

for the Fast Battleship Striking Force, the Divisionary Bombardment on the southern coast of Okinawa prior to the invasion at Naha, and the shore bombardments carried out on the Japanese islands of Hokkaido and Honshu. Tex also established the Pacific Fleet Headquarters at the Yokosuka Naval Base Administration Building, where an impressive flag raising ceremony for Admiral Nimitz took place on August 30, 1945.

On September 30, 1945, Tex was separated from the Navy and subsequently received the citation and award of the Bronze Star Medal from Admiral Halsey. On January 1, 1949, Tex was promoted to the permanent rank of Lieutenant Commander, and he was retired in that rank in 1954.

Tex continued his commitment to service through his role as Judge Advocate and as a Director of the U.S. Navy League, New York Council. Tex currently resides in Manhasset, New York, and although he claims to be semi-retired, he is still an active member of the New York bar and is engaged in the practice of law in New York.

Mr. Speaker, I commend Israel G. "Tex" Seeger for his years of dedicated service to this country. Tex's integrity, bravery, and stature have certainly made a significant impression on the great many lives he has touched. In recognition of this, I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to please join me in honoring Israel G. "Tex" Seeger as he celebrates his 90th birthday.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS
OF LAREDO INDEPENDENT
SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD MEM-
BER GEORGE M. BECKELHYMER

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 9, 2005

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the contributions of Laredo Independent School District Board Member George M. Beckelhymer, of my Congressional District in Laredo, Texas.

Mr. Beckelhymer graduated from the University of Texas at Austin, earning his bachelor's degree in radio, television, and film. After graduation he decided to venture into the business world, and he became part owner of L. Bufalo Pawn Shop.

In May 2002 he was elected to District 4 of the LISD Board of Trustees, and currently serves as Secretary of the Board. His District includes Sanchez/Ochoa Elementary, Alma Pierce Elementary, K. Tarver Elementary, and J.W. Nixon High School. Mr. Beckelhymer believes in working together with all of the appointed Trustees to create a good working environment between faculty, parents, and children.

Mr. Beckelhymer enjoys working for the community, and is an active member of the Citizens Environmental Advisory Committee in the City of Laredo. Beckelhymer hopes to ensure that all students receive the best quality education to prepare them for the future, and he is proud that he is able to help the community move in a positive direction.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to have had the opportunity to honor Laredo Independent School District Board Member George M. Beckelhymer.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 9, 2005

Mr. CLEAVER. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday March 8, 2005, I was unable to cast my vote on H. Res. 133 and H. Res. 122. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall 53, 54, and 55.

THE WALNUT CANYON STUDY ACT
OF 2005

HON. RICK RENZI

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 9, 2005

Mr. RENZI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Walnut Canyon Study Act of 2005.

The Walnut Canyon National Monument was originally designated by Presidential proclamation on November 30, 1915, to protect Sinaguan cliff dwellings. Since the original designation, the Walnut Canyon National Monument has been expanded to include 3,580 acres to protect additional ruins adjacent to the Monument.

In the past few years, several groups have proposed expanding the Monument with surrounding Forest Service land and designating this expanded area as a National Park. To further explore the options of the Walnut Canyon National Monument and potential inclusion of this expanded area, along with Senator MCCAIN, I have introduced the Walnut Canyon Study Act.

The Walnut Canyon Study Act of 2005 directs the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture to jointly conduct a study on the management of certain land adjacent to the Walnut Canyon National Monument.

Coconino County and the City of Flagstaff have both passed resolutions supporting further review and study of the management options for the Walnut Canyon National Monument. In both resolutions, support for maintaining certain public uses in the Monument was relayed, as well as the need for the protection of the resources in the Monument.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation provides for public input into any recommendation that is forwarded by the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture. Within the study, the legislation requires the Secretaries to look at the management objectives of the Forest Service and the National Park Service, as well as the opportunities for maintaining existing public uses, such as grazing, hunting, mountain biking, rock climbing and additional forms of recreation.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the Walnut Canyon Study Act of 2005. My intent in introducing this legislation is to help resolve the question of future management of the Walnut Canyon National Monument.

HONORING THE POLK COUNTY EN-
TERPRISE ON THEIR 100TH ANNI-
VERSARY

HON. KEVIN BRADY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 9, 2005

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, to honor and congratulate the Polk County Enterprise on their centennial anniversary, which they are celebrating throughout this year. The Polk County Enterprise has been a faithful banner of news and source of record for generations of residents in East Texas. From a humble founding by young entrepreneur Will West in the fall of 1904 the Polk County Enterprise and its parent company Polk County Publishing has grown to a circulation of over 60,000 including seven weekly and bi-weekly newspapers, three shoppers, and two job-printing operations.

Throughout its 100 year history, the paper has had only 16 publishers. Mr. Alvin Holley, the current publisher of the Polk County Enterprise has served in his post for the last thirty years—the longest of any publisher at the Enterprise. I am pleased to report he has no plans to retire anytime soon.

Mr. Holley got his start in the newspaper business as a paperboy for the Corsicana Daily Sun. The papers sold for a nickel each, Holley's profit was two cents per paper. That may not seem like much by today's standards—but back then a movie show cost only nine cents.

Mr. Holley stayed in the newspaper business—and after high school worked in the newspaper's business office and occasionally was assigned news stories. He was named the advertising manager in 1963 and served there until 1972 when he took a position with the Polk County Enterprise. Two short years later, Holley bought the Enterprise and remains its publisher to this day.

Mr. Holley credits his paper's success to the employees that keep the presses running. In a recent interview, Holley estimated that the combined years of service of current employees exceeds 430 years and that the average length of service is 14 years. That says a lot.

The men and women of the Polk County Enterprise and Polk County Publishing Company not only love what they do for a living, but also obviously love their community.

From the days of Linotype to today's high speed desk top computers, the Polk County Enterprise has covered all of the happenings in East Texas.

With a loyal staff and publisher who is just as likely to be caught working at the news desk or delivery bays as he is his private office—I am confident the Enterprise has many more exciting years in store.

Mr. Speaker, our nation's hometown community newspapers have been the trusted source of news Americans have depended on since our nation's earliest beginnings. The Polk County Enterprise has a proud legacy and it is an honor to represent the communities they serve in the U.S. House of Representatives. I urge you to join me in congratulating the Polk County Enterprise on their 100th anniversary.