

Petaluma, Mike Kerns, who retires in December after serving 12 years on the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors.

Mike and I go back many years. When I was serving on the Petaluma City Council, Mike was the big, friendly cop who was involved in the city's tobacco and drug education programs. He served in many positions on the Petaluma Police Force beyond the usual enforcement programs. Mike was a Crisis Team Supervisor, a Peer Counseling Supervisor and a Youth Diversion Counselor and the department's liaison to the Stop Tobacco Access to Minors Program, which significantly reduced illegal tobacco sales to children and teens. He is best known, however, for his role as Press Information Officer in the Polly Klass kidnapping. He became a familiar face on television and his calm demeanor and his compassion for the victim and her family provided a sense of stability as the public witnessed the unfolding of a senseless tragedy.

Mike Kerns was born and raised in Napa, California. He was an athletic young man and in 1967 won a Golden Gloves championship. He began his public service career as a counselor for the Jobs Corps in Pleasanton. In 1973 he put on his first blue uniform as a police officer for the city of Tiburon in Marin County. In 1978 he transferred to the Petaluma Police Department, and was promoted to Sergeant in 1980. Sergeant Kerns married Carol Madsen the next year and they raised two children, Katie and Matt.

In 1998 following the retirement of popular, veteran Supervisor Jim Harberson, Mike was elected to represent the 2nd District for the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors. His "southern Sonoma" district includes the cities of Petaluma and Cotati and a portion of Rohnert Park, along with the unincorporated agricultural communities of Penngrove, Two Rock, Bloomfield and Valley Ford. Mike's humor, directness and listening skills have served him well in dealing with his diverse constituency.

Mike also represents a portion of Sonoma County's bay lands, an area public agencies, non-profits and citizen's groups have joined together to restore watersheds and wetlands. Mike counts among his biggest achievements in office the county's purchase of the 1769-acre Cardoza Ranch in 2005. Now known as the Tolay Lake Regional Park, it includes hills and grasslands, a seasonal lake, creeks, ponds and wetlands, and is a major wintering stopover for migrating waterfowl. The park is currently under development with plans calling for new hiking and biking trails, a natural and historic education center and restoration of Tolay Lake.

Supervisor Kerns should also be congratulated for his major role in the Supervisors' decision to place on the ballot two successful transportation measures which provided the financial foundation for the long-awaited widening of Highway 101 and the future construction of the SMART rail system. These transportation improvements will help ensure that Sonoma County continues to have corridor-centered growth while lowering its carbon emissions and more quickly move goods and people.

Madam Speaker, I thank Mike Kerns for his years of service as both a law enforcement officer and a lawmaker, and wish him a well-deserved happy, and healthy retirement.

CONGRATULATING DR. JERRY ROY UPON HIS RETIREMENT AS LEWISVILLE INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 1, 2010

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I proudly rise today to congratulate Dr. Jerry Roy upon his retirement from the position of Superintendent of the Lewisville Independent School District (LISD) and to recognize his many contributions to LISD and its communities.

As Superintendent of Schools, Roy has expertly guided the rapidly growing district since 2001. LISD currently serves all or part of the communities of Lewisville, Flower Mound, Carrollton, The Colony, Highland Village, Copper Canyon, Hebron, Double Oak, Frisco, Plano, Grapevine, Coppell and Argyle, and includes seven high schools, fifteen middle schools and forty-one elementary schools. Under Dr. Roy's capable leadership, the district has grown from 51 campuses to 66 and student enrollment has expanded from 39,000 to well over 50,000. The district has earned a "Recognized" rating from the Texas Education Agency for the second consecutive year.

During his distinguished tenure at LISD, Roy has been nominated three times for Texas Superintendent of the Year and was named the Region XI 2006 Superintendent of the Year. In addition, he has served on the Texas Commissioner of Education's TASA Cabinet of Superintendents, University Interscholastic League Legislative Counsel and many other professional organizations. Currently, he serves on the Texas Association of School Administrators' Executive Committee as well as the Board of Directors for the Lewisville Chamber of Commerce.

Madam Speaker, it is with great honor that I rise today to congratulate and recognize the accomplishments of Dr. Jerry Roy, Superintendent of Schools of the Lewisville Independent School District. I am joined by the citizens, colleagues, teachers, parents and students of LISD in wishing him well upon his retirement. It is a privilege to represent such a dedicated community leader and public servant who has had such a positive influence on the lives and futures of thousands of students in the United States House of Representatives.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 1, 2010

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Madam Speaker, today our national debt is \$13,860,773,759,018.43.

On January 6th, 2009, the start of the 111th Congress, the national debt was \$10,638,425,746,293.80.

This means the national debt has increased by \$3,222,348,012,724.60 so far this Congress.

