

HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF
NCIS DIRECTOR THOMAS A. BETRO

HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 8, 2009

Mr. MICHAUD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Special Agent Thomas A. Betro, Director of the Naval Criminal Investigative Service, who announced his retirement from that organization in August 2009 after nearly 27 years of highly distinguished service. In addition to his service to NCIS and the nation, Director Betro is among the notable graduates of Colby College, in Waterville, ME.

Mr. Betro joined NCIS in 1982, and during his tenure he has served in a variety of organizational assignments and mission areas, both within the United States and overseas. As a Special Agent, Mr. Betro served overseas in both the Republic of the Philippines and in Iceland. Domestically he held leadership positions in Philadelphia, PA and Newport, RI. He served two separate tours as an NCIS Special Agent Afloat during deployments of the USS *John F. Kennedy* and USS *Enterprise*.

As Deputy Assistant Director, DAD, for Counterintelligence, CI, investigations and operations, Mr. Betro oversaw the development and implementation of the NCIS response to the USS *Cole* bombing, which led to the significant increase of NCIS force protection support to Naval expeditionary forces. Further, he established new criteria for on-the-ground NCIS port visit support, opened new NCIS offices to increase CI support to in-transit units, and greatly expanded counterterrorism, CT, operations for safeguarding naval equities.

In April 2001, Mr. Betro was selected to serve as a Deputy to the National Counterintelligence Executive, NCIX. He later was appointed to the position of National Counterintelligence Executive (Acting) by the NCIX Board of Directors, on behalf of the President of the United States. Mr. Betro was promoted to the Senior Executive Service in March 2002.

Upon returning to NCIS in January 2003, Mr. Betro served as Executive Assistant Director, EAD, for CI until August 2003, when he was promoted to Deputy Director for Operations, DDO. During his time as DDO, NCIS established its Contingency Response Field Office, CRFO, located aboard the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center in Brunswick, GA. CRFO trains NCIS personnel to be rapidly deployed globally in support of the NCIS core missions of criminal investigations, counterterrorism investigations and operations, counterintelligence investigations and operations, protective operations, and force protection/antiterrorism operations.

On January 8, 2006 Mr. Betro was appointed Director of NCIS and at that time became the agency's third civilian director. Under Director Betro's leadership, NCIS has filled every validated Combatant Commander request for forces for Iraq, Afghanistan, and the Horn of Africa on a volunteer basis. Since 2002, there have been approximately 700 NCIS personnel that have deployed to the above mentioned locations as well as to Kuwait, Djibouti, Guantanamo Bay, and other sites.

In February 2007, Director Betro established the NCIS Diversity Office, which is charged

with developing and sustaining a model program that recognizes the critical role diversity plays in the NCIS global mission. Key functions that are aligned under the Diversity office at NCIS include the Equal Opportunity Program; Alternative Dispute Resolution; Diversity Research and Analysis; and Recruiting Outreach. Through his leadership in action, Director Betro has ensured that diversity awareness is now reflected in all core business functions at NCIS and that NCIS is a model for other agencies to follow.

Mr. Betro has received numerous commendations and awards. He is a recipient of the Presidential Meritorious Executive Rank Award, as well as the Department of the Navy, DON, Distinguished Civilian Service Award and the U.S. Attorney's Award for Outstanding Leadership. He was recognized in 2008 with the Roger W. Jones Award for Executive Leadership and is a prior recipient of the DON Meritorious Civilian Service Award. While assigned to NCIX, he received the National Intelligence Certificate of Distinction and a Meritorious Unit Citation.

In addition to his Bachelor of Arts degree in Government from Colby College, Mr. Betro holds a Master of Arts degree from the Naval War College, where he earned the James Forrestal Award for "Excellence in Strategy and Force Planning."

Though he is formally retiring from NCIS, Mr. Betro has accepted a position with an international security firm based in New York.

Madam Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mr. Betro for his 27 years of outstanding public service and to wish him fair winds and following seas as he begins the next chapter of his life.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE PASSING
OF CHARLES SHANKLIN

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 8, 2009

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Charles E. Shanklin, a Northwest Florida community leader who passed away on August 26, 2009. Charles spent his entire life serving his community and family, and I am proud to honor his life of dedication and service.

Charles Shanklin was born in Oak Park, Illinois in 1929. He attended Bowling Green State University and Ohio State University, earning his Juris Doctor in 1952. Charles became a brilliant and outstanding attorney at Baker & Hostetter in Columbus, Ohio, and served as the managing partner. He remained at the firm for thirty-two years. After his retirement from Baker & Hostetter, Charles became the owner and manager of Marion Steel in 1981, where he worked until 1989.

