

The Americans with Disabilities Act has changed our society in these past 15 years. However, as with most civil rights issues, there is still so much more progress to be made. We must remember the vision of Justin Dart and listen to the message of Marca Bristo. While we take time to celebrate today's anniversary, we must never be content until the promise of the Americans with Disabilities Act becomes reality so that every person is guaranteed "equality of opportunity, economic self-sufficiency, inclusion and independence."

A TRIBUTE TO DR. EDMOND F.
RITTER

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 26, 2005

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of a distinguished academic surgeon, Edmond F. Ritter. It is an honor to represent Dr. Ritter in the House of Representatives and it behooves us to pay tribute to this outstanding leader in American Medicine.

Dr. Ritter received his Medical degree from Washington University in St. Louis, where he completed General Surgical Training. Dr. Ritter then underwent Plastic and Reconstructive Surgical Training at the University of California San Francisco. After completing his training, he was appointed to the faculty at Duke University Medical Center. He was later named, "The Duke Distinguished Physician," in recognition of his contributions to the institution and patient care.

Dr. Ritter is an influential member of the medical community. As a gifted surgeon with special expertise in reconstructive microsurgery, he is able to provide skilled, state-of-the-art care to patients with difficult problems. In particular, his results for patients with cancers of the head, breast, and neck are unsurpassed.

Dr. Ritter has had an integral role in the training and mentorship of over 30 young plastic and reconstructive surgeons. Many of these aspiring surgeons have accepted academic positions and have become leaders in their communities.

Currently, Dr. Ritter is an Associate Professor at the Medical College of Georgia. In addition to making multiple contributions to the surgical literature, he is leading an investigation of Tumor and Adult Stem cell interactions in order to advance our understanding of tumor biology.

As a result, Mr. Speaker, I believe that it is incumbent upon this body to recognize the accomplishments of Dr. Edmond Ritter for sharing his talents and services to improve the medical, physical, and emotional well-being of those in need.

A TRIBUTE TO REAR ADMIRAL
ANTHONY W. LENGERICH,
UNITED STATES NAVY

HON. JERRY LEWIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 26, 2005

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Rear Admiral Anthony W.

Lengerich, United States Navy, who is retiring after more than 34 years of faithful service to our Nation. A native of Redlands, California, Rear Admiral Lengerich received his commission in 1971 through a Naval Reserve Officer Training Corps scholarship at the University of Colorado, and has since served with great distinction both as a Surface Warfare Officer and an Engineering Duty Officer.

Rear Admiral Lengerich's impressive career has included sea duty aboard USS *GURKE* (DD 783) and USS *BADGER* (FF 1071), and on the afloat staffs of Commander U.S. Seventh Fleet, Commander Destroyer Squadron Thirteen, Commander Carrier Group Two and Commander Cruiser Destroyer Group Twelve. During these tours, he qualified as a Surface Warfare Officer and was designated as "Qualified for Command at Sea." He also served as Communications Operations Officer for the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean on the staff of the Commander in Chief, U.S. Naval Forces Europe in London.

Following his selection as an Engineering Duty Officer in 1984, Rear Admiral Lengerich served as the Platform Integration Officer for the Joint Tactical Information Distribution System on the staff of the Naval Electronic Systems Engineering Command, Washington, DC. His next assignment included duties as Project Officer for the Command and Control Processor and Director of Force Systems Engineering within the Space and Naval Warfare Systems Command (SPAWAR). He later served as the Division Director for Afloat Mission Planning Systems within the Command and Control Program Office on the staff of the Program Executive Officer for Cruise Missile and Unmanned Aerial Vehicles. An exceptional leader, he has commanded the Naval Electronic Systems Engineering Center, Charleston, South Carolina, and "commissioned" the Naval Command, Control and Ocean Surveillance Center, In-Service Engineering, East Coast Division, also in Charleston. He subsequently commanded the Naval Command, Control and Ocean Surveillance Center, San Diego, California, with additional duty as Corporate Operations Officers and Corporate Information Office for SPAWAR.

In 1998, Rear Admiral Lengerich was nominated by the President and confirmed by the Senate for the rank of Rear Admiral (lower half). His initial flag assignments included Director of Installations and Logistics for SPAWAR, and next, on the staff of the Chief of Naval Operations as Director of Industrial Capability, Maintenance Policy and Acquisition Logistics, and as Deputy Director of the Fleet Readiness Division. He was nominated and confirmed for the two-star rank of Rear Admiral in 2001.

Rear Admiral Lengerich assumed his current duties as Vice Commander, Naval Sea Systems Command in August 2002, effectively meeting the spectrum of demanding challenges in the daily operation of a command comprising nearly 50,000 employees and a \$20 billion annual budget. His efforts have been instrumental in creating the foundation for an integrated organization with a single corporate focus that specifically aligned NAVSEA's mission in support of the Chief of Naval Operations, Secretary of the Navy, and Secretary of Defense initiatives. His visionary

leadership and practical day-to-day approach during a period of unprecedented institutional transformation, has substantially and materially guided the execution of extremely complex acquisition, fleet maintenance and modernization programs to fulfill the needs of the Fleet today and the Navy of tomorrow.

