

Robert Gates served this country for 31 years in the United States Air Force. Across three wars he flew in hostile skies from D-Day over France to the jungles of Vietnam. Colonel Gates was decorated with two Legions of Merit, two Distinguished Flying Crosses, the Silver Star, the French Croix-de-Guerre, eight Air Medals and a Presidential Citation from President Roosevelt. He was the first Commander of the 1st Special Operations Wing, Hurlburt Field, FL. He commanded Project "Ice Skate," and successfully built a permanent base with a 5000-foot runway on a floating island (called T-3) near the North Pole. Additionally, Colonel Gates commanded Task Force HIRAN, which established the SHORAN radar tracking stations on the Greenland ice cap.

On May 18 2007, Colonel Gates will add to his lengthy roll of accolades the Spirit of Hope Award. In 1942, during Mr. Hope's first USO tour, then Lieutenant Gates was assigned to fly Mr. Hope and his troupe around the Alaskan and Pacific theaters. Multiple times during his career, he piloted Mr. Hope and other USO entertainers. Over these years, Colonel Gates and Bob Hope formed a life-long personal friendship. Mr. Hope nicknamed Bob Gates "Growing Pains," and often referred to him as his son. Bob Hope so inspired the young officer that Colonel Gates decided to dedicate his entire life, energy, and compassion to helping the spouses and family members of fallen comrades, as well as others less fortunate in the Fort Walton Beach, Florida area.

Colonel Gates was instrumental in organizing twelve USO tours to raise money for the purchase of 79 acres from nearby Eglin Air Force Base to build two world-class assisted living facilities, "Bob Hope's Enlisted Widows Village" and "Theresa Village." Bob Hope's Village includes 256 one, and two-bedroom apartments, gardening plots, a gift shop, swimming pool, nature trails, and a community center that seats over 400 people. Theresa Village has 123 units with similar facilities. In 2003, the Bob and Dolores Hope Foundation donated \$1 million to build a one-of-a-kind welcome center in honor of Bob Gates' many years of support, dedication, and selfless contributions. Colonel Gates is often consulted on future facility construction plans, such as building future nursing care facilities on the Bob Hope Village complex. Additionally, Colonel Gates is an avid contributor and supporter of the Fort Walton Beach Children's Society Golf Tournament and auction that helps raise funds to support local children's agencies.

On behalf of a grateful nation, I extend my deep appreciation to Robert W. Gates for his service to Florida and our country. As he is one of Fort Walton Beach's favorite sons, we are proud to see Bob receive the Spirit of Hope Award this year.

TRIBUTE TO CARTER CORNICK

HON. BARNEY FRANK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 21, 2007

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Madam Speaker, I rise today with Ranking Member BACHUS to recognize L. Carter Cornick III for his dedicated service at the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development.

After serving nearly 5 years, an era of sorts, Mr. Cornick, the General Deputy Assistant Secretary for Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations, will return to the United States Senate as Chief of Staff to Senator JOHN WARNER. In his new role, he will once again be working for the people of the Commonwealth of Virginia, the state he loves and ever-so-proudly calls home.

During his tenure, we have had the pleasure of working closely with Mr. Cornick on many issues involving housing policy. We have relied on him to help turn some of the Committee's ideas into realities at HUD. Mr. Cornick has been helpful on several issues where it was important for us to work together.

In addition to his work as the Department's primary advocate before Congress, Mr. Cornick should also be recognized for the deep admiration he has earned within the halls of HUD. He has taken the time to learn and understand HUD's many complex programs, and has worked with and relied upon the career experts for their advice and historical knowledge of the issues.

We commend Carter Cornick for all of his tireless efforts in representing HUD before Congress, and congratulate him on his latest endeavor in public service. He will be missed.

HONORING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF JUDITH JACKSON

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 21, 2007

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the achievements of Dr. Judith Jackson, principal of Franconia Elementary School in Fairfax County, Virginia, since 1996: and a dedicated public servant for nearly 3 decades. While Dr. Jackson is retiring, she will leave behind a lasting impression of her caring nature and tireless devotion to the school she served so well.

A graduate of Marygrove College, Dr. Jackson, earned her master's degree at the University of Michigan and her doctorate in education at Nova Southeastern University. She began her teaching career as an elementary school teacher in the Detroit Public School System, and has taught soldiers in Germany, where her husband, David Jackson, was stationed with the United States Army, and ex-offenders in Pennsylvania. She arrived in the Fairfax County School system in 1980, where she rose to the rank of Assistant Principal at Woodley Hills Elementary School. In 1996, she passed through a rigorous selection process to become principal of Franconia Elementary. Dr. Judith Jackson is also the mother of 3 wonderful children, Teresa, David, and Kevin.

Throughout her service as principal, she has been ever present in the halls and classrooms of Franconia Elementary. She knows every student by name, and is involved in every aspect of life at the school. Dr. Jackson never misses an opportunity to read to the children at school events, and is unmatched in her advocacy of the development of reading and writing skills at the elementary level. As one member of her staff put it, "All she does, day after day, is tirelessly search for ways in which every student can achieve, and every student

can experience the joy of learning". Some of the innovative programs supported by Dr. Jackson to this end are the "Reading Restaurant", "Literary Lunch", "Friday Night Prime Time", and "Partners in Print", making learning, and reading in particular, fun for her students. In recognition of her efforts, the library at Franconia Elementary School has been renamed the "Judith Jackson Library."

A supporter of after-school programs, Dr. Jackson instituted Math and Science Nights, supported "CETA (Changing Education Through the Arts)", and regularly attended Parent-Teacher Association meetings that fostered dialogue with parents and teachers. She has also volunteered with the Red Cross, tutored members of the military at the United States Military Academy at West Point, and assisted with Koinonia's efforts to help the underprivileged.

The Franconia Mustangs will sorely miss her, but will not forget her any time soon. As the Ayoud triplets, second graders at Franconia put it, "We'll just have to retire too, since Franconia won't be the same without Dr. Jackson." Something tells me she won't let them.

I commend Dr. Jackson on her distinguished career in education, and wish her and her family health and happiness in her well-earned, much deserved retirement.

TRIBUTE TO THE U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS KANSAS CITY DISTRICT

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 21, 2007

Mr. SKELTON. Madam Speaker, the United States Army Corps of Engineers Kansas City District is celebrating its 100th anniversary in 2007. Over the last century, the people who make up the Kansas City District have provided meaningful services to the people of Missouri and of our nation.

In the early days, the Kansas City District's primary mission was to develop and maintain a navigational channel along the Missouri River to encourage barge traffic. Barge traffic remains a vital concern along the river. Since the early 1900's, barges have been critical to moving farm products to markets and to control railroad freight rates via competition along the river. This commitment to navigation has always been so very important to those of us who hail from Missouri.

The Kansas City District has also played an important role in taming the turbulent and braided Missouri River. The men and women of the District have built numerous river control structures that have stabilized banks and used the force of the river's own current to carve a stable channel. They have constructed canals and river cutoffs that changed the course of the river. At the same time, they have offered easier navigation, opening the stream to, use, as a highway for goods.

In the 1930s and 1940s, the Kansas City District tackled flood control concerns and helped protect property and lives along the river and its tributaries. Because of flooding and the federal government's commitment to employ Army engineer officers returning from battle in World War II, dams were constructed along the main stem of the river and on adjacent streams. The Flood Control Act of 1944