

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honor, gratitude and recognition of my friend, Mayor Jane L. Campbell, whose unwavering commitment, steadfast integrity and vital accomplishments have raised the City of Cleveland above the shadows of financial crisis 4 years ago, onto a solid foundation today, where urban renewal and the hope of a better tomorrow for all citizens continues to rise. Mayor Campbell's legacy of service and concern for her constituents will be remembered and recognized for generations to come. I wish Mayor Jane Campbell and her family many blessings of peace, health and happiness as they journey onward from this day.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF STEVE KIRKHAM

HON. LINCOLN DAVIS

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2005

Mr. DAVIS of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge Steve Kirkham of Kingston, Tennessee for his leadership and involvement in his community.

Steve is a known fixture in his home county of Roane County, Tennessee and is fast becoming an integral member of many other communities due to his work in promoting economic development in East Tennessee.

Kirkham, owner and chief executive officer of Rocky Top Markets, is a man who exhibits traits that have helped make America what it is: hard working, compassionate, and exemplifies perseverance and generosity. If you ask him how he got to be where he is he will tell you, "by grinding it out, having good employees, and just plain luck."

Working for the Harriman Oil Company in the mid-70's Kirkham suggested to the owners of the company that they should join the convenience store craze. They did, and Rocky Top Market was born in June 1980 with the first opening.

Since 1980, Rocky Top Markets has grown to a chain of 38 and has plans for continued growth in Tennessee and Northern Georgia. Having purchased Rocky Top Markets in 1998, it is now one of the largest retail convenience stores in East Tennessee employing almost 400 people.

A long standing member of the business community Steve has been a member of the Tennessee Oil Marketers Board, Tennessee Grocers and Convenience Store Association Board, and the Shell Jobber Council. He has served as Chair of the Roane State Foundation and the Community Development Council. As chairman of the CDC he helped form and fund the Roane Alliance. The Alliance is an effort to bring together the chamber, tourism and industrial development groups in Roane County for a unified effort in promoting responsible growth. He is currently serving as chairman of the Roane County Industrial Development Board.

If not working or golfing Steve is with his family. There is an understanding of the high regard he has for family for those who know him in and outside of work. He is married to Teresa Kirkham and has three daughters: Angie, Stephanie, and Christie. He is also the proud grandparent of Tyler, Tanner, and Ryley.

TRIBUTE TO ALFRED LOUIS ROMEO

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2005

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to call to your attention the life of a wonderful man, who sadly passed over a year ago, Mr. Alfred Louis Romeo.

It is fitting that he be honored, in this, the permanent record of the greatest freely elected body on earth, for his lifelong dedication to the City of Paterson.

Born and raised in my hometown of Paterson, New Jersey, Fred graduated from Central High School. After his graduation from high school in 1958 Fred joined the Paterson Fire Department as a member of the Division Line Gang.

The Division Line Gang was a group of firefighters who were assigned to maintain the communications infrastructure for emergency call boxes throughout Paterson. Fred was a member of the Division Line Gang until 1983, when the "Gang" was disbanded, in order to use the more effective emergency voice response system. It was at this time that Fred was transferred as a firefighter to Engine Company Number 7.

Fred found time during his busy schedule to volunteer at the Paterson YMCA where he had been a member for over 70 years. In addition, to sitting on the Board of Directors, he served as the Co-Coordinator for the YMCA. Perhaps most importantly, Fred had donated his time on Thanksgiving, for the past 34 years, to help feed the underprivileged at the annual Thanksgiving Feast.

Beyond his many philanthropic contributions, Fred was also a Champion and Hall of Fame handball player. He had amassed two New Jersey State Singles Championship titles, 24 NJ State Doubles Championship titles, a Jr. National doubles Championship title, and a National doubles Championship title. Fred was not only a Member of the Board of Directors for the Old Timers Sports Hall of Fame, Association of Paterson; he was an inductee as well.

In addition to Fred's many academic and professional achievements, his personal achievements are many also. He was the devoted husband to the late Rose Romeo and father of Rosalind, Francine, and Dominic.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join our colleagues, Fred's family and friends, and me in recognizing the outstanding and invaluable achievements of a man who will be truly missed, Mr. Alfred Louis Romeo.

IN MEMORY OF OFFICER HENRY "HANK" NAVA, JR.

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2005

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share the collective grief of the people of North Texas on the death of Fort Worth Officer Henry "Hank" Nava, Jr. who died of a gunshot wound to his head while in the course of duty.

Officer Nava, recognizable by his military hairstyle, Oakley sunglasses and electric smile, was a dedicated servant of the community. The grief from his loss is shared not only by his fellow police brethren, but by the greater Fort Worth community.

Hank Nava was the first Fort Worth officer killed in the line of duty in 11 years. He served as an officer in Austin, Plano and Fort Worth, where he was most recently assigned to the 10-member North Side Crime Response Team. This team is directed to handle particularly difficult cases. He was always first to volunteer and enthusiastic to accomplish the tasks ahead of him. A natural leader, he was a source of encouragement for his fellow police officers.

Officer Nava's personality and bravery made him a trusted friend, devoted husband and father, and a hero to other police officers. Gianni Ghilespi, a Fort Worth police captain, said that Officer Nava gave him a home during his darkest moment and helped him work through his problems stating, "God sent a hero to me," he said. "It was Hank Nava."

His generous personality extended beyond his call to service as a police officer. Officer Nava could often be found working out in the community especially with children. The impact of his death left a wounded community. Currently, the Fort Worth police are having difficulties reassigning his patrol unit. It seems that citizens just started showing up and signing condolences on the vehicle. But truly, he will be missed most by his family.

Hank Nava is survived by his wife, Teresa and his two children Kayleigh, age nine, and Justin, age four.

We were blessed to have had him protecting us all from the evils of this world. His courage and dedication brought hope of a safer community. He will be remembered as a husband, a hero, and a friend.

REJECT THE MEDICAID PROOF OF CITIZENSHIP REQUIREMENTS IN THE HOUSE RECONCILIATION BILL, H.R. 4241

HON. JOHN LEWIS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2005

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my strong opposition to Section 3145 of the House reconciliation bill that will deny health care to our poorest Americans who desperately need and deserve it. This provision would require people who apply for Medicaid to prove that they are citizens, by producing a birth certificate or a passport. This may not sound like a difficult task to some, but the reality is much, much different.

Many older Americans do not have birth certificates because their parents did not have access to hospitals, and so, they were born at home. This was true in rural America, and is still true in some places today. Also, in the last century, all over the south, because of segregation and racial discrimination, many hospitals would not take minorities. Many minorities, including African Americans, were born at home and don't have a birth certificate.

These people were kept out of the health care system when they came into the world. To keep these same people off of Medicaid