Guadalupe Parish in Oxnard, and as an assistant pastor at Christ the King Parish. In addition to his responsibilities to the church, Bishop Madera actively oversaw the pastoral care of 24 labor camps in Ventura County, lectured at the Camarillo Seminary of the Los Angeles Archdiocese, and hosted radio broadcast programs both at the local and international levels. He was also instrumental in the construction of the second part Our Lady of Guadalupe School in Oxnard, CA, as well as the rectory and the church.

In recognition of his years of commitment to the Catholic Church, Bishop Madera had the distinctive honor of receiving his ordination as auxiliary bishop for the Roman Catholic Archdiocese for the Military Services by the late Pope John Paul II in 1991. In this post, Bishop Madera was responsible for the pastoral care of 2 million Catholic men and women serving in the U.S. military and their families, the residents of the Department of Veterans Affairs hospitals, and the civilian employees of the U.S. Government living abroad.

Bishop Madera's work and outreach efforts are highly commendable. He has left the communities in which he has served a better place because of the sincerity and generosity of his services and faith. Through his post on the Archdiocese for Military Services, he reached out to provide comfort and guidance to Americans domestically and overseas. Even though he is now retired, his advocacy and commitment to service carries on as he currently volunteers to assist the Bishop serving the Sacramento area in California. For all these reasons, it is without doubt an honor to recognize him today as Bishop Joseph Madera continues to touch the lives of many people, leaving his mark of good will across the world.

TRIBUTE TO MS. NATALIE HIATT

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2007

Mr. CUELLAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Ms. Natalie Hiatt for having served in my office as a congressional intern in the winter of 2006 and the spring of 2007. She has performed her duties with utmost distinction, and I am proud to have this opportunity to recognize the tremendous work she has done on my behalf.

Ms. Hiatt is currently studying at the University of Oklahoma in Norman, OK, as a transfer student from the University of the Incarnate Word in San Antonio, TX. She will graduate in May 2007 with a bachelor of arts in public affairs and administration. Due to her exemplary academic record, Ms. Hiatt has received scholarships such as the Academic Scholarship Award through her participation in the honors program at the University of the Incarnate Word.

Ms. Hiatt has consistently gone above the call of duty in ensuring the efficient operation of my office and maintaining ties with constituents in my district as a part of the press team. She also provided valuable insight on various legislative bills, and her ability to work with others, as shown by her extensive involvement in the college community at the University of Oklahoma, was of great benefit to my legislative team. She has a bright future ahead of her, and I am proud to support her as she moves on to the next phase of her life.

Madam Speaker, I am honored to have had the opportunity to recognize the benefit Ms. Natalie Hiatt brought to my congressional office and ask you to join me in honoring her. I thank you for your time.

HONORING VICKI CODY DURING THE MONTH OF THE MILITARY CHILD

HON. SILVESTRE REYES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2007

Mr. REYES. Madam Speaker, as we celebrate the Month of the Military Child I rise today to honor the mother of two military children, Vicki Cody. Army members and military families throughout the world know her as the wife of Army Vice Chief of Staff General Richard Cody, but today I want to recognize her contributions to our nation as the mother of Tyler and Clint Cody, two outstanding young men who grew up at military posts throughout the world and followed in the footsteps of their father serving as Army helicopter pilots.

Standing behind her three Soldiers, Vicki Cody is the glue that holds her family together. For over thirty years, she has been so much more than a wife and mother. Her many roles include nurse, cook, teacher, driver, volunteer, moving crew, painter, dog walker, bill payer, and fixer of all things broken. On top of all that, Vicki has added one more title: author.

In her years as a military spouse and the mother of two Soldiers, Vicki Cody saw the need to help other families facing the challenges of supporting their sons and daughters in uniform. Working with the Association of the United States Army (AUSA), her book, "Your Soldier, Your Army: A Parents" Guide," has reached thousands of families. At a time when every Soldier can expect to serve multiple combat tours, supporting the families they leave behind is critical.

I'd like to read a short excerpt from Mrs. Cody's book: "I have an advantage of having been part of this system for the past 30 years. I have a deep understanding of the military in general, and I have access to all kinds of information, resources, and support systems. Still, I know how scary it's been for me having both sons in a combat zone, and I think about all the parents out there who don't have that background. This must be very confusing and frightening for them.

"So, I want to use my knowledge, experiences, candor, insight—whatever I have I want to share with other families. I'm a little old-fashioned in that I still believe in the power of the human touch or connection. I also believe each of us can make a difference. Sometimes it's something as simple as reassuring a frightened mom or dad and letting them know there's a toll-free number they can call to get in touch with the rear detachment of their Soldier's unit, or maybe there are terms they don't understand, or why the mail takes so long, or why their Soldier hasn't been able to call for weeks. Sometimes they just need a little knowledge of a very complex and vast organization. I wish I could wrap my arms around all the parents out there."

From there, the book goes on to explain in simple but powerful terms how important family is to every Soldier. As a military mother and wife, Vicki describes how families can best support their loved ones in uniform throughout the stressful deployment process as they make preparations, execute their combat mission, and readjust when they return home.

At a time when we are calling up our troops to bear an enormous burden, our military families need all the help and support we can give them, and Vicki Cody has stepped up to the plate again and again to offer her wisdom and the warmth of her heart as she speaks to the families of military members both in person and through her inspirational written words.

I am working with the AUSA to send copies of Mrs. Cody's book to every Member of Congress, and I urge each of you to read it and share the supportive and helpful guidance with the military families who live in your districts. While there is not an Army post or other military installation in every Congressional district, our soldiers, sailors, airmen, and marines come from every corner of our Nation—from the smallest towns and biggest cities. These troops are the ambassadors of their hometowns as they serve in defense of our Nation throughout the world, and we must support them and the families they leave behind.

Vicki Cody and her fellow military spouses and parents are unsung American heroes. Without the support of their families, our military could not accomplish their mission, and we owe every mother and father, sister and brother, husband and wife, son and daughter, a great debt of gratitude.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF PASTOR PAUL HIRAM WELCH

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2007

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, on behalf of the U.S. Congress, it is with great honor that I rise today to recognize Pastor Paul Hiram Welch for his lifelong service and dedication to the First Pentecostal Church in Pensacola, FL.

Pastor Welch discovered his calling at the early age of three when he was introduced to the ministry by his father, D.L. Welch, upon his establishment of First Pentecostal Church of Pensacola. Pastor Welch's love for the ministry only continued to strengthen. He followed in his father's footsteps and chose to lead the spiritual growth of the community. At the age of 16, Pastor Welch preached his first revival and began his own evangelical ministry upon graduating from high school.

He returned to Pensacola in 1956 to serve as Associate Pastor and 3 years later, he married Shirley Ann Lane of Montgomery, AL. Members of the congregation came to know them as Brother Paul and Sister Shirley. In the mid-70s, Brother Paul was named Pastor of First Pentecostal Church in Pensacola. The impact Pastor Welch has had on the community is immeasurable; so many have come to know and love the Lord through his service to God.

The selfless contributions of this man are not limited to just one church. Pastor Welch has served as a member of the Florida District Board of the United Pentecostal Church International for more than 32 years and now