

Holiness Pope Benedict XVI in 2005. There, he represents the Church's peace efforts in the war-torn region.

In addressing efforts for peace in the Holy Land, Archbishop Twal steadfastly advocates a necessity for justice. In a land inundated by strife, conflict, and bloodshed, he envisions the Church as a "voice of peace and forgiveness." It is this voice of reason, faith, and compassion that Archbishop Twal uses in building bridges instead of burning them. Instead of seeing the world in terms of Christians, Jews, and Muslims, Archbishop Twal has proclaimed, "the Holy City is the mother of all the faithful children of Abraham." By giving respect to all groups involved in the struggle, he has commanded vast admiration from a variety of organizations representing differing viewpoints that are all interested in peace through justice.

Much like his intellectual predecessors, Archbishop Twal has found that a nonviolent, faith-based approach to addressing even the most embittered situations of political strife is the most effective means by which to ensure a lasting, sustainable peace. As the President of Bethlehem University, he has continued to champion the peaceful Christian message through higher education, despite repeated military threats to shut the facility down by force. It is with this unwavering dedication to peaceful Christian values, combined with keen political insight, that Archbishop Twal continues to forge a reputation as a man of hope, peace, and understanding.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honoring Archbishop Twal's continued and unrelenting commitment and resounding efforts to promoting peace through understanding, acceptance, and justice. His work for peace through justice stands as a beacon of guidance for the global peace movement as a whole.

TRIBUTE TO GEORGE "DOC" GUNTHER AS HE RETIRES FROM THE CONNECTICUT GENERAL ASSEMBLY

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 14, 2006

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the career of the Honorable George "Doc" Gunther, State Senator from Connecticut's 21st Senate Assembly District—an elected office which he has held for a stunning twenty terms—forty years! During his remarkable tenure, "Doc" has represented his constituents and the State of Connecticut with both integrity and dignity. Currently the longest serving member of the General Assembly, I have no doubt that his passionate, vocal advocacy will be missed by his colleagues as well as the staff—the General Assembly will not be the same without him.

Throughout his legislative career, "Doc" has been an active advocate in many areas. He has served on the Public Health Committee since he was first elected and has spent more than thirty years as a member of the Regulation Review Committee. Growing up on the Long Island Sound, the environmental health of this natural jewel has always been a priority for "Doc." He has authored several pieces of

landmark legislation aimed at protecting the Sound and was instrumental in the establishment of the Bi-State Long Island Sound Marine Resources Committee of which he currently serves as State Chair. "Doc" also served for eleven years as the State Chair of the American Legislative Exchange Council, the largest bipartisan membership association of state legislators, and has spent more than twenty-six years as an active member and Connecticut's Legislative Commissioner for the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission. His knowledge of the Long Island Sound, as an economic resource and fishery habitat, has been an invaluable tool in the fight to protect the Sound from industrialization and pollution.

There are few in the Stratford community or in Hartford's Legislative Office Building that do not know "Doc." He is unafraid to voice his opinion and has always fought hard for those issues which are important to him and his constituents. Stratford, Connecticut, the community which "Doc" has represented for the last four decades, is home to the American Shakespeare Festival Theater which, unfortunately, fell into disrepair in recent years. Knowing what this cultural and historic landmark meant to the Town of Stratford and its residents, "Doc" spearheaded the effort by the Stratford delegation to secure half a million dollars towards the efforts to restore the Theater to its original glory.

"Doc" has also been a leader in the effort to create the Connecticut Air and Space Museum which is located at the former site of the Stratford Army Engine Plant. The museum is a tribute to the rich history of the Connecticut aviation industry—especially the contributions of the Vought F4U Corsair used during World War II. These are just two examples of the tenacity and leadership "Doc" has shown throughout his tenure in the General Assembly.

Though we come from differing political backgrounds, I have been proud to work with "Doc" for so many years. He is a force to be reckoned with and has been an outstanding public servant. It is an honor for me to extend my deepest thanks and appreciation to George "Doc" Gunther, not only for his decades of dedicated service to public life, but for the many invaluable contributions he has made to the Town of Stratford and the State of Connecticut. His good work has left an indelible mark on our community and will benefit our state for generations to come. I wish him, his wife, Priscilla, his three children, three grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren the very best for many more years of health and happiness.

RECOGNIZING WWII VETERAN AND POW STEVE RAYMOND OF LECANTO, FLORIDA

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 14, 2006

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor a Prisoner of War from World War II, Steve Raymond of Lecanto, Florida. While serving as a volunteer in the Army Air Corps in the Philippines, Mr. Raymond was among 78,000 American and Filipino soldiers captured by the enemy and

forced to participate in what became known as the Bataan Death March.

Mr. Raymond has written a book, "Too Dead to Die: A Memoir of Bataan and Beyond," about his experience as a POW. This first-hand account recreates his experiences from daily journals that he kept while imprisoned by the Japanese. It also details his memories of the sixty mile force-march along the Bataan Peninsula to a prison camp known as Camp O'Donnell.

During the Bataan Death March, many of the prisoners were beaten, beheaded, tortured and left to die along the side of the path. For those not executed along the way, the entire group went without food, and many contracted malaria and dysentery.

Once at Camp O'Donnell, the 9,000 remaining prisoners were forced to drink from one water fountain, tortured and beaten, and were kept from learning anything about the outside world or how the war was progressing.

Mr. Raymond was kept prisoner in the Philippines for a year and a half, and then moved to Japan. While a prisoner in Japan, he was forced to work in a steel mill. Other POWs took were put to work as stevedores, coal and copper and bauxite miners, and in aircraft manufacturing plants and shipyards.

Following the surrender of the Japanese in 1945, Mr. Raymond was hospitalized for nearly a year to recover from his malnutrition and disease. After his recovery, Mr. Raymond enrolled at the University of Missouri and graduated with Bachelor of Journalism and Master of Arts degrees. He then entered into a long and successful career as a newspaperman, eventually retiring from the Tampa Tribune in 1978.

Mr. Speaker, veterans of the Bataan Death March like Steve Raymond should be recognized for their service to our nation and for their commitment and sacrifices in battle. With fewer than a hundred or so of these brave prisoners of war still alive, it is incumbent on all Americans to hear their stories and preserve their memories. Steve Raymond should know that we truly consider him one of America's heroes.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO BEACON COUNTRY DAY SCHOOL

HON. THOMAS G. TANCREDO

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 14, 2006

Mr. TANCREDO. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this time to honor a school in my district for their excellence in physical fitness. The President's Council on Physical Fitness and Sports recognized Beacon Country Day School as a state champion in physical fitness far Category I schools.

The winner of this award is the school with the highest percentage of students performing above the 85th percentile in various physical assessments. The test included various endurance challenges to measure the overall physical fitness of the individuals.

Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct pleasure to honor the students of Beacon Country Day School as repeat winners of the President's physical fitness award.