

watch us plot position, lay down courses," said Petty Officer Nelligan. "How we organize the crew, how we get our boat set up, how we're going to respond. They're pretty much testing everything that could possibly go wrong."

The unit also realizes these things can mean life or death when it's not a drill. "We are a search and rescue station," said Petty Officer Nelligan. "It's the middle of the night, it's the middle of the day, during a meal, those are the times you really have to snap to and get the boats ready."

Petty Officer Nelligan joined the Coast Guard shortly after the September 11, 2001 attacks on the World Trade Center in New York City. "I wanted to be involved in some branch of the service that I knew was going to protect my family, and this country," said the Dennis native.

Petty Officer Robertson, who grew up in Wrentham, is a six-year veteran of the Coast Guard. He flashes a broad grin when recalling the day Chief Barr told the assembled crew that they had won the Kimball Award. "Definitely a lot of big smiles and high fives," he said.

Petty Officer Robertson likes the Menemsha assignment so much, he asked to extend his duty an extra year. "I like the whole Island vibe, the whole atmosphere," he said. "We have a blast in the summer, we have a really tight-knit crew here. We work hard and play hard."

The pride carries over to the town of Chilmark, which has come to think of the station as its own. "They are an integral part of our community," said Chilmark selectman Frank Fenner Jr., who along with selectman Riggs Parker, and a large contingent of town officers, police officers, residents, attended the morning ceremony. "I'm proud that this station is doing so well."

HORRIFIC ATTACK ON BAGHDAD MARKET

HON. DAVID G. REICHERT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 14, 2008

Mr. REICHERT. Madam Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart. On February 1, 2008, two young women with developmental disabilities walked into a Baghdad market, most likely unaware that they were being used as walking bombs, about to be remotely detonated.

In a horrific and coordinated attack, these vulnerable women lost their lives, along with more than 70 other innocent bystanders.

As the godfather of a young boy who has developmental disabilities and as a strong advocate for that community, it is my hope that we continue to fight against the exploitation of these heroic people anywhere in the world.

This horrific attack is the latest demonstration of the kind of uncivilized evil that we are confronting in the war on terror. We have even heard rumors this week that young children are being used by these terrorists. What kind of human being would stoop to this level to achieve their aims?

Madam Speaker, this event should serve as an example why our Nation must continue to protect the rights of the innocent and to continue to preserve freedom for everyone.

TRIBUTE TO DEBBIE HALEY

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 14, 2008

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a longtime civic and political leader from East Houston—Debbie Haley of Terrell—who died recently at the age of 72. Mrs. Haley was an outstanding citizen who devoted a lifetime to helping those in her community, and she will be missed by all those who knew her.

Leona Deborah Penn Haley was born on February 24, 1935, in Queens, a borough of New York City, the daughter of Edward and Rella Penn. She was a graduate of Queens College. From 1958 to 1966, Mrs. Haley taught in elementary schools in New York and Nashville, TN. In 1968, Haley and her husband, a physician, moved to Houston.

Mrs. Haley emphasized education as the key to advancing minority interests. Founder of the Texas Black Caucus, in 1976, she was a delegate to the Democratic National Convention.

Debbie Haley was also a president of the Cultural Arts Council of Houston and Harris County. For years, she also was a board member of the United Negro College Fund.

Madam Speaker, Debbie Haley's commitment to her community, her legacy of generosity, and her selflessness serve as an example to all Americans. It is people like Debbie, working together in communities in Texas that make our Nation so great. We can celebrate the power of one individual, Debbie Haley, by bringing the best out of all us in our neighbors, our community, and our Nation.

In addition to her son Anthony, survivors include her husband, Ronald Haley of Houston; two other sons, Sean Haley of Pearland and Kyle Haley of North Hollywood, Calif.; and a daughter, Rhonda Sewell of Sugar Land.

She was well-loved and well-respected in Houston and Texas, and she will be missed by all those who knew her. Madam Speaker, I am honored today to pay a final tribute to this outstanding community leader, Debbie Haley.

HONORING MR. VIC TRUJILLO

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 14, 2008

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mr. Vic Trujillo for receiving the "7-Everyday Hero" award. I am pleased to recognize his service and the many contributions he has made to our community.

For the last 12 years, Lions Club member Vic Trujillo and his wife Ida volunteered side by side. Their dedication to the community blossomed into a program to prevent neighbors from going hungry while empowering youth to help others. Mr. Trujillo has continued the family's commitment to community service even after his wife's passing.

Partnering with schools in the tri-town area of Firestone, Frederick, and Dacono, the Trujillos have created a canned-good competition in which area schools compete to collect the

most canned goods. Prairie Ridge Elementary School won the most recent competition—collecting well over 4,000 canned food items. With the cans from other schools, this program fills the tri-town food closets each year—providing about 60 families with donated food every month. For people who do not have homes or food, this service is life-saving. To augment the canned resources, Mr. Trujillo has also encouraged these schools to sponsor a community bingo game.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join with me in congratulating Mr. Vic Trujillo for his exceptional community work and to express our appreciation for his efforts. I'm proud to acknowledge his reception of the "7-Everyday Hero" award and wish him good health, happiness, and success in his future endeavors.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. KENNY C. HULSHOF

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 14, 2008

Mr. HULSHOF. Madam Speaker, on February 12, 2008, I was unavoidably detained and missed votes. Listed below are the votes I missed and how I would have voted had I been there.

H. Res. 954, rollcall No. 43—Honoring the life of senior Border Patrol agent Luis A. Aguilar, who lost his life in the line of duty near Yuma, Arizona, on January 19, 2008. Had I been here, I would have voted "yes."

H. Res. 909, rollcall No. 44—Commemorating the courage of the Haitian soldiers that fought for American independence in the "Siege of Savannah" and for Haiti's independence and renunciation of slavery. Had I been here, I would have voted "yes."

H. Con. Res. 281, rollcall No. 45—Celebrating the birth of Abraham Lincoln and recognizing the prominence the Declaration of Independence played in the development of Abraham Lincoln's beliefs. Had I been here, I would have voted "yes."

HONORING JOHN MIKOLAJCIK, OF AMERICAN CANYON, CALIFORNIA

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 14, 2008

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize John Mikolajcik in honor of his service to the city and people of American Canyon, California.

Mr. Mikolajcik was born in Cohoes, New York, on April 30, 1921. He received his call of duty a day after Pearl Harbor. He enlisted in the United States Marine Corps, where he served 4½ years as a mess sergeant. In 1954 he built and opened the Mid City Nursery in American Canyon, a nursery which has continued to flourish throughout the years. He began his career of public service when he was appointed to the American Canyon School Board, which was consolidated into the Napa Valley Unified School District, serving a total of 22 years. Thanks to the guidance of Mr. Mikolajcik, American Canyon now has three