dedicated his life to improving education for the children in the Las Vegas community.

Dr. Brian Cram has spent over 34 years as an educator, serving our children as a teacher, as a principal, and as the superintendent of the Clark County School District. It is with great sadness that we say farewell to an educator who has touched the lives of thousands of students, but it is with great happiness that we wish him a joyous retirement.

Affectionately known by the students in his district as the ''Supernintendo,'' Dr. Cram's tenure will be remembered by his strong personal relationships, and his ability to bring the ''human side'' to the needs of the school district.

As a principal, Dr. Cram was not satisfied sitting behind a desk, and was happiest during the times when he was actively involved with the students' education. As a superintendent, Dr. Cram would actively participate in the educational needs of the students by traveling to as many schools possible to read to classes during the district's ''reading weeks.''

Dr. Cram was witness to the enormous growth of Las Vegas, as the Clark County School System expanded from 111,000 students, to over 215,000 students. As a self proclaimed ''poster boy for school bonds,'' Dr. Cram supported the building of 100 new schools, and championed voter approval of billions of dollars in school construction bonds for the students, teachers, and staff of the Clark County School District.

Driven by the fundamental principle that education is the ''great equalizer'' in life, Dr. Cram endorsed the School to Work program that was sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce, enabling students with the necessary tools to excel in the workforce.

Dr. Cram should be very proud of his accomplishments, as he has been successful in achieving his greatest challenge to meet the growth needs of the 8th largest school district in the country. His commitment and dedication is unmatched, and will be truly missed. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Dr. Cram on behalf of the Clark County community, and wish him every success in future endeavors.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. VITO FOSSELLA

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 11, 2000*

Mr. FOSSELLA. Mr. Speaker, I am not recorded on rollcall No. 154 for the rule to provide for consideration of H.R. 3709, the Internet Nondiscrimination Act. I was unavoidably detained due to inclement weather, and therefore, was not present to vote. Had I been present, I would have voted ''yes'' on the rule.

## HONORING WILLIAM G. SHEEHAN UPON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT

### HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 11, 2000*

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to take a few minutes to honor a special constituent of mine who after 30 years of providing senior citizens with dedicated service at the Social Security Administration has decided to retire on June 2 of this year.

William G. Sheehan, who presently serves as the District Manager of the Springfield, MA, regional office of the Social Security Administration, has decided that the time has come for him to hang up his hat and retire from a long and meritorious career.

Bill Sheehan's commitment to seniors, the poor and the disabled in western Massachusetts is well known, and his day to day input and dedication in the Springfield regional SSA office will surely be missed.

Bill started his career with the Social Security Administration in 1967 as a Claims Representative in SSA's Springfield office. In 1971, he became an Operations Supervisor, working out of the Hartford, CT, office. He continued to climb the ranks within the Social Security Administration, moving from office to office, when in June of 1980, he became the District Manager of the Springfield Regional Social Security office. He has served in this position for more than 20 years.

There is common and collective praise for the job Bill Sheehan has done during his tenure in Springfield. The usual comments I hear about Bill go something like: ''Oh, Bill Sheehan—he's the nicest man,'' or ''Bill Sheehan, he's been so helpful.'' Surely his friendly face and his cordial demeanor will be greatly missed.

In addition to his brilliant service record, Bill has had a very rich public life in the community outside of his office. He serves on the Career Advisory Board at Springfield College, and was a Board member at Independence House, a shelter for men. He currently serves on the Boards of Independence House, the Galaxy Council, and the Consumer Credit Council of western Massachusetts, as well as the Greater Springfield Senior Services Inc., where he has also served as past President and Treasurer. He is also a retired United States National Guard Lieutenant Colonel and Squadron Commander.

Most noteworthy to mention today is Bill Sheehan's commitment to his family. He is married to the former Madelyn Ferrero, his former schoolmate at Cathedral High School in Springfield. Madelyn is a graduate from Elms College and is a teacher at Forest Park Middle School.

Together, Bill and Madelyn have two children, Bill and Mark. Mark is married to Jennifer Doyle, lives on Cape Cod, and works for State Street Bank in Boston. His son Bill lives in Boston and is Vice President for an Internet company, Suppliermarket.

Bill Sheehan is a graduate of Western New England College, doing it the hard way, at night, while working during the day. Bill also sold advertising for the Springfield newspapers prior to coming to the Social Security Administration.

Bill enjoys his life in Wilbraham, keeping a meticulously groomed yard and house. He plans to spend much of his retirement at his summer home at the Rhode Island shore.

I would like to take a moment to thank Bill Sheehan for a life of public and community service. Social Security beneficiaries in the Springfield area, and all of us who have worked with him throughout the years, will miss him very much.

## HONORING NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICERS

### HON. ROBERT A. UNDERWOOD

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 11, 2000*

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, it is a well established fact that non-commissioned officers are the backbone of our nation's military. Today's NCO's are given dual roles as leaders and technicians. In addition to providing operational support for their superiors and their organizations, these men and women are duty bound to provide for the health, welfare and safety of the troops under their care. An effective NCO must be mentally and physically dedicated as well as technically and tactically proficient in his or her field of expertise. Such qualities are inherent in Command Sergeant Major Benjamin C. Palacios.

Widely known as Ben, CSM Palacios was born on November 11, 1950, on the island of Saipan in the Northern Marianas. He later moved to Guam where he graduated from George Washington High School. Initially enlisting with the Army on October, 1969, he underwent Basic Training at Fort Ord, CA.

Ben was destined to serve in the Army. He took a 2-year hiatus from military life in 1972 only to re-enlist in 1974 as a Specialist Four. He is now one of the Army's most senior NCO's.

All through his many years of military service Ben served both in the Continental United States and overseas with the 1st Infantry Division, the 9th Infantry Division, the 1st Cavalry Division, and the 2d Armored Division. His assignments include serving in all enlisted leadership positions within the Armor Career Management Field—from Tank Commander to Command Sergeant Major. He also served as an Operations Sergeant in several Armor Battalions. In 1988, he was assigned as the Senior Enlisted Advisor for the 50th Armored Division, New Jersey Army National Guard.

From March 1994 through February 1996, Ben served as the Division Command Sergeant Major for the 24th Infantry Division at Fort Stewart, GA. While serving as the Brigade Command Sergeant Major for the 2nd Vanguard Brigade from May 1994 through January 1996, he participated in several deployments with the Brigade. These included tours of duty with the National Training Center and Bright Star '94 in Egypt. In addition, he was also deployed to Saudi Arabia in Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm as the 3–69 Armor Battalion Command Sergeant Major. Ben served as the Command Sergeant Major for the Third Mobile Armored Corps at Fort Hood in Texas for 2½ years prior to assuming duty as the United States Army Forces Command Command Sergeant Major on July 27, 1998.

Ben sought further development through professional military education. He attended the Fifth Army Noncommissioned Officer Academy and the Sergeant Major Academy. He also completed the First Sergeants Course in addition to obtaining an Associate's Degree from Fort Steilacoom Community College.

Among his decorations are the Legion of Merit (1OLC), the Bronze Star, the Meritorious Service Medal (2OLC), the Army Commendation Medal (3OLC), the Army Achievement Medal, the Good Conduct Medal (9th Award),