

SPC Tim Hall of the 173rd Airborne Brigade of the United States Army. On June 10, 2010, SPC Hall of Reno, Nevada, was severely wounded by a mortar attack in Kabul, Afghanistan. Although he was severely injured and lost both of his legs, SPC Hall continues his courageous effort on the road to recovery. My sincere gratitude, appreciation, and thoughts are with SPC Hall and all of our service members as they continue to heroically and selflessly sacrifice for our Nation. I am honored to represent SPC Hall and his family in Nevada's 2nd Congressional District. I am proud to submit a poem penned in his honor by Albert Caswell for the RECORD.

THE HALL OF FAME

In our country Tis of Thee. . . .
 All in this our Nation of the free . . .
 But stand, the greatest of all Americans indeed. . . .
 Are but all of those who go off the war, for you and me. . . .
 The ones who answer That Call To Arms . . .
 Who put themselves, and their families all in such heartache and grave harm. . . .
 To our Nation's Hall of Fame, belong. . . .
 The ones who now so lie in the soft cold dark graves, so all alone. . . .
 And all of those others who come back home. . . .
 Without arms and legs, and burns upon their bodies own. . . .
 Our best and our brightest, our very bravest who so fight this. . . .
 Her most magnificent names. . . . are all but in our Nation's Hall of Fame!
 Men, like SPC Tim Hall. . . . of the 173 Airborne, who stood tall. . . .
 As a mortar attack, left him dying. . . .
 As it was but then his brave heart to him, started crying. . . .
 Not to give up or to give in. . . . as this warriors new battle would begin!
 With his two fine legs gone, he told himself it was time to move on. . . .
 Get Up. . . . Get Moving. . . . Get Airborne!
 As so deep down in his heart, so worn. . . .
 Was the courage and the faith, to somehow move on. . . .
 Another Hall of Famer born. . . . with his profiles in courage soars
 To new heights. . . . To Teach Us. . . . To So Beseech Us. . . . oh Tim what form!
 As he so Reaches Us, and somehow carries on!
 As one of Nevada's Finest Sons. . . .
 There's gold in his heart, this one!
 For this man is Army Strong!
 Hooah, for in his heart beats such a song!
 A song of Strength In Honor, all day and all night long!
 And if I had a son, I wish he but shine like this one. . . .
 As thy will be done, for he's in The Hall of Fame this son!
 Showing us all to what new heights a heart can run!
 America's Son!
 So on this Christmas morning as you awake. . . .
 Or during the Festival of lights, would you so take. . . .
 So take the time to remember, all of these. . . .
 Selfless Souls, who so bring us peace!
 Who our Nation's Hall will never cease!

RECOGNIZING THE RETIREMENT OF JUDGE FRANK BELL FROM THE FIRST JUDICIAL COURT OF FLORIDA

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 16, 2010

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Judge Frank Bell, upon his retirement from presiding on the county and circuit benches for the past 38 years. Judge Bell spent his career serving the northwest Florida community, and I am proud to recognize his dedication and service.

Judge Bell was born and raised in Pensacola, Florida. After graduating from Pensacola High School, Judge Bell enlisted in the Army. After serving on active duty and in the reserves, Judge Bell attended the University of Southern Mississippi, where he received a B.S. in accounting. He furthered his education at the Cumberland School of Law, Samford University, where he graduated in 1966.

Judge Bell returned to his native Pensacola to practice law. He worked as a sole practitioner, in addition to prosecuting both capital and non-capital cases. In 1972, he was chosen by the people of Escambia County, Florida to serve as a County Judge, and in 1985 he was appointed to the First Judicial Circuit Court of Florida, a job which Judge Bell has carried out with honor and distinction for 25 years.

Judge Bell adheres to the judicial philosophy that impartiality must be preserved to ensure fairness in our legal system. In Judge Bell's view, it is of the upmost importance that judges "convince the litigants that all we want is a fair fight for the party." Some Americans view the justice system with fear and trepidation; however, Judge Bell believes that when citizens experience a fair and impartial judiciary firsthand their opinions change completely. According to Judge Bell, citizens, "after serving on a jury where they see the system work, they develop a positive attitude." Judge Bell's unwavering commitment to upholding the law in an unbiased manner is a prime example of our legal system working at its best and is a great credit to his beloved community.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am honored to recognize Judge Frank Bell for his service to northwest Florida and to the United States of America.

TRIBUTE TO RAY ABRIL, JR.

HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 16, 2010

Mr. BACA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask Congress to pay tribute to an outstanding friend, mentor and community leader, Mr. Ray Abril, Jr. Ray passed away on December 14, 2010.

