

Garden City Hospital for their 30 years of service to the community.

RECOGNIZING OUTSTANDING  
TEACHERS IN BURR RIDGE, IL

**HON. JUDY BIGGERT**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 12, 2004*

Mrs. BIGGERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor five outstanding teachers in my district: Virginia Bojan, Cate Nufer, Beverly Oliveri, Nancy Taylor, and Patricia Trudicks.

Virginia Bojan, a language arts and science teacher at Elm Elementary School in Burr Ridge, is retiring after 33 years of dedicated teaching. She is well respected among her peers for her excellent teaching methods and pleasant demeanor. Her students also love and respect her. It is obvious that Mrs. Bojan loves teaching, and this love is reflected in her devotion to her students. She will most certainly be missed.

Elm Elementary School also will be losing Cate Nufer, who is retiring after 36 years. Ms. Nufer is a talented teacher who is recognized for her leadership in the areas of writing and social studies. Her students have consistently excelled on all state tests. She has made a positive impact on hundreds of students in both their academic and personal development.

Beverly Oliveri is also retiring after 34 years of teaching and directing curriculum for School District 181 in Burr Ridge. Her work in mathematics led to a revision in curriculum to improve the way math is taught in the district. Her students always look forward to her unique style of story telling as a teaching method. Her love of life and of teaching is evident to all who encounter her.

Nancy Taylor is retiring after 34 years teaching language arts and mathematics. She has contributed to both the academic and social development of hundreds of children throughout her career. Her students thrive on her soft-spoken, gentle approach that helps her students. Her care and understanding of each child as an individual will be remembered.

Last but most certainly not least, Patricia Trudicks is retiring after 36 years of dedicated teaching. Ms. Trudicks is recognized in District 181 for her leadership in developing the Media Resource Center, which has become the hub of the school. It is continually updated to reflect the season, upcoming holidays and community events, and ongoing teaching units and student interests. Ms. Trudicks has shown how to make the library an exciting place for students and to encourage them to learn through the resources it provides. Her ability to provide children with hands-on experiences they will not forget has been greatly respected and will be deeply missed.

Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct privilege to honor these five teachers for their countless hours of hard work and dedication. They have positively impacted the lives of thousands of children, and their contributions to education will be recognized for many years to come. Teaching may be the most difficult profession, and these five outstanding educators are among the best. I know the students, parents and faculty of Elm Elementary are sad to see

them retire, but join me in offering these outstanding teachers our heartfelt thanks and congratulations.

RECOGNIZING THE VETERANS WHO  
SERVED DURING WORLD WAR II,  
THE AMERICANS WHO SUP-  
PORTED THE WAR, AND CELE-  
BRATING THE COMPLETION OF  
THE NATIONAL WORLD WAR II  
MEMORIAL

SPEECH OF

**HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 11, 2004*

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the brave men and women who served our nation during World War II and to wholeheartedly support H. Con. Res. 409. The National World War II Memorial will be officially dedicated on May 29 to honor the 16,000,000 veterans who served in the United States Armed Forces during World War II and the millions of Americans who supported the war effort on the home front. Even today, we deeply appreciate the great service and sacrifice that those men and women gave in defense of our nation and the world.

The soldiers of World War II fought against unimaginable tyranny. They gave their blood, sweat, tears, and for many, their lives, to protect and preserve the American way of life. Veterans who served our country in World War II deserve a tribute to illustrate their valor and courage. The National World War II Memorial is a fitting and lasting tribute and only a down-payment to a debt we can never repay in full.

But to truly honor this nation's Greatest Generation, we must do more than just offer kind words and lasting memorials. It's time for Congress to live up to its promise to care for their health and well-being. It is time that we start adequately funding our veterans' health care system.

Today, only 1 in 4 World War II veterans are still surviving. Every day, 1,100 more die. Those surviving veterans are aging and their medical needs are increasing. It is a great dishonor to turn our back on those veterans; it is a great dishonor to make those men and women wait for needed health care and an even greater dishonor to turn them away from Veterans' Administration facilities.

There is a growing crisis in veterans' medical care: more than 30,000 veterans are waiting six months or more for an appointment at Veterans' Administration hospitals. Some are even dying before they see a doctor. In his 2005 budget, the President recommended a less than 2 percent increase in funding for veterans' medical care—not even enough to cover the cost of inflation. The President's budget also slashes \$294 million in funding for long-term care for America's veterans, which will reduce the number of patients treated by more than 8,000. That is not acceptable.

While the House-passed budget does provide \$1.2 billion above the President's wholly inadequate budget request, it is still \$1.3 billion below the amount of funding suggested on a bipartisan basis by the House Veterans' Affairs Committee and \$2 billion below the amount recommended by the Independent

Budget. The House-passed budget will not give the VA the resources it needs to reduce the backlog of patients or improve the quality of care. It will not end the Survivor Benefit Penalty or end the disability tax for the two-thirds of disabled veterans whose pension and disability payments are still offset. It will not give our World War II veterans the care they deserve. Democrats have offered a plan that will give veterans the care they deserve.

I urge my Colleagues to join me in honoring the sacrifice of World War II veterans by voting for this resolution. I also urge us to further honor those brave men and women by committing enough funding to meet their needs.

HONORING FALLEN LAW  
ENFORCEMENT HEROES

**HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 12, 2004*

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to all the true heroes—our law enforcement officers—who have made the supreme sacrifice in service to their community so that all of us can live in peace and safety.

Supporting law enforcement is very important to me because of my service as a law enforcement officer before coming to Congress in 1988. I am also a member of the House Law Enforcement Caucus.

As we reflect on our fallen heroes, it is important to focus on providing the necessary funding and support to these individuals to combat the growing challenges they face. It is the least we can do for those who put their lives on the line every day.

Since September 11, 2001, many in this nation and this Congress have a deeper appreciation for the importance of the sacrifices made by our law enforcement officers. Every day, hundreds of thousands of men and women protect and serve, often putting their own lives at risk. In honor of these dedicated law enforcement officers who have given their lives or have become disabled in the performance of duty, Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing and paying respect to our fallen heroes.

HONORING REVEREND DOCTOR  
ROBIN G. MURRAY

**HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 12, 2004*

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend and honor the Reverend Doctor Robin G. Murray of Spring Hill in my Fifth Congressional District of Florida. After thirty-five years as an Episcopalian minister, Reverend Murray is retiring in Spring Hill.

Reverend Murray was one of the first people I met when I moved to Florida. His friendship and civic-mindedness motivated me to become involved in the Hernando County Legislature, and he has been an inspiration ever since.

A loving husband, father of three, and grandfather of two, Reverend Murray has an