

union) and small ones (inventing the screw propeller). But until now, Washington had no monument to a man who left an enormous mark, not only on American government, but on the lives of our people: Lyndon Baines Johnson.

Until this year, the only thing named for LBJ in the capital area was a Memorial Grove, a clump of trees on the Potomac in Virginia. But when the Department of Education building is formally renamed for LBJ on September 18, it will finally provide Washington recognition for the man who fundamentally reshaped the role of government in the United States.

On one level, ignoring LBJ in Washington simply replicates what has happened in politics and academia. For Republicans and those on the right, the Johnson years have always been anathema. He promised to be the "education president," the "health president" and the "poor people's president." He did all of that and more, earning the enduring hatred of those who loathe government.

But more surprising is that the man who presided over that spectacular legislative run of victories for activist government that he called the "Great Society" has been the forgotten man by the party he once led. At Democratic conventions, FDR, Truman, and Kennedy are the iconic figures to whom speakers pay homage; LBJ goes unmentioned.

Historians too seemed to look past LBJ—textbooks and history classes often pay little heed to the achievements of Johnson's domestic agenda. For many, it seems, the shadow of Vietnam obscures everything else about LBJ's career and accomplishments.

That is a serious misreading of history, as a brief review of Johnson's legacy makes clear. It is his educational agenda that will be deservedly memorialized in the naming ceremony. The 1965 Elementary and Secondary Education Act was landmark legislation. It did not have a fancy title like "No Child Left Behind," but the ESEA marked the first time the federal government committed to helping local school districts—and with funding, not directives. The 1965 Higher Education Act provided scholarships, grants, loans and work study programs—hundreds of billions of dollars worth—that made college possible for millions who could not afford it before. In addition, LBJ, himself once a school teacher in a desperately poor Texas district, was the president who first recognized and funded bilingual and special education.

But education is only part of the story. Medicare transformed the health delivery system for older Americans, having helped almost 50 million citizens stay out of poverty and live longer. Medicaid has served over 200 million needy people since its creation. The Heath Professions Act helped to double the number of doctors graduating from medical school.

LBJ's "War on Poverty" would later become a whipping boy for right-wing critics, but Head Start, Upward Bound, VISTA, the Job Corps and other poverty programs made their mark across the years, despite diminished resources and lack of commitment in some subsequent administrations.

And it was the political genius of the man who "knew the deck on Capitol Hill" that played a critical role in pushing through the landmark Civil Rights and Voting Rights Acts in 1964 and 1965.

There is much more. In a nation which no longer seems to address infrastructure needs, Johnson's White House gave us the Urban Mass Transit Act, bringing MARTA to Atlanta, BART to the San Francisco Bay and, of course, Metro to Washington. And Johnson was truly a pioneer of environmentalism, spearheading the Clean Air, Water Quality,

Clean Water Restoration, Solid Waste Disposal and Motor Vehicle Air Pollution Control Acts. Johnson also gave us regulatory protections like product and child safety, truth in packaging and truth in lending legislation, as well as the creation of OSHA.

LBJ promised that the Great Society would be concerned with the quality of our lives as well as the quantity of our goods. The Corporation for Public Broadcasting and the Endowments for the Arts and the Humanities were the result. There would be hundreds of playhouses, opera companies, professional orchestras and dance companies created or supported with federal dollars.

With the possible exception of FDR's first term, there was never anything like this record of legislative accomplishment. It is clear why the political right wants to bury the memory of LBJ. But why progressives have chosen to disregard his extraordinary domestic achievement is something else. The naming of the education building is a start in redressing this act of historical amnesia.

RECOGNIZING JESSICA RAE HERRERA-FLANIGAN

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 4, 2008

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Jessica Rae Herrera-Flanigan, Staff Director and General Counsel of the Committee on Homeland Security, for her dedication to the security of the Nation. As the chairman of the committee, it is with sadness that I report that on Friday, June 6, she will be leaving us for the private sector. I speak for all the committee's members and staff in saying that she will be missed.

Jessica has the distinction of being the longest serving Democratic staffer on the committee, having joined it in 2003 when it was merely a select committee. She has played a pivotal role, first as Counsel under former Ranking Member Jim Turner, and then as my top aide, in the committee's development and growth over the last 5 years.

Jessica was a well-respected cybercrime prosecutor and former Department of Justice official before coming to the Hill. With the attacks of September 11, her knowledge of cybersecurity and critical infrastructure protection put her on the frontlines of homeland security, before it was known as that. She came to the House for the right reasons shortly thereafter—because she believed we could do better to secure our Nation.

I truly believe that Jessica symbolizes the future of our Nation's national security leaders. Leaders that look more like America. The daughter of Leonel and the late Virginia Ann Herrera, she grew up in the southeast Texas oil-refining town of Port Arthur, Texas, which she saw struck by Hurricane Rita during her tenure on the committee. With the help of student loan and work-study programs, she graduated from Yale University and Harvard Law School. She is, I've been told, the first and only Latina to ever serve as a staff director of a full committee in the House. And don't let her 4'11" frame fool you—she is a 1st degree blackbelt and a sharpshooter.

Any recognition would be incomplete if I did not thank Tom Flanigan for lending us so much of his wife's time and energy. He not only stood by her, but by the committee as we

tackled its creation, Hurricanes Katrina, Rita, and Wilma, the 9/11 implementation bill, and countless other homeland security issues over the last 5 years.

In sum, I welcome this opportunity to recognize Jessica Herrera-Flanigan for her tireless work, patriotism, and professional dedication to Congress, the Committee of Homeland Security, and the Nation.

SALUTING OUR SOLDIERS OF TOMORROW

HON. SAM JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 4, 2008

Mr. JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise this morning to salute our soldiers, sailors, airmen and marines of tomorrow, the service-bound academy students of the Third District of Texas. This district of Texas is home to some of the best and the brightest young people. It is always an honor to recommend such high caliber students to our Nation's service academies.

These students represent the future of our Armed Forces. Each one is a leader and will do a superb job serving in the finest military in the world. My thoughts and prayers are with each student as they pursue their dreams and serve their country.

I know each student is ready to join the premier military force of the world and wish them all the best.

The 8 appointees and their hometowns are as follows:

Allen High School: Ji, (Daniel), Hun Hong, Allen, TX, U.S. Naval Academy; Ji, (Alex), Hyuk Hong, Allen, TX, U.S. Naval Academy.

McKinney High School: Sean Gent, McKinney, TX, U.S. Air Force Academy.

McKinney North High School: Colton Floyd, McKinney, TX, U.S. Air Force Academy.

Plano East Senior High School: Justin Aguilar, Richardson, TX, United States Air Force Academy; Mark Carrion, Plano, TX, U.S. Naval Academy.

Plano Senior High School: Junqin Li, Plano, TX, U.S. Military Academy.

Plano West Senior High School: Alexa Ramsier, Dallas, TX, U.S. Air Force Academy.

To these 8 appointees I say, God bless you. God bless America. I salute you.

TRIBUTE TO BEVERLY LARGENT

HON. ED WHITFIELD

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 4, 2008

Mr. WHITFIELD. Madam Speaker, I rise in recognition of Beverly Largent, a Pediatric Dentist who practices in the City of Paducah located in my District, the First Congressional District of Kentucky. On May 25, 2008, Dr. Largent became the first female President of The American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry (AAPD) after proudly serving the AAPD for 20 years.

Founded in 1947, the AAPD is a not-for-profit membership association representing the specialty of pediatric dentistry. The AAPD's 7,300 members are primary oral health care