Rear Admiral Lengerich has been indispensable in bringing the leading edges of technical thinking and management skills together to meet myriad Navy needs. A champion of sound fiscal methods, Rear Admiral Lengerich chaired a command review of major acquisition programs to identify and address shortfalls, and provided recommendations to reduce testing and evaluation costs, which were incorporated in the Department's investment process. Organizationally, he has fostered the improved communications and enhanced teamwork needed to produce desired "bottom line" results within the command and across the Navy. His vision led to the merger of the NAVSEA Warfare Centers into a single business unit, enabling process commonality between the NAVSEA Warfare Centers and Divisions, and the designation of Product Area Directors to ensure each Warfare Center customer received the best and most efficient combination of talent, facilities, and cost. Notably, Rear Admiral Lengerich chaired the Systems Command Integration Board to address the range of issues vital to the delivery of effective war fighting systems, and, has also chaired the Functional Naval Capabilities—Total Ownership Cost Integrated Process Team for the past six years, and led efforts which have yielded over \$3 billion a year in ship, aircraft and ground vehicle maintenance cost avoidance.

Rear Admiral Lengerich has devoted significant energies to the command's civilian and military personnel. He has shaped the command's "roll out strategy" for transition to the National Security Personnel System and he developed the metrics to guide the command's Human Capital Strategy. Within the Navy's Engineering Duty Officer (EDO) Community he spearheaded efforts to pro-actively manage the community strategy in meeting Navy dynamic requirements. With the same focus on the future, he has been a personal mentor to nearly one-third of the entire Navy ED community and has worked with the Naval Postgraduate School to create a new accredited Master of Science in Systems Engineering curriculum and to create an advisory board on course curriculum critical to NAVSEA and SPAWAR.

For the past two months, Rear Admiral Lengerich has served superbly as NAVSEA's Acting Commander, answering the call of duty as he has done many times before. He is an individual of uncommon character and total professional whose presence will be sincerely missed but whose many contributions will certainly endure. I am proud, Mr. Speaker, to thank him for his honorable service in the United States Navy, to commend him for a job "well done," and to wish him "fair winds and following seas" as he closes his distinguished military career.

ON THE 15TH ANNIVERSARY OF
THE INDIVIDUALS WITH DIS-
ABILITIES

HON. KATHERINE HARRIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 26, 2005

Ms. HARRIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 15th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), which we observe this week. This landmark piece of legislation continues to make a daily difference in the lives of the American people—not only in the lives of those with disabilities, but in all of our lives.

The Americans with Disabilities Act laid the groundwork to direct our nation toward equal opportunity for all. Today, the National Council on Disability, working with their federal partners, keeps up the hard work of striving to meet this vital goal. I am proud to have one of my Florida constituents serving as an appointee to the United States Access Board, which helps ensure accessibility in the design of Federal facilities. I applaud her commitment and dedication.

As Florida Secretary of State, I was fortunate to have the opportunity to apply the mission of the ADA to the cause of election reform. In Florida, we worked to remove the obstacles that were preventing individuals with disabilities from participating fully in the political process. With this legislation, Florida became the first state in the Nation to enact a law to secure the voting rights of individuals with disabilities.

We have fought hard to live up to the promise of our founding and to honor the dignity of every individual, and to extend the rights, privileges and opportunities of that promise to all our citizens. The Americans with Disabilities Act was part of a long line of landmark achievements that have expanded freedom and opportunity in the United States. Let us continue working toward the goals of this law—to remove the obstacles that prevent persons with disabilities from enjoying the full rights that too many Americans take for granted.

TRIBUTE TO LANCE ARMSTRONG

HON. RANDY NEUGEBAUER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 26, 2005

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Mr. Speaker, Lance Armstrong won an unprecedented seventh Tour de France race over the weekend. His life, both on and off the race track, is a great example of hard work and perseverance. Albert Carey Caswell, a U.S. Capitol Tour Guide, who is also a prolific poet, wrote the following poem in tribute to Lance Armstrong and his accomplishments. I believe that reading this poem will provide encouragement and inspiration to my colleagues as we consider Mr. Armstrong's great accomplishments.

A REAL FINE TOUR DE FORCE OF LIFE
WITH HEART AND SOUL, BODY AND MIND . . .
AND LEGS AND ARMSTRONG

This force, this presence . . . which guides us
along life's path and roads . . .
Directing us from deep down within . . . this
burning force, which lasts in life we
follow as we go.

As emanating, from so very deep within our
very souls, this voice . . . of this our
chosen goal, of this our life's Tour De
Force of Life as shows!

While, riding along life's roads,
As there upon our paths as rode, embarking
on this journey we call life . . . as ever
onward we go . . .

