For the past 37 years, Mosk served as the court's independent voice and moral compass. His trailblazing decisions brought sweeping changes to California law long before such decisions were addressed at the national level. A vigorous advocate of individual liberties, Mosk lead state courts across the country to use their own constitutions to establish individual rights beyond those required under the federal constitution. In 1976, Mosk wrote the opinion that bars the use of improperly obtained confessions arguing that such confessions could not be used to challenge the truthfulness of a defendant who later testifies. While the U.S. Supreme Court allowed for such use, Mosk invoked the state Constitution and did not approve the practice. His always careful, thoughtful and considerate opinions, totaling 1,688 over the span of his career, were widely regarded and highly acclaimed.

Mosk, the longest-serving member in the court's 151-year history and only Democrat, was known for his shrewd political acumen and often criticized by his adversaries for his focused attention of the states shifting political climate. Nevertheless, Mosk remained dedicated to his role as a public servant and vigil- lant in his undertaking of civil and criminal law. A native of San Antonio, Mosk's career as a giant in the court began by serving 15 years as a winner of a LeGrand Smith Congressional Scholarship. This award is made to young adults who have demonstrated that they are truly committed to playing important roles in our Nation's future.

As a winner of the LeGrand Smith Congressional Scholarship, Travis is being honored for demonstrating that same generosity of spirit, intelligence, responsible citizenship, and capacity for human service that distinguished the late LeGrand Smith of Somerset, Michigan.

Travis Ebel is an exceptional student at Lakeview High School and possesses an impressive high school record. Travis's involvement in both the Lakeview High School and the Battle Creek Math and Science Center curriculum is truly outstanding. He participates in high school athletics, as well as being a member of the Board of Directors for the Battle Creek Art Center. Travis is also an active volunteer in Calhoun County, dedicating more than 800 hours to community service.

Therefore, I am proud to join with his many admirers in extending my highest praise and congratulations to Travis Ebel for his selection as a winner of a LeGrand Smith Congressional Scholarship. This honor is also a testament to the parents, teachers, and others whose personal interest, strong support and active participation contributed to his success. To this remarkable young man, I extend my most heartfelt good wishes for all his future endeavors.

Paying Tribute to Sheriff Cullen Talton

HON. SABBY CHAMBLISS OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 16, 2001

Mr. CHAMBLISS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Sheriff Cullen Talton of Houston County. His dedication to the people of his county is deserving of the utmost recognition. Sheriff Talton being one of the most respected sheriffs in the state, became a recipient of the Liberty Bell Award on June 11, 2001. This esteemed award is given by Bar Associations across the United States to recognize special people in their communities. The award praises the achievements of contributions that exceed the work of the common man. The Houston County Bar Association presents the Liberty Bell Award each year to celebrate the work of someone who has contributed to our legal system beyond the significant call of duty. The recipient of this award is generally someone who has dedicated his life’s work to better the legal system in hopes of making his community a better place for those who are to follow.

Sheriff Cullen Talton has lived in Bonaire, Georgia, his whole life. Sheriff Talton has served 29 years as Sheriff of Houston County and 6 years as County Commissioner. While serving his community as a law enforcement officer he has also maintained a personal life that deems recognition as well. Sheriff Talton married his high school sweetheart, Peggy Sears and they have been married for 51 years. Together they have raised four children, Carline, Pattie, Cully and Neal. There are also four grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Keeping his faith as the focal point of his life he has been a life long member of Bonaire United Methodist Church.

Sheriff Talton is a member of many civic organizations and has received an abundance of awards for his civic work over the past 35 years. Sheriff Kosalos is a member of the Georgia Sheriffs Association and the National Sheriff’s Association. His pet project is serving on the Board of the Georgia Sheriff’s Boys’ Ranch in Hahira. This Boys’ Ranch is a place where underprivileged children can have a home.

Sheriff Talton has been honored as Georgia’s Sheriff of the Year and has received the Warner Robins/Houston County Chamber of Commerce Good Government Service Award. He serves as a board member of the State of Georgia Department of Corrections and is Chairman of the Board of Security Bank in Houston County.

Sheriff Talton is a successful leader because he believes that the way to take care of the people is to know the people. He has maintained a respected Sheriff’s Department because he maintains his open door policy to the citizens. This keeps him close to the community making him aware of its problems as well as its victories. The Liberty Bell Award speak volumes for the work that Sheriff Talton has done. He is greatly appreciated. If it were not for the dedication of people like Sheriff Cullen Talton we could not march forward.

Mr. Speaker, Sheriff Cullen Talton has devoted his life to better serving his community. He spends tireless energy towards bettering his community and for that Sheriff Cullen Talton deserves our recognition and gratitude today.