

Jo Ann Pisel has been with Call for Help for the past 27 years, 26 of which as the Executive Director. Call For Help is a not-for-profit multiple social service agency in St. Clair County, Illinois. Under her guidance, the organization, which started in the basements of volunteers, has grown and continued to offer critical services to the communities in Illinois that they have served for the past 33 years.

Starting with a Suicide and Crisis Hotline, the Call for Help agency includes a Victim Sexual Assault Care Unit, now with three satellite offices (Mt. Vernon, East St. Louis and Madison County). It also includes an Information and Referral Program, giving links to resources in the community and assisting with rental, utility and prescription assistance when available. Also, there is a domestic violence program that has evolved and has become an entity on its own now celebrating 25 years of service. Furthermore, Call for Help has an Adult Residential Program serving those who find themselves in a mental crisis, Crisis and MISA Counseling Services and a Transitional Living Center, housing homeless young women and their dependent children.

Serving people of all ages has been Jo Ann's stock in trade. In addition to her duties at Call for Help, Jo Ann also serves as a Home Health Social Worker for a variety of Home Health Agencies, currently BJC and Nurses and Company. From 1980–1992, Jo Ann was the Social Service and Activity consultant for Dammert Geriatrics, Parkview Manor and the St. Paul's Home for the Aged. She was a Medical Psychiatric Social Worker at St. Elizabeth's Hospital in Granite City and also served as a private consultant. She served as a caseworker for female ex-prisoners in the late 60's and was a caseworker for foster families from 1968–1969. From 1966–1969, she served as a childcare worker at Villa Maria Maternity home in St. Louis, working with single, young pregnant women. From 1959–1966, Jo Ann taught the elementary grades first through sixth.

Jo Ann was recognized in 2001 as one of the Top Ladies of Distinction and in 1997 she received the St. Louis University-School of Social Service, Alumni Distinguished Service Award. That same year she was named a Hardees Hometown Hero and in 1995, was honored as being recognized as both the State of Illinois and Metro East Social Worker of the Year.

Jo Ann has worked tirelessly all of her life in the service of people and has given much of herself to filling the needs of the community, both the young and old.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the contributions of Jo Ann Pisel and wish her the best in the future.

#### PAYING TRIBUTE TO JOHN GIRON

### HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 9, 2003*

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to honor a lifelong educator from my district. John Giron has devoted his life to the students of Trinidad State Junior College in Trinidad, Colorado for 33 years. As he embarks on his retirement, it gives me great joy to inform this body about John's ex-

emplary service to his community and this nation.

John's family has deep roots in Trinidad, going back four generations to his great-grandfather who homesteaded in the area. His father worked as a miner, and John attended Trinidad High School where he excelled as a runner, becoming state champion in the half mile. Following graduation in 1957, John attended the University of Colorado on an athletic scholarship, but within weeks of starting school, his nation came calling. John received a draft notice in the mail and immediately gave up his scholarship to enlist in the Navy. The Navy trained John as an electrician and stationed him on two aircraft carriers before John returned to school, this time at Trinidad State Junior College and Adams State College.

John earned a BA in education and later an MA in counseling, which led to a job as a guidance counselor and launched his career with Trinidad State Junior College. He later worked as the Director of Upward Bound, a program designed to help students successfully complete high school and college. John also served as the Director of Student Life before spending the last 15 years as the Dean of Students. John is deeply connected to the school. His entire family, including his wife, three children, and daughter-in-law, has graduated from Trinidad State Junior College.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to stand before this body today to recognize John Giron, a man who has clearly demonstrated his commitment to our nation's youth. His counsel and leadership helped guide the academic careers of numerous young people, and I thank him for his outstanding service and wish John all the best in his retirement.

#### JANICE PEREZ ATOIGUE

### HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 9, 2003*

Mr. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Ms. Janice Perez Atoigue for completing her Bachelor of Arts degree with Honors in Anthropology at the University of Maryland on May 22, 2003.

Janice was always an outstanding student both in high school and at the University of Maryland. She was born on Guam and her family resided in the village of Yigo during her early years. Her family later moved to Maryland where she attended the Talented and Gifted School and Suitland High School. At Suitland she was an honors student in both the Dance and French Programs.

While attending at the University of Maryland, she concentrated her studies in Biological Anthropology and was on the Dean's List. The Anthropology Department at the University of Maryland is a respected program, and she took advantage of educational opportunities available on campus and overseas. During the summer of 2002 she studied in Belgium and Germany, where she visited many archeological sites and museums. Just before graduating she completed a senior honor thesis on prehistoric Pacific migration, which reflects her quest for knowledge about the origins of the Pacific, Guam, and her Chamorro heritage.

