

I applaud Cathy Fink and Marcy Marxer and wish them continued success in the years ahead.

MARCH IS NATIONAL KIDNEY  
MONTH

**HON. JIM McDERMOTT**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 9, 2005*

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, as co-chair of the Congressional Kidney Caucus, I want to make everyone aware that March is National Kidney Month. A growing epidemic, diabetes has a significant impact on kidney disease. Diabetes is the single leading cause of kidney failure in the U.S. today.

Approximately 17 million people living in America, or more than 6 percent of the population, have diabetes. Because a cure for diabetic kidney disease has not yet been found, treatment involves controlling the disorder and slowing its progression to kidney failure. Recent research has shown that the presence of high blood pressure may be the most important predictor of which diabetics will develop chronic kidney disease.

Therefore, the detection and control of high blood pressure are very important in diabetic patients. March is National Kidney Month and the Kidney Caucus in partnership with the National Kidney Foundation is urging all those at-risk for kidney disease, including diabetics, to get checked out by their doctor.

Treatment to prevent diabetic kidney disease should begin early, even before kidney damage develops. To accomplish this, experts must make diabetic patients aware of the severity of this disease and its symptoms, and must educate diabetics on ways to control the disease.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS  
OF LAREDO INDEPENDENT  
SCHOOL DISTRICT JORGE LUIS  
RODRIGUEZ

**HON. HENRY CUELLAR**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 9, 2005*

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Laredo Independent School District Board Member Jorge Luis Rodriguez for a lifetime of distinguished public service.

Jorge Luis Rodriguez has always been interested in education, and has been a member of the Laredo ISD School Board since May 2000. He is the School Board Trustee for District 2 which oversees Dovalina Elementary school, Macdonell Elementary School and Daiches Elementary School.

LISD Board Member Jorge Luis Rodriguez is a credit and an inspiration to his community and a tremendous resource to his county. He believes in helping the children of his community strive to be the best individuals they can be, by giving them a quality education. He instills in the children the value of hard work and determination, and has been able to implicate

many positive changes for students, parents, and LISD faculty.

Rodriguez is grateful for being elected and thanks his constituents by working hard and earning their confidence. He is currently employed in construction management and automotive sales.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to have had this opportunity to recognize the many achievements of Laredo Independent School District Board Member Jorge Luis Rodriguez.

INTRODUCTION OF HATE CRIMES  
STATISTICS IMPROVEMENT ACT

**HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 9, 2005*

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, today I join my colleagues, Representatives WEINER, CUMMINGS, BARBARA LEE, GUTIERREZ, GEORGE MILLER, WOOLSEY, LOFGREN, GONZALES, SANDERS, and LINDA SANCHEZ in introducing the Hate Crimes Statistics Improvement Act.

The Hate Crimes Statistics Improvement Act will ensure that hate crimes motivated by gender are accounted for by the FBI and local law enforcement agencies. With accurate data, local communities can identify gender-based hate crimes in their area and chart their progress toward eliminating them. Moreover, the inclusion of gender will send a strong message that gender-based hate crimes will not be tolerated.

In states with gender-based hate crimes laws, prosecutors typically must present concrete evidence that the criminal act was committed due to gender bias. Obviously, not all crimes against women are gender-based crimes, and prosecutors should have discretion in identifying what constitutes a gender-based hate crime. The process of discussing these differences will improve the understanding of all hate crimes by law enforcement personnel and will improve reporting of these tragic crimes.

I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation that will help reduce hate crimes against women.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. GWEN MOORE**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 9, 2005*

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall Nos. 53, 54 and 55, question before the House on March 8, 2005 I did not cast votes due to inclement weather wherein my flight to Washington, D.C. was cancelled. My alternate transportation did not convey me here in a timely manner. Had I been present I would have vote "aye" on rollcalls 53, 54 and 55.

ON THE RETIREMENT OF JOHN  
FIELDS STOVALL

**HON. WILLIAM M. THOMAS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 9, 2005*

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the retirement of a distinguished constituent and good friend, John Fields Stovall. John has worked as General Counsel for the Kern County Water Agency in my district for more than sixteen years, earning the respect of his peers for his thoughtful, effective work on behalf of California water interests.

John has lived most of his life in Bakersfield, California, beginning at the age of ten. He graduated from Bakersfield High School and subsequently Bakersfield College, where he studied pre-pharmacy. John moved to the University of California at Los Angeles, where he graduated in 1970 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology.

Before beginning his career in water issues, John first worked for the Food and Drug Administration as an Investigator and received his J.D. degree, with honors, from Loyola Law School. John worked for several law firms, including the respected Lebeau, Thelen and Lampe. While working at Lebeau, Thelen and Lampe, John met his wife, the former Jan Blocher, and began legal work on water rights issues. He took that experience with him to the Kern County Water Agency in 1989, when he joined the Agency as General Counsel.

John has successfully shepherded the Agency through many legal challenges and opportunities, including the organization of the Kern Water Bank. His work to ensure continued favorable operation of the State Water Project has helped to provide consistent water supplies for thousands of Kern County residents and farmers. It was a pleasure to work closely with John in our efforts to reauthorize the federal portion of the California Bay-Delta Program. In recent years, he studied for and successfully received his Doctorate from the highly-respected Peter F. Drucker Graduate School of Management at Claremont Graduate University.

In his personal life, John is active in the local community. He participates in the Bakersfield Chamber of Commerce's Government Review Council and the Bakersfield Breakfast Rotary Club. He supports local students as a competition judge for high school mock trial competitions, and is an active member of the Kern County Republican Party.

While John's full-time career at Kern County Water Agency is coming to an end, I am sure that he and Jan will continue to be valuable and active members of our community in Bakersfield. On behalf of Kern County residents who recognize the necessity and value of reliable water supplies, I thank John for his service and wish him and Jan the best as they begin the next stage of their lives.