Thanks to their team effort, this close-knit community will continue to have that lifeline to the health care services they need. Everett Royer, a current EMS volunteer, noted, ''it gives us a little bit of hope.''

All across the state of Kansas are stories just like this one. Of neighbors helping neighbors, not because they have to, but because they want to. Because it's. the right thing to do. Their efforts deserve our support and recognition.

Citizens throughout the First Congressional District of Kansas are working together to enhance the quality of life in their communities. Preservation of the Otis EMS is a success story that gives all of us in rural America ''a little bit of hope.''

FLEET RESERVE ASSOCIATION CELEBRATES ITS 80TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. WALTER B. JONES

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 18, 2004

Mr. JONES of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, November 11, 2004 marked the 80th anniversary of the Fleet Reserve Association whose original charter was issued on that date in 1924 at Philadelphia, PA. Known by the acronym, FRA, the association is the oldest and largest professional military organization representing men and women serving in or retired from the U.S. Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard.

FRA grew out of a need for an organization to safeguard sailor's rights and benefits. The idea for organizing such an association stemmed from the earlier action of a small group of enlisted men, who pooled their monies in 1919, to send two senior enlisted Navy chiefs from their ranks to Washington, DC to represent their viewpoint on pay legislation then under consideration in the U.S. Congress. The result of their testimony was a substantial enlisted pay increase the following year. These two pioneers were the first enlisted persons ever to testify before a congressional committee.

The Fleet Reserve Association derived its name from a program, the Fleet Naval Reserve, established by the Navy to separate sailors who had at least 16 or more years of active enlisted service but less than 30 for retirement purposes. Sailors could return to civilian life, receive retainer pay (in lieu of retirement pay), and be subject to immediate recall to active duty by the Secretary of the Navy until their combined service equaled 30 years.

FRA originally was formed in 1922. Its first successful endeavor occurred in 1923 when Congress overruled an unfavorable and inequitable judgment by the Comptroller General of the United States. The CG's decision had rejected the eligibility of certain enlisted personnel who had already transferred to the Fleet Naval Reserve and settled in the civilian community. The CG ruled that those holding commissions in WWI could not count their wartime commissioned or warrant service to qualify for transfer to the Fleet Naval Reserve. The FRA effort saved any number of enlisted sailors from returning to active duty to make up time served in the commissioned ranks.

Since its inception, FRA has produced an enviable record of representing enlisted men and women of the Sea Services. In the 1930s, the Association authored two legislative proposals that were signed into law by then-President Herbert Hoover. One law banished a requirement that Fleet Reservists and other enlisted retirees pay 75 cents for rations while hospitalized in government treatment facilities. The other authorized the payment of death gratuities to the estate of Fleet Reservists who perished while recalled to active duty. In 1937, an FRA proposal to authorize commissary privileges to military widows was enacted into law by President Franklin D. Roosevelt. Two years later, FRA's efforts to restore reenlistment allowances (bonuses) succeed when the President signed the legislation into law.

For the next five decades FRA racked up success after legislative success on behalf of its members and others, including all uniformed personnel of the armed services. Its ''Hospital Rights'' study led to the creation of the Civilian Health Program of the Uniformed Services (CHAMPUS) in 1966. Almost immediately thereafter, the Association financed a study of the military's survivor benefit program. The result of the study, entitled ''Widow's Equity,'' led Congress to the 1972 adoption of the Uniformed Services Survivor Benefit Program (USSBP).

In the late 1970s and early 1990s FRA concentrated on protecting the rights of its membership. Much of its work was devoted to preserving the status quo for many of the benefits available to military personnel. FRA shared a major role in defeating an overhaul of the uniformed services retirement system and the proposed unionization of the armed forces. It targeted the defeat of a proposed plan to phase out funding for military commissaries, petitioned Congress not to adopt the former spouses' protection act, and joined as a founding member of The Military Coalition leading to the repeal of the reductions in cost of living adjustments (COLA) for military retires and their survivors.

FRA published a pay study in 1999 that led to a major victory in obtaining targeted pay hikes for mid-grade enlisted personnel in 2001. It also authored the first legislation introduced that eventually led to the repeal of the 1986 military retirement system (REDUX), and urged the Navy to authorize sea pay for junior enlisted personnel.

In addition to its award-winning legislative advocacy work, the Association encourages participation in community activities wherever its 300-plus branches are located throughout the United States and overseas. FRA also conducts an annual scholarship program and awarded nearly $90,000 to deserving students in 2004. Its Americanism Essay Contest is highly successful awarding more than $75,000 to students each year. The Association also generously supports a number of recognition awards for outstanding uniformed personnel of the Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard. The Association is recognized by the Department of Veterans Affairs as a veterans' service organization, and employs a full time Veterans Service Officer who has the authority to assist any veteran in filing a claim or representing them before the Board of Veterans Appeals.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to have been a part of the Association's efforts to serve the men and women of the Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard. At the Association's request I introduced the first proposal in the House to repeal the military's REDUX retirement program, to provide a targeted pay increase for mid-career enlisted personnel, and an amendment to the Coast Guard authorization bill to authorize the Commandant of the Coast Guard to speak his mind before members of Congress in the same manner as that of the other service chiefs; all of which have been enacted in law. There are others issues related to both military personnel and veterans that FRA and I will continue to work, most of which I plan to sponsor again in the 109th Congress.

Mr. Speaker, I commend the Fleet Reserve Association for its eight decades of representing our men and women of the Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard. May its success in effectively serving active duty, reserve, and retired enlisted personnel, as well as those in the commissioned ranks, sustain the FRA through many more years of loyalty, protection, and service—not only to its members but to the U.S. Navy, the Marine Corps, the Coast Guard and the United States of America.

