

in Iraq in 2007, and has recently been named the Director of the Army's Wounded Warrior Program;

Adrian Villalobos, a young man from El Paso, Texas, whose spinal injury occurred shortly after the ADA was enacted;

Cassandra Cox, a woman with a mental disability who has advocated for housing for individuals with mental disabilities that fosters their independence and dignity;

Cheryl Sensenbrenner, past board chair of the American Association of People with Disabilities;

and Jonathan Young, the chairman of the National Council on Disability.

Majority Leader HOYER, Congressman LANGEVIN, and Thomas Perez, the Assistant Attorney General for the Civil Rights Division, also testified about the history and future of the ADA.

Each witness had something unique to say about how the Americans with Disabilities Act has changed their lives, and what remains to be done to live up to the Act's mandate of inclusion, dignity and nondiscrimination.

What have we learned in the 20 years since the Americans with Disabilities Act was passed?

First, civil rights legislation has the power to create substantial and necessary change. Before the enactment of the Americans with Disabilities Act, individuals with disabilities were routinely discounted, and their gifts were routinely ignored.

Fundamental human rights—the right to work, the right to live where you want to live, and the right to enter the stores, schools, and government buildings where everyone else shops, learns, and participates—were arbitrarily denied to individuals with disabilities.

Those obstacles were created by ignorance, indifference, and actual prejudice. The effect was the creation of a second-class citizenry, excluded from society in all meaningful ways.

We know that isolation breeds stigma. We also know that inclusion promotes productivity, mutual understanding, and equality.

Civil rights legislation is built on creating a more just society, by empowering and requiring equal access to all that American society has to offer—to every individual.

Second, the Americans with Disabilities Act reminds us that our concern with civil rights legislation does not end once a bill becomes law.

The Act did not magically erase the barriers to equality for individuals with disabilities. All doors and all minds were not instantly opened wide enough to encompass this diverse group.

Progress under the Act was slowed, and even blocked, by Supreme Court decisions that contravened our legislative intent, by narrowing the Act's scope and applicability, time and time again.

But we came together, on both sides of the aisle and in both chambers, to make it clear that we meant what we said: Americans with disabilities must have complete legal equality.

I proudly cosponsored the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act in response to those Supreme Court decisions, and ultimately, a law correcting the Court's misconstruction of the ADA was passed in 2008.

This anniversary is a time to recognize one of our most significant civil rights achievements.

But as the circumstances surrounding the ADA Amendments Act remind us, Congress

must remain a vigilant steward of the civil rights laws we have passed.

Third, we cannot celebrate our accomplishments without recognizing future challenges.

One issue impeding the fulfillment of the Act's promise is the failure of some States to comply with their obligations to offer integrated housing, where appropriate, to persons with mental illness.

The Olmstead case on this issue has correctly been called the *Brown v. Board of Education* for individuals with disabilities, because it condemned the practice of indiscriminately directing all individuals with mental disabilities into separate, segregated housing as inconsistent with the core purposes of the ADA.

Segregation from mainstream society, default warehousing in institutions, and enforced dependence are unacceptable conditions to impose on individuals with mental disabilities who have the ability to live more independent and integrated lives.

The Americans with Disabilities Act demonstrates that civil rights laws not only protect personal dignity, they enrich society as a whole.

In these hard economic times, what can be more important than easing obstacles that prevent individuals with disabilities from becoming productive members of the workforce?

We must continue to attend to the implementation of the Americans with Disabilities Act to ensure that future anniversaries can make us equally proud.

CONGRATULATING STATE POLICE
CAPTAIN MIKE FOSTER

HON. JOHN BOOZMAN

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 27, 2010

Mr. BOOZMAN. Madam Speaker, I would like to congratulate State Police Captain Mike Foster for his recent promotion by the Arkansas State Police Commission.

Captain Foster is a 19-year veteran of the department, faithfully serving the State of Arkansas and working to protect its citizens since 1991. Having served most recently as acting assistant commander and acting commander of Troop I based out of Harrison, Arkansas, he is now officially taking over as commander of Highway Patrol, Troop I. Captain Foster will lead highway patrol troopers in Baxter, Boone, Fulton, Izard, Marion, Newton, Searcy and Stone counties.

Captain Foster is to be commended for his many years of service and sacrifice for the people of Arkansas. He is well deserving of this recommendation and I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing these accomplishments and congratulate Arkansas State Police Captain Mike Foster and wish him future success in his career.

HONORING MS. GLADYS MCDANIEL FOR HER 32 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE ASHEVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT AND CONTINUAL EFFORTS WITHIN THE COMMUNITY

HON. HEATH SHULER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 27, 2010

Mr. SHULER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Ms. Gladys McDaniel for her dedication to the City of Asheville, North Carolina and to congratulate her on her retirement after 32 years of service to the Asheville Police Department. Her dedication to philanthropy and her community is evident as she has participated in nearly every community event Asheville has had to offer for the last 3 decades.

Ms. McDaniel has come to be known as the "heart" of the Asheville police department. Serving as the gatekeeper of the department, her attention to detail and tireless efforts have touched almost everyone who has interacted with the Asheville police department. Police Chief Bill Hogan recalls how Ms. McDaniel's "organizational and historical knowledge helped to get his feet on the ground" when he joined the department 6 years ago.

In addition to her full time job as a public servant, Ms. McDaniel has taken an unofficial position as a full time volunteer in the Asheville community. From helping to organize the nationally recognized Bele Chere festival to donning costumes to entertain children, no job has ever been too big or too small for Ms. McDaniel. For the past 30 years she has played an integral role in the planning and orchestration of the Bele Chere festival. A proven problem solver, she is the key force behind the scenes. In addition to her efforts at the Bele Chere festival, Ms. McDaniel organizes two blood drives every year, coordinates events for the Special Olympics, and assists with the annual Asheville film festival.

Along with her tremendous commitment to the Asheville Police Department and the Asheville community, Ms. McDaniel has always shown remarkable commitment and devotion to her country and family. Ms. McDaniel spent 4 years in the Army Reserves, and 2 years as an inactive ready-reservist, while raising two gentlemen. A devoted mother of two, Ms. McDaniel describes herself as "[thriving] on nurturing both her family and community." Madam Speaker, I urge my fellow colleagues to honor and thank Ms. Gladys McDaniel for her tireless devotion to her family, country, and community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION—

HON. MIKE PENCE

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 27, 2010

Mr. PENCE. Madam Speaker, I was absent from the House floor during rollcall votes 465–466. Had I been present, I would have voted "no" on rollcall Nos. 465 and 466.