

her knack for floral arrangements by making flower arrangements with tin cans and tissue paper in the shape of carnations which were sold for the cemetery. Minerva graduated from high school in 1948 in Hebbronville, Texas, and attended Texas A&I Kingsville. She worked her way through 2 years of college by teaching students at La Alejandrena Elementary School in Zapata County. Minerva was transferred to San Ygnacio, where she met her husband, Robert, and married in 1955. They moved to Laredo, and had three children: Carmen, Minita, and Robert Jr. Minerva taught and served as assistant principal at Ochoa Elementary for 17 years and became principal of Zachry Elementary School in 1981.

She started a flower shop, Carmin's, from the carport of her home in 1965, and the business grew so successful that Minerva retired from her teaching profession in 1986. One of her career highlights was being picked as the florist for the visitation of Pope John Paul II in San Antonio, Texas, in 1988 at the San Fernando Cathedral. Minerva has admirably served the community of Laredo, Texas, through her work as an educator to the youth of Laredo, and her contributions to the business community. For her dedication and hard work as a business entrepreneur, Minerva will be honored by the Junior Achievement League through her induction into the 2008 Business Hall of Fame.

Madam Speaker, I am honored to have had this time to recognize the dedication of Mrs. Minerva Ramirez, and I thank you for this time.

SUPPORTING THE MISSION AND GOALS OF WORKERS MEMORIAL DAY

SPEECH OF

HON. PHIL HARE

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 30, 2008

Mr. HARE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 1154, supporting the mission and goals of Workers Memorial Day, and commend my colleague, Representative EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON for introducing this important resolution.

Just 2 days ago on April 28th we honored the 20th Annual Workers Memorial Day, when people all over the world gathered to remember the workers who have been killed or injured on the job.

April 28th also commemorated the creation of the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA). Since 1970, OSHA has been a driving force in improving workplace safety and health conditions across the country. However, the Bush administration has sought to stifle that progress by downsizing OSHA, favoring employer voluntary programs over real enforcement.

A weakened OSHA has real life-or-death consequences for American workers. One such worker is Cintas washroom employee Eleazar Torres-Gomez—father of four—who was killed on March 6, 2007 when he was dragged by a conveyor belt into an industrial dryer.

Mr. Torres-Gomez's fate is unfortunately too common—16 workers die every day in our country from work-related injuries. In 2005

alone, over 5,700 workers were killed at work, and the situation is only getting worse. The Bureau of Labor Statistics found that the number of workplace deaths jumped by more than two percent between 2005 and 2006.

Last year, Representative LYNN WOOLSEY and I, along with Senator TED KENNEDY introduced the "Protecting America's Workers Act," which amends OSHA to cover more workers, increases penalties and strengthens protections and accountability. The best way to honor Mr. Torres-Gomez and all the other workers who have been killed at their jobs is to quickly send this bill to the President's desk.

Again, I thank Representative EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON for introducing this resolution to honor our workers.

COMMENDING THE EFFORTS OF THE VILLAGE OF BETHALTO, ILLINOIS FOR ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION

HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 2008

Mr. COSTELLO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in commending the efforts of the Village of Bethalto for their service to the community and the environment by developing green spaces and parks around its community.

Recently, the Village of Bethalto christened the Culp Lake Park on the northwest portion of the community. This newly opened public space is an inspiration to other cities hoping to brighten their communities and provide their citizens with opportunities to enjoy the outdoors.

In the early 1960's, the Village of Bethalto developed a 17-acre lagoon site that, after years of disregard, became connected with the Alton Sewer Treatment Plant in 1972. While village officials sought to transform the lagoon for many years, it was not until Mayor Steve Bryant began the final push that ultimately led to the gorgeous green space there today.

In 1997, Mayor Bryant and village officials established a park plan that envisioned not just a green space, but a versatile area with recreational facilities, picnic pavilions, and beautiful landscaping. With urban sprawl on the rise, Mayor Bryant and village officials decided it was time to turn this blighted area of the village into a family friendly environment.

In order to keep costs at a minimum, village officials acquired grant funding from Madison County and the State of Illinois that led to the clean-up and filling in of the lagoon, the formation of a 4 acre fishing lake, and the ultimate creation of the park.

Not only was this effort championed by the Village Board, residents of the village took it upon themselves to contribute. The Bethalto Boys and Girls club, for example, donated and planted trees at the park.

Thanks to this type of effort, the Metro-East, located across the Mississippi River from St. Louis, Missouri, boasts the largest percentage of green spaces among the top 10 metropolitan areas in the State of Illinois.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in commending the efforts of Mayor Steve

Bryant and the village officials from Bethalto, Illinois for their dedication to environmental conservation.

RECOGNIZING ATTORNEY JOHN TUCKER

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 2008

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, today I come to recognize the many achievements of the man known as "the wizard of trial law," John G. Tucker, who passed away at the age of 100 in January 2008. With his signature bow tie and flat top hair cut, Tucker was a fixture of the legal profession in Southeast Texas for over 75 years.

Tucker's father was an Army officer serving in Cuba as part of a peacekeeping force where officers were allowed to have their families live with them. His wife was 8 months pregnant when they found out that if born on Cuban soil, their son could never run for President of the United States. Knowing her son was destined for greatness, Tucker's mother set sail for New York City and eventually landed in Kansas City, Kansas, where John was born.

Though he never ascended to the highest office in the United States, Tucker was rather successful in all of his endeavors. He attended college in Pennsylvania and went on to graduate from Harvard Law School. John moved to Southeast Texas in the middle of the Great Depression of the 1930s, determined to take advantage of the boom created by the oil refineries. He joined the law firm created by William Orgain in 1933. The name was changed to Orgain, Bell, and Tucker in 1945 and continues to set the bar for legal excellence to this very day.

John Tucker tried over 90 cases in state and federal court and has argued cases before the Texas Supreme Court. He was deemed a Southeast Texas Legend by the Beaumont Foundation of America scholarship board in February 2007, becoming only the second person at the time to earn such honor.

On behalf of the Second Congressional District of Texas, I want to honor John G. Tucker for his lifetime of accomplishments. Through his diligent efforts and dedication he has made Southeast Texas a better place to live for generations to come.

HONORING MR. MICHAEL J. QUINN

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 2008

Mr. ANDREWS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Michael J. Quinn, senior news writer for CBS News Philadelphia, who retired on April 24, 2008. Mr. Quinn began working in TV news in 1961 at Channel 10, a CBS affiliate. During his tenure with Channel 10, Mr. Quinn served as a news writer, newscast producer, reporter and news anchor. In 1984, Mr. Quinn began working at CBS 3 Eyewitness News, serving as a senior news writer and as a producer for the "Newsmakers" program.