

go to the clinic, Dr. Pritchard made sure the hospital would come to them. On the road about 4 days a week, Dr. Pritchard and his wife make sure that no veteran is left without the necessary, quality health care they deserve and were promised.

Dr. Pritchard not only serves the veterans of Southeast Missouri, but he also is concerned with the well being and health of all Americans. When Hurricane Andrew hit southern Florida, Dr. Pritchard headed up a team of health care professionals who took their mobile clinic to help treat the victims of the hurricane. His team helped ease the suffering of about 150 hurricane victims a day in Florida. And if that isn't enough, Dr. Pritchard has many other notable accomplishments such as: holding the post of past commander of the Missouri Association of Former POW's, serving as president of the Missouri Society of American College of General Practitioners in Osteopathic Medicine and Surgery, and as past president of the Association of Military Osteopathic Surgeons.

Dr. Pritchard is a dedicated doctor, and a kind and generous human being who answers the call of service to his fellow man.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. Murray Pritchard is more than worthy of receiving the honor of Outstanding VA Health Care Provider, and I hope that all of my colleagues will join me today in recognizing this truly remarkable man.

HONORING ORLYN BELL

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 12, 2000

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this moment to honor a remarkable human being, Orlyn Bell. For over three decades Orlyn has fought hard to ensure that the water of western Colorado is being distributed correctly and fairly. Orlyn is retiring as the Division 5 water engineer, a position he has held in Glenwood Springs for just over 17 years. As Orlyn moves on to bigger and better things, I would like to take this opportunity to commend him on his service to the western slope of Colorado.

Orlyn began his career in engineering as far back as 1965 where his summer job had him measuring the flow of a major flood of the South Platte River after it hit Denver. His work during this traumatic time earned him not only a citation from the Governor, but also sparked an interest that would soon become the focus of his professional career. In 1968 he graduated from the University of Denver, with a degree in civil engineering. After spending a few years working for the Washington Highway Department he moved back to Colorado where he began his legendary career in the state engineer's office.

For almost two decades now, Orlyn has been one of seven engineers in charge of the seven different major river basins. The area in which he has represented is vast in size and the demand for water is much larger than the actual supply. This large area spans from the Continental Divide in central Colorado all the way through the Grand Valley on to the Utah border.

The battle for water in Colorado is one that has sparked a great deal of controversy over

the years, but Orlyn was able to manage these issues fairly and earn the respect of both eastern and western Colorado. Orlyn's contribution to the citizens and farmers of western Colorado is immeasurable. Orlyn you have served your community, State and Nation proudly and I wish you the best in your future endeavors.

TEACHERS' APPRECIATION DAY

HON. ROBERT A. UNDERWOOD

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 12, 2000

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, a proclamation signed by Acting-Governor Madeleine Bordallo on September 1, 2000, designated the month of September as "Teacher's Recognition Month." Three years ago, the Guam Legislature designated September 28th as "Teachers' Appreciation Day" in order to pay tribute and acknowledge the important role played by teachers on the island of Guam.

Intended to coincide with the birthday of the Chinese philosopher, Confucius, the month-long celebration was set aside to honor those who have dedicated themselves to the teaching profession. Regarded as one of the world's greatest philosophers and teachers, Confucius has been given credit for the development of public education. Hence, for the past three years, the Confucius Society of Guam, under the leadership of its president, Robert Kao, has worked towards raising the community's awareness regarding the importance of teachers to every community.

In this year's events, the island of Guam chose to celebrate the legacy of its teachers by honoring current teachers whose families include generations of classroom teachers among its members. Among those honored are Phyliss L. Leon Guerrero, Debra R. Mariano, and my very own daughter, Sophia R. Underwood.

Phyliss, who is from George Washington High School in Mangilao, has been a teacher for eight years who has four generations of teachers in her family. Her great-grandmother, Asuncion Martinez Cruz, taught at a school run by the Spaniards in the 1890's. Her grandmother, Vicenta S.A. Leon Guerrero, taught in schools established by the Americans from 1922 until 1962. She is the daughter of Virginia Artero Leon Guerrero, an elementary school teacher who taught for 14 years, and Wilfred Leon Guerrero, the former president of the University of Guam.

Debra, a four-year veteran, teaches at Agueda Johnston Middle School. Her grandfather, Cayetano A. Quinata, served as a teacher and principal at several elementary schools for a period of 39 years. Her grandfather, Alejo L.G. Quinata, taught under the Japanese during the occupation of Guam during World War II. Her mother, Mary Q. Mariano, taught at P.C. Lujan Elementary, Price Elementary and the Guam Community College.

My daughter, Sophia, has been teaching for more than five years. She also comes from a long and solid line of teachers. My grandfather, James H. Underwood, taught English at night school soon after the Americans took possession of Guam in 1898. He taught until 1905. My parents, John and Esther, as well as my wife, Lorraine, and I have been teachers.

Mr. Speaker, public officials, such as ourselves, do not officially gain the title "Honorable" until the constituents we serve grant us their mandate through our election. It was not until 1992 that the title was granted to me. However, I firmly believe that I, together with my colleagues in the field of education, have earned the title long before—by having been a teacher, a member of a most honorable profession.

Over the years, teachers have insured a bright future through the education of our youth. Teachers have been willing to share their knowledge and adjust to meet the needs of students. In our present society where the family unit is under constant exposure to external and internal conflicts and pressures, we look toward our teachers to be role models who play a vital role in the development of every child placed under their supervision. On Teachers' Recognition Month and, especially, on Teachers' Appreciation Day, I commend and congratulate my esteemed colleagues in the field of education, the teachers of Guam.

PIPELINE SAFETY IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2000

SPEECH OF

HON. JOE SKEEN

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 10, 2000

Mr. SKEEN. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to support S. 2438, the Pipeline Safety legislation, and also to implore the House of Representatives to pass it quickly and send it to the President for his signature.

In August, in my Congressional District in New Mexico, a pipeline explosion took the lives of eleven family members who were camping in an area located south of Carlsbad along the Pecos River. This terrible tragedy shook our state to the core. I visited the site of this disaster and I cannot begin to describe what I saw and the impact it has had on the lives of countless citizens in New Mexico.

This legislation is bipartisan and it passed the U.S. Senate with no opposition. This bill will help us avoid these terrible accidents in the future. Congress does not have time to play politics with this legislation. We don't have time for extended conferences on this legislation. Those who feel more is needed in this bill can introduce those changes next year. If we don't pass this bill we will have no legislation for at least another two years. It is unconscionable for this Congress not to pass legislation this year. To those who would vote against this legislation I say shame on you. This bill imposes new pipeline testing requirements on pipeline operators. It imposes higher penalties for safety violations and invests in new technology to improve pipeline safety. This bill increases the funding for pipeline safety as well as increasing state oversight and local government input. President Clinton supports this bill, Senate Democratic Senators support this bill.

I want to thank Chairman SHUSTER and the leadership of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee for all of the hard work they have done in bringing this important legislation before us. We need to pass S. 2438.