Thanks to her efforts, the Town Clerk's office is prepared to meet the challenges of a growing community in the 21st Century. Pat's public career in Colchester began several years prior to being elected Town Clerk. She served as Director of Social Services and a Tax Collector. In fact, she served simulta-

neously as Tax Collector and Town Clerk for a short period.

Pat is so much more than the Town's record keeper. She is its "jack-of-all-trades!" She is the person people call when they have any question, any problem. She is the person they contact when they don't know where to turn. And each and every time over the past three decades, Pat has come through for those individuals and the Town as a whole. Whenever she learned about a problem, she took steps to address it. It never mattered how busy she was with her duties or personal life, she always made time to address the needs of every resident. In this respect, she is a model for all of us in public service. Mr. Speaker, Pat LaGrega is a public servant in the very best tradition of our country. She has worked tirelessly on behalf of the citizens of Colchester and provided the highest quality service. She has also brought a sense of compassion to her work. And, on a more personal level, she has been a friend, a mentor and a trusted advisor for more than twenty years.

I am proud to be able to join the residents of Colchester in thanking Pat for her service and commitment to the community. On November 15, she will retire from a public position—not from public service. I know she will continue to play an important role in Colchester in the years ahead.

CONGRATULATING BUSH BOAKE ALLEN INC.

**HON. MARGE ROUKEMA**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 9, 1999*

Mrs. ROUKEMA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Bush Boake Allen Inc. of Montvale, New Jersey, on receiving the Voluntary Protection Program Star Award from the U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration for its Norwood flavors and fragrances facility. This prestigious award is presented for safety and health training, hazard prevention and control and related programs that help maintain a safe workplace. This award is evidence that BBA values its hard-working employees and goes to extra lengths to protect their health and safety on the job.

BBA is one of only 20 companies in New Jersey honored with the VPP Star Award and the only company in the flavors and fragrance industry to receive the award.

Businesses that receive the VPP Star Award have the best OSHA compliance records in the nation and often exceed OSHA standards. In addition to management agreeing to meet health and safety goals, workers participate and work with management to create a safe and healthy workplace. Admission to the VPP program requires an extensive review and inspection by OSHA to verify that the business meets OSHA standards.

The VPP Star Award is considered such a high standard of OSHA compliance that recipients receive a three-year exemption from routine OSHA inspections. VPP participants typically experience lower workers' compensation costs and 60–80 percent fewer workdays lost to workplace injuries than would be expected at an average business location in the same industry.

At BBA, the company set a corporate goal in 1996 that all four of its U.S. facilities would