

Summer Olympic Games. He is a man of vision; whose integrity, responsiveness, and hard work are legendary.

Wayne and his wife, Anne, have three grown children, and reside in Snellville, Georgia. They attend the First Baptist Church of Lawrenceville, where he has served as a Deacon. Wayne will bring an end to this phase of an outstanding public carrier, when he retires on May 31, 2000. I congratulate Wayne, and wish him and his family the very best. The state of Georgia, and all who travel within its borders, are in his debt.

HONORING SHARON CHRISTA
MCAULIFFE JUNIOR HIGH
SCHOOL IN SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS

HON. CHARLES A. GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 23, 2000

Mr. GONZALEZ. Mr. Speaker, today I offer my sincerest congratulations to Sharon Christa McAuliffe Junior School in San Antonio, TX, upon the notification of their receipt of the Blue Ribbon School Award.

Schools are awarded the Blue Ribbon School Award based on their performance in regards to several criteria, including: student focus and support; active teaching and learning; school organization and culture; challenging standard and curriculum; professional community; leadership and educational vitality; school, family, and community partnerships; and indicators of success.

Sharon Christa McAuliffe Junior High is among eight schools in San Antonio and 198 schools nationally, all of which excelled in these areas and were rewarded with the Blue Ribbon School Award from the United States Department of Education.

To receive consideration for this prestigious award, schools must be recommended for national recognition by their individual state department of education or sponsoring agency. Nominations are then evaluated by a National Review Panel including the Department of Education, the Department of Defense, the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the Council for America Private Education and a select group of educators from around the country. The Secretary of Education then makes a final determination based on the recommendations of this panel.

In receiving this special recognition, I believe that Sharon Christa McAuliffe Junior High will inspire others to provide the level of quality education that this Blue Ribbon School Award merits. I am proud to represent a district and hail from a state that has clearly placed an emphasis on the education of our children.

COLORADO STATE HOUSE
REPRESENTATIVE RON MAY

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 23, 2000

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I wanted to take this moment to recognize the career of one of Colorado's leading statesmen, State Rep-

resentative Ron May. In doing so, I would like to honor this individual who, for so many years, has exemplified the notion of public service and civic duty. It is clear that Representative May's dynamic leadership will be greatly missed and difficult to replace.

Elected to the Colorado House of Representatives in 1992, a seat he would hold to the present time, he sponsored many bills on workers' compensation, unemployment, insurance, highway speed limits, right-to-work legislation and information systems. He works diligently to bring his colleagues up to speed on a whole range of technological issues.

Representative May received many honors. In 1996 he received the National Right to Work Legislator of the Year award, the NFIB Guardian of Small Business award in 1994 and the CACI Business Legislator of the Year award.

2000 marked the end of Representative May's tenure in elected office. His career embodied the citizen-legislator ideal and was a model that every official in elected office should seek to emulate. The citizens of Colorado owe Representative May a debt of gratitude and I wish him well.

HONORING RABBI ALBERT MICAH
LEWIS

HON. VERNON J. EHLERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 23, 2000

Mr. EHLERS. Mr. Speaker, today I pay tribute to Rabbi Albert Micah Lewis, who is retiring from Congregation Emanuel in my home city of Grand Rapids, Michigan after 28 years of leadership. Not only has he been a tremendous force within his congregation, Rabbi Lewis has also provided outstanding leadership and dedication to numerous organizations and projects within our community. His strong academic background and intellectual ability have led to national respect for his work and writings.

Even though he is ending his day-to-day role at Temple Emanuel, Rabbi Lewis will continue to be a driving force in Grand Rapids. He will continue his duties as an Adjunct Associate Professor of Religion and Aging at Aquinas College where he has been teaching since 1972. He will also remain as an Adjunct Associate Professor of Psychology and Gerontology at Aquinas College, and will continue on the staff at Hope College as an Adjunct Professor of Jewish Studies, where he has served since 1994.

Rabbi Lewis' contributions to our community have been numerous and generous; they could easily fill many pages in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. I will highlight just a few of his many contributions. He is the founder and coordinator of Interfaith Forum for Understanding and Growth. He also founded and served as President of the Hospice of Greater Grand Rapids and the Western Michigan Chapter of the Michigan Society for Gerontology. In 1999 he was honored as Man of the Year by the Jewish Community Fund of Grand Rapids. Earlier this year, he was appointed to the Executive Committee of the Anti-Defamation League of Michigan and to the Board of Directors of the Henri Nouwen Literary Society. He has also authored numerous publications on a variety of subject matters.

On a personal level, I have always appreciated Rabbi Lewis' moral presence in our community. He has thoughtfully and insistently spoken on behalf of issues important to us, our community, and our relationships with God. Such moral leadership is enormously important as we strive to lead the people of this nation toward our common goals of freedom, liberty, and respect for each other.

