

TRIBUTE TO JOHN BELFORTE

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 9, 1998

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor John Belforte, upon his retirement as an extraordinary educator for forty-three years.

John Belforte served for three years during the Korean War before choosing to pursue a career in education. He earned his Bachelor of Arts and Master of Arts degrees from San Francisco State University and embarked upon a life dedicated to education. He was an elementary school teacher for five years, and an elementary, intermediate and middle school administrator for a combined thirty-eight years.

Under John Belforte's guidance, numerous projects were undertaken and accomplished at Bowditch Middle School, including a TV/Radio Broadcast Studio, three computer labs, a planetarium, tennis courts, technology work stations in each classroom, an enlarged intramural sports program, a conflict resolution program, student selected scheduling and programming, and the highly successful Bowditch Means Business, an innovative business and school partnership.

During his tenure as Principal of Bowditch Middle School and as a result of John Belforte's efforts, the school was designated by the U.S. Department of Education as a Blue Ribbon School and a California State Department of Education Recognized School of Excellence.

John Belforte served as President of the Jefferson Elementary School District Teachers Association, president of the San Mateo County Teachers Association, Regional President of the Association of California School Administrators, a member of Phi Delta Kappa and the College of Notre Dame Faculty Advisory Committee.

John Belforte has given generously of his time and talents to our community, serving as a Commissioner on the San Mateo County Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Commission, and as a Board Member of the Human Investment Project and Beresford-Hillsdale Homeowners Association. He's been recognized by the Foster City Rotary and Toastmasters International for his outstanding achievements and contributions, and San Francisco State University for his distinguished service as a member of the Advisory Committee to the Department of Education. His extensive involvement was recognized by the City of Foster City which issued a Proclamation naming May 31, 1990 as John Belforte Day.

Throughout his distinguished career, John Belforte has earned the respect and admiration of his colleagues and peers for his dedication and his effectiveness in improving our educational system. He has touched the lives of countless students and served as an inspiration to many. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating John Belforte on his retirement, thanking him for his tireless efforts and dedication, and wishing him all the best in the years ahead.

CONGRATULATIONS TO MICKEY
COX ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**HON. GEORGE P. RADANOVICH**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 9, 1998

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Clovis Unified School District's Mickey Cox Elementary School for being recognized as a "California Distinguished School." Mickey Cox Elementary has educated students with great success over the years and has served as a tremendous catalyst to the community. The faculty and students of Mickey Cox Elementary exemplify excellence in student achievement and are very deserving of this recognition.

At its inception, in 1980, Mickey Cox was built by the Clovis Unified School District in an outlying rural area in the northern section of Clovis. From the outset, Mickey Cox came together as a school community with a definite vision rooted in a district philosophy and goals.

The foundation of Mickey Cox lies within the concept of being a community-centered school. The strength of their community lies within its diversity—socially, economically and ethnically. Mickey Cox enjoys an unusually high degree of volunteer support from the community. Parents are encouraged and feel comfortable in participating as classroom helpers and participants in a variety of school activities. The community helps to provide the financial support to sustain the curricular activities offered by the school. Community expectations for high academic standards, co-curricular participation and traditional values have been framed within the context of a caring community. All members of the school community work toward developing sustained achievement and social development in their students.

Mickey Cox prepares all students for the challenges of the 21st century by developing confidence and skills in critical thinking through participation in a wide range of goal-oriented experiences. The concept of nurturing the whole child is emphasized through monthly award assemblies of selected students who demonstrate strength in mind, body and spirit. They believe student recongition is essential in helping students strive toward mastery of academic, physical, and social-emotional development. The school motto is: "If it's to be, it's up to me." Mickey Cox maintains a rich tradition of recognizing student achievement and school involvement deemed important by the entire community.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I congratulate Clovis Unified School District's Mickey Cox Elementary School for being recognized as a "California Distinguished School." I applaud both the school and the community for their commitment to our children's lives. I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing Mickey Cox Elementary many more years of success.

THE RETIREMENT OF JOHN WARD,
"THE VOICE OF THE VOLTS"**HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 9, 1998

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, as many people here in Washington know, I am a tremendous fan of the University of Tennessee Athletic Teams.

