

last two years to assist in building houses and schools as part of a church mission project.

In addition to these charitable pursuits, Richard has served in the all-volunteer Coast Guard Auxiliary for the last three years and is presently the Flotilla Commander. Mr. Nugent teaches boating safety classes, conducts recreational boat safety checks, and participates in safety and security patrols on the Potomac River and Chesapeake Bay. Mr. Nugent has also served his immediate neighborhood as a Board officer of the Somerset South Homeowner's Association for the last ten years.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, it is with great pleasure that we extend this recognition to Mr. Richard Nugent. His notable contribution to his community deserves to be commended, and we call upon all of our colleagues in joining us to applaud Mr. Nugent for all of his accomplishments.

TRIBUTE TO CHARLES TIDWELL

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 10, 2003

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I take this opportunity to pay tribute to Mr. Charles Tidwell who died a few days ago after having spent a lifetime of being a good husband, a good father, a good neighbor, a good citizen and a good friend.

Mr. Tidwell was what we would call an ordinary man, ordinary in that he owned his own business, an ordinary business, he was a self-employed plumber, who for many years worked every day. He was a welcomed sight; people often looked forward to him coming because he generally represented relief, a man who knew how to do what he could and do it well.

Mr. Tidwell was ordinary but he was also unordinary, unordinary because he and his wife were intimately connected to their community, actively involved in their church, actively involved in the civic affairs of their community and actively involved in politics or public policy decision-making. The Tidwell home was oftentimes the place where block club meetings were held, political candidates came and problem solving discussions were held and of course, Mrs. Tidwell generally found a way to have some fried chicken, cake, potato salad, potato pie or whatever she decided to cook. In reality the Tidwells represent the best among us and we're going to miss Mr. Tidwell, a good son, a good husband, a good father, a good neighbor, a good citizen, a good American. May his soul rest in peace.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE RIGHT REVEREND CLAUDE E. PAYNE, BISHOP

HON. CHRIS BELL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 10, 2003

Mr. BELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the Right Reverend Claude E. Payne, bishop of Texas on the occasion of his retirement from the Episcopal Church. He will be celebrating his retirement June 27, 2003.

For many years, Bishop Payne has been a pillar of the Texas community. After graduating with a chemical engineering degree from Rice University, Bishop Payne went on to earn a Masters and Doctor of Divinity from the Church Divinity School of the Pacific. Prior to his election as seventh bishop of Texas, Bishop Payne was rector of one of the largest churches in the Texas diocese, St. Martin's in Houston. He has also served at St. Mark's in Beaumont as well as St. Mark's in Houston. In June of 1993, the Right Reverend Payne was elected to bishop of the Episcopal Church. In 1995, he became a diocesan bishop for Texas.

Since that time Bishop Payne has worked unceasingly to reach people without a church home. His vision of doubling the size of the diocese to 200,000 parishioners by 2005 is truly a miraculous goal; hence the diocese views itself as "a community of miraculous expectations."

During Bishop Payne's episcopacy, the diocese built the first new church for a Spanish-speaking congregation in the United States, built seven new churches in Houston and Austin and restarted numerous others. Membership has increased by 10,000 and more importantly, average Sunday attendance has increased by more than 18.7 percent.

Under the bishop's leadership, approximately \$50 million has been granted by the Episcopal Health Charities for community outreach programs. These grants helped to provide fully equipped mobile clinics: one for at-risk youth living on the streets of Houston and another for Matagorda County, an area profoundly under-served in health care.

Bishop Payne was also instrumental in the expansion and renovation of Camp Allen, a camp and conference center. The renovation includes a new 1200 seat chapel and a 70-acre lake. Camp Allen provides recreational facilities for church members as well as secular groups from the surrounding area.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate Bishop Payne on his many years of exceptional service to the Episcopal Church and the diocese of Texas. I applaud his leadership in the development and enhancement of his community.

A TRIBUTE TO VON R. HUNT

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 10, 2003

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Von R. Hunt in recognition of his commitment to his community.

Von Renneslerr Hunt was born in Colon, Republic of Panama. He graduated from the Canal Zone Rainbow High School, Amador Guero Spanish School and the Baptist Academy.

Von was a professional sign painter in Panama, working for various agencies of the Canal Zone. He also played music professionally and played with his own trio band throughout Panama.

After 20 years of service with the Panama Canal Zone, he immigrated to the United States in 1965. In New York City, he worked on Wall Street for the Moore McCormack Steamship Company, Dreyfuss Stock Ex-

change, and the Royal Globe Insurance Company. He retired from Royal Globe Insurance Company after 25 years of service. At the time of his retirement, he was working in the Computer Networks Department.

When he retired, Von resumed his music career. He began playing for big Latin bands like Machito, Joe Valle, Vicentico Alarez, and the Oriental Cubana. However, he eventually retired from his musical career and returned to the business work. Presently, he works for Amsco School Publications as a senior accounts receivable clerk.

Von has a remarkable spirit of giving and caring. He is a respectable and gentle individual. He will lend a helping hand to anyone in need. It is often said about Von that "to know him is to love him." He is a member of Community Board 13 in Queens, a member of St. Clare's Catholic Church, and a proud member for Congressman TOWNS' constituent support group.

Von is married to Teresa Johnson-Hunt, and they are the proud parents of five children and six grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, Von R. Hunt is committed to assisting his fellow community members. As such, he is more than worthy of receiving our recognition today and I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring this truly remarkable person.

HONORING PEACE OFFICERS MEMORIAL DAY

HON. RAHM EMANUEL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 10, 2003

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, every city block and every country road across this country is protected by potential heroes. But police officers like my Uncle Les of the Chicago Police Department, firefighters, and other officers of peace don the mantle of heroism every day, and are prepared to respond not only to forces of nature or forces of man, but also to forces of evil, like that which brought down the World Trade Towers and tore into the Pentagon.

Peace officers are very real heroes, and must be honored as such. At risk to their own personal safety, peace officers put themselves between danger and the people they protect. Last year, more than 147 peace officers were killed in the line of duty during 2002, and the previous year 230 officers were killed, including 72 officers in the September 11th terrorist attacks. We will never know the number of lives that were spared because they gave their own.

Too often round-the-clock news shows, television talk programs and supermarket tabloids elevate the frivolous to the famous, and blur the difference between the noble and the notorious. We must honor real heroes in a meaningful manner.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting the President's proclamation designating May 15 as Peace Officers Memorial Day.