

today to pay tribute to Sandra Bridges Newkirk, who has devoted her life to her work and service in Lee County, Alabama. After 40 years with Auburn University's Department of Health and Human Performance, Mrs. Newkirk is anticipating retirement on May 15, 2006.

Mrs. Newkirk has accomplished much at Auburn University and is wholly deserving to be recognized for contributing to some of the University's firsts. As the first volleyball coach, the first intramural director, and the first Women's Athletic Director at Auburn, she has proven to be a monumental supporter of health and wellness. Mrs. Newkirk advanced women's sport programs in Alabama and worked to elevate such programs to a competitive basis. The Department of Health and Human Performance is sure to miss her as one of its professors.

In addition to her dedication to Auburn University, Sandra Bridges Newkirk has also contributed greatly to the Lee County community, including her service as a mediator with the Lee County Court System for adults.

I salute Mrs. Newkirk for her contributions to Auburn University, Lee County, and for the betterment of the entire State of Alabama.

IN HONOR OF JAMES A.
TUCCIARONE

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 11, 2006

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of James A. Tucciarone, upon his retirement that follows an exemplary, thirty-six year career with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), throughout Ohio, Michigan and Illinois.

In 1971, Mr. Tucciarone began his career as an FAA air traffic controller at the Akron-Canton control tower, and later served as Manager of the Akron Municipal Air Traffic Control Tower, Akron-Canton Air Traffic Control Tower and the Columbus Air Traffic Control Tower. He was called upon to serve as Manager of the Cleveland Center, and as Sectional Supervisor of the Operations Branch at the Great Lakes Regional Office in Des Plaines, IL. Mr. Tucciarone also worked as Assistant Air Traffic Manager at Cleveland and Detroit Metro Towers, and also at the Cleveland Air Route Traffic Control Center. In every place he worked, Mr. Tucciarone's integrity, expertise and focus on flight safety never wavered.

Mr. Tucciarone's boundless enthusiasm, energy, kind heart and steadfast integrity frame both his personal and professional life. Aside from his numerous accomplishments in the field of aviation, Mr. Tucciarone is an active member of his community. He is a member of the Board of Directors and Advisory Board for "Kids in Flight," a non-profit organization whose mission is to use aviation as a tool of empowerment for seriously ill children and their families. He is a member of numerous civic agencies and also volunteers his time coaching and umpiring youth basketball and softball teams.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honor, recognition and gratitude of Mr.

James A. Tucciarone, upon his retirement from the FAA that follows thirty-six years of outstanding service and accomplishment. His dedication, expertise, leadership, and energy, focused on excellence and safety in aviation, also extends outward into the community, where he offers his time and talent to children and their families who struggle daily with illness, uplifting their lives to a place where hopes and dreams take flight. I wish Mr. Tucciarone and his family an abundance of health, peace and happiness as his journey begins from here.

CONGRATULATING MICHAEL BUTERA, ESQ., ON A SUCCESSFUL TERM AS PRESIDENT OF THE WILKES-BARRE LAW AND LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 11, 2006

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask you and my esteemed colleagues in the House of Representatives to pay tribute to Attorney Michael Butera, immediate past president of the Wilkes-Barre Law and Library Association in Luzerne County, Pennsylvania.

Attorney Butera performed in an exemplary manner by providing leadership and direction to a proud and prestigious organization founded 156 years ago on June 18, 1850.

A graduate of the University of Scranton and Temple University School of Law, Attorney Butera has been in the private practice of law since 1976 in Pittston, Pennsylvania.

He is also active with the Pennsylvania Bar Association, the American Bar Association, Northeastern Pennsylvania Trial Lawyers Association and the Pennsylvania Criminal Defense Lawyers Association. Attorney Butera served on the Wyoming Area School Board for six years. He also served as president of the board of Luzerne Intermediate Unit 18, president of the board of the Greater Pittston YMCA and was vice president of the Third Legislative District for the Luzerne County Democrat Party. He is also a charter member of the St. Martin Society.

The Wilkes-Barre Law and Library Association was located in the county Court House located on Wilkes-Barre's Public Square from 1859 to 1909 when it was moved to the second floor of the current county Court House at 200 N. River Street in Wilkes-Barre.

The Law Library contains over 20,000 volumes of law books, reports and journals. The Law Library also operates the Luzerne Legal Register, the law journal of Luzerne County and the official reporter of the decisions of the Court of Common Pleas of Luzerne County. A lawyer referral service is also operated out of the law library for people who need a lawyer but do not know whom to contact.

The Law and Library Association also operates a charitable foundation that supports charitable and humanitarian projects throughout Luzerne County. It is intended to enhance the public's understanding and appreciation of the legal system in Luzerne County, ensure access to legal information and representation

to all members of the Luzerne County community and foster good relations between members of the Bar, Judiciary and the public.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating Attorney Butera on a job well done. His devotion to community service is reflected in his tireless pursuit of excellence on behalf of the Wilkes-Barre Law and Library Association.

HONORING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FRESNO METROPOLITAN FLOOD CONTROL DISTRICT

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 11, 2006

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Fresno Metropolitan Flood Control District for reaching a momentous milestone—its 50th anniversary.

Over 50 years ago, the Fresno Metropolitan Flood Control District was created in order to regulate flooding that had plagued the community for over 80 years. From the outset, the Flood Control District committed itself to managing the flood, storm, surface and ground water resources of the area with the goal of preventing property damage and personal injury as a result of floods. The agency works to conserve such waters for local, domestic and agricultural use. In addition, it seeks to maximize the public use and benefit of the District's programs and infrastructure. This has resulted in the use of ponding basins for recreational purposes such as soccer fields, baseball diamonds and parks. The district has generated 22 recreational sites, including the Sloan Johnson Oso de Oro Lake Park in Fresno, which serves to accommodate disabled children. This recreational facility has received numerous awards, including the Innovations in American Government Award from the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University.

With such a mission in mind, the Fresno Metropolitan Flood Control District has established infrastructure projects and completed systems in Fresno and its surrounding areas. These projects, valued at over \$600,000,000, include 149 ponding basins, 57 pumping plants, 513 miles of pipeline, three dams, seven flood detention basins, two major stream diversion channels, 145 miles of natural streams and eight river outfalls.

In addition to the creation of these infrastructure projects, the Fresno Metropolitan Flood Control District has worked resolutely for over 50 years to create programs such as "Clean Storm Water" that seek to educate the community on the importance of water resource management and the prevention of pollution to help protect and preserve groundwater supplies for the future. Moreover, many of its policies on outsourcing construction, professional services and maintenance of certain facilities have not only helped the flooding problems, but also have created countless local jobs as well.

The Fresno Metropolitan Flood Control District has had long standing and effective working partnerships with State and Federal agencies such as the California Department of