

San Jose State University in 1942, before getting her Master's degree from Stanford University in 1954. From there, Ann began her 40-year career as an educator on California's Central Coast. In addition to teaching, Ann furthered her contribution to education through her role as principal at several schools including Aptos Junior High, where she was the first female principal. She retired from the Pajaro Valley Unified School District in 1978. In 1999, Ann M. Soldo Elementary School was named in her honor.

Ann was the epitome of public service in the Pajaro Valley. She became involved with her local government in 1979, when she was elected to the Watsonville City Council and appointed as Vice-Mayor. From 1983 to 1987, Ann served as the first female mayor of Watsonville. Moreover, she volunteered for numerous community organizations, including the Salvation Army, YWCA, and the Pajaro Valley Historical Association. After the 1989 Loma Prieta Earthquake, she co-chaired the fundraising drive to rebuild a local church and construction of the Henry Mello Center for the Performing Arts.

Mr. Speaker, Ann Soldo was an inspiring leader to so many, a woman who dedicated herself to bettering her community. Ann was proud of her Croatian heritage and took comfort in calling the Pajaro Valley home. She was preceded in death by her husband Andrew Soldo and is survived by her sister Grace Leavitt of Newport Beach, California and stepdaughter Mary Ann Jurchan of Colorado. I know that I speak for the whole House in mourning the passing of this dedicated and loving woman. Her life was a gift to her community.

IN HONOR OF FIRE CHIEF KYLE D.
KING FOR A LIFETIME OF COM-
MUNITY SERVICE

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 15, 2011

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Fire Chief Kyle D. King for his commitment to community service in Farmers Branch, Texas. Chief King retired from the City of Farmers Branch on December 31, 2010, after completing 35 years of service.

Chief King was born in Carnegie, Oklahoma, attended Southwestern State University, and graduated from Oklahoma State University. After moving to Texas, he began his employment with the City of Farmers Branch as a Fire Inspector on January 1, 1976. He rose quickly, and was promoted to Fire Protection Safety Technician in 1979, Fire Marshal in 1981, Chief Training Officer in 1985, and Fire Chief in 1991.

As Fire Chief, Mr. King held certifications as an Instructor, Master Fire Inspector, Master Fire Fighter, Master Fire Investigator, and Master Peace Officer. He was a member of the Texas and International Fire Chiefs Association and is past President of the Dallas County Fire Chiefs Association. He has most recently served as Texas State Vice President of the Southwestern Fire Chiefs Association.

Chief King has overseen the construction of several fire department buildings, including the Farmers Branch Fire Station No. 3 and the

Bob Phelps Fire Administration Building. He also helped to set up the construction documents for new Fire Station No. 1. Additionally he has supervised the implementation of a mass casualty incident task force, the development of an emergency management plan, initiation of the Citizens Fire Academy, and the beginning of the paramedic engine program. Other achievements for the department include receiving a Class 2 ISO rating, recognition for maintaining an outstanding cardiac save rate, and the maintenance of extremely low annual fire losses through innovative fire prevention programs.

Beyond his work at the Fire Department, Chief King is active in his community. A Baptist deacon for over 30 years, Chief King has held several leadership roles in First Baptist Carrollton, his home church. He is also a former Chaplain for Dallas North Gideons International and currently holds the position of Membership Chair. Additionally, he mentors middle school students through the Carrollton-Farmers Branch Independent School District.

On behalf of the 24th Congressional District of Texas, I would like to thank Chief King for his exceptional career and community service contributions to the greater north Texas area. Because of his leadership and expertise, thousands of residents in Farmers Branch receive vital services each year. I ask all my distinguished colleagues to join me in recognizing Chief King for his lifetime of community service.

INTRODUCTION OF THE "SECURITY AND FAIRNESS ENHANCEMENT (SAFE) FOR AMERICA ACT"

HON. BOB GOODLATTE

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 15, 2011

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the bipartisan "Security and Fairness Enhancement (SAFE) for America Act." This much-needed legislation eliminates the controversial visa lottery program, through which 50,000 aliens are chosen at random to come and live permanently in the United States based on pure luck. The visa lottery program threatens national security, results in the unfair administration of our Nation's immigration laws, and encourages a cottage industry for fraudulent opportunists.

Because winners of the visa lottery are chosen at random, the visa lottery program presents a serious national security threat. A perfect example of the system gone awry is the case of Hesham Mohamed Ali Hedayet, the Egyptian national who killed two and wounded three during a shooting spree at Los Angeles International Airport in July of 2002. He was allowed to apply for lawful permanent resident status in 1997 because of his wife's status as a visa lottery winner.

The State Department's Inspector General has even weighed in on the national security threat posed by the visa lottery program. During testimony before the House Committee on the Judiciary, the Office of Inspector General stated that the Office "continues to believe that the diversity visa program contains significant risks to national security from hostile intelligence officers, criminals, and terrorists attempting to use the program for entry into the United States as permanent residents."

Even if improvements were made to the visa lottery program, nothing would prevent terrorist organizations or foreign intelligence agencies from planting members in the U.S. by having those members apply for the program. As long as those individuals do not have previous criminal backgrounds, these types of organized efforts would never be detected, even if significant background checks and counter-fraud measures were enacted within the program.

Usually, immigrant visas are issued to foreign nationals that have existing connections with family members lawfully residing in the United States or with U.S. employers. These types of relationships help ensure that immigrants entering our country have a stake in continuing America's success and have needed skills to contribute to our Nation's economy. However, under the visa lottery program, visas are awarded to immigrants at random without meeting such criteria.

In addition, the visa lottery program is unfair to immigrants who comply with the United States' immigration laws. The visa lottery program does not expressly prohibit illegal aliens from applying to receive visas through the program. Thus, the program treats foreign nationals that comply with our laws the same as those that blatantly violate our laws. In addition, most family-sponsored immigrants currently face a wait of years to obtain visas, yet the lottery program pushes 50,000 random immigrants with no particular family ties, job skills or education ahead of these family and employer-sponsored immigrants each year with relatively no wait. This sends the wrong message to those who wish to enter our great country and to the international community as a whole.

Furthermore, the visa lottery program is wrought with fraud. A report released by the Center for Immigration Studies states that it is commonplace for foreign nationals to apply for the lottery program multiple times using many different aliases. In addition, the visa lottery program has spawned a cottage industry featuring sponsors in the U.S. who falsely promise success to applicants in exchange for large sums of money. Ill-informed foreign nationals are willing to pay top dollar for the "guarantee" of lawful permanent resident status in the U.S.

The State Department's Office of Inspector General confirms these allegations of widespread fraud in a September 2003 report. Specifically, the report states that the visa lottery program is "subject to widespread abuse" and that "identity fraud is endemic, and fraudulent documents are commonplace." Furthermore, the report also reveals that the State Department found that 364,000 duplicate applications were detected in the 2003 visa lottery alone.

In addition, the visa lottery program is by its very nature discriminatory. The complex formula for assigning visas under the program arbitrarily disqualifies natives from countries that send more than 50,000 immigrants to the U.S. within a five-year period, which excludes nationals from countries such as Brazil, Canada, India, the Philippines and others.

The visa lottery program represents what is wrong with our country's immigration system. My legislation would eliminate the visa lottery program. The removal of this controversial program will help ensure our Nation's security, make the administration of our immigration