This degree will now open many doors of opportunity for her to continue her education and to pursue a career in the field of anthropology. She plans to do some anthropology work in the Pacific in the future and has accepted an internship at Counterpart International. We all look forward to hearing of Janice's contributions in her profession and we hope she continues to pursue her interest in the cultural roots of our people and our region.

I am proud of Janice for her dedication and hard work in completing her undergraduate degree. I also want to take the time to commend Janice's parents, Jacinta and Lawrence Atoigue, who encourage her to do her best. They have every reason to be proud of her achievement.

Today I join the Atoigue family and friends in congratulating Janice for her accomplishment and in wishing her the very best in the future.

TO HONOR THE HEROIC ACTS OF  
UNITED STATES ARMY PVT.  
JASON KLEINMAN

### HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 9, 2003*

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Private Jason Kleinman, of the United States Army, whose courage and valor in the face of tremendous danger saved the lives of three fellow United States soldiers during an enemy ambush outside of Baghdad on Memorial Day. Pvt. Kleinman, along with two fellow soldiers, ignored flames and exploding ammunition to pull three wounded comrades from a burning Humvee.

Pvt. Kleinman, a member of the Army's 3rd Infantry Division's Task Force 270, was traveling in a convoy of Humvees when an Iraqi man tossed a home-made bomb under the wheels of the vehicle in front of his. The bomb blew the Humvee back 80 feet, igniting the gas tank as well as machine gun and anti-tank rounds inside. Without hesitation, Pvt. Kleinman, along with Pvt. Dustin Meeks and Pvt. Enrique Alvarado, dragged three soldiers from the burning Humvee despite at least 50 secondary explosions as ammunition continued to discharge inside the vehicle. Though the Humvee's gunner succumbed to his injuries, the other two soldiers have Pvs. Kleinman, Meeks and Alvarado to thank for their lives.

I am proud to represent Pvt. Jason Kleinman, a nineteen year-old native of Roslyn Heights, Long Island who joined the Army last September, after graduating from Herricks High School in New Hyde Park. Jason had dreamed of joining the Army since he was a child. Now he will return home as a hero.

I commend Jason Kleinman for his tremendous display of bravery in the face of mortal peril and I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to please join me in praise of this young man's heroic acts.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO MIKE  
OVERTURF

**HON. SCOTT McINNIS**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 9, 2003*

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with deep admiration that I stand before this body of Congress to recognize the determination of fifteen year-old Mike Overturf of Olathe, Colorado, who is recovering from a recent stroke. The fortitude he has shown in the face of hardship, and the spirited manner with which he lives his life, are an inspiration to us all.

Although having suffered a stroke just a few short months ago, Mike has remained active. He has been riding his dirt bike, playing drums, making plans to go fishing, and even completing a major project in school in order to catch up on his studies. Mike's teachers note his remarkable performance and the extraordinary attention he has devoted to his schoolwork.

Throughout his ordeal, Mike has been a positive influence in the lives of his friends, family, and in his community. He has supported the performances of his school's band, even following them to Grand Junction for the Colorado West Band Festival. Mike plans to play with the band this spring and not only knows how to play the drums, but also the trombone, trumpet, saxophone, guitar, clarinet and flute.

Mr. Speaker, Mike Overturf is an inspiration to us all. His determination to overcome adversity and his commitment to recovery says volumes about his character and desire to succeed. Mike, I join your friends, family and all of Olathe in wishing you a speedy recovery and success in all of your future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO CAPT. MITCHELL A.  
SMITH

**HON. JEFF MILLER**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 9, 2003*

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor one of this nation's most dedicated citizens, Captain Mitchell A. Smith, of the Santa Rosa Sheriffs Office. This past Thursday, June 5, 2003, Mitch was taken from us. He tirelessly served Santa Rosa County for the past 25 years, leaving a lasting impact on the Northwest Florida Community that he came to know so well. We will forever miss Mitch, but his memory will never be forgotten.

Mitch began his adult life by dedicating himself to the United States Army. He chose to serve his country, defending the freedoms and liberties that we as Americans have come to hold so dear. It was this passion to serve and help others that would continuously be shown throughout his life.

In May of 1978, Mitch retired from the U.S. Army and came to the Santa Rosa Sheriffs Office. He began his career in law enforcement as a Deputy, but quickly showed his dedication and commitment to serving and protecting the people of Northwest Florida, resulting in his subsequent promotions to the ranks of Corporal, Sergeant, and Lieutenant. Just two weeks ago, Mitch received the honor

and recognition of his final promotion to the rank of Captain.