In 1990, Charles purchased Crestview Aerospace in Crestview, Florida. He operated the company as a family business until 2006, when it became a part of the L-3 Communications Corporation. During his years in Northwest Florida, Charles became an integral part of the business and local communities. Over his lifetime, he worked with Bowling Green State University, the Sigma Chi Fraternity organization, the American Bar Association, Urbana University, and the Niceville Exchange

Club. Charles was awarded Director Emeritus of Bowling Green in 2009, and the school endowed a meritorious scholarship in his name to recognize excellence in original research by graduate students.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am privileged to honor Mr. Charles Shanklin. Charles will be remembered by all as loving husband and father, a successful lawyer and businessman, and an important part of our Northwest Florida community. Vicki and I will keep his wife, Bernice, and children, Chuck, John, Tom, Jean, and Ann, in our prayers.

HONORING MARINE LANCE
CORPORAL BRIAN K. SCHRAMM

HON. CHRISTOPHER JOHN LEE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 8, 2009

Mr. LEE of New York. Madam Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to honor fallen Marine Brian Schramm, the first resident of the 26th Congressional District to lose his life in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

On June 20, 2009, President Obama signed into law H.R. 1595, legislation renaming the post office at 3245 Latta Road in Greece, New York in honor of Lance Corporal Schramm.

Brian Schramm made the ultimate sacrifice to protect the values that sustain this country—family, community, hard work, and freedom. It is no surprise that one friend of Brian's described him as the "most genuine person you'd ever meet in your entire life." That is why I introduced legislation to rename the post office just a few miles down the road from where Brian grew up in his honor. I am heartened that the people of the Town of Greece will have this opportunity to pay lasting tribute to Brian's life and legacy.

Lance Corporal Schramm was born and raised in the Town of Greece, Brian fulfilled a lifelong dream by signing up for the Marines shortly after graduating from Greece Olympia High School in 2001. On his second tour of Iraq, Marine Lance Corporal Schramm was assigned to the 2nd Assault Amphibian Battalion, 2nd Marine Division, II Marine Expeditionary Force, based out of Camp Lejeune, N.C. On Oct. 15, 2004, he died as a result of enemy action in Babil province, Iraq. He was 22.

Brian is survived by his parents, Keith and Mary Ellen, his older sister, Jennifer, and his two younger brothers, Kyle and Michael. Mary Ellen is a co-founder of the Rochester chapter of Gold Star Mothers.

Madam Speaker, in recognition this selfless individual and brave patriot who gave his life to protect this nation, I ask this Honorable Body to join me in honoring the legacy of Lance Corporal Brian K. Schramm.

H.R. 2014, AWARDING A CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL TO WOMEN
AIRFORCE SERVICE PILOTS

HON. CHET EDWARDS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 8, 2009

Mr. EDWARDS of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise as an original co-sponsor of this bill,

which honors a group of courageous women pilots—all of whom earned their wings in Texas. During World War II, Women Airforce Service Pilots, or WASP, were stationed at 2 air bases located in Waco, Texas: Waco Army Air Field and Blackland Army Air Base.

One of the 38 members of WASP who died while flying for their country was killed in Waco while flight-testing a BT-13 to make sure that it had been properly repaired. Bettie Mae Scott was killed on July 8, 1944, her body sent home in a cheap pine box, with not so much as an American flag draping her coffin.

Madam Speaker, my district not only played an important part in the history of the WASP, my district is also the home of WASP Deanie Parrish, a Martin Marauder O-26 pilot, who towed a sleeved target behind her aircraft while a B-24 would pass by and gunnery trainees in the turrets would practice for combat by firing live ammunition, using color coated bullets, at the target.

Wings Across America, founded by Deanie's daughter, Nancy Parrish, located at Baylor University, has played a key role in the creation and implementation of the bill we have before us today. Along with interviewing over 100 WASP, creating the website, "WASP on the Web," founding the National WASP WWII Museum in Sweetwater, Texas in 2003 and creating all the exhibits for the opening of the museum in 2005, successfully nominating the WASP for the Texas Aviation Hall of Fame, and designing and creating the "Fly Girls of WWII" WASP exhibit, which is now on display at the Women's Memorial at Arlington, these 2 volunteers have worked tirelessly to educate and inspire America with the history of the WASP.

This bill honors the WASP and place the WASP history in the national spotlight, where I believe it rightly belongs.

HONORING LONG-TIME COMMUNITY ACTIVIST & ADULT EDUCATION ADVOCATE MR. HOWARD RANSOM

HON. JUDY CHU

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 8, 2009

Ms. CHU. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize a great loss to our community, Mr. Howard Ransom Jr., who passed on the morning of July 26, 2009, at the young age of 55. My heart goes out to his wife, Linda; father; brother, Phillip Ransom; sister, Sheila Ransom; a niece; three stepchildren; his grandson, and the rest of his family.

Ransom was an extraordinary citizen, an activist for at-risk youth and disadvantaged adults in the South Los Angeles community for more than 30 years. His volunteerism spans several organizations including the Brotherhood Crusade, Young Foundation and the United Way.

