

TRIBUTE TO CHRIS CUTRONE

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 17, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct honor to stand before you today and pay tribute to a truly heroic individual from my district. Colorado State Patrol K9 Technician Chris Cutrone of Cortez, Colorado was shot three times while on an otherwise routine traffic stop, nearly ending his life. It is my privilege to pay tribute to Chris in recognition of his inspirational service to the State of Colorado.

Chris was shot after pulling over a car with stolen license plates on a rural highway near the Ute Indian reservation. After being shot, Chris made his way to a nearby casino, where an employee was able to call for help. His most critical wound was a shot to the chest just above his bulletproof vest. After several weeks in critical condition, Chris was released from the hospital and is making a steady recovery.

During his five years with the Colorado State Patrol, Chris has been rapidly promoted and just last spring achieved the rank of technician. He has been described by his peers as a zealous officer who is very dedicated to his profession. Most importantly, Chris is a loving husband and father to two young children.

Chris Cutrone displayed signs of bravery long before he was shot. State patrolmen risk their lives each and everyday to protect the citizens of our state. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank Chris for his dedication to the protection of Colorado's citizens and wish him the best for a full and speedy recovery. It is truly an honor to recognize his bravery and dedication before my colleagues in this distinguished body here today.

TRIBUTE TO MOTE MARINE LABORATORY'S 25-YEAR PARTNERSHIP WITH THE CITY OF SARASOTA

HON. KATHERINE HARRIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 17, 2003

Ms. HARRIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a remarkable partnership between the City of Sarasota, Florida and Mote Marine Laboratory that continues to thrive in its third decade. On October 27, 2003, this extraordinary institution will celebrate its 25th anniversary at its current site on Sarasota's City Island. I am proud to have served as a volunteer and advisory council member for this remarkable organization for the last seventeen years.

Founded in 1955 as the Cape Haze Marine Laboratory, Mote Marine Laboratory began as a two-room field station located in Placida, Florida. Under the direction of Dr. Eugenie Clark, the Laboratory developed a strong reputation in shark research over its first decade, during which it moved to Sarasota's Siesta Key. In 1967, the Laboratory assumed its current name to honor the major contributions of William R. Mote and his sister Elizabeth Mote Rose.

Despite its growing prominence as a center for marine research, the emerging inadequacy

of Mote Marine Laboratory's Siesta Key location brought its future in Sarasota into doubt. The vision and determination of Sarasota's leaders, however, forged a dynamic public-private relationship that enabled the laboratory to remain in Sarasota, while fueling its dramatic evolution into the powerhouse of education and exploration that we celebrate today.

Today, as one of the preeminent marine research facilities in the world, Mote Marine Laboratory encompasses seven research centers that conduct a diverse variety of studies, which range from sharks and marine mammal behavior to biomedicine and aquaculture, as well as from manatee and dolphin conservation to coral reefs, red tide, fisheries, and coastal ecology. Moreover, the laboratory has expanded its scope to include year-round marine science educational programs. Through its traditional on-campus offerings and student internships as well as through its interactive teleconferencing SeaTrek program and its participation as a Primary Interactive Network Site for National Geographic Explorer-in-residence Dr. Robert Ballard's JASON Project, Mote Marine Laboratory reaches more than 30,000 students in 22 Florida school districts. SeaTrek and JASON have enabled students to climb Hawaiian volcanoes, explore the wilds of Alaska, walk on rainforest treetop canopies in rainforests, and encounter underwater marine sanctuaries—often without leaving their classroom or the laboratory's campus.

Mote Marine Laboratory has also become a resource of discovery and imagination for persons of all ages from Southwest Florida and around the globe. In 1980, the laboratory opened the Mote Marine Science Center. Now known as the Mote Aquarium, the original one-room visitor center has evolved into a world-class facility that has received accreditation from the American Zoo and Aquarium Association and the American Association of Museums. Now hosting 400,000 visitors every year, Mote Aquarium has become the top tourist attraction in Sarasota.

Mr. Speaker, this amazing institution could not have developed without the commitment and foresight of several outstanding public servants, businesses, and private individuals, including the local officials who saved the laboratory for Sarasota: Mayor Elmer Berkel, Vice-Mayor Tony Saprito, and Commissioners Ron Norman, Fred Soto, and Ted Spurling, who in 1976 provided 4.5 acres of land on City Island for the laboratory's new location; the Arvida Corporation, which generously donated 2.2 acres of waterfront property for that facility; William R. Mote, the Honorable Bob Johnson, Dr. Perry Gilbert, then City Manager Ken Thompson, and then Arvida Vice-President John Siegel, who spurred the creation of the unique public-private partnership between the City of Sarasota and Mote Marine Laboratory; the members of the 1992 City Commission (Mayor Jack Gurney, Vice-Mayor Gene Pillot, Commissioners Fredd Atkins, David Merrill, Nora Patterson, and then City Manager David Sollenberger) who arranged for the addition of 3.5 acres of land to the laboratory's complex for the construction of the Ann and Alfred Goldstein Marine Mammal Center for Research and Rehabilitation; and the current leaders of Sarasota's city government (Mayor Lou Ann Palmer, Vice Mayor Richard Martin, Commissioners Fredd Atkins, Danny Bilyeu, Mary Anne Servian, and City Manager Michael McNeas).

We venerate their indispensable contributions, together with the incredible leadership that Mote Marine Laboratory continues to receive from the Chairman of its Board of Trustees, Monfort Runyan, and its Executive Director, Dr. Kumar Mahadevan. We also honor the sterling scientists and other professionals who comprise the laboratory's staff, as well as the dedicated corps of 8,000 members and 1,600 volunteers who serve as aquarium guides, turtle patrols, dolphin and whale hospital volunteers.

INTRODUCTION OF THE RIGHT TO KNOW SCHOOL NUTRITION ACT

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 17, 2003

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about an issue that has the potential to affect the lives of 27 million of our children across the nation, who are participants in the National School Lunch Program or the National School Breakfast Program.

The issue is the inclusion of irradiated food in federally-funded programs that are designed to help our disadvantaged children. Last year's Farm Bill opened the door for school districts to purchase irradiated food for use in our school feeding programs.

There are many questions that remain about the scientific validity of serving irradiated products to our growing kids, particularly in regards to nutritious content and the long term-effects of regular consumption of irradiated food.

In anticipation of issuing regulations on serving irradiated food, the U.S. Department of Agriculture opened a comment period for the public to express its opinion on irradiated food. An overwhelming number of the comments received by USDA opposed serving irradiated food in the national school lunch program, over 90% in fact.

Four school boards in California have already moved to ban irradiated food products in their schools, including the city of Berkeley in my district, Point Arena, Ukiah, and Los Angeles Unified. And based on a recent survey conducted by the public interest group Public Citizen, many more school districts and states have indicated that they will not purchase or serve irradiated food during this school year.

But for those school districts and states that may decide to serve irradiated food, under current regulations, there is no requirement for irradiated food to be clearly labeled at lunch areas where it is served. In addition, parents and children who rely on our school nutrition programs are not given the option to refuse irradiated products, and they will have no choice but to eat whatever type of food is served that day.

I am seeking to correct this current deficiency in law by introducing the Right to Know School Nutrition Act. My bill would require the USDA to ensure that: Balanced information on irradiation is given to parents and children before such products are served; that a standard option of non-irradiated food products be served at every meal; that irradiated food be properly labeled and appropriate signage be displayed in the lunch room; and finally, that irradiated and non-irradiated food products are not commingled.