

of municipal representation for the City of New Braunfels by providing representation and legal advice to the City Council, city employees, and 27 boards and commissions.

Before graduating from Southwest Texas State University with a Bachelor of Business Administration in Economics and Finance, Mr. Zech was a member of the United States Navy. He went on to receive his law degree from St. Mary's University School of Law. Attorney Zech is licensed to practice in all County and District Courts of Texas, the Texas Supreme Court, and the United States District Court.

He is a member of the Texas Bar Association, the San Antonio Bar Association, the Comal County Bar Association, and the Phi Alpha Delta International Legal Fraternity.

As an active member of the Board of Directors of the Texas City Attorney's Association and the chair of the ethics section of the International Municipal Lawyers Association, it is obvious that Mr. Zech plays an active role in the legal community.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to have this opportunity to recognize New Braunfels City Attorney Charles Zech for his dedication and contributions to the community and his service to our Country.

CONGRATULATING THE PRESIDENT OF THE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY, DR. JAMES A. HEFNER, ON HIS RETIREMENT

### HON. JIM COOPER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 13, 2005*

Mr. COOPER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the extraordinary contributions of Dr. James A. Hefner, President of the Tennessee State University, and to congratulate him on the occasion of his upcoming retirement on May 31, 2005.

During 14 years of leadership as President of TSU, Dr. Hefner has operated under the motto that "a passionate faculty are the most important instruments of change in the academic environment." He is indeed "passionate" about encouraging students to reach higher academic heights and he is a strong advocate for excellence in education.

Dr. Hefner has helped countless students realize their educational goals and subsequent contributions to the community. Under his leadership, enrollment at TSU has grown from 7,405 in 1991 to 9,100. Dr. Hefner has elevated the standing of TSU to the extent that, for the past 11 years, the University has been consistently recognized in the U.S. News & World Report's "Guide to America's Best Colleges."

His rich career has spanned many areas of academia. Dr. Hefner has held positions as president of two universities, administrator, professor, writer and speaker. He credits the single common element of his success to his devotion to students. He strives to improve the education and financial conditions of minorities and is recognized as a renowned authority on minority economic issues. Dr. Hefner has authored 50 articles on economic research and authored or co-edited two books: *Black Employment in Atlanta and Public Policy for the Black Community: Strategies and Perspec-*

*tives*. He has served on many regional and national boards and associations dedicated to scholarship in economics, labor relations and public management. He is a consultant to the Congressional Black Caucus, the National Institute of Public Management, the Department of Health, Education and Welfare, and the Department of Transportation. In addition to numerous honors, publications and professional leadership positions, Dr. Hefner was awarded the Presidential Leadership Award from the National Association for Equal Opportunity in Higher Education (the organization's highest honor) and the Achievement Award in Research.

On behalf of the Fifth District of Tennessee, I join with Tennessee State University as they celebrate Founders Day to thank my friend and colleague, Dr. James A. Hefner, for his generosity, commitment and dedication to American scholarship and service to the State of Tennessee. I extend my heartfelt congratulations on his retirement and wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

IN TRIBUTE TO PATRICIA HAVENS

### HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 13, 2005*

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Patricia Havens, who has dedicated her life to preserving, researching and re-telling the history of my hometown of Simi Valley, California, and who will be honored this Saturday for her decades as a teacher, director and author in pursuit of that dedication.

Forty years ago, Pat Havens and 3 others founded the Simi Valley Historical Society. The society, largely under Pat's guidance, has been responsible for documenting and saving local buildings and antiques of historical significance. Many of them are now housed at the Strathearn Historical Park and Museum, where Pat serves as the Museum Director. The projects are ongoing.

The society is currently renovating Simi Valley's first house of worship, which opened as a Presbyterian church in 1902 and became a Catholic church 10 years later. The Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District purchased the building in 2002 and moved it to Strathearn Park, where it joins the Simi Adobe, which was built during the early days of the city's Spanish period beginning in 1795; the Strathearn family farmhouse that was built onto the adobe in 1892; the Simi Valley Library building that served the community from 1930–1962; and many other buildings and artifacts that tell the valley's story.

Preservation has not been enough for Pat Havens, however. Thirty years ago she began teaching the "History of Simi Valley" program and five years ago, in collaboration with Bill Appleton, she published through the historical society a comprehensive history of the valley, "Simi Valley: A Journey Through Time."

The City Council named Pat as Simi Valley's first City Historian while I was mayor of the city, a post she still holds.

Pat's ties to Simi Valley run deep. Although born in Arkansas, she moved here as a young girl and graduated from Simi Valley High School in 1947 with her future husband, Neil. Neil Havens served as the city's postmaster

for 30 years, following in the steps of his father and grandfather, and died peacefully last year. Together they raised three children in Simi Valley, Debra, Barbara and Russ.

During Pat's lifetime, Simi Valley transformed from a farming community into a thriving suburban city of 120,000 people. Thanks in large part to her efforts, Simi Valley's past was preserved before it slipped away. Mr. Speaker, I know my colleagues join me in thanking Pat Havens for dedicating 40 years to preserving Simi Valley's history and for helping to make it relevant to our lives today.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF THOMAS C. LOPEZ OF THE SAN ANTONIO INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

### HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 13, 2005*

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Thomas C. Lopez of the San Antonio Independent School District for his dedication to public service.

A long time resident of Texas, Thomas C. Lopez was born in San Antonio. He is a strong believer in his community, where he continues to work hard ensuring that our children receive the education that they deserve.

Thomas C. Lopez is no stranger to public service. He spent thirty-four years in the United States Army Reserve in active and reserve time. Having served his country, he retired with the rank of Major in 2004.

A strong believer in education, Mr. Lopez currently serves as Secretary and District 5 Trustee of the San Antonio Independent School District. He has also helped to improve our community through his involvement with the Affordable Housing Board of San Antonio Housing Services.

Mr. Lopez has striven to achieve the continued rebuilding of our inner-city neighborhoods. Because of his dedication toward education and housing, San Antonio, Texas is a better place for our families to live.

Mr. Speaker, I am deeply proud to have been given this opportunity to recognize Thomas C. Lopez of the San Antonio Independent School District for his dedicated service to his community.

HONORING THE LIFE AND ACHIEVEMENTS OF HIS HOLINESS POPE JOHN PAUL II AND EXPRESSING PROFOUND SORROW ON HIS DEATH

SPEECH OF

### HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 6, 2005*

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor His Holiness Pope John Paul II.

As the first non-Italian pope in 455 years, Karol Wojtyla would have drawn distinction no matter what his papacy held. However, his 26-year reign as the 264th pope has proven to be a remarkable and historic papacy.