

TRIBUTE TO JAMIE ROCHELLE

**HON. CIRO D. RODRIGUEZ**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 5, 2001*

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to a woman of extraordinary ability, Jamie Rochelle, who this month ends an illustrious career at San Antonio's municipally-owned utility, City Public Service (CPS), and concludes her year-long service as chairman of the board for the Greater San Antonio Chamber of Commerce. She has proven herself not only a capable leader and chief executive, but also an important member of our community. Her efforts have made San Antonio a better place to work and live.

Jamie Rochelle is a true success story. What began as a computer programming job at CPS started her on a 31-year path that led her to become in 1998 the first female general manager and chief executive officer at CPS, now the second largest municipally-owned utility in the United States with more than \$6 billion in assets. What's best, her leadership has helped keep CPS rates among the very lowest in the country. During her time at CPS, she handled a large debt refinancing yielding \$20 million in interest savings, streamlined company management, managed supply crises well, and struck beneficial deals that helped the company save money and improve service. These experiences made her a successful manager and an astute chief executive.

CPS enjoys a diverse array of energy sources, protecting customers from market fluctuations and supply interruptions. Ms. Rochelle saw to it that CPS expanded its generating capacity while working to protect the environment. Last year, she took pride in bringing on-line a new state of the art gas-fired power plant. Under her leadership, the company was quick to respond last year to surging gas prices in an effort to soften the impact on the many vulnerable families it serves. Even in the absence of crisis, CPS a Project WARM fund to provide financial assistance to help needy families pay their utility bills.

CPS also takes pride in the success of its small and disadvantaged business outreach program. This past year CPS received the coveted Dwight D. Eisenhower Award for Excellence from the United States Small Business Administration. Competing against 2,500 utilities nationwide, CPS won this honor for its proven record of reaching out to and including small business in its contracting operation. Similarly, CPS has proven to be a good corporate neighbor. Whether through its Share the Warmth program to provide warm clothes in the winter, or its Weatherization Program to better insulate older, inner city homes in the summer, CPS and its employees reach out with a helping hand.

Jamie Rochelle has helped make CPS a pro-active leader in renewable energy research and development. In April 2000, CPS began to offer wind-generated electricity to its customers. With a financial investment, CPS supports solar energy projects in San Antonio. One project, in cooperation with Solar San Antonio, will assist local government in reducing energy consumption and researching the feasibility of renewable energy sources. One of

its new service centers will become a working showcase in the possibilities of solar energy.

Jamie Rochelle has worked closely with me and my staff on projects important to our community and the Nation. Among other things, she has supported our efforts to transform Brooks AFB into a more efficient entity, known as a city-base, by partnering with the Air Force and academia on innovative energy projects. CPS partners with the Southwest Research Institute, Brooks AFB, St. Philips College and DCH Technology, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers on a year-long fuel cell research project at Brooks AFB, to find ways to make fuel cell technology feasible for residential uses. CPS has supported the Brooks Energy and Sustainability Laboratory, an effort coordinated by the Texas Engineering Experimental Station of Texas A&M University to make energy consumption in buildings operate at peak efficiency, cutting waste and conserving valuable resources. Most recently, Ms. Rochelle signed off on a partnership with the Department of Energy to develop at Brooks AFB a building cooling and heating plant as a model for efficient energy generation and use.

Jamie Rochelle is more than just a series of accomplishments, though she has had many and will likely have many more in the future. Quiet, confident and sure, she exemplifies good leadership. Knowing of the challenges facing not only CPS but San Antonio, she has provided a positive and inclusive vision for the company. She reaches out to others and has participated in numerous civic organizations, culminating in her past year as the head of the Greater Chamber. It has been my honor to work with her on behalf of the people of San Antonio.

PERMITTING LEGAL IMMIGRANTS WHO HAVE FILED FOR NATURALIZATION PRIOR TO SEPTEMBER 11, 2001, TO KEEP THEIR JOBS AT OUR NATION'S AIRPORTS

**HON. PATSY T. MINK**

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 5, 2001*

Mrs. MINK of Hawaii. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce H.R. 3416 to amend PL107-71, the recently passed Aviation Security Act.

PL107-71 prohibits the hiring of non-citizens in airport security programs no matter how well qualified. This prohibition is an egregious, unfair provision.

It forgets that 34,200 legal residents are active in the U.S. Armed Forces and that 12,600 serve in our Reserves and are willing to give their lives in defense of our freedom.

If legal residents can fight for us in war, they should be able to protect us in airports.

If legal residents are otherwise qualified to serve as our airport security officers, they ought not to be denied employment just because they are not citizens.

My bill, H.R. 3416, does not totally fix the basic problem. But it protects employment rights to legal residents who have filed for naturalization prior to September 11, 2001.

If a legal resident is otherwise cleared for employment and qualified for hire, lack of citizenship should not be a bar to hire if the legal resident has filed for naturalization prior to September 11, 2001.

This bill is fair. It opens the doors to continued employment in security jobs operated by the federal government under PL107-71. Under H.R. 3416, intent to become a U.S. citizen clears the way to being hired. Filing for naturalization should be recognized as giving the employee the bona fides needed to qualify.

There are many places where it still takes 18 months to 2 years to become a citizen after filing for naturalization.

These persons should not be prejudiced for the failure to process the papers in a more timely manner.

I urge my colleagues to support this fair and equitable compromise.

IN MEMORY OF TED GREGORY, A CINCINNATI LEGEND

**HON. ROB PORTMAN**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 5, 2001*

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Ted Gregory, a friend and constituent who passed away on Sunday, December 2. Ted Gregory was a wonderful person who built a legacy based on his landmark restaurants, his generosity and community service.

Born in Windsor, Ontario, he grew up in Detroit. He moved to Montgomery, Ohio when it was still a rural area, bought the former McCabe's Inn and renamed it Montgomery Inn. Six years later, his wife Matula developed a secret barbecue sauce recipe that made the Inn a legend.

The restaurants, combined with Ted's warm personality and business acumen, made him a legend. Eventually, Ted's operation expanded, with the addition of three other dining venues in Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky. According to Restaurants and Institutions magazine, the industry's leading trade publication, Montgomery Inn is the leading rib restaurant chain in the U.S.—over 15 tons are sold each week. His employees were devoted to him—many were with him twenty years or more.

Although Ted was a good businessman, he was also a lot of fun. Wherever he went, he always brought a smile and his endless good humor with him. When Bob Hope visited Cincinnati to support the Bob Hope House, he and Ted became good friends. Many other former Presidents and celebrities visited Ted's restaurants to enjoy the famed ribs, including Presidents Gerald Ford and Ronald Reagan, Vice President Dick Cheney, Tom Selleck, and Don Rickles.

His warmth extended to helping others. He generously supported the Cincinnati FreeStore/FoodBank, St. Rita's School for the Deaf, Sycamore High School, Bob Hope House, and Riding for the Handicapped.

All of us in Cincinnati will miss Ted Gregory's warmth, humor and love for life, and we extend our deepest sympathies to Matula and their children, Dean, Tom, Vickie and Terry.