

Again, I would like to thank the Chairman and Ranking Member for holding this very important hearing.

TRIBUTE TO ALAMEDA COUNTY  
VETERANS, 50TH ANNUAL VET-  
ERANS DAY PARADE

**HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 6, 2003*

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Veterans Day on November 11, 2003 and to pay tribute to the veterans in Alameda County, California. As we pause to remember the valiant men and women who have nobly served our country, I join the Alameda County Veterans' Affairs Commission and the city of Hayward to commemorate Alameda County's 50th Annual Veterans Day Parade.

The Alameda County Veterans' Affairs Commission is a diverse group of men and women who stand together with the same discipline and patriotism and the same values and uncommon valor that they fostered in the battles they fought for our nation. Last year's program, Honoring All Who Served, stated, "as long as there are men and women in uniform, stationed across the world, there will be a body of veterans' organizations defending and upholding the rights of our fighting men and women." I commend their tireless efforts.

This year, the Commission has again taken the charge to prepare and promote the annual Veterans Day Parade ceremonies. I join them in honoring our veterans and in dedication to world peace.

VETERANS

**HON. DONNA M. CHRISTENSEN**

OF VIRGIN ISLANDS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 6, 2003*

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, as we approach our annual celebration of Veteran's Day, this year we do so in the knowledge that our brave fighting men and women and those who support their efforts, are in the field in Iraq, in Afghanistan and in Guantanamo Bay, right now in defense of our country and our freedoms.

Mr. Speaker, all of our veterans have served with distinction and deserve the benefits that they have earned. That's why it is important that we invest in their health care and we ensure there is more than enough funding for the VA clinics and hospitals across the country so that our veterans of wars past and wars present can be well cared for.

Mr. Speaker, that is why our veterans deserve to have their tax burdens lifted, including the disabled veterans tax. They deserve to enjoy tax relief such as the child tax credit and they deserve to have their pay increased especially at this time, when they are being asked to sacrifice so much.

Mr. Speaker, the veterans of the U.S. territories, who have served in many wars with distinction, despite not being able to vote for president and not having voting representation in Congress, are also in need of increased health benefits, tax relief and access to business and other opportunities.

Over 200 soldiers from my district are currently serving in the Middle East, with many more in the National Guard and Reserve who have been called up to serve their country at different places across the world at this time.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to salute the veterans from my district who are being honored this weekend and who have served in the major conflicts of our time from World War II to Vietnam to the first Persian Gulf . . . they include Gloria Bell, Peter Thurland, Juan Cruz, Earl Morris, Olaf Jackson, Evelyn Crittenden, Agnes Day Henry, Edgar Iles, Nevlin Williams and Otto Tranberg.

Mr. Speaker, this year, it is important that our soldiers in the field, our veterans and their families all know that we appreciate their sacrifice and that this body pledges to support them in the best way that we possibly can.

HONORING JOYCE McCULLUM

**HON. BARBARA LEE**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 6, 2003*

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a great woman and public educator, Ms. Joyce McCullum, for her 36 years of dedicated educational service to the community. Today, Ms. McCullum retires from her position as a teacher and administrator in the Oakland Unified School District in California.

B. Joyce Garrett McCullum was born to Willie Garrett and Rosa M. Jones in Pineland, Texas. She graduated from Vernon High School in Leesville, Louisiana, and earned a bachelor's degree in vocal music education from Southern University in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. She was then appointed to a Ford Foundation Fellowship and received a master's degree in music from Holy Names College in Oakland, California.

In September, 1967, Joyce McCullum began her educational career with the Oakland Public Schools as a teacher at Lockwood Elementary School, and continued at Hoover Jr. High, Lowell Jr. High, Roosevelt Jr. High, and Marcus A. Foster Middle School. She served as an administrator at Marcus Foster Middle School, Hoover Elementary School, E. Morris Cox Elementary, and then taught some more at Havenscourt Jr. High and Verdess R. Carter Middle School.

Ms. McCullum was predeceased by the late Reverend James T. McCullum, Sr., Pastor of New Hope Baptist Church for 32 years. She is also the proud stepmother of James T. McCullum, Jr., and grandmother of four grandchildren, and a surrogate mother to many. Joyce has been Director of Youth at New Hope Baptist Church, part of the Home and Foreign Mission District Association, and youth counselor for the California State Baptist Convention, Inc. Youth and Young Adult Auxiliary.

She has been actively involved in community services, having served as a life member of the NAACP, as President of the Oakland Alliance of Black School Educators, a life member of the National Association of Negro Musicians (NANM) and the Golden Gate Branch of NANM. She is also a member of the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., Alpha Nu Omega Chapter, the Oakland Education Association, United Administrators of Oakland, and the Oakland Music Educators Association.

Finally, as we honor Ms. McCullum today, I want to thank her for being an exemplary role model, administrator, and teacher. I take great pride in joining the students of Oakland, Ms. McCullum's family, friends and colleagues to recognize and salute the accomplishments and contributions of B. Joyce Garret McCullum and wish her an exciting and gratifying retirement.

RECOGNIZING THOMAS M. REEDY  
FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF  
EAGLE SCOUT

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 6, 2003*

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Thomas M. Reedy, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 175, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Thomas has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the seven years Thomas has been involved with scouting, he has held numerous leadership positions, serving as Troop-Patrol Leader and Instructor. Thomas is also a Brave in the Tribe of Mic-O-Say and participated in High Adventure.

For his Eagle Scout project, Thomas built, stained, and installed sturdy oak bunk ladders for the Rotary Camp in Lee's Summit, Missouri, where Thomas went on his first official campout as a Boy Scout.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Thomas Reedy for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 6, 2003*

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, on November 4, on rollcall vote No. 603, H. Con. Res. 94, Sense of Congress that community inclusion and enhanced lives for individuals with mental retardation or other developmental disabilities is at serious risk because of the crisis in recruiting and retaining direct support professionals which impedes availability of a stable workforce; I was detained in my district on official business, and I would have voted "aye."

On November 4, on rollcall vote No. 602, H. Con. Res. 176, Supporting the goals and ideals of Financial Planning Week; I was detained in my district on official business, and I would have voted "aye."

On November 5, on rollcall vote No. 609, H.R. 3365, Fallen Patriots Tax Relief Act; I was detained in my district on official business, and I would have voted "aye."

On November 5, on rollcall vote No. 608, H.R. 3214, Advancing Justice Through DNA Technology Act; I was detained in my district on official business, and I would have voted "aye."