

for promoting regional and inter-jurisdictional cooperation. In addition to her mayoral duties, Ms. Brock serves on the prestigious Texas Municipal League's Legislative Committee and was recently appointed by the U.S. Council of Mayors to serve on the Energy and Environment Committee.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I stand here today to recognize an individual, a friend, who has dedicated her time as the Mayor of Denton not only to her constituents but also has reached out and assisted those outside her district as well. It is with the service and commitment of individuals such as Mayor Brock that ensure the continual growth and close relationship of North Texas communities.

RECOGNIZING THOMAS "TOM"
ENGSTROM OF LAKEPORT, CALI-
FORNIA

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 7, 2005

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Chief of Police Tom Engstrom of Lakeport, California, as he retires after 37 years of dedicated public service.

As a young man in his early 20s, Chief Engstrom was determined to lead a life devoted to protecting his fellow citizens. He began his service in 1968 when he joined the Phoenix, Arizona Police Department. Several years later he moved to California and was promoted to Sergeant with the City of Turlock Police Department. In 1980, at just 33 years of age, Sergeant Engstrom was selected as Chief of Police for the City of Newman becoming the youngest Chief of Police in the State of California. Over a decade later, Tom and his family moved to Lakeport, California where he was selected by the Lakeport City Council to serve as Chief of Police.

For the past 11 years Chief Engstrom has made numerous contributions to his community, enabling the people of Lakeport to live in a safe environment. He has dedicated much of his time towards implementing various educational programs throughout the community including Drug Abuse Resistance Education (D.A.R.E.) and Gang Resistance Education & Training (G.R.E.A.T). With these outreach programs, Chief Engstrom has been able to educate and promote awareness of these important issues to Lakeport citizens of all ages.

Chief Engstrom has also played an active role in creating other law enforcement programs and patrol units including the Canine Program, School Resource Officer Program, Personal Watercraft Patrol and Bicycle Patrol. He is responsible for the creation of the New Police Facility and for raising \$1.5 million in grants for the Lakeport Police Department.

The Chief earned his Bachelor of Art's Degree from the University of San Francisco in Public Administration. He continued his education and graduated from the FBI National Academy in Quantico, Virginia.

Tom and his wife of 38 years, Cindy, are the proud parents of seven children and 12 grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, it is appropriate that we thank Police Chief Tom Engstrom for all that he has done to protect

the citizens of Lakeport, California, and extend our best wishes to him in retirement.

TRIBUTE TO THE LATE MS. THELMA STINSON, PRINCIPAL OF LILLIE C. EVANS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 7, 2005

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to a truly great role model and a truly great educator—the late Ms. Thelma Stinson, former Principal of the Lillie C. Evans Elementary School located in Miami's Liberty City community in my Congressional District.

Her passing away provides us with the sobering thought of the dignity of the human spirit and the fragility of life. Even though she was sick with cancer, Ms. Stinson often went straight from the hospital to her school because she felt so deeply about helping her students. By every measure, she was enormously successful.

Ms. Stinson started working for the Dade County School Board in 1968 as a librarian, then as a special-education teacher and assistant principal before becoming Principal of Lillie C. Evans in late 2000.

Under her leadership at Lillie C. Evans, the school proudly rose from an F-graded school in 2001–2002 to an A-graded school in 2003–2004. "The school's turnaround is a testament to her leadership and her commitment," said district spokesman Joseph Garcia. Ms. Stinson also reached out to the community by ensuring that parents were also schooled in the basic skills of reading, math and the sciences through regular sessions at night. Simply put, Ms. Stinson literally bridged the gap between her school and her students' homes, making parental involvement an essential part of the teaching and learning process.

In spite of the odds, Ms. Stinson truly demonstrated to all those called upon by public service that excellence and achievement are never beyond the reach of those willing to make the commitment and dare to dream what seems to most people to be the impossible. She was a source of light—more like a beacon in the night—in our community and in the lives of student and adults alike. It is impossible to measure the impact of a person like Ms. Stinson, for her legacy will live on in all the young lives she touched, for whom she created new possibilities and new opportunities that, without her special touch, would never have existed.

It is sadly inadequate to say that she will be sorely missed. I extend my deepest condolences to her mother Ceola Thompson, brother Errol Thompson, sister Esther Blackshear, daughter Twyla Hilton, her grandsons, her friends and her students.

PENTAGON MEMORIAL FUND

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 7, 2005

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer the thanks of this body to a democratic friend,

Taiwan, the Republic of China, for their recent generous gift to the Pentagon Memorial Fund.

9–11 scarred our souls and forever changed the way we view enemy attack and the security of our Nation. The Pentagon is known globally as the place our military policy is created and recommended for implementation. It is a prominent part of the government commanded by the Chief Executive and maintained by the United States Congress.

The targeted component of the surprise coordinated attack there shocked and appalled the civilized nations and people on the planet. This Nation lost 184 souls across the river on that day. The sight of smoke coming from the Pentagon is a picture seared in my memory from that day, seen as I ran out of the U.S. Capitol.

Part of the salve applied to our national injury is in honoring the memory of the 184 men and women who perished on 9–11. So, as a member of the House Armed Services Committee, I thank Taiwan for their part in helping to immortalize their memory by contributing to the Pentagon Memorial Fund. And I ask unanimous consent to include in the RECORD the Washington Post story announcing the generous contribution.

[From the Washington Post, May 5, 2005]

TAIWAN AIDS PENTAGON MEMORIAL FUND

The government of Taiwan has donated \$1 million to the Pentagon Memorial Fund, according to James L. Laychak, the fund's president and chief executive. About \$6.5 million has been raised to finance the memorial, which is to be built with private funds. Families of victims of the Sept. 11, 2001, attack on the Pentagon began a fundraising drive in April 2004 with a goal of \$30 million—\$20 million for construction and \$10 million for a maintenance fund. Taiwan's gift is the second for \$1 million; the first came from the Anheuser-Busch Foundation.

"The donation does not simply represent our offering of support for the victims of 9–11," said David Tawei Lee, a government representative, in a prepared statement, "but also express our appreciation for the symbols of freedom." The memorial on the Pentagon's west lawn will have 184 cantilevered benches, one in memory of each of the victims of the terrorist attack.

HONORING THE AVIATION FEATS
OF ROBERT "HOOT" GIBSON

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 7, 2005

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding accomplishments of Robert "Hoot" Gibson, a resident of my hometown of Murfreesboro, Tennessee, who recently broke two aviation speed records.

Hoot flew a Raytheon Premier I jet into the record books on September 22, 2004, when he flew from Seattle, Washington, to Las Vegas, Nevada, at 499.65 miles per hour and from Las Vegas to Wichita, Kansas, at 540.53 miles per hour. The previous records were set in a Cessna Citation jet in 1991.

Hoot is a former astronaut who made 5 Space Shuttle flights and commanded 4 of them. A retired Navy captain, he now flies commercial jetliners for Southwest Airlines.

Hoot's accomplishments in the aviation arena are exceptional, as well as inspirational.