reasons. Both my grandfathers have served on November, 11.

Honor men and women who have served in wars. Their thoughts and many others are toward peace and the avoidance of future wars. Today, let us give thanks to these Vietnam veterans and all the brave men and women who fought for our freedom and protected our country.

I am very proud to have family members who have served for our country. My great-grandfather fought in World War II. He was captured by the enemy and became a prisoner of war, but he survived and came home. My great-uncle fought in the Korean Conflict. They were both proud to serve our country.

Without all of these brave men and women, where would our country be? They put their lives on the line for all of us. We should not only honor our veterans on this commemorative day, but every day, because without our armed forces there would be no peace or freedom.

To all of the people who have served for our country, you make me feel proud to be an American.

WHAT VETERANS DAY MEANS TO ME
(By Amanda Lally, Grade 7, St. Jane de Chantal Elementary School)

Veterans Day is a very important holiday in our country. It honors all of those who are currently serving in the US armed forces and those who served in wars. Families have lost sons and/ or daughters in wars. Their thoughts and many others are toward peace and the avoidance of future wars.

Today, let us give thanks to these Vietnam veterans and all the brave men and women who fought for their countries in war. Veterans Day can also show people between countries, because war is over and we can celebrate that also.

Veterans Day is a very important day to all. Men and women from all over the world have fought for their countries in many different ways, and we honor them on this very special day. We celebrate their accomplishments and sacrifices. Veterans Day is a great way to honor all who have died and all who are still living that have served their nation. They gave their lives for the men and women who are presently serving in our military that God will keep them out of harm’s way.

Mr. Speaker, I wish all of these fine authors the best of luck in their future studies.

HONORING GORDON WOOD

HON. CHARLES W. STENHOLM
OF TEXAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, November 17, 1999

Mr. STENHOLM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a great deal of Texas pride to recognize an outstanding individual, Gordon Wood of Brownwood, Texas.

In today’s edition of the Dallas Morning News, the newspaper named Coach Wood, the “Coach of the Century” as part of its 100 Years of Texas High School Football series. I can think of no one more deserving. Coach Wood not only led and inspired many young people during his career but also brought great achievements to several Texas communities.

“Coach” was an important figure during the formative years of my life, and he has remained so. Early in his career, he coached in my hometown of Stamford. He led our team to two State championships, and I am proud to have been part of his early success. He went on to lead the Brownwood Lions to seven State championships and won a total of 405 games in his 43-year career.

Coach Wood is a legend in Texas not only for his coaching but for the way he has led his life. To me, that puts him in the ranks of Tom Landry, Bear Bryant and Joe Paterno.

I wish to include in the RECORD a copy of the article that ran this morning in the Dallas Morning News.

This honor is a great tribute to Coach Wood and his wife, Katharine, and I know there are many folks who join me in sending them congratulations and best wishes.

[From the Dallas Morning News, Nov. 17, 1999]

ALWAYS IN THE GAME—FOOTBALL, GORDON WOOD STYLE, STILL ABSORBS COACH OF CENTURY

(Kevin Sherrington)
BROWNSWOOD, Texas.—Gordon Wood wears hearing aids in both ears. He had a triple bypass in 1990, and five years ago a stroke took in a few holes in his memory. He’s working on his third artificial hip. He’s diabetic. A faint white web of scars runs wild over his mottled face, the vestiges of 13 skin tumors.

This is what can happen to you if you live 85 years.
He can't play golf because of the bad left hip. He won't play checkers anymore because that's what he was doing when the world started spinning, and he walked into a restroom and couldn't find his way out. A stroke, the doctors told him. A woman came to get him in the restroom and asked him to step back with his right foot. He tried to comply. His foot stills stepped forward instead, right into the toilet.

Checkers was fun, and he was good at it, but it's not worth it if it reminds him of that. Now the only hobby he has left is football.

This is what can happen to you if you coach too long.

Or maybe this is what happens if you're Gordon Wood, the greatest coach in the history of Texas high school football. A Dallas Morning News panel of college coaches and sports writers chose Wood over a group that included Waco's Paul Tyson, who won four state championships in the 1920s, and Abilene's Chuck Moser, who won 49 state titles in three decades, as the best, blank. They couldn't be less telling.