To win the race of life, we all must follow a
code of courage and sacrifice . . . until,
approaching our final nights, upon this
our earth as rode.

For in the game of life, there is but one
thing which makes us bright . . . of
which makes us all contenders.

Just one difference between winning and los-
ing . . . for it's "The Heart" from
which all great things are so rendered!

For True Champions come in all shapes and
sizes . . . but, it's what's found within
their hearts as where lies their true
and golden splendor . . .

While, traveling through life's country sides,
As over her mountain tops we climb, as
along life's rivers which we wind . . . as
by her we glide . . .

In this our most valiant of quests, To Be The
Best . . . as before us so lies the answer
so . . . Of this great test, within our
hearts inside . . .

Do we get up when we fall down?
While, upon each new stage in this race
called life . . . do our hearts burn
bright in our souls as found?

For in this our greatest of quests, To Be The
Best . . . will we one day because of
these our precious gifts, perhaps be so
Heaven bound?

In Life . . . to go for the Gold!
To cheat death, to reach down inside of your-
self as your soul stretch . . . until,
none is left, oh, so very bold!

To be a true Champion, To be The Best, to
rewrite history and the records books
while upon our life's valiant quest . . .
as Lance so-Gold.

A True Great Champion . . . among just
mere men.

A winner, a man of courage . . . of passion
. . . of fury and heart . . . from the
start . . . to the middle . . . until, the
very end!

A man who knows but only one creed . . .
who knows no bounds . . . to push the
envelope as he is found . . . as his quest
for victory never so ends!

A Real Fine Tour De Force of Life . . . A
Real Tour De France . . . as is this
Tour De Lance!

A True Terminator, among his fellow ath-
letes as a most historic creator . . . as
ever onward he'll advance . . .

For there is no mountain too steep for him
to climb, no cure too sharp for him to
ride in time . . . with but one thing on
his mind, that Golden Chance!

With Heart and Soul . . . Body and Mind . . .
and Legs and Armstrong!

As this great American Hero, has shown to
this our world . . . why, with his char-
acter he so belongs . . .

For in Sir Lancelot, we see this Valiant
Knight of Courage's Quest . . . reach-
ing deep down into our souls, as with
his tests . . . his sweet life's song!

While, there looking into the very face of
death!

Pedaling uphill, how Lance achieved the ul-
timate victory . . . while "cheating
death" . . . in his most valiant of all
quests . . .

But not to lull, but to move ever forward
somehow . . . on so courageously now
. . . while, to this our world he's shown
his very best!

And, as Lance rides onward into history. . .
My child, I bid you to learn and see . . . and
glean from his life lessons, all about
what's within a heart you need!

What it takes to wind and to succeed, about
hope and faith, about character and
courage and dedication within great
hearts within you to succeed.

In traveling down the road of life,
For in Lance, we so see A Great Fine Tour
De Force of Life, to so carry with us in
our hearts about God and Faith and
Sacrifice!

A true celebration of the Heart and Soul of
Courage and Faith . . . and it's true
fine worth in Gold, this his A Fine
Tour De Force of Life!

INTRODUCTION OF A RESOLUTION
CONDEMNING THE CUBAN RE-
GIME'S MOST RECENT MEAS-
URES OF EXTREME REPRESSION
AGAINST MEMBERS OF CUBA'S
PRO-DEMOCRACY MOVEMENT

HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 26, 2005

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce a resolution condemning the Cuban dictatorship's most recent measures of extreme repression against Cuba's pro-democracy movement.

Following Castro's condemnable, March 2003, crackdown against peaceful pro-democracy activists, the European Union correctly took measures against the Cuban regime. However, in January 2005, the European Union suspended these measures and resumed its policy of so-called "engagement" with the terrorist regime in Havana. This policy of appeasement includes inviting regime officials to diplomatic events and shamelessly disinviting Cuba's brave pro-democracy activists. Unfortunately, on July 14, 2005, the Government of France invited the dictatorship's Foreign Minister to the French Embassy in Havana for a Bastille Day celebration. And, the Government of France did not invite the heroic members of the democratic opposition to the same celebration.

To protest this cowardly policy, members of the pro-democracy opposition in Cuba sought, on July 22, to demonstrate in front of the French Embassy in a peaceful and orderly manner for the liberation of all Cuban political prisoners, and to denounce the current policy of the European Union.

In a viscous display of gangster-style repression, the Cuban regime mobilized its repugnant state security apparatus to try to intimidate and harass the peaceful demonstrators. Members of the Assembly to Promote Civil Society in Cuba, who were planning a peaceful demonstration in front of the French Embassy in Havana on the morning of Friday, July 22, were the victims of hate acts ("acts of repudiation"), their homes were ransacked, and at least 20 of them were arrested. Among those arrested were the leaders of the Cuban opposition Martha Beatriz Roque, Félix Bonne Carcassés and Rene Gómez Manzano. Mr. Gómez Manzano and other opposition members remain in prison as I speak.

This is one more example of the brutality of a dictatorship that does not allow freedom of