

consciousness by participating in a variety of interfaith endeavors, spreading understanding of Jewish heritage, and fighting to break down racial barriers in the United States. Rabbi Akselrad served as President of the Northern California Board of Rabbis, the Western Association of Reform Rabbis, and the Palo Alto Ministerial Association. When he became Rabbi Emeritus in 1987, Rabbi Richard A. Block took on his role as Senior Rabbi. For 12 years, Rabbi Block led the congregation, initiating a process of educational innovation he dubbed "life-long learning," which inspired a national partnership, the "Experiment in Congregational Education." His successor, Rabbi Janet Ross Marder, has been leading Beth Am since she became Senior Rabbi in 1999. She served as the first woman President of the Pacific Association of Reform Rabbis, and the first woman President of the Central Conference of American Rabbis. She's married to Rabbi Sheldon Marder of the Jewish Home in San Francisco, and together they are raising 2 daughters, Betsy and Rachel.

Mr. Speaker, I'm exceedingly proud to honor Congregation Beth Am as it celebrates its 50th anniversary. For a half century it's been a center of worship and service and it has truly lived up to its name, Beth Am, which translates from Hebrew to "House of the People." Beth Am is a source of pride to everyone in our Congressional District and will continue to be a pillar of our community for decades to come.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROGER F. WICKER

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 20, 2005

Mr. WICKER. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 90, the vote to suspend the rules and pass S. 686, a bill for the relief of the parents of Theresa Marie Schiavo, I was unavoidably absent. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

TENNESSEE CRIMINAL JUSTICE LANGUAGE ACADEMY

HON. LINCOLN DAVIS

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 20, 2005

Mr. DAVIS of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the efforts of individuals in Tennessee who are providing a much needed training program for the law enforcement community. Columbia State Community College under the direction of its President, Dr. Rebecca Hawkins, in partnership with the Governor's Highway Safety Office directed by the distinguished Charles Taylor, along with countless others have worked together to institute a Spanish Language Training program for police officers.

These two organizations have joined in the development of the Tennessee Criminal Justice Language Academy. The Academy is housed at Columbia State Community College and provides Spanish language training for police officers in Tennessee. The program is funded through a grant from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA).

As you know, Mr. Speaker, the Hispanic population is surging across our nation. A large number of Latino and Hispanic individuals have made their way into Tennessee. Both urban and rural communities in Tennessee have seen a great influx of people with Hispanic origin. This causes new demands on the social institutions of our state and it has created a major need in the law enforcement community. Law enforcement officers must be able to communicate with the citizens in their communities or they will not be effective in carrying out their duties. In large cities, police departments sometimes have officers who can speak the diverse languages of the citizens, but this is not the case in most areas of Tennessee due to the rural composition of our state. Most law enforcement in Tennessee are English speaking only, which causes many disadvantages for both the officers and the Hispanic citizens in the community.

Verbal communication is crucial for police officers in traffic stop situations. The officer and driver must have a common understanding and way to communicate. If not, a barrier develops leaving both the officer and the Hispanic citizen with few options to resolve the issue. Officer safety becomes a problem in these type cases as well.

In traffic stops where the driver is suspect of being impaired, it is extremely important for the officer to be able to communicate with the individual. The commands for the NHTSA approved Standardized Field Sobriety Test (SFST) must be given by the officer and understood by the suspect to be effective. If the officer cannot speak and understand Spanish and the suspect cannot speak and understand English then the SFST is not effective in assisting the officer in making the decision to arrest or not. This leaves two scenarios: the officer allows the impaired driver to leave without arrest, or an innocent driver is arrested. The breach of communication causes both actions.

Tennessee has not overlooked these problems. The Hispanic population is already in our communities, and we have started providing training to law enforcement agencies so that a bridge of communication can be built. The Spanish for Law Enforcement Program has trained over 1000 officers thus far. This joint program by the Tennessee Governor's Highway Safety Office and Columbia State Community College serves as a model for other states that are experiencing the same need. Simply put, this program provides officers in Tennessee with a necessary new tool to better serve their communities.

CELEBRATING THE 50TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY OF FRED AND ROSEMARIE GORTLER

HON. ED PASTOR

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 20, 2005

Mr. PASTOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today to draw attention to the 50th wedding anniversary of Fred and Rosemarie Gortler of Fredericksburg, Virginia. I first became acquainted with the Gortlers during Fred's two decades of serving here as a Democratic floor assistant in the House of Representatives and it is an honor to celebrate this loving couple's marital milestone.

Fifty-one years ago, Fred Gortler and Rosemarie Battista met on a blind date in their hometown of Staten Island, New York, while Fred was home on leave from the Navy. At the time, Rosemarie was a nursing student at St. Mary's Hospital in Brooklyn, New York. They were engaged only four months later and were married on May 14, 1955.

The couple remained in Staten Island for over 20 years before moving to their current home in Fredericksburg in 1977. Both Fred and Rosemarie have committed their careers to serving the public and their communities. Fred worked for 21 years in the New York City police force, in positions ranging from administrative to mounted police officer in Central Park. Shortly after relocating to Fredericksburg, he began his service in the U.S. House of Representatives where he stayed for over 20 years.

Rosemarie was a practicing nurse at Saint Vincent's Hospital in Staten Island where she was also a member of the faculty, teaching psychiatric nursing. She returned to school to obtain her Masters in Counseling and currently works as a private counselor, specializing in individual, family, and substance abuse counseling. She has also co-authored several children's books including Little Acts of Grace, Just Like Mary, and A Very Scary Time, written numerous newspaper and magazine articles, and contributed regularly to a mental health column in a local newspaper, titled Minding the Mind.

The couple has been blessed with five children and 18 grandchildren, the newest addition to the family coming all the way from China. The Gortler family extends out from Virginia to Connecticut, Illinois, and Florida.

The couple's 50 years of dedication to each other reflects that of their own parents, as both Fred and Rosemarie's parents also enjoyed 50 years of marriage. In late April, the couple will be joined by many friends and family at the Chapel and the Officers' Club in Fort Belvoir, Virginia to toast their half-century of marriage. Their children and grandchildren will be proudly hosting the couple's anniversary celebration, where Fred and Rosemarie will renew their wedding vows. The celebration is being held early due to grandparent obligations—six grandchildren in three different states will be graduating in May.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring and celebrating 50 years of marriage between Fred and Rosemarie Gortler, a union built on devotion and love for family. I have had the privilege of knowing this loving couple for many years, and have witnessed the strong sense of family values, self-sacrifice, and commitment to public service that defined their lives together. It is with great joy that I extend my congratulations to Fred and Rosemarie Gortler and their beloved family, and I wish them many more years of wedded happiness.

HONORING SCOTT TOWNSLEY CHASE

HON. HENRY J. HYDE

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 20, 2005

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, they say the sinew of our representative democracy is its citizens.