

Whereas, Al Davies has broadened her abilities and skills in the sport of soccer; and  
Whereas, Al Davies was a supportive team player; and

Whereas, Al Davies always displayed sportsmanship on and off of the field; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that along with his friends, family, and the residents of the 18th Congressional District, I congratulate Al Davies on placing second in the Manchester Umbro International Cup. We recognize the tremendous hard work and sportsmanship she has demonstrated.

TRIBUTE TO SOUTH FORK VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT OF PENDLETON COUNTY

**HON. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO**

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 6, 2007*

Mrs. CAPITO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor South Fork Volunteer Fire Department of Pendleton County, West Virginia which will be celebrating its 45th anniversary.

South Fork Volunteer Fire Department was incorporated December 6, 1962. Those serving as the first officers were President: Herald Williams, Vice-President: Fred Williams, Secretary: Carl Nesselrodt, and Treasurer: Orville Gum; and the original members also included Marvin Hartman, Albert Joseph, Sheridan Layman, Harold Miller, Harold Wilson, and Mervin Zirk. The formation of the fire department would not be possible without community involvement; the land and materials used for the construction of the original firehouse were all donated, many by the original members and officers.

South Fork Volunteer Fire Department has expanded its facilities, equipment, and operations over its 45 year span. Construction was completed on March 20, 2004 for a new firehouse located on Route 21. South Fork Volunteer Fire Department now boasts 35 volunteer members, 15 auxiliary members, and has a fleet of six vehicles.

I would like to extend my gratitude to the past and current members of South Fork Volunteer Fire Department for providing safety to our citizens in times of emergency and dire need. Our first responders and volunteer fire departments represent the best of our communities.

I extend congratulations to South Fork Volunteer Fire Department and all of those who have been involved with 45 successful years of serving and protecting the community of Brandywine.

LAMAR UNIVERSITY COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT RECOGNIZED FOR DOCUMENTARY TEXAS WETLANDS

**HON. TED POE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 6, 2007*

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, today I am pleased to honor the students and faculty of the Lamar University Department of Communication for their work on Texas Wetlands, a

documentary film underlining the importance of Texas Wetlands to our nation's ecosystem. This film was recently awarded first place in the student/amateur category at the North American Association for Environmental Education/Pierce Foundation Environmental Education Film and Video Festival. This prestigious award granted the documentary the opportunity to be premiered last week at the NAAEE's Annual Conference.

Wetlands can be found up and down the 360 miles of Texas' sprawling Gulf Coast. Many of these wildlife sanctuaries are located in or just outside the Second Congressional District. Lamar students and professors along with 42 middle and high school students traveled to wetland areas in the Big Thicket, Shangri La, and the JD Murphee Wild Life Management Area to capture footage for their award winning documentary. Students, with the guidance of their professors in the Communications Department, wrote, edited, did the videography and appeared as reporters in the film.

Lamar University and its students, who I am proud to represent, continue to achieve in all areas of higher learning. Recognizing the importance of Texas' natural resources, Lamar University has taken a proactive approach in preserving these wetlands. Soon our country will need to look to a new generation of leaders to help her face adversity, both foreign and domestic. I am confident that these leaders will emerge from the halls of Lamar University.

And that's just the way it is.

IN RECOGNITION OF CAROL WATKINS

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 6, 2007*

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Carol Watkins for her 46 years of public service to the people of Northeast Ohio.

Carol began her career in 1960 at the Cleveland Downtown Social Security Field Office. She held many positions at the office over the years, including Clerk Stenographer, Executive Secretary, Management Analyst, Administrative Officer and Group Supervisor. In 1984, she accepted the appointment of Hearing Office Director at the Cleveland Office of Disability Adjudication and Review.

During her tenure at the Cleveland ODAR, Carol has worked with over thirty Administrative Law Judges and has been recognized many times for her tireless dedication. Under her leadership, the Cleveland ODAR had received several national and regional awards as well as recognition from the legal and charity communities.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring Carol Watkins for her lifetime commitment to serving the Cleveland community through her career with the Social Security Administration. May her dedication to public service serve as an inspiration for us all.

HONORING LARRY DITO

**HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 6, 2007*

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a man who has literally changed the face of one of the largest cities in my district. Larry Dito has for 35 years directed the parks, recreation and community services program for the City of Novato. On a small budget, using good old-fashioned teamwork and cooperation, Larry has enriched the lives of skateboarders, dog owners, seniors and teens by creating new buildings, new parks and new opportunities, as well as renovating older ones and making them usable.

From his first days here, in 1972, Larry gather a small, loosely-banded group of rural folks and formed it into a community.

"He developed the mission of the department to enrich community life," says Jennifer Goldfinger, assistant to the city manager. "And that's really what he's been all about."

Larry accomplished this by convincing people to work together for the greater good. Members of Rotary, Elks, schools and neighborhoods pitched in to realize the vision of a community where all its citizens could enjoy living there.

"He is known for creating partnerships," Goldfinger explains. "He's very good at bringing people together." And those same people extol his virtues. He is universally liked and admired.

"I cannot think of a negative thing about him," notes Nancy Sangster, who, as a former parks and recreation commissioner, worked with Larry for years and still considers him a friend. "Any good word you can find in the dictionary, you can say about him."

High praise, perhaps, but Larry has earned it. Thanks to his work, Novato seniors have the Margaret Todd Senior Center. Because of Larry's ability to build consensus with other organizations, Novato teens have a place to hang out—the Novato Teen Center. With Larry's help and guidance in engineering a joint project, the City's children have the Novato Gymnastics Center, the skate park, the Hill gym, and a full complement of girls' sports programs and after school athletics.

But Larry has not just created new programs and facilities; he has also given new life to the old. He spearheaded the renovation of the Indian Valley College swimming pool, as well as the outdoor ball fields there.

Sangster adds to the list the Hamilton reuse projects at the old Hamilton Air Force Base. Here, Larry had the pool and amphitheater renovated for activities, programs and plays the entire county can participate in.

His tireless efforts have also resulted in a number of small alterations in the city—improvements that most people didn't notice, but that affected the lives of many. For example, it was Larry who convinced concerned homeowners that allowing the upgrade of neighborhood parks to make them ADA accessible would actually benefit them, as well.

"He always found groups to help build, so that much of the labor was donated," Sangster explains. "He knows how to bring out the best in everybody."

And this list doesn't begin to include all Larry's accomplishments.