Born on April 4, 1954, in Chicago to Howard Ransom Sr. and Ollie B. (Cooper) Ransom, Howard Jr. was reared in Oakland. He graduated from Oakland High School and went on to receive bachelor degrees in Theatre Art and African American studies at California State University, Hayward.

As an instructor with the Los Angeles Unified School District for over two decades, Ran-

som was a tenured "master teacher" at the Maxine Waters Employment Preparation Center in Watts, where he succeeded in preparing at-risk youth and educating adults in human development and skill enhancement curriculums. He was noted nationwide for his success in preparing students for GED testing.

In 1992, Ransom co-designed a civil service training program that focused on postal employment for the residents of Watts. More than 800 men and women (many on welfare) enrolled in the program during its first year, with 68 percent completing the class and passing the exam with scores in the top percentile.

Ransom received numerous recognitions for his accomplishments, such as "Educator of the Year" Award from the Young Center for Academic and Cultural Enrichment, and was chosen as a "Living History Maker" by Turning Point Magazine.

I urge all my House colleagues to join me in honoring Mr. Howard Ransom for his remarkable service and contribution to our community. He has made a true impact on the lives of many youth and adults, and will be truly missed.

RECOGNIZING THE EFFORTS OF FORMER PUBLIC CITIZEN PRESIDENT JOAN CLAYBROOK

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 8, 2009

Ms. DELAURO. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure I rise to recognize and show my appreciation for Joan Claybrook, the former president of Public Citizen, who recently stepped down after a long career of fighting for consumer safety and social change.

Joan has been an inspiration to me and to countless others on the Hill and around Washington. As a private citizen, as head of the National Highway Traffic Safety Association, and as president of Public Citizen for 27 years, she has been a fearless advocate for American consumers. Every life saved by a shoulder belt or air bag in this country is indebted to Joan's decades of commitment to the issue of auto safety.

Indeed, Joan has been fighting this fight since the beginning. Even before a full career dedicated to protecting American consumers, Joan had worked as a research analyst, congressional fellow, and legislative aide to Sen. Walter Mondale. Then, in 1966, she and Ralph Nader successfully pushed for passage of the nation's first motor safety laws—the Highway Safety Act and the National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act. Four years later, she began work for Public Citizen, running the organization's Congress Watch division by 1972. After serving as head of the National Highway Traffic Safety Association during the Carter administration, Claybrook returned to Public Citizen. She became president of the organization in 1982, and commenced an impressive 27-year tenure in the post that would be the envy of any advocate or administrator.

Thanks to Joan's efforts, airbags are now standard equipment in all cars sold in the United States, and our government now issues vehicle safety standards that save

thousands of lives a year. But safer cars are just the beginning of Joan's contributions to our civic life. Over the years, she has dedicated herself to countless issues of consumer advocacy, public health, and social justice. Day after day, week after week, in good times and bad, Joan has kept unrelenting pressure on companies and elected officials to live up to their public responsibilities. She has strived to make our government more responsive to the needs and aspirations of its citizens. In short, this nation is a safer, fairer, better place because of her efforts.

Although Joan has left Public Citizen, her work and her inspiration goes on. Generations of leaders and activists have looked to her perseverance, her toughness, her smarts, and her compassion as a model for how to get things changed here in Washington. From Ralph Nader to Robert Redford and Jimmy Carter to JOHN MCCAIN, Joan has taught us all so much about what it takes to effect real change.

She has taught us to keep an unyielding idealism about the way things can and should be, and to combine it with an unblinking, no-nonsense understanding of the foibles of Washington and a tough-as-nails approach to pragmatic, consumer-oriented policy-making. And she has always reminded the powerful that the people come first.

Joan has been a model of courage, conviction, independence and ingenuity, one to which we all aspire. I am so proud of all she has accomplished, which is why I rise to thank her.

THE LOSS OF JEANNE MALCHON

HON. KATHY CASTOR

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 8, 2009

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the death of former Florida State Senator Jeanne Malchon. The state of Florida suffered a great loss on August 23, 2009, when she passed away.

In 1982, she successfully ran for the Florida Senate. My mother, Betty Castor, was serving also in the Senate at that time and remarked on the dedication and fervor she had for bettering the lives of Floridians. Senator Malchon pledged to strengthen social services for the elderly and poor and promoted concern for environmental causes. She sponsored the 1985 Florida Clean Indoor Air Act, which prevented smoking in shared public areas. Senator Malchon also successfully raised the penalties for driving under the influence, increased funding for teen runaway shelters, and raised standards which required employers to report toxic chemicals that were used in the work place.

Senator Malchon's was known amongst her peers in the Florida Senate as a smart and candid legislator who got things done. She was said to be so effective because she didn't play political games or allow partisan politics to get in her way. She has been called "a steady hand in a perilous time." Those that knew her can agree that she was an extremely knowledgeable and determined woman.

Jeanne Malchon was a very dedicated individual who helped others even before she became involved with politics. Born in Newark,