

truly set a high bar for those who follow in his position.

I am proud to say that Commander Miranda has become a valued friend to me and my staff, and we will miss having his counsel and support here in Congress. As Commander Miranda prepares to leave Capitol Hill to serve as a commanding officer of a United States Submarine, I ask all my colleagues to join me in thanking Commander Miranda and his family for their tireless contributions to a grateful nation and in wishing them the best in their future endeavors.

HONORING DANIEL KAY

HON. NANCY E. BOYDA

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 23, 2008

Mrs. BOYDA of Kansas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Daniel Kay of Ottawa, Kansas. I want to extend my congratulations on his retirement and offer my gratitude for his 32 years of work for the Child Support Enforcement Division of Kansas Social and Rehabilitation Services (SRS).

Mr. Kay's dedication to his job has been a tremendous asset to the State of Kansas and SRS. I commend him on a career devoted to defending children in Kansas who can not defend themselves. The work he has done is greatly appreciated by the State, local communities, and families that have been reached with each child that he has protected.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask that you join me in honoring Daniel Kay, and recognize his outstanding commitment to serving the children of Kansas. I know that whatever he takes on next in life, the people of Kansas remain grateful for his many years of faithful and hard work.

IN MEMORY OF THE VICTIMS OF
COAST GUARD HELICOPTER CG-
6505

HON. ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 23, 2008

Mr. CUMMINGS. Madam Speaker, as Chairman of the Subcommittee on Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation, I rise today to pay a special tribute to four members of the United States Coast Guard.

Lieutenant Commander Andrew Wischmeier, Aviation Survival Technician First Class David Skimin, and Aviation Maintenance Technician Second Class Joshua Nichols, were all killed when the helicopter in which they were conducting training exercises crashed near Honolulu, Hawaii, on September 4.

Commander Thomas Nelson, who was the Executive Officer of Air Station Barbers Point and was also flying as part of the training mission, remains missing.

The active search for Commander Nelson, which encompassed an area of more than 3,000 square miles and involved not only Coast Guard personnel but officials from the City of Honolulu, the United States Navy, and the Air National Guard, has now been suspended.

Commander Nelson, who is originally from Staten Island, had been stationed at Barbers Point since the summer of last year. During his 20-year career, he had served as Deputy Chief of the Office of Security and Defense Operations at Coast Guard Headquarters here in Washington, and at air stations in Louisiana, New York, and Washington state.

Lieutenant Commander Wischmeier, the pilot of the helicopter at the time it crashed, was from Fort Lauderdale, Florida. He graduated from Naval Flight School in 1991 and over his 19-year Coast Guard career, he served at air stations in Florida, Louisiana, and Alaska.

Petty Officer Skimin was from San Bernardino, California. An experienced rescue swimmer, he had served at air stations in Texas, California, and Alaska over his 16-year career.

Petty Officer Nichols was from Gloucester, Virginia, and had been in the Coast Guard for 8 years. He was a flight mechanic and had previously been stationed in Alabama and at several bases in California.

Each of these men was married and had children.

These men gave their lives in service to our nation. As members of the Coast Guard, their mission—the mission to which they chose to devote their professional careers—was saving lives.

To those who are in peril at sea, the sight of a Coast Guard helicopter coming over the horizon means that help is at hand—and that the often desperate hopes of people whose lives are truly at stake are about to be realized.

Throughout their careers, these four men, who combined more than 60 years of service, each contributed their strength, skills, and dedication to making such rescues possible.

My prayers are with the families of those who have been lost to us, the men and women of Barbers Point, and the nearly 42,000 men and women of the Coast Guard who together comprise our thin blue line at sea.

My prayers are also with all the members of the Coast Guard. Every day as they conduct search and rescue operations, interdict illegal drugs, respond to pollution and national security incidents, and man cutters and aircraft, each member of the Coast Guard faces the same risks that Commander Nelson, Commander Wischmeier, Petty Officer Skimin, and Petty Officer Nichols faced with the same dedication to duty that these four showed.

Just this week, we have again seen the Coast Guard's dedication in action as they have worked to aid those who have been so terribly affected by Hurricane Ike, including rescuing more than 200 people.

We thank the members of this service for their heroic efforts—and mourn with them the tragic loss of their comrades.

HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF
REPRESENTATIVE MIKE McNULTY

SPEECH OF

HON. JAMES T. WALSH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 22, 2008

Mr. WALSH of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with great pride to honor someone

who is a good friend and for whom I have great respect—Rep. MICHAEL McNULTY. For two decades MIKE has served as a Member for the House of Representatives, first for the 23rd and then for the 21st Congressional District of New York State. We were elected together to the House of Representatives in 1988, and this year we will leave together. It has been a great honor to work with MIKE for so many years. He has been and will continue to be a good friend.