This debt and its interest payments we are passing to our children and all future Americans.

WORLD AIDS DAY

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 1, 2010

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize December 1, 2010, as "World AIDS Day". This day was designated as such in 1988 by the World Health Organization and from then on, we have continued to uphold the tradition.

As we embark upon the thirtieth year of the HIV/AIDS virus, we should reflect on so many Americans and others around the world that have died from this devastating disease. My district of Brooklyn, New York is considered the epicenter of the HIV/AIDS epidemic in the United States for African Americans, women, adolescents, and children. With this alarming revelation, 87 percent, of which 7 percent are under the age of 13, are persons of color living with the HIV/AIDS virus. Brooklyn has been heavily affected by this deadly disease for over the past three decades and we have the city's highest prevalence rates. It was estimated that 27,000 Brooklyn residents were living with HIV/AIDS in 2008, and 1,027 were newly diagnosed. There are several thousand more who are infected with the virus, but don't even know it! That's why it is critical to get this message out across the nation: get tested, it could save your life.

Today, on World AIDS Day, the mayor of my home state of New York, Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg announced a new initiative to fight against HIV/AIDS called "Brooklyn Knows". This is a community-based test effort that aims to help a half-million Brooklyn residents learn their HIV status over the next four years. It highlights the city's leadership to date in making HIV testing a routine part of health care.

Like the World Health Organization and my great state of New York, I want to encourage everyone to take a stand by putting in place preventive mechanisms to eradicate this deadly disease. I want to be clear that I am not asking you to solve this epidemic alone, but I feel it is our responsibility to take whatever steps and measures are necessary to put into place mandatory requirements for our medical providers to offer voluntary HIV testing to their patients.

Once again, I ask that we all take a stand and make a difference to ensure another life is saved from this deadly disease.

CELEBRATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS POST 9168 IN LEWISVILLE, TEXAS

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 1, 2010

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I proudly rise today in recognition of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 9168. On November 12, 2010, the VFW Post 9168 celebrates its 50th Anniversary of service to the community.

The Veterans of Foreign Wars is a nonprofit veterans' service organization composed of combat veterans and those who currently

serve on active duty or in the Guard and Reserves. Even after completing military careers, members continue to serve their nation and fellow veterans through the offering of assistance programs for troop and family support, transitioning and veterans advocacy.

In 1960, the VFW was chartered and serves the veterans of Lewisville, Flower Mound, Highland Village and The Colony. Throughout its time in North Texas, the members of VFW Post 9168 have sponsored Boy Scout troops and delivered home cooked meals to countless veterans.

The VFW has long been an advocate for inspiring our Nation's future. Post 9168 serves in local schools and hosts scholarship competitions to help students fund and continue their education.

To commemorate its 50th Anniversary, the VFW is once again reaching out to the community. They are inviting the whole community with the intent to reaching out to more service members, their families and Texans as a whole.

Madam Speaker, it is with great honor that I rise today to recognize this outstanding organization. I am proud to represent VFW Post 9168 and its members in the United States House of Representatives.

IN HONOR OF DR. CHALMERS
JOHNSON

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 1, 2010

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, Congresswoman MARCY KAPTUR and I rise today to honor the life and work of Dr. Chalmers Johnson. Best known as an influential Asian studies scholar and economist, his insights changed the landscape of Asian political economics. His brilliance touched the lives of the many students he taught throughout his career, and his work provides understanding and vision to many others around the world.

Dr. Johnson's fascination with Asia first began while he was serving our country in the Navy during the Korean War. While in Japan, his interest in the politics and economy of the region was ignited, and he began to learn Japanese. His career in the field of political economy started at the University of California at Berkeley, where he earned his bachelor's, master's, and doctorate degrees before joining the political science department. He later founded the Japan Policy Research Institute, which provides research and public education in the field of Japanese public policy.

He went on to have a prodigious writing career, which included many ideas that challenged contemporary scholarly theory in Asian political economics. For example, he was one of the first to suggest that famine, not ideology or personalities, drove the Chinese Revolution, and that the recovery of the Japanese economy after World War II was state-driven, rather than a product of the free market. These and other groundbreaking insights heavily influenced later political economic thought and discussion.

Later in his career, he became a vocal opponent of major aspects of American foreign policy, writing several books decrying America's increasing global military presence as an attempt at empire-building. In the process, he became a public figure and a voice of opposition to the expansion of American military power and global military hegemony.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join Congresswoman MARCY KAPTUR and me in honoring the life and work of Dr. Chalmers Johnson. The boldness of his scholarship will be remembered as revolutionary, and his bibliography will be viewed by many students to come as defining in the areas of Asian studies, political economy, and international relations.