

Well liked and respected at Commissioners Court, Smith was revered by many of his employees, from whom he insisted on unwavering courtesy to the public. A number of Smith's employees have been with him for decades. It was frequently said that when Smith finally left office, the average age of tax office employees likely would decline significantly.

Smith, a native of Lindale, Texas, took a law degree from Houston Law School before a great many of his Harris County constituency were born. Talk around the county was that Smith, one of the Harris County's last remaining Democrats elected countywide and serving his 12th term, was clinging to the office to keep it out of Republican hands. But there is no denying he managed an efficient shop.

Through the years, Smith fought off usurpers to his domain of tax collection and tax bill distribution, voter registration, motor vehicle registration, alcohol license fees and other state levies. Smith fended off a proposal by powerful former Mayor Bob Lanier to give a portion of his office's tax collection function to a law firm. And in his most recent re-election, Smith put down a challenger's campaign to shutter the tax office, pass voter registration duties to the county clerk and privatize tax collection.

Smith, in 1952, was the first county official to promote a black employee to an important government position, a deputy clerkship. And he wrote the statewide property tax exemption for citizens over 65 that was later adopted as a constitutional amendment.

Smith's wife of 59 years, Dorothy DeArman Smith, died in 1991. They were parents of two daughters, Nancy Stewart and Pam Robinson, both of Houston.

His mind clear, his wit sharp and his sense of humor intact, Smith's heart failed him in the end. He died at 89 at St. Luke's Hospital, where he was being treated for heart problems. Carl Smith will be long missed and remembered always.

INTRODUCTION OF THE STAND DOWN AUTHORIZATION ACT OF 1998

HON. BRUCE F. VENTO

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 30, 1998

Mr. VENTO. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the Stand Down Authorization Act of 1998. This important legislation will build up and expand the VA's role in providing outreach assistance to homeless veterans.

According to the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), more than 275,000 veterans are without homes every night and twice as many may be homeless during the course of the year. Based on this statistic, one out of every three individuals who is sleeping in a doorway, alley or box in our cities and rural communities has put on a uniform and served our country. Unfortunately, these numbers are only expected to increase as the military downsizes.

In times of war, exhausted combat units requiring time to rest and recover were removed from the battlefield to a place of safety. This procedure was known as "Stand Down." Today, Stand Downs which help veterans are held across our nation. Stand Downs are grassroots, community-based intervention programs designed to help the estimated 275,000 veterans without homes in our country. To-

day's battlefield is too often life on the streets for our nation's veterans.

The Stand Down Authorization Act of 1998 will direct the VA to create a pilot program that would establish Stand Down programs in every state. Currently, only 100 Stand Down events take place in a handful of states annually. In addition, my legislation would also authorize the VA to distribute excess supplies and equipment to Stand Downs across the nation.

The first such special Stand Down, held in 1988, was the creation of several Vietnam veterans. The goal of the event was to provide one to three days of hope designed to serve and empower homeless veterans. Since, the, Stand Downs have provided a means for thousands of homeless or near-homeless veterans to obtain a broad range of necessities and services including food, clothing, medical care, legal assistance, mental health assessment, job counseling and housing referrals. Most importantly, Stand Downs provide a gathering that offers companionship, camaraderie and mutual support.

Thousands of volunteers and organizations over the past decade have done an outstanding job donating their time, expertise an energy to address the unique needs of homeless or near-homeless veterans and their families. Currently, the VA coordinates with local veteran service organizations, the National Guard and Reserve Units, homeless shelter programs, health care providers and other members of the community in organizing the Stand Down events annually. However, much more action is needed to address the persistent and growing number of homeless veterans who have fought honorably to preserve our freedom and now face personal crisis in their lives.

Veterans in past service unconditionally stood up for America. Now we must speak up and stand up for veterans today. I urge all members to join with me in providing outreach assistance to veterans without homes by co-sponsoring the Stand Down Authorization Act of 1998.

CLEVELAND HOPKINS INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 30, 1998

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss a very important issue in my district, Cleveland Hopkins International Airport.

Just yesterday, the United States House of Representatives passed the Transportation Appropriations bill, an important piece of legislation for this country. The Honorable Chairman of the Transportation Appropriations Committee, Mr. WOLF, has crafted a bipartisan piece of legislation that will serve this country's transportation needs for the coming fiscal year.

Accompanying this bill is the House Committee Report (105-648). I would like to clarify something in the RECORD that is contained in this report as it relates to Cleveland Hopkins International Airport.

Cleveland Hopkins is vitally important to Northeast Ohio. It not only connects Northeast Ohio with the rest of the world, it provides jobs

and economic opportunity for the people who live there. Cleveland Hopkins is also within the city limits, and is surrounded by residential communities that are being asked to adjust to the growing demands being placed on the airport.

