

the House, the very first vote I cast was the vote to elect Tip O'Neill Speaker of the House in 1977. I had the honor of serving with Tip for ten years—his entire tenure as Speaker, which was the longest continuous term of any Speaker since the first Congress met in 1789.

Tip served in public life for 50 years, including 34 years as a Member of Congress. As Speaker, Tip worked with both Democrats and Republicans as a champion of working families. He was a master legislator who dedicated his entire life to Massachusetts and our country. Tip found joy in rebuilding communities, restoring neighborhoods, and helping families get back on their feet. He never tired of helping the middle class, helping students with student loans, and protecting the hard-earned benefits of seniors. Tip was an incredibly insightful public servant with a spirit of service who truly enjoyed the work of the American people.

The squawking of politicians in Washington may have been Tip's weekday passion, but the squawking of birds on the Cape is what brought him weekend peace.

The sweeping arm of the Cape reminds me of Tip's outstretched hand, greeting everyone he met.

Tip was a giant of American politics. While he made famous his "All politics is local" approach to public service, Tip's influence also was felt on the international level. One of his greatest accomplishments was crafting a peace agreement between rival factions in Northern Ireland. He, along with our late friend Senator Ted Kennedy, worked together to develop the "St. Patrick's Day declaration" condemning violence in Northern Ireland.

A public service powerhouse at the state, federal and international level of American politics, Tip embodied the values we strive for as servants of the People's business. As an Irish-Catholic politician from Boston, I am proud of Tip's successful international negotiations that helped to pave the way for peace in Northern Ireland. As an American, I feel privileged to have served with such an historic guardian of America's working families and middle class. And as a citizen of Massachusetts, I am pleased to introduce this bill to forever recognize a great defender of the natural beauty of Cape Cod.

HONORING THE 110TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNION GOSPEL MISSION TWIN CITIES

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 19, 2012

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the 110th anniversary of the Union Gospel Mission in the Twin Cities.

The Union Gospel Mission Twin Cities was founded in Saint Paul, Minnesota in 1902. After starting out as a refuge for the homeless and the downtrodden, they now serve as a beacon of hope for not just the homeless, but the jobless, lost, addicted, and battered.

Over the years, the Mission has expanded their operations from a small clinic off Jackson Street, to now include rescue homes for single mothers, opening learning centers, career development centers, child care centers, and medical clinics. As the community evolved, so

did the Union Gospel Mission to meet the needs of the community.

During the Second World War, Americans throughout the country were doing their part, and the men and woman at The Union Gospel Mission Twin Cities were no exception. In 1942, the Mission created a day nursery for mothers, not only allowing these women to make sure their children were cared for, but allowing these same women to work in their communities as well.

Today, Union Gospel Mission Twin Cities is helping many Minnesotans by giving them the tools to find jobs, especially to those who have to overcome barriers to do so. One example is the WorkNet Career Development Program in the Twin Cities, which has helped hundreds of Minnesotans by providing access to the training, guidance, and tools needed to find and keep a job in a market where it has been increasingly difficult for many to do so.

The Union Gospel Mission Twin Cities provides direct assistance to those in need, in addition to the many different volunteer opportunities that give people an opportunity to give back to their community.

IN HONOR OF THE 2012 MAKE A DIFFERENCE DAY WINNERS

HON. MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 19, 2012

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, today, I would like to acknowledge the great work of the volunteers of Yardley, Pennsylvania, especially the students at Pennsbury High School who have been selected as one of the 2012 Make a Difference Day winners. Make a Difference Day is a celebration of the power of neighbors helping neighbors. Created by USA Weekend, this annual day of service mobilizes more than three million volunteers to create change in their community.

This group of outstanding volunteers from Yardley has made a substantial impact on their community by conducting a book drive and stocking the shelves of the library at the Feltonville Intermediate School. The leader of the project, Neha Gupta, founded Empower Orphans, a non-profit that has used \$325,000 in donations and grants to clothe and feed impoverished Indian children, create a sewing center, and set up libraries at four different schools.

But even within a few miles of her home in Bucks County, Neha, now 15, sees children in need. In the months leading up to Make a Difference Day, Neha and a group of volunteers gathered 3,000 titles and bought colorful furnishings for the library. Then, on Make a Difference Day, the team cleaned up the library, decorated it and stocked the shelves. Since October's project, Neha has started an Empower Orphans club at her high school and plans to hold a Make a Difference Day Project every year.

I want to congratulate Neha and the students of Pennsbury High School and thank them for their service and dedication to our community. I am honored to represent you in Congress.

TRIBUTE TO DR. MALCOLM PORTERA, CHANCELLOR OF THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA SYSTEM

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 19, 2012

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Dr. Malcolm "Mack" Portera, who recently announced his well-deserved retirement after leading the University of Alabama System for more than a decade. He was the fifth chancellor and the longest serving in the System's history.

In March, Mack Portera officially retired as Chancellor of the University of Alabama System, which includes the school's three campuses in Birmingham, Huntsville and Tuscaloosa.

Dr. Portera has a long and distinguished association with the University of Alabama, also holding the title of Vice President of External Affairs as well as interim president of the Birmingham and Huntsville campuses.

Over the years, Mack Portera's contributions to the University, higher education and business development in Alabama have been considerable. Even before he assumed the top leadership post at the University, Dr. Portera was already involved in top-tier business recruitment efforts in the state of Alabama, including Mercedes Benz.

Under his leadership as Chancellor of the University of Alabama System, total enrollment expanded from 45,000 to 58,000 students. Over the same period, the total budget for the three campuses more than doubled—increasing from \$2.1 billion in 2001 to \$4.6 billion today.

Prior to becoming Chancellor, Dr. Portera was the 16th president of Mississippi State University, and in 1996, he launched a successful business development and strategic planning company.

In 2003, he was inducted into the Alabama Academy of Honor, a group of 100 living Alabamians elected on the basis of service to the state.

Dr. Portera's impact has been felt both within and beyond the University System. He also serves on the Board of Directors of Alabama Power Company and in leadership roles for the Birmingham Business Alliance, the Riley Foundation, Southern Research Institute, the University of Alabama at Birmingham Health System, the West Alabama Chamber of Commerce, the Bryant-Jordan Scholarship Foundation, Operation New Birmingham, the University of Alabama at Birmingham Research Foundation, and the University of Alabama at Huntsville Foundation. He is the former chair of the Council of Presidents of the Southeastern Universities Research Association and Vice Chair of the Alabama Research Alliance.

Dr. Portera received his undergraduate and master's degrees from Mississippi State University and a Ph.D. in Political Science from the University of Alabama.

Not one to divert from his life-long devotion of giving to the community he loves so much, Dr. Portera plans to remain in Tuscaloosa offering his services as a part-time teacher.

I join the people of Alabama in extending to Dr. Portera our sincere gratitude for his tireless service to the University of Alabama System and to our state. His legacy is a strong