For more than thirty years, John Ward has been known throughout the Nation as the "Voice of the Vols." During that time Mr. Ward has made millions of fans feel like they were sitting in the stands even though they were only able to listen over the radio.

He has been acclaimed with a reputation as one of the finest sports announcers in the history of this Nation.

Even more importantly, he has become one of the most respected and admired men in East Tennessee and has been a true friend to many many people throughout our part of the Country.

John Ward has now announced his retirement as the football and basketball broadcaster for the Tennessee Volunteers after one more season. When he leaves he will certainly be missed by countless numbers of Tennessee sports fans and will be almost impossible to replace.

I would like to offer my congratulations to John Ward on a job well done and wish him the best for the future.

I would like to call to the attention of all my colleagues and other readers of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD several articles and editorials from the Knoxville News Sentinel.

A LEGEND STEPS DOWN

JOHN WARD, BILL ANDERSON WILL END LONG
BROADCASTING STINT NEXT YEAR

At the University of Tennessee, student-athletes come and go with regularity. Less frequently, the school changes presidents, vice presidents, deans, coaches and even athletic directors. And life goes on.

What has not changed in the past 30-plus years at UT is the person broadcasting football and basketball games, John Ward.

When Ward steps down as the "Voice of the Vols" after the 1998 football season and the '98-'99 basketball season, life will go on but will be very different. Bill Anderson, the former UT football player who has been the color commentator and sidekick to Ward's play-by-play announcing, also will bow out next year. They are the longest-running broadcast pair in Division I-A college football.

Ward, who has broadcast UT football games for 30 years and Vols basketball games for 34 years, called a press conference last Wednesday to announce that he will retire following one more season behind the microphone. Succinctly he said, "It's time."

Edwin Huster, Vol Network general manager, promises a national search by the university, the athletic department and the network for Ward's replacement. The new broadcast team likely will be named by May of next year.

But how does UT or the network replace an institution? University President Joe Johnson said he would prefer the headache of picking head coaches, athletic directors or chancellors to finding a successor to Ward.

As much as Ward's longevity and steady voice at the mike, he will be remembered for the detail, the fairness and, most of all, the colorful way he announced UT's games.

Ah, yes, the color. How does one improve on, "Give him six"? Or dragging out the last five yards of a long touchdown romp as though the runner suddenly lapsed into slow motion: "He's at the five, the four, the three, the two, the one . . ." Or, with field goals, expanding the word "good" to about 10 syllables?

In basketball, Ward might not have patented the term "bottom," but can anyone deliver it any better? And who can forget the basketball glory days of "Ernie G. of Tennessee" or "Bernard KING of the Volunteers" from the mid-1970s?

Such are the things of legend, and, in the world of college football and basketball broadcasting, Ward's legendary status is assured. We wish him and Anderson the best in retirement.

Meanwhile, thanks for giving us one more year.

JOHN WARD, VOICE OF THE VOLTS, TO RETIRE
(By Mike Strange)

John Ward revealed his scenario Wednesday, envisioning the aftermath of his retirement as the voice of University of Tennessee athletics.

"Game one," Ward said, "people listening will say, 'That sure doesn't sound like John Ward.'"

"Game three, people will say, 'I wonder what John Ward's doing today?'"

"Game five, people will say, 'What was the name of that guy who used to broadcast Tennessee games?'"

That's one call Ward will blow.

The man revered as "The Voice of the Vols" announced he will retire following one more football and basketball season behind the microphone. However, it's not likely he will be forgotten by UT fans until well into the 21st century, if then.

After 30 seasons of broadcasting Tennessee football and 34 describing basketball, Ward called a press conference that ended several years of speculation as to when he would step down.

"It's time," he said.

Because of his commitment to sponsors who already had signed on for the coming year and to allow for a more deliberate search for his replacement, Ward agreed to one more season.

Bill Anderson, his color commentary sidekick for all 30 football seasons, also will bow out with Ward. They are the longest-running broadcast tandem in Division I-A college football.

"He's seen head coaches come and go, and he's seen athletic directors come and go," said UT head football Coach Phillip Fulmer. "And John has remained the rock that has always been there."

"That won't change for a number of years. He may retire from being there every day, but he won't leave the minds of Tennessee people."

Ward, who has always been secretive about his age, is believed to be 68. He said he had considered retirement "for three or four years" before arriving at what finally seemed to be the right time.

