

In addition to his professional career, Chief Cruz made it a priority to be actively involved in Guilford and the surrounding communities. Under his leadership, the Guilford Police Department was one of the first departments to join the efforts of the Yale Child Study Center and its Child Development Community Policing program. This program is designed to address issues of domestic violence, child abuse, and juvenile justice in a way which focuses on community, partnership, innovation and prevention—four elements which are all too often missing from our response to violent crime. By participating in annual conferences and sharing ideas and successes with leaders from other areas, these efforts have made a real difference in the lives of thousands of children who otherwise would fall through the cracks of our system.

With all of his work, at the Department and in the community, Chief Cruz still made time to be of great assistance to myself and my staff. He has been an invaluable resource to us all and I want to extend my deepest thanks and sincere appreciation for all of his support.

Chief Kenneth Cruz has demonstrated an unparalleled commitment and has left an indelible mark on the Town of Guilford—he will be missed. As he celebrates his retirement, I am proud to rise today to join his wife, Virginia; daughter, Dawn; his three grandchildren, family, friends, and colleagues in wishing him the very best for many more years of health and happiness.

IN HONOR OF WALTON-VERONA,
KY, INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS

HON. KEN LUCAS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 26, 2002

Mr. LUCAS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the Walton-Verona Independent School System, in Kentucky's Fourth Congressional District, which I represent.

The school district has set a state record by not having a dropout in three years. In that same time period, 209 students have graduated. And once again this year, nobody has dropped out, and 76 more students are on track to graduate in May.

As part of the district's anti-truancy program, the school attendance officer, who is a sheriff's deputy, checks on students who are truant for two consecutive days. The deputy actually goes to the student's home and takes the student to school in a marked cruiser. Also, a retired principal works with families to help solve problems that often lead students to drop out, such as health problems, eating disorders, pregnancy, and divorce.

The district's anti-truancy program, called SAFE, which stands for Schools and Families Empowered, was funded in part by a federal grant that is now expiring. The good news is that the Northern Kentucky Independent Health District is so impressed with the program that it's stepping in to help fund it.

Walton-Verona's dropout-free record is a noteworthy accomplishment, and is a wonderful example of what small school districts can do when they are forced to make the most of limited resources. I ask my colleagues to join me in commending the outstanding students

and dedicated staff of the Walton-Verona Independent School District on such a remarkable dropout rate.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO TOM G.
ROBERTS

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 26, 2002

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with a solemn heart that I take this opportunity to pay respect to the passing of Tom G. Roberts, who recently passed away at the age of 55. Tom was a pillar of the Hotchkiss, CO, community and as his family mourns his loss, I think it is appropriate to remember Tom and pay tribute to him for his contributions to his community.

Tom was a shining example of a man thoroughly involved in his community. He was a member of the Hotchkiss Community United Methodist Church, the Hotchkiss Elks Lodge No. 1807, the Mt. Lamborn Masonic Lodge No. 102, and Sigma Phi Epsilon. In an effort to serve his community, Tom participated in several civic and business groups, notably the Hotchkiss Library Board, the Hotchkiss Chamber of Commerce, and the Delta County Livestock Association. Tom was a member of the North Fork Snowmobilers Association and was also a member of the Men's League and Mixed League at Valley Lanes, where he spent his free time playing one of his favorite games, bowling.

Tom was well known for his love of outdoor activities, including horseback riding and snowmobiling. As a result of his intimate knowledge of the local forest and his attention to the news, he was often referred to as the "unofficial wildfire reporter". Between his responsibilities as owner of Robert's Short Stop, Tom always loved to visit with residents and tourists visiting the area. Tom loved children, especially his own, and was often seen at the local little league games as a fan and a sponsor. Tom will be remembered as a loving husband, a devoted father, and a friend to all.

Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to pay tribute to Tom G. Roberts for his contributions to the Hotchkiss community. His dedication to his family, friends, work, and community certainly deserves the recognition of this body of Congress. Although Tom has left us, his good-natured spirit lives on through the lives of those he touched. I would like to extend my thoughts and deepest sympathies to Tom's family and friends during this difficult time.

IN MEMORIAM OF RICHARD
LEONARD DIXON

HON. NICK LAMPSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 26, 2002

Mr. LAMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in great sadness to honor Richard Leonard Dixon, who passed away yesterday, February 25, 2002. Richard Dixon was a remarkable man who was committed to his community, his country, and above all, his family. He is survived by his wife, Geneva Farris Dixon and his son, Jeff Dixon.

Richard was concerned about southeast Texas and the people who lived there. He was a long time civic and community leader. His impact on the community could be felt everywhere, he was a positive force in southeast Texas.

Richard Dixon attended Lon Morris Jr. College, Wharton Jr. College, graduating from Sam Houston University. A member of the Trinity United Methodist Church, he began his career with the Brazosport Facts, was former State Editor for the Beaumont Enterprise, Assistant Director of Public Information at Lamar University, and finally a member of my staff.

Richard was active in community and church affairs in Beaumont and in Nederland. He was of the utmost character, and his attributes of selflessness and commitment to others are rare gifts that his community was lucky to have. Richard Dixon was a man who served his community with great pride and devotion.

His work was part of the fiber of southeast Texas, and with his passing a great loss will be felt in the spirit and the heart of our community. Richard was a long time friend with a sharp sense of humor and an unbridled spirit. Today, as a Congressman I have lost a trusted member of my staff, but as a person, I have lost a friend.

COMMENDING BRIAN SHIMER,
OLYMPIC BOBSLEDDER OF
NAPLES, FLORIDA

HON. PORTER J. GOSS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 26, 2002

Mr. GOSS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to salute an individual from my district who never gave up. Brian Shimer, of Naples, Florida, came from behind on February 23rd and won a Bronze Medal in the 4-man bobsled competition.

Now Naples, Florida, is not known for its snowfall, but it is known for commitment to community and dedication to principles. It is an amazing feat that Brian Shimer managed to pursue his bobsledding passion for the past 16 years—never giving up and making sure America did not abandon its pursuit of the sport. Five times Brian competed in the Olympic Games, each time, seeking to turn all his years of training and desire into an Olympic medal. He endured injuries, setbacks, and hundredths-of-a-second heartbreaks. Still, Brian kept trying. His teammates changed, the bobsled designs changed and the biological clock ticked toward the ripe old age of 40, but Brian continued toward his dream.

This time in Salt Lake City, Brian Shimer won one of the two Olympic medals awarded to the United States in bobsledding—the first since 1956. In doing so he brought an incredible gift back to the sport he loves, and to his family, friends and all who supported his unquenchable passion. He also made a statement about Americans—that dedication and perseverance to a cause is what makes us strong and our country great. Brian was the one who carried the American flag for the American team during the closing ceremonies for the Olympic Games—a testimony to the respect he has earned among his fellow athletes.