

Superintendent Borba has been, and continues to be, involved in numerous organizations. A few of the organizations include: community advisory board for the doctoral program in instructional leadership at California State University, Stanislaus; he is a member of three doctoral dissertation committees for University of the Pacific; Central Regions Schools Insurance Group; Superintendents' Council of Stanislaus County; Association of Low Wealth Schools; and Stanislaus County Superintendents of Schools. Superintendent Borba has been awarded with the Educator of the Year Award in 1998 by the Portuguese Chamber of Commerce in San Jose, Outstanding Alumnus Award in 1999 by the Professional Administrative Services Credential Program at California State University, Stanislaus, the Outstanding Vocational Award for 2000-2001 by the Rotary Club of Salida; the Ethics in Public Service Award in 2007 by the Modesto Bee and California State University, Stanislaus; and the Educator of the Year Award in 2007 by the Portuguese Education Foundation for central California.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate Superintendent Anthony Borba upon his achievements and retirement from Salida Unified School District. I invite my colleagues to join me in wishing Superintendent Borba many years of continued success.

CONGRATULATING MICHAEL J.
MOCEK ON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. KAY GRANGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 9, 2008

Ms. GRANGER. Madam Speaker, I want to congratulate Mr. Michael J. Mocek on his upcoming retirement and thank him for his 37 years of Federal service to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the State of Texas, and our Nation.

Mike has a long and distinguished history with the Corps of Engineers. Most of his Corps service has been with the Fort Worth Engineer District, where he served the last 12 years as the senior civilian and as the deputy district engineer and the chief of the Programs and Project Management Division.

Among his many significant accomplishments in Texas was the successful completion of Jim Chapman and Ray Roberts Lakes in the 1980s. Mike's technical expertise and planning efforts on those projects provided those communities with vital flood protection and water supply. He also played an invaluable role in the successful approval of the Dallas Floodway Extension project, currently under construction, which will greatly improve the flood protection for that city.

In recent years, Mike has been instrumental in getting Corps approval for one of my top priorities, the Central City Project in Fort Worth. This project will revitalize a portion of the downtown area and provide much needed recreation and park lands, ecosystem restoration, and future flood protection for our citizens. In addition, Mike has provided exceptional leadership for the Corps of Engineers in

developing a partnership with the Texas Water Development Board to improve cooperation between the State and Federal government for water resource projects to meet the State's future water needs.

Mike has also guided and overseen the management of one of the largest and most challenging military programs in the Corps, supporting flag ship installations such as Fort Hood, Fort Bliss, and Fort Sam Houston, as well as Lackland and Dyess Air Force Bases. His extraordinary leadership, dedication, and commitment led to the successful completion of many projects that have greatly improved the readiness of our forces and the quality of life for our soldiers, airmen and their families. He did all of this while concurrently serving in the Army Reserves, and retired at the rank of lieutenant colonel.

In 2005, Mike was selected as the top civilian for the Corps of Engineers for achieving the highest overall standards of excellence and for his many significant contributions to the missions, prestige and reputation of the entire Corps. He was very deserving of this honor.

He has mentored many senior military officers and continues to be sought out for his expertise, wise counsel, and advice. Though he received many offers for senior executive promotions throughout the years that would have taken him from Texas, Mike elected to remain in his home State where he felt his efforts would best serve his fellow Texans.

In the Fort Worth community, Mike has been a well-known and trusted leader and public servant. Both he and his wife, Betty, have served their community well. As an ordained deacon at Holy Family Catholic Church, he provides counsel and spiritual guidance to those who seek it. Betty has taught elementary school students for many years and is currently teaching 4th grade at Tanglewood Elementary School in Fort Worth.

I am indeed honored to have worked with Mike over the last several years as a Member of Congress, and before that as mayor of Fort Worth. I appreciate Mike's long, dedicated, and faithful service to the Fort Worth community, the State of Texas and our Nation. I wish him all the best in his retirement.

HONORING THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE BROOKSVILLE,
FLORIDA ART GALLERY

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 9, 2008

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the 10th anniversary of the Brooksville Art Gallery. Conceived of by two community stalwarts, Mary Alice Queiros and Karen Phillips, 10 years ago this month, the gallery has been an artistic pillar of the community for its entire existence.

Following the completion of Brooksville City Hall in 1996, Clerk of the Court Karen Phillips and longtime champion of the arts Mary Alice Queiros looked for ways to brighten the hallways and fill much of the empty space. Starting in 1998, they reached out to the Hernando

County community to find examples of outstanding art from local residents. One painting at a time, they slowly but surely covered the hallways and walls with fine examples of Florida artistry.

Once the bare walls of city hall were filled with bright and beautiful artwork, the duo worked to make the area friendly to other forms of art, including poetry readings and sculpture. Today, Brooksville City Hall hosts an annual fall art show to showcase the work of area artisans. I also sponsor the annual congressional art competition, a contest for Fifth District high school artists to display their finest artwork and compete to have their piece hung in the United States Capitol. With hundreds of students exhibiting in city hall, Hernando County residents have truly been exposed to some of the finest artwork in our State.

In addition to their love of art, both Mary Alice and Karen have been involved in the Brooksville community for many years. Karen Phillips has given back through her long service as Brooksville City Clerk, and Mary Alice has been honored as the 2005 Great Brooksvillian for her work on behalf of the greater community. Both these women have done so much to promote art in Hernando County, and deserve to be recognized for their dedication and commitment. I would like to congratulate them both on making the Brooksville City Hall Art Gallery a haven for artists and a beautiful addition to our city government building.

IN HONOR OF FRANK THOMPSON

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 9, 2008

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of Frank Thompson, who passed away last week. Thompson served as a code talker in World War II. He and other Navajo soldiers used their native language to craft a nearly unbreakable code. We don't know how many American soldiers survived that war because of Thompson's gift, nor do we know how many civilians were liberated because Thompson and his fellow code talkers helped America achieve success. What we do know is that Thompson and others like him are owed a debt of gratitude we will never fully pay back.

With all of the injustice that Native Americans have experienced at the hands of the U.S. Government, they have always given their all to defend this country. When Thompson joined the Marine Corps, the U.S. Government had only recognized Indians as American citizens for 18 years. Yet 45,000 of the 350,000 Native Americans in this country joined Thompson in America's Armed Forces during that conflict. Native Americans have the highest rate of service of any ethnic group, and today there are more than 181,000 Native American veterans.

The code talkers brought unique skills and a unique cultural heritage to the Allied cause in World War II. As Americans who faced bigotry and injustice, they eagerly signed up to