Mr. Speaker, I commend Rabbi Lewis for the tremendous impact he has had on our community. As you can see, Mr. Speaker, Rabbi Lewis is a outstanding individual committed to service to God and fellow human beings. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring him for his contribution to society.

HONORING ASSOCIATED BUILDERS
AND CONTRACTORS ON THE OC-
CASION OF ITS 50TH ANNIVER-
SARY

HON. WILLIAM F. GOODLING

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 23, 2000

Mr. GOODLING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Associated Builders and Contractors as it prepares to celebrate its 50th Anniversary Convention in Baltimore beginning May 31.

Associated Builders and Contractors (ABC) is a national trade association representing over 22,000 contractors, subcontractors material suppliers and related firms from across the country and from all specialties in the construction industry. Seven contractors called the very first ABC meeting to order on June 1, 1950 in Baltimore, Maryland. Since that day, ABC has been the industry's voice for merit shop construction.

ABC is the only national association devoted to the merit shop philosophy, which aims to provide the best management techniques, the finest craftsmanship, and the most competitive bidding and pricing strategies in the industry. Merit shop companies employ approximately 80 percent, or 4 out of 5, of all construction workers in the nation.

ABC believes that union and merit shop (open shop) contractors and their employees should work together in harmony and that work should be awarded to the lowest responsible bidder regardless of labor affiliation.

ABC is committed to developing a safe workplace and high-performance work force through quality education and training with comprehensive safety and health programs. ABC is dedicated to fighting for free enterprise, fair and open competition, less government, more opportunities for jobs, tax relief, increased training, and elimination of frivolous complaints and over-regulation. ABC promotes and defends the individual's rights to unlimited opportunities. Merit shop construction provides unlimited growth and career advancement to workers who recognize the value of hard work and dedication.

Mr. Speaker, I send my sincere best wishes as Associated Builders and Contractors celebrates this milestone in its history. It is with great pride and appreciation that I recognize the accomplishments of this fine group.

COMMEMORATING THE CENTEN-
NIAL OF RAISING THE U.S. FLAG
IN AMERICAN SAMOA

HON. PATSY T. MINK

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 23, 2000

Mrs. MINK of Hawaii. Mr. Speaker, today I express my heartiest congratulations to the people of American Samoa and to Samoans living in Hawaii and throughout the United States in recognition of the Centennial of the Raising of the United States Flag in American Samoa.

Flag Day, which is celebrated on April 17th, is the biggest holiday in American Samoa and is observed by Samoans throughout the world. The importance of this holiday is a reflection of the pride the people of Samoa take in their affiliation with the United States.

Samoans have demonstrated their loyalty and commitment to the United States through service in our Nation's wars. In fact, the per capita rate of enlistment in the Armed Forces among American Samoans is among the highest in the United States.

For more than 30 years, the Samoa Flag Day Festival has been observed in Hawaii. It is a celebration of our shared history, of the contributions Samoans have made to our Nation and to the State of Hawaii, and of the rich culture and traditions of Faasamoa. The Festival includes sports competitions, cultural demonstrations, singing, dancing, and food.

I take this opportunity to send my warmest aloha to my esteemed colleague, the Honorable ENI FALEOMAVAEGA, and to all the people of American Samoa.

COLORADO STATE SENATOR
MARYANNE TEBEDO

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 23, 2000

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I wanted to take this moment to recognize the career of one of Colorado's leading statesmen, State Senator MaryAnne Tebedo. In doing so, I would like to honor this individual who, for many years, has exemplified the notion of public service and civic duty. It is clear that Senator Tebedo's dynamic leadership will be greatly missed and difficult to replace.

Elected to the Colorado Senate in 1988, she was the chairman of the State of Veterans Military Affairs Committee and served on the Finance Committee. She also served as parliamentarian. She worked hard on issues concerning concealed weapons, State boards and highways.

Senator Tebedo received many honors. In 1992 she received the NFIB Guardian of Small Business Award, the CACI Business Legislator of the Year Award. She was also honored by Freedom Magazine as a Human Rights Advocate.

This year marked the end of Senator Tebedo's tenure in elected office. Her career embodied the citizen-legislator ideal and was a model that every official in elected office should seek to emulate. The citizens of Colorado owe Senator Tebedo a debt of gratitude and I wish her well.

HONORING SAM SMITH

HON. GEORGE R. NETHERCUTT, JR.

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 23, 2000

Mr. NETHERCUTT. Mr. Speaker, today, I honor Sam Smith, a great citizen from the State of Washington.

