

THANKING MR. PHIL NICHOLS FOR
HIS SERVICE TO THE HOUSE

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, on the occasion of his retirement this month, I rise to thank Mr. Phil Nichols for his long career of outstanding service to the U.S. House of Representatives.

Phil Nichols has been an employee of the House for 31 years. During that time, he has earned the respect and admiration of his fellow co-workers. Phil is a person of great character and will leave behind a legacy of professionalism, hard work and dedication to this institution. His list of accomplishments is far too lengthy to include in this tribute.

However, one major accomplishment of Phil's was his contribution to the team that upholstered the two chairs used by the Vice President of the United States and the Speaker of the House for every State of the Union speech.

Phil's retirement is bittersweet. The House will lose an individual who from day one of his employment made a long term commitment to excellence. His performance has always been exceptional and above and beyond expectations. His legacy will live on in the Chamber of the U.S. House of Representatives as we wish him many wonderful years of happy retirement.

IN HONOR OF PRIVATE FIRST
CLASS JOSHUA G. ROMERO,
UNITED STATES ARMY

HON. KAY GRANGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Ms. GRANGER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the courage of a brave and dedicated hero of the Fort Worth community and of our Nation.

PFC Joshua G. Romero was a proud United States Army soldier and a true American hero who gallantly gave his life for his country on May 18, 2007, during combat operations in Tahrir, Iraq.

Assigned to the First Cavalry Division of Fort Hood, Texas, Joshua enlisted during time of war, which speaks volumes about his character, bravery, and clear sense of patriotism.

Joshua is survived by his wife, son, father, mother, step-mother, and all of his sisters and brothers.

Our thoughts and prayers are with them and all his family and friends.

Our community and Nation honor Joshua's memory and we are grateful for his faithful and noble service to our country.

PFC Joshua G. Romero will never be forgotten. His memory lives on through his family and the legacy of selfless service that he so bravely imprinted on our hearts.

RECOGNIZING MOBILE AREA
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE PRESI-
DENT WIN HALLETT AND ECO-
NOMIC DEVELOPMENT VICE
PRESIDENT BILL SISSON FOR
THEIR ROLE IN RECRUITING
THYSSENKRUPP TO ALABAMA

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, today I rise to congratulate Mobile Chamber of Commerce President Win Hallett and Economic Development Vice President Bill Sisson for their efforts in recruiting Thyssen Krupp to build a new steel mill in southwest Alabama.

Both Win and Bill worked tirelessly over the past 2 years to recruit this world class steel company to Alabama. In an unprecedented way, leaders from across Alabama and the region came together to promote the Alabama site.

Over a century ago, steel was Alabama's "cash crop" and steel manufacturing played a major role in Alabama's industrial revolution. Now in 2007, Alabama is one of the leading producers of automobiles in the United States. ThyssenKrupp's announcement brings Alabama's steel legacy full circle.

The impact of this new steel mill will be profound. ThyssenKrupp's new steel mill promises at least 2,700 new permanent jobs, paying upwards of \$50,000 a year. Construction will require almost 30,000 employees who will earn \$40,000 to \$50,000 a year. Such benefits would not be possible without the outstanding leadership of the Mobile Area Chamber of Commerce, who in recent years has also played a lead role in other development projects including: Northrop Grumman/EADS choosing Mobile as the home for its plant to build tankers for the Air Force should the team be awarded the contract; investors choosing Mobile County as the future home of the \$600 million Alabama Motorsports Park, A Dale Earnhardt Jr. Speedway; and the RSA Battle House Tower, which is the tallest building along the Gulf Coast.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you and my colleagues to join me in honoring Mobile Area Chamber of Commerce President Win Hallett and Economic Development Vice President Bill Sisson for their outstanding accomplishments. I would like to offer each of them my heartfelt thanks on behalf of the First Congressional District for their continued contributions to the great State of Alabama.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO DONNA
VOLNER

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mrs. Donna Volner, who is retiring from Clark County after 15 years of distinguished service.

Donna, who is from Los Angeles, CA, began her career in Missouri where she ini-

tially served as a clerk/typist for Missouri State Welfare. During her tenure with the Missouri State Welfare, Donna exhibited her tireless dedication and her great abilities and by the end of her 14 years of service. As a result of her commitment and dedication to serving others, Donna was named County Director.

Donna's work for Clark County began in the early 1990s, when she accepted a position as an eligibility worker for Clark County Social Services. In 1995, Donna transferred to the Neighborhood Justice Center, where she served the community for 12 years. After retiring from Clark County, Donna plans to continue her service to the Clark County Community as a volunteer for Clark County Social Services and at the local Ronald McDonald House.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor Donna Volner. Her tireless work for Clark County has improved the lives of countless people. I thank her for her dedication and commitment to the community and wish her the best in her future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO MR. TEX BJORKLUND

HON. BILL SALI

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Mr. SALI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the accomplishments of Mr. Tex Bjorklund.

During the 1950's, Tex Bjorklund was a police officer with the Los Angeles Police Department. While on patrol, he received a call to respond to a shooting at a nearby location. Upon arriving at the scene Mr. Bjorklund discovered the body of a 7-year-old girl who accidentally had shot and killed herself with a handgun found in the glove compartment of a car.

Deeply moved, Tex began working on a way to help prevent this kind of tragedy from recurring. As a result, he invented a device that would not only allow Americans to retain their right to keep and bear arms but also keep children from hurting themselves by using firearms. In fact, Tex was one of the first people to devise what we call today a "trigger lock".

Unlike advocates of sweeping gun restrictions, Mr. Bjorklund realized gun-related problems were not the weapons themselves but rather those who misuse them. In the wrong hands a weapon can be misused by those too young to understand the deadly force guns possess or by those who mean to do us harm.

Tex saw the need for a device that would ensure firearms are operated only for their intended use. Subsequently, Mr. Bjorklund began a quest to invent such a product. Today there are hundreds of different models of locks for many models of firearms.

We will never truly know how many lives Mr. Bjorklund saved, but it is fitting we honor him today for his invention.