Just two months shy of retirement, Mitch served everyday to the best of his abilities. Over the course of his career he received numerous letters of commendation for his service to the citizens of Santa Rosa County. He was an officer respected by his peers, admired by his community, and loved by his family and friends.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to offer my sincere and heartfelt condolences to the family of Capt. Mitchell A. Smith for their loss. Although his time with us was cut short, we will be forever grateful for the time that Mitch did have with us in Santa Rosa County. On this such occasion, we honor one of America's greatest citizens, Capt. Mitchell A. Smith, whose legacy will live on long beyond his passing.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. RON LEWIS**

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 9, 2003*

Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, due to a death in the family, I was absent from the House on Wednesday, June 4 and Thursday, June 5. Had I been present, I would have voted the following way: rollcall vote 236—yea, rollcall vote 237—yea, rollcall vote 238—yea, rollcall vote 239—yea, rollcall vote 240—nay, rollcall vote 241—nay, rollcall vote 24—yea, rollcall vote 243, H. Res. 256—yea, rollcall vote 244—yea, rollcall vote 245—yea, rollcall vote 246—yea, rollcall vote 247—yea, rollcall vote 248—yea.

In particular, I would like to specifically express my strong support for H.R. 760, the Partial Birth Abortion Ban Act of 2003. This has been a bill that I have supported for many years and I am glad that it has again seen passage in the House. For nearly a decade Congress has attempted to see this legislation become law, and I am pleased that my colleagues have yet again affirmed the message that partial birth abortion is wrong by passing this bill.

There has been overwhelming support for a ban on partial birth abortions. The partial birth abortion ban has been passed in various forms by the House eight times, including multiple veto overrides. Having been first considered during the 104th Congress, we have seen numerous state legislatures take action and vote to end partial birth abortions in their states.

I am pleased that we have acted strongly and unmistakably by voting once again to preserve life and ban the heinous practice of partial birth abortions. The administration has stated their support of this bill and is willing to take positive action and sign this ban into law.

I understand that the issue of abortion is difficult for many. Well-intentioned people on both sides of this debate will continue to disagree. How long, though, can our society continue to justify its denial of the right to life to the defenseless unborn? The value of life has been consistently cheapened.

Partial birth abortion is a graphic example of the worst of abortion. Congress has taken a stand to uphold the value of life, especially in these instances in which life is so blatantly being destroyed. I am pleased that many have

acted in support of this legislation. My colleagues have continued to support of human life and have voted in favor of a ban on partial birth abortions. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on this important bill.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO VERNA BARR

SPEECH OF

**HON. SCOTT McINNIS**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 9, 2003*

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is a great honor for me to recognize the many years of public service that Verna Barr of Austin, Colorado has given to the citizens of my state. I would like to take this time to pay tribute to Verna's selfless contributions to the well being of so many children, seniors, and others who have had the pleasure of her company and her kindness.

Verna started her life of volunteer service at the age of eight, helping to print and fold her church's bulletin. Verna's mother, Florence Petersen, instilled in Verna a philosophy of life in which helping others has central importance. Over the years, Verna has volunteered her services to a number of worthy causes and projects, including preserving the history of Surface Creek Valley and Pioneer Town through disseminating information and indexing it for future generations. Verna has also spent a great deal of time and effort assisting the American Cancer Society, as well as the Colorado Cancer Society, from whom she has twice received official recognition for her assistance with Relay for Life. Even in her professional life, Verna's work continues the spirit of service. For seventeen and a half years Verna has worked with seniors at Horizon Health Care and Retirement Community, helping to enrich the lives of many with books, plays, music, and creative activities. Throughout this time, Verna's example has inspired scores of others to volunteer as well. Colorado is truly thankful.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great admiration that I recognize Verna Barr for her innumerable contributions to the quality of life for the citizens of Colorado. I am proud to represent Verna in this body of Congress, and wish to extend my heartfelt gratitude for her life of public service. Colorado is now a more beautiful place. Good luck, Verna, and best wishes on all of your future endeavors.

TRIP REPORT ON VISIT TO IRAQ

**HON. FRANK R. WOLF**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 9, 2003*

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I just returned from spending two days in southern Iraq. I was there Sunday, May 25, and Monday, May 26. I also spent a day, Tuesday, May 27, in Kuwait, where I met with Kuwaiti government officials, members of the U.S. military, State Department officials and staff from the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID).

Today I want to share with our colleagues some details of my trip. On another day, I will