

to the Corpus Christi RTA in 1986 to serve as Assistant to the General Manager.

During his tenure with the Corpus Christi RTA, Ricardo worked in varying and extensive capacities serving as Assistant to the General Manager for Contracts and Procurement; Director of Contracts and Materials Management; Director of Maintenance Services, and Director of Special Projects.

In May 2004, Ricardo was selected by the RTA Board of Directors to serve as Interim General Manager for the agency and later hired as the agency's General Manager.

Ricardo has been a productive member of the community, serving in numerous leadership posts such as Board Member of the National Archives and Historical Foundation of the American GI Forum, Vice-Chair of the Corpus Christi Arts and Cultural Commission, and President of the Houston Chapter Association for the Advancement of Mexican Americans.

Ricardo and his wife, Carmen, have three wonderful daughters—Yliana, Marisa, Teresa—and have one grandchild, Andrea.

I congratulate Ricardo on his retirement and wish him and his family the best of luck during the next chapter of his life.

HONORING ROBERT BEATTY ON 50 YEARS WITH THE INDIAN RIVER LIONS CLUB

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2008

Mr. STUPAK. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Robert Beatty of Indian River, Michigan. Mr. Beatty has served as a member of the Indian River Lions Club for 50 years, and I ask that you, Madam Speaker, and the entire U.S. House of Representatives, join me in honoring his 50 years of service to the Indian River community.

Born in Marietta, Ohio, on April 24, 1923, Robert Beatty moved to Indian River in 1946. He and his wife, Edith, will have been married 61 years this October. Together, they have raised three lovely children.

Mr. Beatty's service with the Lions Club, the world's largest service organization, is truly commendable. His first contact with the Lions Club came in 1958 at a poker game with Anthony Schneider, the founding member of the Indian River Lions Club chapter. After discussing the mission of the Lions Club, he was so enthusiastic that he decided to join the next day.

Mr. Beatty quickly rose through the ranks. After only 3 days of membership, he took on the role of treasurer. Since that time, he has held every position within the club except secretary and has been on the board of directors for all 50 years of his membership. With a reputation of being the first to volunteer for every community service project, his leadership in the Lions Club has been instrumental to their service for the Indian River community.

Mr. Beatty's community service extends beyond his activities with the Lions Club. As a former member of the Indian River school board, he worked diligently to improve education within his community. A veteran of the

U.S. Army, Mr. Beatty is also a lifetime member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, continuing to serve his community and assist his fellow veterans through his membership.

Madam Speaker, as Robert Beatty celebrates his 50 years of faithful service with the Indian River Lions Club, I ask that you and the entire U.S. House of Representatives join with me in thanking Mr. Beatty's for his dedicated service. Indian River is no doubt a better place because of Mr. Beatty's years of involvement in the community.

SUPPORTING HUMAN RIGHTS IN VIETNAM

HON. AL GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2008

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, Respect for human rights and individual freedom is an important element of American foreign policy. Therefore, it must be the goal of the United States government to work towards enhancing human rights conditions, individual liberty and religious freedom in Vietnam. Moral imperatives such as freedom and individual rights are exceedingly important in establishing a mutually beneficial diplomatic relationship.

The current human rights situation in Vietnam is unacceptable. I am greatly concerned about state sanctioned oppression that has left numerous Vietnamese citizens helpless in the face of a government that has chosen to exercise repressive rule over a population that seeks individual, political and religious freedom. There are numerous religious and political prisoners imprisoned in Vietnam. Political prisoners are placed in conditions that are unacceptable. The international community should not sit idly by and allow this behavior to continue without condemnation.

In Vietnam, according to Human Rights Watch, "2007 was characterized by the harshest crackdown on peaceful dissent in 20 years." Additionally, since gaining membership in the World Trade Organization, it has been reported that Vietnam moved to suppress all challenges to the Vietnamese Communist Party (VCP) by arresting dozens of democracy and human rights activists, independent trade union leaders, underground publishers, and members of unsanctioned religious groups.

The government of Vietnam should not be rewarded by the United States government and the international community for stifling the freedom of the press, arresting dissidents, and labeling religious activity as subversive. We need a bilateral relationship with Vietnam that enhances individual freedom, democracy, and freedom of speech. I will continue to work in Congress to help promote democracy and end oppression in Vietnam.

HONORING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF MR. BASIL C. MARHOFER

HON. JERRY MORAN

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2008

Mr. MORAN of Kansas. Madam Speaker, today I rise to recognize and celebrate the accomplishments and career of Mr. Basil C. Marhofer, a good friend from my home State of Kansas. Mr. Marhofer will be retiring Monday, June 30, from a successful career as a distinguished lawyer and public servant.

Mr. Marhofer's contribution of service has spanned over six decades. After graduating from Ness City High School in Ness City, Kansas, in 1942, Mr. Marhofer served his nation in the European theater in the Second World War. After returning from Europe, Mr. Marhofer enrolled in the University of Kansas Law School and graduated in 1951. He opened his first law office that same year in Ness City.

Soon afterwards, Mr. Marhofer was appointed Ness County Attorney, a position that he held until 1959. After spending a short time in Boulder, Colorado, at the University of Colorado Law School, Mr. Marhofer returned to Ness City and to his position as county attorney, where he remained until 1968. In 1971, Mr. Marhofer was elected Mayor of Ness City where he served for 8 years.

Mr. Marhofer has been actively involved in his community, including the local Masonic Lodge and Rotary International. He has held many offices in Rotary International, including District governor and director. In 1988, Mr. Marhofer was elected vice president and represented Rotary International on five continents.

Mr. Marhofer has spent his life serving his community, State, and country. I am proud to know him and to have this opportunity to recognize him. To him, serving his community is not a burden—it is a calling and a way of life. Whenever I have the opportunity to visit Ness City, Mr. Marhofer is always there, greeting me with the utmost hospitality. He is a just scholar of law and an honest public servant who sets an example for us all. I wish him the best as he enters retirement.

TRIBUTE ON THE RETIREMENT OF CHIEF WILLIAM KIDWELL

HON. BILL FOSTER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2008

Mr. FOSTER. Madam Speaker, I am submitting this statement to express congratulations and gratitude to Chief William Kidwell on the occasion of his retirement from the Geneva Police Department.

On July 1, Chief Kidwell will end a 35-year career of distinguished service to his community. He joined the Geneva Police Department in 1973 as a captain, and rose quickly through the ranks. During his 27-year tenure as chief, the department expanded from a force of 13