Born in Colton, California on June 5, 1932, Ray was raised in South Colton where he dedicated his life to his community and to the

improvement of education in the Colton Joint Unified School District.

Ray graduated from Colton High School in 1950. A veteran of the Korean War, he courageously served four years in the Navy.

Ray first became involved in education in the early 1970's, motivated to serve because of the poor state of many local schools at the time. In 1973 he won his first election to the Colton Joint Unified School Board.

Ray often liked to joke that he had a PhD from USC, "The University of South Colton." Throughout his 28 year career with the Colton School Board, Ray played an important part in improving schools. During his time as board member he worked to improve student performance, enhance school safety and increase the number of college-bound students.

A strong advocate for education, Ray was instrumental in advising me on many legislative policy decisions over the years, including my PROUD Act. As a board member, Ray became affectionately known as "The Godfather of the Colton Joint Unified School District." He held the office of Clerk for thirteen years and served as Board President for six years. Ray retired from the Colton Joint Unified Board of Education after 28 years of dedicated service.

Because of Ray's lifelong commitment to education, the Colton Joint Unified School Board decided to recognize him by including his name in the campus of the new high school in Grand Terrace. When complete, the school will be known as the Grand Terrace High School at the Ray Abril, Jr. Educational Complex.

An active member of the community, Ray was involved in a number of organizations including the San Bernardino Countywide Gangs and Drugs Task Force, the Knights of Columbus and the San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools Advisory Committee. Ray was also a co-founder of the Mexican-American Parent & Student Organization, a group that advocated educational improvements in Colton.

His legacy of work on local issues such as the BNSF rail crossing and his founding of Colton First had a lasting impact on communities across the Inland Empire. After his many years of service, Ray was awarded the Assistance League of San Bernardino's "Living Legend Award" during its 50th anniversary celebration.

Ray was a loving family man. He and his beloved wife Hortensia were married for 53 years before her unfortunate passing. Ray leaves behind his daughters Melinda Medina, Rebecca Gonzales, Nellie Carnero as well as his three sons, Nick, Michael and Dominic. He also leaves behind 19 grandchildren and 29 great-grandchildren.

The thoughts and prayers of my wife, Barbara, Mayor pro tem Joe Baca, Jr., Jeremy, Natalie, Jennifer and I are with his family at this time. I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering a superb American citizen and dedicated community leader. He will be greatly missed and I extend my sincere condolences to his extended family upon the very sad loss of Mr. Ray Abril, Jr.

HONORING SYLVIA L. WARNER

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 16, 2010

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Sylvia L. Warner for her outstanding service to the people of Michigan's Eighth Congressional District.

Ms. Warner was born and raised in Roanoke, Virginia. After graduating from Jefferson Senior High School, she began her career in journalism at the Belding Banner where she worked from 1969 through 1973. In her dual role as photographer and reporter, she covered local news in Michigan's Ionia County. It was during this time that she developed her passion for journalism and honed many of her reporting talents.

After leaving the Belding Banner in 1973, she joined The Daily News in Greenville, Michigan. Ms. Warner was promoted through the ranks at the paper where she held several positions. She began as the local reporter for the Family Living Section, then the Managing Editor ending her career with the paper as the Editor. Ms. Warner was instrumental in managing a 10 member staff of reporters and photographers. After 20 years of editorial work focusing on local news and events, Ms. Warner left the publication to pursue other interests.

In 1993, Ms. Warner moved to Lansing, Michigan, and combined her editorial expertise with her passion for politics. She joined the Michigan House Majority Communications Office as a Communications Specialist. Her experience with local and community communications proved to be invaluable to the freshmen House members she was assigned to assist. In 1997, Ms. Warner joined the Michigan Senate Majority Communications Office as Senior Writer and Media Specialist. She was tasked with coordinating special media events and supervising junior writers.

In 1999, I was honored to have Ms. Warner join my Senate Majority Floor Leadership office. She quickly became an invaluable member of my staff. With Ms. Warner's experience and guidance, my ability to communicate and work with media was dramatically improved.

In 2000, when I decided to run for the U.S. House of Representatives, I enlisted Ms. Warner's expertise to serve as my press secretary. With the guidance of a talented team I became the U.S. Representative to Michigan's Eighth Congressional District. This would not have been possible without the years of experience, guidance and faith of such talented people like Ms. Warner.

Since my first congressional race, Ms. Warner has served as an exceptional Press Secretary and has been a cornerstone of my team. After many years of dedicated service, she has decided to move to Michigan to be closer to her children, grandchildren and great grandchild.