"I didn't make this decision all by myself," Ward said. "My wife was involved, the university, some of the sponsors we visited with."

He added, "I know the decision now is correct, and the time is correct."

Why? Ward said he had jotted down a list of 22 factors, ranging from health to commitment to the travel to the hours of preparation to the quality of the product.

"It's not a matter of where I think I've slipped very much," he said. "I did a great job this year, compared to other years."

UT President Joe Johnson said he preferred the dilemma of hiring head coaches,

athletic directors or chancellors to the daunting prospect of replacing an institution of Ward's stature.

Doug Dickey, men's athletics director since 1985, was the Vols' head football coach when Ward slid behind the microphone in 1968.

"When 107,000 show up for football games or 24,000 come for basketball games, part of that legacy and building that goes to John Ward and Bill Anderson," Dickey said.

Dickey said before the search process for Ward's replacement begins, UT must renegotiate its broadcast rights. The current contract with Host Communications expires in July 1999.

Edwin Huster, Vol Network general manager, said a national search will be conducted by the university, the athletic department and the network. A new broadcast team will be named by May 1999.

"This is the day I and all Tennessee fans hoped would never come," Huster said. "Where do we go next? Good question."

Ward prefers to sit out that process. "I think it would be better to have a detached, methodical search," Ward said.

The two most often-mentioned candidates among UT fans are WBIR-TV's Bob Kesling and Mike Keith, who recently left WNOX/WIVK radio to become broadcast director for the NFL Tennessee Oilers.

Both are UT graduates and Vol Network veterans who got their respective starts under the Ward regime.

"John set such a high standard," Kesling said. "And he gives the Tennessee fans exactly what they want, so the next guy who follows him is going to have it pretty tough."

Keith said he was "shocked" by Ward's announcement, adding, "It's neat that he set himself up to go out on top of his game. The last year, when basketball was good again, you got to hear what really made him special."

Kesling was recently named top play-by-play man for the Jefferson Pilot SEC weekly football telecasts for 1998. He has made no secret of the fact that he considers the UT job a desirable career move.

Keith said he would "certainly pick up the phone and listen" if UT called, but added, "I'm very happy where I am."

WARD HAS TAKEN UT FANS ON A GREAT RIDE

Ed Balloff lost his job Wednesday.

Don't worry, he has another one, and he doesn't need the money. He is a retired LaFollette, businessman who eight years ago began a second career as a hotshot 72-year-old public defender.

You might know him as a credit line at the end of John Ward's University of Tennessee basketball broadcasts: "Transportation provided by Ed Balloff."

Balloff, 80, was in court Wednesday morning. Otherwise, he would have been at Ward's press conference.

Ward called Balloff on Tuesday to tell his longtime friend that this would be his last year as the voice of UT football and basketball. "It's time," said Ward, announcing succinctly, dramatically that the next season would end 35 years of basketball and 31 of football.

And thousands of miles on the road with Ed Balloff.

Balloff and Ward became friends in the mid-'70s. In the more than 20 years that followed, they realized they shared more than a passion for Tennessee basketball.

"I couldn't have a better friend than John Ward," Balloff said.

They aren't just friends. They are as much a team as Ward and Bill Anderson, Ward's radio sidekick on UT football broadcasts for the last 30 years. Their booth is Balloff's car.

Balloff, who doesn't fly, began driving Ward to SEC basketball games during the glory days of Ernie Grunfeld and Bernard King (1974-77). They once drove all the way to New York for a National Invitation Tournament game. They have driven home from games in Baton Rouge, La., and Oxford, Miss., when they didn't make it back to Knoxville before dawn's first light.

But their landmark trips was to Lexington, Ky., in January of 1976. After that, their return-trip conversations were never the same.

As Balloff watched the game from the UT bench, he became more and more nervous. When the game went into overtime, he couldn't take it.

He went into a men's room, turned on all the faucets and began flushing the toilets—anything to muffle the roar of the crowd that only could mean bad news for UT. Finally, when he detected a silence beyond the men's room, he ventured outside to see all the sad Kentucky faces. The Vols had won in overtime, 90-88.

The games didn't get any easier for Balloff after that. Watching made him too nervous, so he either paced the corridors of the arena or dropped Ward off at the game, returned to the hotel and picked him up afterward. Ward told him what happened on the way home.

