

Nos. 334, 335 and 336. I present I would have voted "nay" on rollcall vote No. 334 and "yea" on rollcall vote Nos. 335 and 336.

IN HONOR AND REMEMBRANCE OF  
FIRST SERGEANT ROBERT J.  
DOWDY

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 9, 2003*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and remembrance of United States Army First Sergeant Robert J. Dowdy, who courageously and selflessly rose to the call to duty and made the ultimate sacrifice on behalf of our country.

Sergeant Dowdy was an exceptional United States soldier and was an equally exceptional human being. Sergeant Dowdy's life was characterized by his unwavering sense of duty and commitment to our nation, and above all, his life reflected a deep dedication to, and steadfast focus on his family. He worked diligently to effectively balance his military career with his main priority—his wife and daughter.

Sergeant Dowdy grew up in the North Broadway neighborhood and graduated from South High School in 1982. He enlisted in the U.S. Army soon thereafter. Throughout his journey in the military, Sergeant Dowdy carried with him a strong foundation of faith, family and community. He quickly ascended through the ranks, and held the title and command of Master Sergeant.

Most recently, Sergeant Dowdy was promoted to the rank of First Sergeant. His strong intellect and solid sense of integrity evenly matched his outstanding athleticism. Moreover, Sergeant Dowdy's life reflected his generous heart and sincere concern for the welfare of others. He often and easily offered his assistance to anyone in need, without regard to his own sacrifice.

BARBARA VAN BLAKE: A POINT  
OF LIGHT FOR ALL AMERICANS

**HON. MAJOR R. OWENS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 9, 2003*

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to salute Barbara Van Blake who retired from the American Federation of Teachers in December 2002, for her past service to her country and the community; and for her continued activism on behalf of civil rights, women and education. Ms. Van Blake is a POINT-OF-LIGHT for all Americans.

Barbara Van Blake has been employed as director of the Human Rights and Community Relations Department of the American Federation of Teachers (AFT) since 1975. Her responsibilities include keeping State and local affiliates informed of current trends, publications, laws and Federal regulations in the area of civil and women's rights. She participates as a consultant in the area of civil rights, discrimination, women's rights and desegregation activities to affiliates. Her duties also include representing AFT in coalitions with national organizations, whether they be civil rights, women, political or education.

Ms. Van Blake is a member of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) National Life Membership and Labor Committee; a member of the boards of directors of Bethune Museum and Archives; a member of the Federal Advisory Commission of the Mary McLeod Bethune Council House; and life member of the Bethune-Cookman College National Alumni Association. She is also vice president of the Coalition of Labor Union Women, Chair of the National Black Caucus of State Legislators Labor Roundtable, and Treasurer of the Washington, D.C. Chapter Bethune Cookman College Alumni Association.

Ms. Van Blake has served in numerous capacities: former National Treasurer of the National Council of Negro Women, Inc.; former Chair of the Ad Hoc Labor Committee of the National Council of Negro Women, Inc.; former Secretary of the NAACP Ad Hoc Labor Committee; former executive committee member and Vice President of the A. Philip Randolph Institute and former member of the board of directors of the National Consumers League.

She is a legacy member of the National Council of Negro Women, Inc.; a Diamond Life member of the NAACP; a member of the Washington, D.C. Urban League; and a member of the Omicron Phi Zeta Chapter of ZØB.

Prior to her work with AFT, she taught mathematics in junior and senior high school for twelve years in Florida, where she was active in support of civil rights and labor union organizing. She visited Somalia and Sudan on a refugee fact-finding mission for the labor movement in 1982, and was an official international observer of the South African elections. She has done Trade Union leadership training in Benin and Cote D'Ivoire Africa, and Barbados, West Indies. She was also a delegate to the International Confederation of Free Trade Union Women's Conference in Hague, Netherlands.

Ms. Van Blake has received numerous awards including the NAACP Women's Labor Award, the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) Fannie Neal Award, the A. Philip Randolph Institute Rosina Tucker Award, the Coalition of Black Trade Unionist Women's Addie Wyatt Award, and the National Black Caucus of State Legislators Nation Builders Award.

A graduate of Bethune-Cookman College, Ms. Van Blake holds a Bachelor of Science degree in mathematics and chemistry.

Ms. Van Blake is the proud mother of one daughter and one granddaughter. She is also a member of the Corinthian Baptist Church in Washington, D.C.

In recognition of her dedicated leadership and tireless service to our youth, I am honored to recognize Ms. Barbara Van Blake as an outstanding POINT-OF-LIGHT for all Americans.

HONORING POLICE CHIEF JOHN  
ROBERTSON

**HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 9, 2003*

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Police Chief John Robertson of the

City of Newark Police Department for his 29 years of devoted service to the citizens of California.

Chief Robertson dedicated his life to reducing crime, implementing technological advances, and helping the lives of many people on a personal basis. He was not content to merely punish wrong-doers, but set about to bring an end to the problems he encountered by using a community oriented philosophy that worked wonders to stop crime.

In the course of his career in law enforcement, Chief Robertson has left his mark on three cities. He began his career in the City of Garden Grove in July 1974 as a Patrol Officer and worked his way up to Detective. He was appointed Sergeant in March 1980 and Lieutenant in May 1981. He became Captain, February 1986, and served as Deputy Chief until August 1988 when he was promoted to Police Chief. He served as Police Chief of Garden Grove until June 1992, then as Police Chief of the City of Orange until March 1998, and finally as the Chief of Police of Newark in August 1998.

In Garden Grove, Chief Robertson is accredited with revitalizing the community through "family policing" and developing the Department's Pride Program. In Orange, he significantly reduced crime, managed the Department's budget and made a significant number of technological improvements. In Newark, Chief Robertson implemented a Citizen's Police Academy, improved technology, remodeled the police facilities, became a mentor for a local high school student, implanted the HOSTS (Help One Student to Succeed) Tutoring Program, and took responsibility for the City's Code Enforcement Unit and cleaned up a large blighted area of Newark.

Chief Robertson's greatest accomplishments in the City of Newark include bringing together the Newark Community by spearheading a youth summit with NAACP, setting up meetings with the Afghan Community to bridge cultural differences, and working with the gay/lesbian community after the murder of a transgender youth. Chief Robertson demands by word and shows through leadership that everyone must be treated with dignity and respect, regardless of race, color, creed, or sexual orientation. He was the first Police Chief to require all officers to document racial information on all car stops. He also mandated that all police employees attend training at the Museum of Tolerance to promote understanding and acceptance in the community.

I am honored to join the colleagues of Police Chief John Robertson to commend his many years of exemplary service to law enforcement. His commitment to excellence has shaped the lives of many, and his services to California will never be forgotten.

TOWN OF BLUFFTON

**HON. MIKE PENCE**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 9, 2003*

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, last night the Wabash River in northeastern Indiana crested at an incredible 25 feet. However, thanks to the extraordinary leadership of Mayor Ted Ellis and Sheriff Barry Storie, Bluffton, Indiana was spared a catastrophe.