MIKE began his career in public office in November 1969 as Town Supervisor of Green Island, 8 years later becoming Mayor of the Village of Green Island. He then went on to be elected to represent New York's 106th Assembly District in 1982. Six years later MIKE was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives for the 23rd Congressional District of New York in 1988, and was re-elected in 1990. In 1992, he was elected to represent the new 21st Congressional District, and was re-elected in 1994, 1996, 1998, 2000, 2002, 2004, and 2006.

During his ten terms in office, MIKE has served on the Armed Services Committee, the Small Business Committee, the International Relations Committee, the Committee on Post Office and Civil Service, the Select Committee on Hunger, and the Executive Committee of the Congressional Human Rights Caucus.

MIKE is also currently serving in his fifteenth year on the Ways and Means Committee. I must praise MIKE'S effectiveness as a member of this important committee. Throughout his tenure he has sought to serve wisely and justly, while never failing to attend to the needs of New York State.

In addition, I would like to note MIKE'S service in the chair as the Speaker pro tempore, a position he often occupied during his tenure. He served honorably in that role and was always considered to be fair and impartial.

Many of you may not know that MIKE is a true citizen of the world, having visited an incredible number of countries, spanning all seven continents. One of my most memorable experiences with MIKE was my first trip to Ireland with him and former President Clinton. I fondly remember that Congressional delegation trip and many others that MIKE and I took together.

I thank MIKE for his 20 years of serving the United States and New York and recognize his wife Nancy and his four daughters Michele, Jody, Nancy and Maria for sharing him with us for so many years. I congratulate MIKE on a job well done and wish him the best in a well-deserved retirement.

ARTICLE BY DR. PHYLLIS ZAGANO
CONCERNING CATHOLIC TEACHING
ON HUMAN LIFE

HON. THADDEUS G. McCOTTER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 23, 2008

Mr. McCOTTER. Madam Speaker, today I rise to place into the RECORD an article by Dr. Phyllis Zagano, Senior Research Associate-in-Residence at Hofstra University concerning Catholic teaching on human life.

[From the 2008 Religion News Service]

COMMENTARY: CATHOLICS DEMS AND BISHOPS
IN FOR A BUMPY RIDE
(By Phyllis Zagano)

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi is clearly confused about Catholic teaching on life issues. On NBC's "Meet the Press," Tom Brokaw asked her: "When does life begin?" She answered, "We don't know." Pelosi said "that as an ardent, practicing Catholic," this is an issue she's studied for a long time. "And what I know is, over the centuries, the doctors of the church have not been able to make that definition."

Pelosi is wrong, and some Catholic bishops have tried to correct the record.

I don't think the Democrats are worried.

A few years ago I rode the New York-to-Washington shuttle with a prominent politician who is a Catholic and a Democrat. He said that U.S. bishops collectively squandered their moral authority with the priest pederasty scandal. Whether for so-called "liberal" or "conservative" causes, he said, Catholic bishops are the political touch of death. No one listens to them. Including, it seems, Catholic-educated Pelosi. While the bishops try to straighten out Pelosi, who confuses medieval discussions about "ensoulment" with historical teachings on abortion, the Democrats are trying to sound like they are both for and against abortion.

Brokaw backed Pelosi into a theological corner by playing part of a televised interview in which California Pastor Rick Warren asked Sen. Barack Obama (and, later, Sen. John McCain), "At what point does a baby get human rights?"

Catholicism calls that two questions: First, is the embryo human life? Second, when does the embryo become a person? Obama addressed both questions. He said "If you believe that life begins at conception . . . then I can't argue with you." He also basically said deciding when the embryo becomes a person was above his paygrade. After seeing the Warren-Obama replay, Pelosi muddled Brokaw's question. She said—incorrectly—that the church only decided human life begins at conception "like maybe 50 years" ago.

Wrong, Madame Speaker. "The Didache" (the teachings of the apostles collected a generation after Christ) says, "You shall not procure an abortion, nor destroy a newborn child." Several church fathers—from Tertullian to St. Jerome—and the apostolic constitutions all forbade abortion. Some, however, confused matters by talking about ensoulment, asking when the human being became a human person. The ensoulment debate seems stuck in Pelosi's memory, and could be what she was talking about. She said St. Augustine thought ensoulment occurred about 30 days after conception. But trying to figure out ensoulment only leads to debate over whether abortion is merely similar to murder (killing a human being) or actually equal to murder (killing a human person).

No one knows for sure when the developing human being becomes a person with a soul. It might be at conception, or it might not. So Christianity, with other religions, has historically forbidden abortion in the face of this dilemma because the human being is always potentially a human person. The earliest fertilized egg is not a future banana or frog. It is human life. What's fascinating is that Sens. Joe Biden and John McCain agree that life begins at conception. And although neither expects (or possibly wants) help from the bishops, McCain has the most to gain by Pelosi's misstep.

Pelosi is at best misinformed, and has misinformed a nation. The Catholic bishops will try to counter her bad information. And

Catholic politicians, who have increasingly ignored a lot of Catholic teaching, don't seem to think that what the bishops say will make any difference. Seatbelts, everybody. It's going to be a bumpy ride.