``Warren Woodson was one of the greatest players who ever lived,'" he said to the coaches, irritated, "and maybe they won't draw foolish penalties for lining up offside.''

``I've seen something in a college game on Saturday afternoon and put it in the game plan Sunday night.''

He has spoken at so many clinics that most in coach says as if he were reading it off the walls of a locker room.

``If you've got a poor group of players, the kids will listen to you more when you come back.''

On the coaching philosophy: "It's not the big things that beat you; it's a million little things."''

The little things might surprise you. He watched a coach in practice one day and noticed the players look to see where the ball is, and maybe they won't draw foolish penalties for lining up offside.

His assistants knew what he wanted. Southall, the only assistant ever elected president of the Texas High School Coaches Association, worked for him 31 of his last 38 years as coach.

Southall left him only a couple of times, once to be head coach at Winters after Wood left from Stamford, where he won state championships in 1920 and 1921.

``If I'd had him at Stamford ...'' Wood says of Southall and stops in mid-sentence "I'd have won three state championships in a row."

``I'd have won three state championships in a row.''

Southall helped run the offense. In the Wing-T, the Lions flipped the offensive line to double their number of plays and simplify blocking assignments. Wood told Royal, his assistant, when Royal invited him on a trip to New York. Royal used the flip-flop on every offensive play, he put the ball down on a yard line. Wood couldn't believe it. How often does that happen in a game? Move the ball around, he told them. If the play is a success for Brownwood, he might say nothing, most likely picking up a fragment of the play favor joshua, it might give him fits.

``Did they score?'" he asks, incredulous.

``Forty-one-yard field goal, someone says. Makes it 21-3, Brownwood.''

``The pick is big on writing letters. They appear occasionally in The News and the Abilene Reporter-News, mostly defending teachers of..."
And, nearly every week, he goes to a game. "I enjoy watching," he says. "I really do."

Most of the time, anyway. With five minutes left in the Josh game, he gets up to leave the boxes and beat the rush. Brownwood is up, 35-6, and sitting on Josh's goal line.

At one of the exits, he says to hold up a second. "Let me see if they score," he says.

As if on cue, a Brownwood player is flagged for illegal motion.

"Aw, crap," Wood says, and turns for the parking lot.

Mistakes kill him, and always did. "I'd die if we had two or three penalties a game," he says.

Mistakes kill him, but he says he didn't make one by staying at Brownwood all those years. Katharine had put it in perspective earlier. "You take Tom Landry and Spike Dykes and Grant Teaff and Hayden Fry," she said. "They're all great coaches, but they were all just kids who played high school football in Texas."

And Gordon Wood was a Texas high school football coach, the best ever, his peers say. Even an old perfectionist couldn't beat that.

"I wouldn't change anything," he says softly, sitting in his driveway in his sensible sedan. "No."

HONORING RONALD R. ROGERS AS HE IS INSTALLED AS GRAND MASTER OF THE GRAND LODGE OF FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS IN OHIO

HON. ROB PORTMAN OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 17, 1999

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ronald R. Rogers, a constituent, who recently became Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons for 1999-2000.

Mr. Rogers has an extensive Masonic record. He began his Masonic career as Master of Norwood Lodge of Defolm in 1952 and was awarded the Active Legion of Honor in 1976. He became a Master Mason in Norwood Lodge No. 576 in 1972. Before becoming Grand Master, Mr. Rogers was elected Junior Grand Warden in 1956, Senior Grand Warden in 1997, and Deputy Grand Master in 1998.

A Cincinnati native, Mr. Rogers is a graduate of Norwood High School and received his B.A. from the University of Cincinnati. He worked for Clayton L. Scroggins, a management consulting firm in Cincinnati, for 35 years. Mr. Rogers is the proud father of a daughter, Robin, and the proud grandfather of a granddaughter, Leslie.

Active in his community, Mr. Rogers is a member of the Forest Chapel United Methodist Church. He has served Forest Chapel as Chairman of Finance, Chairman of Music and a member of the Administrative Board. He sang in the Forest Chapel Chancel Choir and also served as its president. Mr. Rogers is a past Area Financial Officer of United Way and past President of the Forest Park Band Boosters.

We congratulate Ronald Rogers on his position as Grand Master, and wish him every success during his tenure.