So, in effect, Ward did for Balloff what he did for Vols fans everywhere. He gave him a front-row seat at a UT basketball game.

"He's great at painting a picture of a game," Balloff said. Former Knoxville Journal sports editor Ben Byrd said the same thing.

Byrd remembers the first time he heard Ward broadcast a high school game. "From the first day; you knew then he would be good," Byrd said, "because he could keep up with the action of a basketball game."

In football, Ward has made a point of trailing the play, of prolonging the call emphatically past the TD run: "5 . . . 4 . . . 3 . . ." That countdown is as much a part of Ward's distinctive repertoire as "Give him six" and "It's footballtime in Tennessee."

Bob Pob Prince was one of my favorite broadcasters. Never mind that his station was in Pittsburgh, and my radio was in Clinton, La. Sandwiched between a rock'n roll station in Meridian, Miss., and a Spanish-speaking station from who knows where, KDKA still could be heard on most nights in the early and mid-'60s. Even now, I think I could pick out that longago voice of the Pirates amidst static and song.

In Prince's vernacular, a flyball to Roberto Clemente was a "can of corn," a Pirate on the basepaths was a "bug on the rug." Those lines, that voice, assured me that all was right with the world.

For more than three decades, Ward has done as much for Tennessee football and basketball. There's no mistaking his voice or call. The voice has bridged generation gaps and taken its listeners from high school to the high point of their careers.

"I listened to him as a high school athlete," UT football coach Philip Fulmer said. "We used to have to drive to the top of a hill late on Saturday night to get the signal."

"I remember a particular (broadcast), the UCLA game when Kenny DeLong made a big catch. The energy and enthusiasm (of Ward) affected me because he was in the process of deciding where I wanted to go to school."

It was Ward's time to make a decision Wednesday, and UT fans shouldn't be saddened by it. Like Peyton Manning, he gave them one more year.

Balloff gladly will provide the transportation.

POSTHUMOUS TRIBUTE TO MR.
STEVEN J. CRANMAN

HON. CARRIE P. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 9, 1998

Mrs. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I want to take this opportunity to pay tribute to one of Miami-Dade's indefatigable leaders, Mr. Steven J. Cranman. His untimely demise last Wednesday, June 3, 1998 leaves a deep void in our community.

Mr. Cranman was attending the Annual Conference of the American Economic Development Council in Nashville, Tennessee when he was felled by a massive stroke. He was barely 42 years old.

A rare South Florida native, Steven was born in Miami Beach. He virtually consecrated his life to public service, and represented the best and the noblest of our community's leadership. He was one selfless hero who dedicated everything he got to the residents of South Dade, who were rendered homeless and almost hopeless by the 1992 devastation of Hurricane Andrew, the deadliest disaster ever to wreck havoc on any community in the United States. Known as a man of limitless passion for the well-being of his fellowmen, he was the leader par excellence who went out of his way to create a convergence of community leaders and common folks alike to focus in on the socio-economic recovery of countless families through the infusion of employment opportunities.

The Perrine-Cutler Ridge community deeply feels the loss of a truly decent and caring man who made it his personal business to reach out to the needs of his neighbors. His relentless efforts in helping South Dade rise from Hurricane Andrew's ashes through economic development and job creation garnered him a prestigious award from the International Association of Personnel in Employment Security. He was also recognized as the 1997 Florida Economic Development Council's District 9 Professional of the Year for his dogged determination in recruiting companies, which subsequently led to the creation of new employment opportunities for the people of South Dade.

The numerous accolades with which various organizations and agencies have honored him through the years symbolize the unequivocal testimony of the utmost respect and admiration he enjoyed from a grateful community. He truly epitomized the resilience and compassion of a community leader whose life served as an example of how much difference each of us can make in behalf of our community's well-being.

This is the legacy Steven Cranman bequeathed to us. I am greatly privileged indeed to have known him as my good friend.

IN HONOR OF MARSHALL W.
"MAJOR" TAYLOR

HON. JAMES P. McGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 9, 1998

Mr. McGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor Marshall W. "Major" Taylor, a championed cyclist during the late 1800s and early

1900s, for his unyielding perseverance and strength in the face of discrimination.

