

On January 5, 2007, Fire Chief Bill McCammon's friends and family will gather at the Castlewood Country Club in Pleasanton, California to honor his achievements in his profession, to thank him for his years of dedicated service and to wish him well on his retirement. I am honored to recognize him on his special occasion.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO ED GUTHRIE

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 5, 2006

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Ed Guthrie for his exemplary work with Opportunity Village, a laudable organization that provides vocational training and advocacy for the disabled.

Under Ed's leadership, Opportunity Village has improved the lives of hundreds of people with severe disabilities and their families. Opportunity Village has grown to become one of the top 5 custodial firms in southern Nevada. Opportunity Village serves 500,000 meals each year to the servicemen at Nellis AFB and owns the 2nd largest document destruction firm in Las Vegas. Ed has also developed a number of leading edge rehabilitation programs during the last 10 years, including the Job Discovery program, the P.R.I.D.E. program and a down payment assistance program to assist people with disabilities to purchase their own homes.

In addition to his work with Opportunity Village, Ed also serves as the Chairman of the Board of Directors for the National Industries for the Severely Handicapped (NISH). Prior to joining NISH, Ed was the Western Region representative of the National Council of Work Centers and represented the 100+ community rehabilitation programs in Nevada, California, Hawaii, Arizona, and Utah for 6 years. Ed has also served the State of Nevada on the Nevada Governor's Council for Rehabilitation and Employment of People with Disabilities and served as Chair of the Nevada Rates Task Force.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor Ed Guthrie. His hard work on behalf of Nevada's disabled population and their families is commendable. I applaud his efforts and wish him the best in his future endeavors.

IN RECOGNITION OF LOREE SOGGS

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 5, 2006

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the contributions of Mr. Loree Soggs to both Cleveland and Ohio. Mr. Soggs has been a member of and advocate for unions since he entered the workforce over 40 years ago. He has also serves the community diligently through his extensive civic participation.

Mr. Soggs entered his union as an operating engineer, and he has served his IUOE

Local 18 as a business agent, apprenticeship coordinator, steward director, officer and fringe benefit fund trustee. In 1994, Mr. Soggs was elected to the office of executive secretary for Cleveland's Building and Construction Trades Council, being the first operating engineer to hold this office in the council's history. He has successfully negotiated numerous contracts fighting for the betterment of working men and women within the community. He further supports the realm of labor by serving as president of the North Shore Federation of Labor, vice president of the Ohio State Building and Construction Trades Council, executive director of the Northern Ohio Building Trades Real Estate Investment Program, trustee of the Union Construction Industry Partnership, and serves as a board member on four other labor related organizations.

The civic realm has benefited equally from Mr. Soggs' years of dedicated work. As an advocate for senior citizens, he strives to improve the quality of life of the elderly, specifically focusing on housing efforts. He is very politically involved, serving on the executive committee of the Cuyahoga Democratic Party and as a board member of the Cuyahoga County Board of Elections. Due to his civic dedication, Mr. Soggs is being honored by the State of Israel Bonds for his values and ideals rooted in democracy, and the inalienable rights of working men and women.

Mr. Soggs' work is rooted in his bachelor of arts degree from Defiance College, as well as the support from his wife, Barbara, and their five children.

Mr. Speaker and my fellow colleagues, please join me in celebration of the efforts of Mr. Loree Soggs to the labor and civic communities in Ohio. His contributions have not gone unnoticed, and will surely multiply and reach new levels of excellence in the upcoming years.

HONORING MR. TIMOTHY NECKERS

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 5, 2006

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Timothy Neckers for his years of service as the French Creek Town Supervisor. Mr. Neckers served his community well during his tenure in office.

Public service is a difficult path to take. Any person with a dream may enter but only a few are able to reach the end. Mr. Neckers traveled that path with his head held high and a smile on his face throughout his tenure. I have no doubt that his kind demeanor left a lasting impression on the constituents of French Creek.

Chautauqua County is blessed to have such strong and dedicated public servants with a desire to make this county the wonderful place that we all know it can be. Mr. Neckers is one of those people and that is why, Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor him today.

MINERAL WELLS VETERANS DAY PROGRAM

HON. MAC THORNBERRY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 5, 2006

Mr. THORNBERRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge and commend an innovative partnership between the Mineral Wells, Texas Independent School District and several veterans' organizations in that community. For each of the past 24 years, citizens of Mineral Wells have come together on Veterans Day to honor those who have served our Nation in the military with a special "Day of Remembrance" program.

Every year, the program draws over 3,700 youth, community leaders, and area residents to pay tribute to those who embody the American spirit. Working together as a community has helped promote pride and patriotism among students while honoring veterans. Members of the American Legion Post 75, the Sons of the Legion Squadron 75, and Farris Anderson Unit 75 of American Legion Auxiliary, Mineral Wells, along with school leaders and students help plan and participate in an event that features a parade, music, displays of military power, and much camaraderie among generations.

Throughout our history, men and women have answered the call of a Nation in need, and on Veterans Day, we are especially mindful of their service, sacrifice, and that of their families. I appreciate what the city of Mineral Wells does to honor those most responsible for our freedom, and I am hopeful they will continue to serve as an example for years to come.

HONORING JOHN CASE, CHAIRMAN OF THE PACE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

HON. JUDY BIGGERT

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 5, 2006

Mrs. BIGGERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank John Case for his 8 years of service as Chairman of the Pace Board of Directors. Under John's leadership, numerous improvements were instituted to North America's 6th largest bus system, resulting in better service for millions of Americans living in the Chicagoland area.

It is no surprise that John was chosen to serve as Chairman of the Board—he has a long history of serving his community and nation. As a retired United States Air Force Major with 20 years of service, including the third bomber wing during the Korean War, he brought many valuable skills to his role as Chairman. His experience is evident in the many improvements he instituted. These include developing Board Committees to handle specific decision areas, implementing use of biodiesel in the Pace bus fleet, doubling the size of Pace's vanpool program, ensuring that retirement funds are being adequately funded, and implementation of the Intelligent Bus System, which provides real-time information on