

the community will no doubt bring new vigor to the area's economy.

As a devoted husband and family man, Mayor Bach knows the kind of values and ideals that are required to lead in a responsible and conservative manner. I wish the Mayor success in his new job. I know that Colorado Springs could not ask for a better mayor at this critical time.

RECOGNITION OF ADMIRAL MIKE MULLEN'S FORTY-THREE YEARS OF DISTINGUISHED SERVICE IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY

HON. HOWARD P. "BUCK" McKEON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 22, 2011

Mr. McKEON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Admiral Mike Mullen who is retiring as the 17th Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff after more than 43 years of distinguished service to his country.

A proud graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy's Class of 1968, his rise in the Navy started at sea, when Ensign Mullen deployed to the western Pacific and participated in combat operations off the coast of Vietnam aboard USS *Collett*. Over the course of his career at sea he subsequently served on six other warships, including command of three of those vessels. Admiral Mullen also commanded the *George Washington* Carrier Strike Group and U.S. Second Fleet.

In July of 2005, Admiral Mullen was sworn in as the 28th Chief of Naval Operations, serving as the top uniformed leader and representative to the Joint Chiefs of Staff. During his tenure, he oversaw the service's efforts to man, train, and equip our Navy to fulfill its traditional missions at sea. Additionally, he conceived and championed the Navy's contributions to the fight on the ground in Iraq, Afghanistan, and other nations in support of our country's effort to combat violent extremism.

After successfully completing his tour as Chief of Naval Operations, Admiral Mullen assumed duties as the 17th Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff on October 1, 2007. Since assuming duties as Chairman, he has, in concert with our Nation's leadership, overseen multiple, sustained joint military operations that disrupted terrorist networks, provided humanitarian assistance at home and abroad, and improved the security and stability in Iraq and Afghanistan.

While continuing to lead our men and women in uniform around the world, Admiral Mullen has been the catalyst for a nationwide dialogue to advance awareness and support for our warriors, veterans, and their families. I have no doubt his commitment to these Americans who have given so much will indeed be enduring, lasting far beyond his days in uniform.

Please join me in recognizing and commending Admiral Mike Mullen for a lifetime of service to his country and to wish him the best in his retirement. May God bless Mike and Deborah, and their family, for all they have given and continue to give our country. The United States Navy and our military will dearly miss one of its most respected and valued leaders.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF MASTER SERGEANT RICHARD FRANCIS MURPHY

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 22, 2011

Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and accomplishments of Master Sergeant, Richard Francis Murphy.

Richard was born in Providence Rhode Island on May 10, 1917. He enlisted in the U.S. Army Air Corps at the age of 19 and continued to show his dedication to our country for years to come. He served in both World War II and the Korean War before retiring as a Master Sergeant.

After his retirement from the Air Force, Richard went to work for the Electric and Water Department for the City of Santa Clara. He volunteered in his community, serving on many civic and veterans organizations including the United Veterans Council of Santa Clara County and the Air Force Sergeants Association. Richard was easily recognizable in San Jose, as he helped organize our Veterans Day parade and the Memorial Day ceremony at Oak Hill Cemetery.

On August 21st of this year, Richard passed away in his home in San Jose at the age of 94. Richard and his wife Kay had been married for 69 years. In that time they saw the birth of five children, four grandchildren, and three great grandchildren.

Richard was not only a dear friend of mine, but he was a friend to the entire veteran community in San Jose. He was proud of his service and grateful to others who served. I wish to honor the life of this American hero and memorialize our gratefulness for his dedication to his community and country.

IN RECOGNITION OF HELEN BRADLEY

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 22, 2011

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Helen Bradley, this year's recipient of the Outstanding Teaching of the Humanities Award from Humanities Texas.

After graduating from the University of Dallas, Ms. Bradley joined the Social Studies Department at Nimitz High School in Irving, Texas. Her belief in and commitment to the concept of opportunity is evident in her approach to her U.S. history and government classes. By helping students recognize America's unique opportunities for all and elevating the material with visits to the Dallas Holocaust Museum and the Sixth Floor Museum, Ms. Bradley creates a distinct, positive, and enjoyable learning experience for her students. She exhibits great leadership by coordinating with teachers from other departments and different grade levels to enhance the material and ensure her students are informed, knowledgeable, and proud of our Nation's rich history.

Her lessons extend beyond the classroom. For over twenty years, Ms. Bradley devoted

the third Friday of every month to community service, volunteering alongside a group of her students and Nimitz alumni. What she teaches her students is not merely U.S. history; it encompasses life lessons and the values of opportunity and service. Ms. Bradley exemplifies the important role of educators play in shaping our youth and preparing them to be the next generation of great leaders.

This prestigious award recognizes her outstanding contributions in teaching and service to the humanities. It is my great pleasure and privilege to honor Ms. Bradley for her passion for teaching, commitment to service, and belief in the importance of education and opportunity. Mr. Speaker, I ask my esteemed colleagues to join me in congratulating Ms. Bradley.

HONORING LONG-SERVING MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF LETTER CARRIERS IN WESTERN NEW YORK

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 22, 2011

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, in today's time of challenging budgets and fiscal uncertainty, at a time when the long term success of the United States Postal Service hangs in the balance, it is altogether fitting and proper that we recognize the dedicated public servants who have populated the rank and file membership of the Postal Service in Western New York.

The role of a letter carrier remains among the most fundamental in American society. It remains an amazing feat that a letter dropped into a mailbox in Buffalo, New York will shortly arrive at its destination, be it across town or across the country. Letter carriers face a wide array of complications, obstacles, hazards and other challenges as they complete their daily routes. Citizens across the United States open their mailboxes and routinely retrieve their mail, seldom stopping to reflect upon the work performed by letter carriers each day.

Beyond their professional responsibilities, Letter Carriers are integral members of our community as well. While Letter Carriers participate in dozens of charitable events throughout the year, they are particularly effective in the annual "Stamp Out Hunger" food drive, where millions of pounds of nonperishable food items are delivered to community food banks throughout the United States. I'm proud to add that the Buffalo region was the first to undertake this effort, and our region routinely leads the nation in tons of food collected for this annual event.

On Saturday, September 24th, Branch 3 of the National Association of Letter Carriers, representing Buffalo and Western New York, will hold its annual "Old Timers' Night." This event will pay tribute to the careers of eleven letter carriers, each having more than 50 years of service.

Scheduled to be honored are the following members with 55 years of service: Chester Gawel, Richard Miller, Albert Schattner, Chester Stuben, and John Zelli.

Those with 50 years of service who are to be honored include: Richard Bailoni, Edward Dudkowski, Robert Hibbard, Salvatore Iannello, Joseph Sikorski, and John Tutaro.