HONORING DR. ROBERT F. KNAUTZ

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 23, 2008

Mr. KILDEE. Madam Speaker, it is with profound sadness that I announce the passing of Dr. Robert F. Knautz, the founding principal of the U.S. House of Representatives Page School. "Dr. K," as he was affectionately known by many of his former students, died on September 17, 2008, at Suburban Hospital in Bethesda, MD. He left an indelible mark on the House Page School, the institution he was charged with creating in 1983. The House Page Program owes a tremendous debt of gratitude to Dr. Knautz for his vision for the School, his commitment to quality education, and his compassion for students.

Dr. Knautz was a proud son of the Land of Lincoln. He was born in Chicago, IL, and remained throughout his life a devoted fan of both the Cubs and the Bears. Dr. Knautz obtained his undergraduate and graduate degrees from Northern Illinois University, earning his bachelor's degree in political science in 1963 and his master's degree in the same subject in 1970. Dr. Knautz also received his Ph.D. in education administration from Northern Illinois in 1982.

Before joining the House Page School, Dr. Knautz spent nearly two decades as an educator and administrator. He taught fifth grade and sixth grade for 2 years each, eighth grade for 3 years, and high school for 3 years. Dr. Knautz made the transition from teaching to administration in 1973, first having dual responsibility for a kindergarten through third grade building and a high school because the two buildings were adjacent to each other. Later he accepted a position at Hiawatha High School in Kirkland, IL, where he served as principal for 7 years.

As a result of a series of reforms in 1983, the U.S. House created the House Page School. Dr. Knautz saw the advertisement for the House Page School principal opening, and applied for the opening. In late July 1983, he flew to Washington to interview. He was offered the job the same day, accepted, and had to move his young family to Washington, D.C. When Dr. Knautz first arrived he lived in the Congressional Hotel (which became House Annex I and was later renamed the O'Neill Building), on the same floor as summer pages, who were moved into the hotel the previous year.

Unlike most principals, Dr. Knautz had to literally create a school from scratch. Also, since the new House Page School was scheduled to open on September 6, 1983, he had only 5 weeks to do so. Dr. Knautz was not only responsible for developing the curriculum, hiring teachers, and cleaning the physical plant; he was also responsible for purchasing textbooks, ordering supplies, and obtaining furniture. Dr. Knautz worked 15-hour days for a month to complete the preparations for the school opening and also found a place for his family to live in his rare spare time.

For Dr. Knautz, being the founding principal at House Page School was one of his proudest professional moments. He served as principal of the House Page School for 18 years until he retired in 2001. Many of the curriculum ideas and school policies he developed are used today at the School.

Dr. Knautz is survived by his wife Mary, daughter Elizabeth, son Jon, brothers Ronald and Roger, and a host of nieces and nephews. He was a loving father, a caring husband, a gifted teacher and brilliant administrator, always putting his full faith in people. The House of Representatives is forever grateful for the service of Robert F. Knautz.

TRIBUTE TO MARK GERALD

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 23, 2008

Mr. CLYBURN. Madam Speaker, it is my honor today to pay tribute to a conscientious constituent, a dedicated educator, and an outstanding role model. Mark Gerald is being honored by the town of Mullins, SC, for his tremendous service as a coach at Mullins High School. This is a job in which he has excelled, never losing focus or dedication even as he suffered debilitating treatments for colon cancer.

Mark Gerald is a 22-year employee of Marion County School District #2. He has held coaching positions for the Mullins High School junior varsity and varsity football teams and the men's basketball programs. He has served as athletic director and head coach of Mullins High School men's varsity basketball program. Coach Gerald has dedicated his adult life to the very district from which he graduated.

He left Marion County and enrolled at Fayetteville State University in Fayetteville, NC. After graduation he returned to the community and the people he loved, and has never left. Coach Gerald never turns his back on anyone in need. He reaches into his own pocket when a player needs a pair of shoes, or when a student doesn't have the basic necessities.

As a coach, Mark Gerald believes in creating a family atmosphere for his players. He spends his summer vacations traveling with his team attending summer camps and organizing the annual Mullins High School Alumni game and picnic during the month of July. He helps students young and old. For the youth, he sponsors the Raymond Felton Basketball Camp. He has successfully secured many college scholarships for his graduates. His dedication to athletics and his athletes has paid great dividends. His teams have won several state division titles and a state championship.

In July 2007, Coach Gerald was preparing for the alumni game when he fell seriously ill. He was initially diagnosed with diverticulitis, but within months he learned he had colon cancer. This spring, he successfully underwent surgery to have the diseased portion of his colon removed. Currently he is undergoing chemotherapy treatments.

Despite his health challenges, Coach Gerald rarely misses a day of work. He schedules his doctors' appointments in the afternoons and never misses any practices or games. He has never let anyone hear him complain, and he continues to smile even through the difficult