

trips to welcoming exchange students into her home.

Last fall, Ellie, along with volunteers from Scottsdale, helped mobilize relief efforts when Alamos, Mexico was struck by a devastating hurricane. She helped provide clothing, food, and relief funds to the residents of Alamos in their mission to rebuild their town.

Ellie and her husband John have had the privilege of traveling all over the world in support of Sister Cities' programs, forming long-standing relationships along their way. Her incredible commitment has raised the bar for all of our citizens and has already inspired many to follow in her path.

Madam Speaker, please join me in recognizing Ellie Ricker's 30 years of work and dedication to Scottsdale Sister Cities and the peoples' lives she has touched.

IN HONOR OF WOODROW WILSON  
HIGH SCHOOL CELEBRATING ITS  
80TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. PETE SESSIONS**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 30, 2009*

Mr. SESSIONS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Woodrow Wilson High School which will celebrate its eightieth anniversary on April 25, 2009.

Since its founding, Woodrow has always been a special part of Dallas. This historic high school was designed by famed Dallas architect Mark Lemmon. To honor its namesake, the school's cornerstone included a piece of wedding cake from Jesse Wilson Sayre, President Woodrow Wilson's daughter. Over the course of its history, Woodrow has educated thousands of bright individuals, nurturing their talent while providing them with a wonderful learning environment as well as many fond memories. In 2006 and 2008, Woodrow made it to Newsweek's list of America's Top Public High Schools.

It is also the only public high school in the United States proudly hailed as the alma maters of two Heisman Trophy winners: Davey O'Brien and Tim Brown. Other notable alumni include legendary real estate developer Trammell Crow, Congressman SAM JOHNSON, Congressman Jim Collins, Texas Attorney General Jim Maddox, Chief Justice Tom Phillips of the Texas Supreme Court, civic leader Ruth Sharp Altshuler, and seven Dallas area mayors. As Woodrow celebrates eighty years, I know it will continue to be a beacon of academic excellence in Dallas.

I ask my colleagues to join me in offering our heartiest congratulations to the faculty, staff, students, and alumni of Woodrow Wilson High School.

HONORING RON LAWSON

**HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 30, 2009*

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Ron Lawson upon being named as a "Distinguished Life Member" by the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Post 9896. Mr.

Lawson was honored on Saturday, January 31, 2009.

Mr. Lawson was born in Los Angeles and attended high school in Bell, California. At seventeen he enlisted in the United States Army. He completed basic training at Fort Ord, California and was on his way to Korea. Once in Korea, he joined the First Cavalry for thirteen months, serving with a heavy weapons infantry unit with duties along the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ). He was then transferred to Germany where he served for five years with the First ARB 46th Infantry and with the 24th Infantry Division. He had duty in Berlin along the wall at Checkpoint Charlie. Upon his return to the U.S. he was assigned as a weapons instructor at Fort Polk, Louisiana.

He was at Fort Polk for a short amount of time before returning to Korea for a second tour. He served in the 7th Cavalry with the 2nd Infantry Division. When he returned to the U.S., he was selected as an instructor at the Drill Sergeant Academy at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri. After completion of the academy, he served as a drill sergeant for new recruits, readying them for advanced training and deployment to Vietnam. In 1970, Mr. Lawson was deployed to Southeast Asia and joined the Military Assistance Command, Vietnam. He was assigned to Team 25 and Mobile Advisory Team 97; Team 25 worked with South Vietnamese Regional Forces in the Central Highlands of II Corps. He provided expert advice to the regional soldiers in tactics while accompanying them on operations against Viet Cong and NVA forces in heavy jungle canopy and rugged mountain terrain. His units also worked with and fought alongside native Montagnard tribesmen. Mr. Lawson was awarded the Bronze Star Medal for his actions while serving with Team 25 and the Vietnam Cross of Gallantry for action with Mobile Team 97.

After completing twelve months in Vietnam, Mr. Lawson returned to Fort Ord and reassigned duties as a drill sergeant. He was reassigned to Germany and joined the 1st Armored Division as Operations Sergeant. He returned to Fort Ord to serve as a first sergeant for the 7th Light Infantry Division until he retired.

During Mr. Lawson's time in the Army he completed many training courses including German Language School, the 24th division NCO Academy, Instructor Preparation Course, Pre-commissioning Course at Fort Benning, Officer Leadership at Fort Ord, Infantry Armor NCO Advanced Course at Fort Benning, the NCO Republic of Vietnam Orientation Course and Drill Sergeant Academy. For his service he was awarded the Bronze Star, the Army Meritorious Service Medal, four Army Commendation Medals, Vietnam Cross of Gallantry with a Gold Star, Vietnam Service Medal, Vietnam Campaign Medal with Device, the Army Occupation award, the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal (Berlin and Korea), Korean Defense Medal, National Defense Service Medal and the Combat Infantry Badge. Mr. Lawson received six letters of commendation and was honored as Fort Ord Drill Sergeant of the Year.

After Mr. Lawson retired he and his family moved to Chowchilla, California and he was employed as a maintenance supervisor. He is a member of the Young Men's Institute, Saint Columba Church and has served as a member of the City of Chowchilla Planning Com-

mission for twenty-one years. He is a life member of the Chowchilla Veterans of Foreign Wars, Post 9896 and member of the American Legion Post 148. He is also the Past Commander of Post 9896 and has held the position of Post Quartermaster for several years. Mr. Lawson currently resides in Chowchilla with his wife Mathilda, they have two children and two grandchildren.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate Ron Lawson upon being named as a "Distinguished Life Member" by the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Post 9896. I invite my colleagues to join me in wishing Mr. Lawson many years of continued success.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. CAROLYN MCCARTHY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 30, 2009*

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Madam Speaker, during rollcall 161 on the amendment offered by Representative GOODLATTE to H.R. 1404, the Federal Land Assistance, Management and Enhancement Act, I recorded a "yes" vote. This was in error; I intended to vote "no."

This amendment would create a new contract authority for the Secretary of the Agriculture to enter into contracts with states regarding projects on National Forest System lands. I, and many of my colleagues, were concerned that these new contracts might not be subject to Davis-Bacon protections or other relevant federal laws that provide wage protections for workers.

I have been a strong and consistent supporter of Davis-Bacon and of ensuring that America's workers are paid a fair wage. Recently, I voted "no" on an amendment to H.R. 1262, the Water Quality Investment Act, that would have removed all Davis-Bacon prevailing wage provisions from the bill.

I regret the error and am pleased that the Goodlatte amendment did not pass.

TRIBUTE TO RON SILVER

**HON. MARY BONO MACK**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 30, 2009*

Mrs. BONO MACK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of Ron Silver and mourn his untimely passing.

Ron Silver's talent and passion as an artist was evident on the screen, television and the stage. He received numerous awards and accolades from his peers for his memorable performances and his ability to entertain audiences. He cared about his craft and was beloved by the people who had the good fortune to work with him.

It's rare that an individual can successfully navigate through the personalities and politics of both Hollywood and Washington, but Ron Silver was able to master both and gain the respect of all he touched along the way. Ron's good nature and principled patriotism led him to be accepted and trusted by Republicans, Democrats and Independents alike. He was able to accomplish this because no matter