I, along with the constituents of Michigan's Eighth District, owe Sylvia Warner a debt of gratitude for her unwavering commitment to public and civic service throughout the years. She will be greatly missed.

I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Sylvia L. Warner for her service and wish her the best in her retirement.

TRIBUTE TO PATTY BENTLEY

HON. WILLIAM L. OWENS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 16, 2010

Mr. OWENS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Ms. Patty Bentley of Plattsburgh, New York on her retirement after 41 years as a librarian at Plattsburgh State and other institutions.

Patty was born in Kentucky, spent her early childhood in Michigan, and began her career as a medical librarian at the University of Cincinnati in 1970. Since 1977, she has worked to improve the quality of education for upstate New York students at Plattsburgh State. For 34 years, she has served to make her community a better place by volunteering countless hours with various local organizations. Simply put, Plattsburgh would not be what it is today without her tireless efforts.

I have the privilege of calling Patty my friend, and I continue to look to her for guidance on local issues. At the end of this year, Patty will become a retiree, but I am confident that she will never stop serving the community. Mr. Speaker, I thank Patty Bentley for her years of service and congratulate her on 41 wonderful years on the job.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CAROLYN MCCARTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 16, 2010

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Madam Speaker, I was unavoidably absent on December 15, 2011. If I was present, I would have voted on the following: H.R. 5446—rollcall No. 631—"yea"; H. Res. 1759—rollcall No. 632—"yea"; S. Con. Res. 72—rollcall No. 633—"yea"; H.R. 6205—rollcall No. 634—"yea"; H. Res. 1764—rollcall No. 635—"yea"; H. Res. 1761—rollcall No. 636—"yea"; H. Res. 1743—rollcall No. 637—"yea"; H.R. 2965—rollcall No. 638—"yea."

HONORING DON SIMMS

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 16, 2010

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate Don Simms upon his retirement as the Assistant District Supervisor for the Wildlife Services Central District.

Mr. Simms began his career with the USDA/APHIS/Wildlife Services as an Animal Damage Control Trapper in 1971 in Mariposa County. He eventually left Mariposa County and worked in a number of places in the state and country, including Santa Clara County, Modoc County, San Diego County at the San Diego Wild Animal Park on the wild cheetah project, Alameda County, San Mateo County, and finally on Kodiak Island, Alaska, on a raccoon

rabies project. In 1983, Mr. Simms came back to Mariposa County to become the Assistant District Supervisor for the Wildlife Services Central District.

Mr. Simms has been a dedicated employee of the Wildlife Services program and of Mariposa County. His trapping skills are legendary and he has developed a number of control devices and techniques that have been used in the County and throughout other western states. Mr. Simms has also made presentations on his techniques to Wildlife Services employees in other western states. Mr. Simms has dealt with a wide variety of animals in his time with Wildlife Services, including rattlesnakes, feral pigs, bears, mountain lions and even a Bengal tiger.

In addition to his service to the county, Mr. Simms is a dedicated family man. Don and his wife Judy look forward to having more time to enjoy with their children and grandchildren.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Don Simms for his dedicated service to the people of Mariposa County. I invite my colleagues to join me in wishing Mr. Simms many years of continued success.

ISLAND ELDERLY HOUSING ON
MARTHA'S VINEYARD**HON. BILL DELAHUNT**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 16, 2010

Mr. DELAHUNT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Island Elderly Housing, an organization that has done an outstanding job of serving the people of Martha's Vineyard.

Island Elderly Housing (IEH) was formed in 1976 by local residents of the Island who were active in healthcare, housing, serving elders and the ministry to provide decent, safe and affordable housing for low and moderate income elderly and handicapped persons. Under the able leadership of Carol Lashnits, the agency has created twelve developments totaling 165 units, using both donated land and buildings and financing from the USDA and HUD.

IEH has grown to become a leader in the advocacy and provision of residential and related services for Island elderly and handicapped residents. Since 1981 when IEH received its first construction loan of \$1.9 million from the Farmers Home Administration's Section 515 program, the agency has received more than \$26 million in federal and state grants and loans, and private grants and donations.

As the nonprofit developer and manager for all of the units, IEH is responsible for the fiscal management for all of the development funds as well as the ongoing operating budgets.

Careful management of its funds and its fiscal responsibility has resulted in ongoing receipt of grants and contributions to IEH and its programs from foundations, local religious organizations, and area citizens.

In 2007, Carol Lashnits left her position as Executive Director for IEH and was replaced by Ann Wallace. Under Wallace, with the help of the larger community and a staff of fifteen, supportive services to aging residents have