Dr. Sam Smith retires, this year, after fifteen years as President of Washington State University. His hard work and leadership transformed WSU from a single campus in Pullman to a nationally recognized, statewide university. Dr. Smith increased student access to Washington State University by establishing WSU Learning Centers in eleven counties and expanding WSU's presence in underserved areas with branch campuses in Spokane, the Tri-Cities and Vancouver.

Dr. Smith also presided over the most successful fundraising campaign in the history of Washington State University. Campaign WSU, the university's first comprehensive fund-raising effort, raised more than \$275 million and had the highest alumni-giving rate of all public universities in the country.

Dr. Smith led academic programs and research efforts that resulted in Washington State University's recognition in national rankings as one of the best public universities in America, including a ranking, last year, as the most wired public university in the nation.

Dr. Smith was president in 1998 when the Washington State Cougar football team was Pac-10 champion and competed in the Rose Bowl for the first time in 67 years.

I thank Dr. Smith for his service to Washington State University and Washington State and ask that he and his wife, Pat, remain friends with both in their retirement as both remain friends with them.

THE CASE AGAINST BIGOTRY

HON. BARNEY FRANK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 23, 2000

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I recently saw an editorial of such eloquence and passion that I believe it should be shared with the membership of this body. Since we from time to time deal with issues involving the rights of gay and lesbian people, I believe it is extremely important for the Members to read this mother's cry for justice and I hope that it will factor into the decisions we make in the future.

[For the Valley News (White River Junction, VT/Hanover, NH, April 30, 2000)]

(By Sharon Underwood)

As the mother of a gay son, I've seen firsthand how cruel and misguided people can be. Many letters have been sent to the Valley News concerning the homosexual menace in Vermont. I am the mother of a gay son and I've taken enough from you good people.

I'm tired of your foolish rhetoric about the "homosexual agenda" and your allegations that accepting homosexuality is the same thing as advocating sex with children. You are cruel and ignorant. You have been robbing me of the joys of motherhood ever since my children were tiny.

My firstborn son started suffering at the hands of the moral little thugs from your

moral, upright families from the time he was in the first grade. He was physically and verbally abused from first grade straight through high school because he was perceived to be gay.

He never professed to be gay or had any association with anything gay, but he had the misfortune not to walk or have gestures like the other boys. He was called "fag" incessantly, starting when he was 6.

In high school, while your children were doing what kids that age should be doing, mine labored over a suicide note, drafting and redrafting it to be sure his family knew how much he loved them. My sobbing 17-year-old tore the heart out of me as he choked out that he just couldn't bear to continue living any longer, that he didn't want to be gay and that he couldn't face a life without dignity.

You have the audacity to talk about protecting families and children from the homosexual menace, while you yourselves tear apart families and drive children to despair. I don't know why my son is gay, but I do know that God didn't put him, and millions like him, on this Earth to give you someone to abuse. God gave you brains so that you could think, and it's about time you started doing that.

At the core of all your misguided beliefs is the belief that this could never happen to you, that there is some kind of subculture out there that people have chosen to join. The fact is that if it can happen to my family, it can happen to yours, and you won't get to choose. Whether it is genetic or whether something occurs during a critical time of fetal development, I don't know. I can only tell you with an absolute certainty that it is inborn.

If you want to tout your own morality, you'd best come up with something more substantive than your heterosexuality. You did nothing to earn it; it was given to you. If you disagree, I would be interested in hearing your story, because my own heterosexuality was a blessing I received with no effort whatsoever on my part. It is so woven into the very soul of me that nothing could ever change it. For those of you who reduce sexual orientation to a simple choice, a character issue, a bad habit or something that can be changed by a 10-step program, I'm puzzled. Are you saying that your own sexual orientation is nothing more than something you have chosen, that you could change it at will? If that's not the case, then why would you suggest that someone else can?

A popular theme in your letters is that Vermont has been infiltrated by outsiders. Both sides of my family have lived in Vermont for generations. I am heart and soul a Vermonter, so I'll thank you to stop saying that you are speaking for "true Vermonters."

You invoke the memory of the brave people who have fought on the battlefield for this great country, saying that they didn't give their lives so that the "homosexual agenda" could tear down the principles they died defending. My 83-year-old father fought in some of the most horrific battles of World War II, was wounded and awarded the Purple Heart.

He shakes his head in sadness at the life his grandson has had to live. He says he fought alongside homosexuals in those battles, that they did their part and bothered no one. One of his best friends in the service was gay, and he never knew it until the end, and when he did find out, it mattered not at all. That wasn't the measure of a man.

You religious folk just can't bear the thought that as my son emerges from the hell that was his childhood he might like to find a lifelong companion and have a measure of happiness. It offends your sensibilities