Because the airport is very close to reaching overcapacity, the city of Cleveland has embarked upon a plan to expand the capacity of the airport and to improve it so that it may meet the needs of the 21st century. Improving the airport and expanding its capacity in the least intrusive manner to surrounding communities is something that I wholeheartedly support.

However, there is language in the Transportation Appropriations Committee Report that needs to be clarified. The language states on page 78, "The Committee urges the FAA administrator to give priority consideration to a request for discretionary funding for site and engineering studies for the proposed runway expansion at the Cleveland Hopkins International Airport."

The case to expand a specific runway has not yet been made, and singling out this one aspect of the proposed expansion could be misleading. Expanding the capacity of the airport to handle increased air traffic would not necessarily be advanced by merely lengthening one runway.

It is my understanding that it was not the intention of the Committee to determine particular airport improvements. The Committee wishes to urge the FAA to give priority to necessary studies of airport improvements at Cleveland Hopkins. Such studies might include a wide range of possible projects. All legitimate proposals for expanding the airport deserve equal consideration, as well as scrutiny by the FAA, air traffic controllers, local officials from the affected communities, residents, and my Congressional office.

To this end, I intend to work with the House-Senate Transportation Appropriation Conference Committee to clarify that the House Committee did not mean to specify a runway expansion, but to instruct the FAA to make Cleveland Hopkins airport improvements generally a priority for engineering and site studies.

Thank you Mr. Speaker for giving me this opportunity to clarify the Committee's intention for the RECORD.

HONORING ADMIRAL ROBERT E. KRAHEK

HON. BOB CLEMENT

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 30, 1998

Mr. CLEMENT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Admiral Robert E. Kramek, Commandant of the United States Coast Guard, for his devoted service to the U.S. Coast Guard and his commitment to our country.

Admiral Kramek began his long road to become the 20th Commandant of the United States Coast Guard when he graduated with honors from the USCG Academy with a B.S. in Engineering in 1961. He attended post

graduate schools at the University of Michigan, Johns Hopkins University, and the University of Alaska. He has received Master of Science Degrees in Naval Architecture and Marine Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, and Engineering Management. He also attended the U.S. Naval War College in Newport, RI and graduated with Highest Distinction. Admiral Kramek was selected for Flag rank in 1986. After selection for Flag rank, he completed the "Capstone" Program at the National Defense University Institute of Higher Defense Studies.

ADM Kramek had many assignments before relieving ADM J. William Kime as Commandant on June 1, 1994. He was Chief of Staff of the U.S. Coast Guard and commanded two Coast Guard Districts: the 13th District in the Pacific Northwest and the 7th District in the Southeast U.S. and Caribbean. He commanded the Coast Guard Base at Governors Island, New York. He led the interdiction and rescue of 37,000 Haitians when he commanded the High Endurance Cutter *Midgett* and the Haitian Migration Task Force. During this same time period, he was also on the Drug Czar's Coordinator for the War on Drugs in the Southeast U.S. and Caribbean. He served as Regional Emergency Transportation Coordinator (RETCO) for the Secretary of Transportation in the Pacific Northwest. He also commanded Maritime Defense Zone sectors Pacific Northwest and Sector 7 Southeast U.S., which are Navy Coastal Defense Commands.

During his four years as Commandant, ADM Kramek has been responsible for many achievements within the U.S. Coast Guard. He launched four new classes of cutters: The *Keeper*- and *Juniper*-class buoytenders, the 87 foot Patrol Boat, and the Polar Icebreaker. He led the Coast Guard in an international effort to target chokepoints in the illegal drug trade, while overseeing record-setting cocaine seizures in Operations Frontier Shield, Gulf Shield, and Frontier Lance. He oversaw the integration of Reserve forces with the active-duty Coast Guard and advanced the Coast Guard's reputation as the world's premier maritime service. He created a fully integrated leadership development program that led to the Leadership Development Center of Excellence. He negotiated a memorandum of understanding with the Russian Federal Border Service that led to joint U.S.-Russian operations in the Bering Sea. He also set a government-wide example in National Performance Review improvements and signed a memorandum of agreement with the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Transportation defining the Coast Guard's unique defense role in the post-Cold War era.

In addition to his accomplishments, ADM Kramek has received many awards. These awards include two CG Distinguished Service Medals, two Legion of Merit awards, the Meritorious Service Medal, four CG Commendation Medals, the CG Achievement Medal, CG Unit Commendations, the Meritorious Unit Commendation, the Special Operations Ribbon with silver star, the Humanitarian Service Medal with bronze star, and the Sea Service Ribbon with bronze star.

Admiral Kramek has left his own personal influence on the Coast Guard, which has helped make the United States Coast Guard such a valuable part of this country. Let us not forget the man we honor today, who lives his life to serve the United States of America.

Congratulations to Admiral Robert E. Kramek on his extraordinary life and career, and may God continue to bless him, his wife Patricia, and his four children, Tracy, Joseph, Suzanne, and Nancy.