In recognition of his excellence in the sport of racing and his personal struggle for justice and equality, the Seven Hills Wheelman bicycle club of Worcester renamed its annual 100-mile ride the Major Taylor Century. I stand before you today to pay tribute to an outstanding athlete and admirable citizen.

In spite of widespread racism, the "Worcester Whirlwind," as he was nicknamed by his fans, valiantly pursued his passion for cycling. Taylor endured threats and physical assaults, yet rose to excellence in defiance of Jim Crow segregation laws that permeated the country as well as the sport of cycling.

In 1900, Taylor won the American sprint championship race, ultimately proving that hard work and perseverance can have glorious rewards.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to take a moment to join me in honoring Major Taylor for his athletic ability and his sportsmanship in the face of intolerance.

IN HONOR OF ARTHUR BROWN

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 9, 1998

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Arthur B. Brown who celebrates his 90th birthday this week.

Mr. Brown was born on the Upper East Side of Manhattan in 1908 to Hungarian immigrants. After the death of his father when he was only 17 years old, Mr. Brown was forced to quit high school and work to support his family. At 20, he became the youngest person to become a licensed plumber in the city of New York.

Mr. Brown's successful business and his genuine understanding of the plumbing profession led to his invention of the Holby Tempering Valve, an instrument which is now used around the world.

The success of Mr. Brown's business has enabled him to acquire considerable real estate on the Upper East Side, as well as an off-Broadway theater called Theater East which he has owned since 1954.

Beyond his professional life, his commitment to his community is remarkable. Mr. Brown is one of the longest members of Community Board #8 in Manhattan, a board he has been a part of since 1967; he is also a member of the East Manhattan Chamber of Commerce; the 19th Precinct Community Council; the 17th Precinct Community Council; the Central Park Community Council.

Mr. Brown has long been an advocate for the elderly in New York City, most notably as vice president of the New York Foundation of Senior Citizens. In light of these impressive credentials, it is only fitting that the senior citizen housing located at 225 East 93rd Street was named the Arthur and William Brown Gardens after himself and his brother.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues rise with me in this tribute to Mr. Arthur Brown. He has faithfully served his family and his community for decades and his work for Manhattan is without question worth recognizing. I am proud to have Arthur Brown as a constituent.

STATEMENT ON THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF DENTAL RESEARCH

HON. RON PACKARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 9, 1998

Mr. PACKARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the National Institute of Dental Research. The National Institute of Dental Research (NIDR) was established on June 24, 1948 by the National Dental Research Act. I am pleased to have this opportunity to recognize all NIDR researchers and scientists for 50 years of hard work and dedication.

The NIDR has had a leadership role in improving and promoting dental health. As a former dentist myself, I know first-hand how important this research is for every American. The NIDR supports biomedical and behavioral research in its own laboratories and in public, private, and academic research centers across the nation. It also promotes oral health worldwide through its sponsorship of international meetings and information changes.

The NIDR has dedicated 50 years to researching tooth loss and other related diseases and disorders, including AIDS, osteoporosis, oral cancer, arthritis, and diabetes. Through its research on preventive and diagnostic strategies, the NIDR has contributed to a dramatic improvement in the oral health of the American people. This research saves Americans over four billion dollars in dental expenses every year!

Mr. Speaker, the National Institute of Dental Research has been instrumental in the nationwide decline of oral and dental disease. I wholeheartedly support the NIDR and appreciate its many contributions to dental health over the past 50 years.

IN HONOR OF GRAND CHANCELLOR
SIR WILLIAM D. RUBIN

HON. CHARLES E. SCHUMER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 9, 1998

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today as we commend our dear friend and leader, one of the pillars of our community, Grand Chancellor William Rubin.

Born and raised in Brooklyn, Grand Chancellor Rubin was educated in the New York Public School System, graduating from New Utrecht High School, and completing Hunter College. Upon his graduation he began what would become an eighteen year career at a prestigious major building and real estate organization, moving up to the position of supervisor construction.

Sir William, a self-motivated individual, was also employed for many years as President of Sabil Management and Bilken Construction Corporation, companies specializing in many different areas, such as real estate investment and general contracting. His expertise in these fields led him to become President of various corporations, including Seabreeze Associations. In 1958, Bill married Zeldia Schwartz, also a loyal Pythian, and they now have three beautiful children, all of whom have completed