

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