"VIETNAM: THE LAND WE NEVER KNEW"—GEOFFREY CLIFFORD'S PHOTO EXHIBIT ABOUT PEOPLE, NOT WAR

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 30, 1998

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege for me to call to the attention of my colleagues the work of an exceptional Bay Area photographer, Mr. Geoffrey Clifford. In an exhibit of his photographs—"Vietnam: The Land We Never Knew"—he shares with us his images of the people of Vietnam. I believe that it would be helpful for all of us to view Mr. Clifford's beautiful pictures, to obtain a greater understanding of the innate beauty of Vietnam, its ancient culture and its strong people. Those photographs are on display this week in the Cannon Rotunda here on Capitol Hill, and I urge my colleagues to stop for a moment to enjoy this outstanding exhibit.

Geoffrey Clifford first arrived in Vietnam not as a photographer, but as a soldier. He served his country as a helicopter pilot for 10½ months during the early 1970's, flying combat assaults and supply missions from bases in Chu Lai and Da Nang. He experienced Vietnam during its greatest turmoil, when its citizens were divided and its communities and landscapes ravaged by war.

Upon his return to the United States in 1972, Mr. Clifford built a career and started a family. But he never forgot Vietnam, and his inescapable memories led to his return many years later. As he wrote in the introduction of his stirring book "The Land We Never Knew" (San Francisco: Chronicle Books, 1989):

I was never able to wander along Vietnam's back roads, experiencing life as it might be in that country; never able to see, feel, smell, touch or taste what I wanted; and most frustratingly, never able to make friends with the Vietnamese, to share common feelings in conversation with innocent people. . . . Vietnam was a trauma that had been lingering inside me for more than a decade. Photography allowed me to return and assemble a body of work that might benefit our progress. My sincerest wish is that this book, this "work in progress," will aid others with their perceptions of Vietnam and help guide us away from future tragedies.

"The Land We Never Knew" has achieved tremendous critical success, as Clifford's pictures are skillfully laid out and beautifully complemented by the poetic and thoughtful text of John Balaban, a professor of English at Pennsylvania State University. The brilliance of this book reflects years of diligent effort by these men; of the 10,000 photographs taken by Clifford over a period of several years, only the finest 200 made it into the book. Wrote the Los Angeles Times: "His handsome pictures celebrate the beauties of the land and the resilience of its people." Since "The Land We Never Knew" was published, Clifford's work has appeared in Life, Travel and Leisure, Fortune, and the New York Times Magazine.

Today, Mr. Speaker, the House will debate the future of our relationship with Vietnam. Trade, security, and POW/MIA issues may be discussed. Regardless of one's position on these important matters, I believe that it would be of great benefit to each and every one of my colleagues to view this exhibit, as the true beauty of Clifford's pictures rests in its apolitical content.

In contrast to most of the Vietnam images that we have seen over the past half-century—war, destruction, bloodshed, assassination—the theme of "The Land We Never Knew" is one of resilience. Despite decades of destruction to the culture and communities of Vietnam, we see in Clifford's photographs a people that refuse to allow a legacy of three millenniums collapse in a heap of napalm, bombing, and death. We witness in this beautiful book landscapes that reflect this irrepressibility—beautiful forests, river villages, and lotus ponds that display a pristine radiance seemingly unaffected by years of military strikes and counterstrikes. "The Land We Never Knew" is about the Vietnamese nation, not the Vietnamese government. It is about the people of Vietnam, not the Vietnam War.

Mr. Speaker, I invite my colleagues to join me in praising Geoffrey Clifford, who so ably uses his wondrous talents to communicate a greater understanding and appreciation for Vietnam. I strongly urge my fellow Members to admire his exhibit this week in the Cannon Rotunda.

**TRIBUTE TO JEFFERSON
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

HON. GEORGE P. RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 30, 1998

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Jefferson Elementary School. Jefferson Elementary has been credited as a California Distinguished School. The faculty and students of Jefferson Elementary exemplify excellence with exceptional student achievement.

Reflecting their school's motto, "High Above the Rest", Jefferson students demonstrate the highest tradition of individual academic success, school pride and ownership of their educational facility. Jefferson Elementary's mission is to enable each student to have equal access to the core curriculum regardless of his/her academic and language proficiency. Jefferson's school-wide goals are linked to their District's Mission. Jefferson has developed strong partnerships with the School Site Council (SSC) and the Bilingual Advisory Committee (BAC). Their "Student Compact" actively involves students, parents and teachers in focusing on the importance of student achievement and accountability, both academic and social.

Jefferson School is a well-established K-6 campus located on the southeast side of Dinuba (population 13,950) in rural Tulare County. Jefferson School serves approximately 700 students and their families. They are one of five schools (K-6) in the Dinuba Elementary School District. Dinuba Elementary School District has been experiencing steady growth in the student population over a number of years. Today it serves nearly 3,000 students.