

emergency medical teams whose quick response saved lives.

On rollcall number 185, to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 3548, as amended, the Plain Language in Government Communications Act, as a cosponsor of that measure I would have voted "yes."

H.R. 3548 requires Federal agencies to use plain language in Government documents related to obtaining a service or a benefit. It responds to the fact that Government documents often are complex and difficult to understand, particularly when they are not written clearly. To address this problem, President Clinton in 1998 issued a memorandum that, in part, required Federal agencies to use plain language in all documents that explain how to obtain a benefit or service. However, while a few agencies still maintain plain language programs, efforts to promote plain language have waned. H.R. 3548 defines plain language and requires agencies to use plain language in any new document that explains how to obtain a service or a benefit or that is relevant to obtaining a service or a benefit. The bill ensures that many of the letters, forms, and other documents that people receive from the Government will be written in a clear, understandable way. Under this bill, for example, the Social Security Administration would be required to use plain language in letters that provide beneficiaries information about Social Security.

I joined in cosponsoring the bill because I think it is important for those of us in Government to do more to communicate clearly with our employers, the American people, and I hope that the Senate will join the House in giving prompt approval to the legislation.

On rollcall number 331, to pass H.R. 6081, the Heroes Earnings Assistance and Relief Tax Act, I would have voted "yes."

On rollcall number 332, to pass H.R. 6074, the Gas Price Relief for Consumers Act, I would have voted "yes."

IN HONOR OF BRIAN FOSS

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2008

Mr. FARR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Brian Foss in his retirement as the Port Director of the Santa Cruz Port District. Brian served the Port District for 34 years, managing Santa Cruz Harbor, as well as the Santa Cruz Port.

After graduating from the University of Southern California in 1964, Brian spent the next 22 years serving as a pilot for the United States Coast Guard, and as a Lieutenant Colonel Combat Rescue Pilot for the California Air National Guard Rescue. During his time working as a rescue pilot, Brian earned two air medals and one Coast Guard Commendation medal.

In 1977, Brian ended his career as a pilot, and moved to Santa Cruz to work as Harbormaster for the Santa Cruz Port District. Brian's upbeat attitude and friendliness with coworkers gained him many friends, and 2 years later, Foss worked his way up to Port Director for the Santa Cruz Port District. For the next 31 years, Foss continued his tenure as Port Director, serving as the Chief Executive Officer for the District.

Outside of work, Brian was, and still is, a passionate and active supporter of ocean preservation. Brian was the former Chairman of the California Marine Affairs and Navigation Conference, a 35-year-old California port and harbor advocacy association. Today, he is a member of the Bay Planning Coalition, the California Marine Parks and Harbors Association, and he is a harbor representative for Santa Cruz County Inter-Agency Task Force on economic development relevant to the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary.

But Brian's enthusiasm is not limited to the oceans, but extends into his personal life as well. As a devoted father, Brian founded the 129th for Kids fund, a benefit program for military children who have lost parents in service.

His dedication to the harbor and passion for life also extended to his employees. His coworkers described him as a fun, considerate, and polite guy to hang around, who made a difference in the lives of others; he always made sure to let everyone feel welcome and to have a say in decisions. Additionally, Brian taught many of his workers how to effectively work in public service, and always made sure to try to do the right thing for everyone.

Madam Speaker, I would like to extend our Nation's deep gratitude for Brian's service to the United States and his local community. I know I speak for every Member of Congress in expressing my bittersweet feelings towards his retirement, and our thankfulness for his contributions to our Nation. Though Brian Foss may be retiring, he will not be leaving the hearts of all whom he has touched.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF MR. ROD COOK

HON. THADDEUS G. MCCOTTER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2008

Mr. MCCOTTER. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor and acknowledge Mr. Rod Cook, the City Manager of South Lyon, upon his retirement from a prominent 25-year career in public service.

Mr. Cook accepted the position of City Manager in October of 1983, and led the citizens of South Lyon with confidence and pride for over two decades. Rod was known for his stern, quiet demeanor and his ability to listen intently and make superior decisions. Mr. Cook took on the challenge of city manager at a time when the population was only 5,200 people. Rod was able to establish growth within the city; more than doubling the population before his retirement. During his career, Mr. Cook also spearheaded road improvements throughout the area; launched the identity of South Lyon; assisted with the creation of the Rail Trail; and played an essential role in the revitalization of the downtown area.

Rod Cook, through his proactive measures, made South Lyon one of the fastest growing small communities in the nation during his career. As Mr. Cook enters the next phase of his life after his retirement on March 11, 2008, Mr. Cook looks forward to spending time with his wife, Sydney. Constantly showing his love for the city, Mr. Cook will continue to contribute his services, after retirement, until a new manager is hired.

Madam Speaker, for 25 years Mr. Rod Cook has successfully served the citizens of South

Lyon, Michigan. As Mr. Cook resigns from his position of City Manager, he leaves behind a long-standing legacy of trust, dedication, and achievement. Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Mr. Rod Cook upon his retirement and recognizing his years of loyal service to the community and our country.

HONORING THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE EXETER AMBULANCE ASSOCIATION

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2008

Mr. GERLACH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute and offer congratulations to the Exeter Ambulance Association, located in Exeter Township, Pennsylvania, for celebrating its 40th Anniversary this year. Association members will be acknowledging this great milestone on May 31, 2008 at an event to be held at Association headquarters.

The Exeter Ambulance Association was formed 40 years ago to provide outstanding emergency ambulance service for Exeter Township and St. Lawrence, Pennsylvania. The group was formed as a non-profit organization and started as an all-volunteer service. Over the years, it has grown and expanded its services and now provides Advanced Life Support (ALS), Basic Life Support (BLS), and other emergency and non-emergency ambulance services. In addition, the Exeter Ambulance Association operates a community training center and, in 2007, trained over 2500 people in CPR and put 30 Automatic Defibrillators (AEDs) into service in the community. Today, the Association employs over 50 medical transportation professionals, operates four ambulances, two wheelchair-vans, and responds to over 4,000 calls for help each year.

Its mission is "to provide quality pre-hospital emergency medical care in both emergency and non-emergency settings, and perform all services related to emergency medical service and emergency management." As anyone who has received assistance from the Exeter Ambulance Association will tell you, it has performed its mission in an exemplary fashion and consistently surpasses its own standards.

At the 40th year celebration on May 31, the Association will be joined by representatives of the Exeter Police K-9 unit, Drive 25-Stay Alive program, Reiffon and Stonersville Fire Departments, The PennStar Helicopter and flight team, Berks County Humane Society, American Red Cross and Aquabilities of Birdsboro, PA. In addition, St Joseph's Hospital will provide blood pressure checks, cholesterol screening, and bone density screening and the Reading Phillies mascot "Screwball" will make an appearance. It will be a fitting celebration to recognize all of the members' great work.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me today in praising the courageous work, dedication and service of the men and women that make up the Exeter Ambulance Association. The employees and volunteers continue to protect their community with steadfast determination, and ensure that when one is in trouble, they will be there to help.