ON THE SUCCESS OF THE X–43A

HON. WILLIAM M. THOMAS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 18, 2004

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the men and women of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's Dryden Flight Research Center and Langley Research Center for the record-breaking flight of the X–43A research vehicle on November 16, 2004. During the flight, the scramjet-powered X–43A flew successfully at record speed approaching Mach 10, almost ten times the speed of sound, as it raced across the sky above the Pacific Ocean. The Dryden Flight Research Center at Edwards Air Force Base, where the mission originated, is in my district. Earlier this year I visited Dryden and met with the men and women involved in the program and I share their excitement about this successful flight.

Supersonic combustion ramjets, or scramjets, offer safer and more affordable options for high-speed flights, as well as more airplane-like operations, than traditional rocket powered vehicles. Much of the information scientists have about scramjets has come from computer-generated models. The goal of this program was to provide actual flight data for a scramjet engine.

This was the third and final flight of NASA's Hyper-X Program to explore alternative power sources for space access vehicles. It was also the fastest flight, breaking the record of the second flight, which reached speeds near Mach 7. The Guinness Book of World Records named the X–43A the fastest air-breathing aircraft when it reached speeds of over 5,000 MPH during the March 27, 2004 flight. Only eight months later, the Guinness World Record book needs revising already; the X–43A is still the fastest, but now it has flown almost 7,000 MPH.

The X–43A took off from Edwards attached to a B–52 bomber. This was the last research flight for the B–52, which has been used successfully for many historic research efforts at Dryden. At around 2:30 PM local time, the X–

43A detached from its booster at 110,000 feet to fly on its own. The 12-foot long vehicle streaked through the sky, reaching speeds of Mach 9.8. After its short flight, the X–43A splashed into the Pacific Ocean, triumphantly completing the eight-year program.

The $230 million Hyper-X program pushed the envelope, as no air-breathing scramjet engine had been previously flown at hypersonic speeds, but the rewards are evident. The important discoveries made by these flights will lead to advances in both space exploration and commercial aviation. We all honor the success of the program and encourage more research into this valuable technology. It is vital that the first 'A' in NASA—Aeronautics—remain a strong and vibrant part of the agency.

TRIBUTE TO SCOTT EWBANK

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 18, 2004

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in memory of Scott Ewbank to recognize his lifelong achievements and indisputable legacy as a respected San Jose lawyer and longtime member of Santa Clara County's Juvenile Justice Commission.

Scott Ewbank was born on August 15, 1947 in Sunnyvale, California. Scott attended Stanford University, where he received his bachelor's degree in political science in 1969. After college, he volunteered for two years with International Volunteer Services (IVS), a nonprofit group that at the time helped central Vietnam's highland tribes develop new agricultural practices. While there, he learned Vietnamese and in the mid–1990s served on the IVS board of directors.

After his return from Vietnam, Scott attended the University of Michigan law school, and received his law degree in 1975. He also received a master's degree in Southeast Asian studies in 1990 from the same university.

Scott began his solo criminal law practice in San Jose in 1976. He was a tough fighter who believed in his young clients, many of them charged with felonies.

Outside of the courtroom, Scott was a volunteer mentor to youths. He joined Volunteers in Parole, a non-profit group that helps juvenile delinquents by pairing them with adult mentors. He also volunteered as an adult chaperon with the Boy Scouts. Scott helped out those in his own neighborhood. He spoke up against the proliferation of all kinds of group homes and questioned the city's land use ordinances as they pertained to potential development nearby.

It was on Saturday, November 6, 2004 that Scott Ewbank died of apparent heart attack while hiking with a Boy Scout troop in Monterey County. He was 57 years old.

Scott Ewbank is survived by his wife Susan Hart, and his children, Jack and Anne, all of San Jose; his mother Lois Ewbank of Sunnyvale; and his brothers, Gary of Sacramento and Brian of Fresno.

Mr. Speaker, today we mourn the loss of a role model and a constant inspiration. Scott Ewbank's heroic service to our community and guidance to individuals inspired many to go beyond their expectations and, as a result, contribute to the betterment of our beautiful and diverse community in Santa Clara County. Scott was a true hero, in every word and action. He was also my friend and neighbor.

HONORING LINDA SHOEMAKER

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 18, 2004

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Linda Shoemaker, an exceptional community leader in my district.

Throughout her life, Linda has worked to improve the community in which she resides and to help those less fortunate than herself. In 2000, Linda and her husband, Steve, founded the Brett Family Foundation in Boulder, Colorado. The purpose of this foundation is to promote local nonprofits and policy initiatives that help disadvantaged youth around the state of Colorado. In 2001, Linda started the Bell Policy Center, a nonprofit organization which uses research to construct and promote public policy that focuses on the needs of working adults and families in Colorado.

Linda's accomplishments are vast. In addition to taking on numerous leadership positions over the years, including becoming a Board Member and Sponsor of the I Have A Dream Foundation, where she worked to provide scholarships to students who would otherwise be unable to attend a college or university, Linda also volunteers time to help abused and neglected children in her community by volunteering as a Court Appointed Special Advocate.

Linda has been recognized time and again for her tremendous work in the Boulder community, as well as around the state of Colorado. Most recently, Linda won the 2004 National Philanthropy Day in Colorado award for Outstanding Philanthropist. It is individuals like Linda, who take action at the community level and take the time to help those less fortunate than themselves that will make this country, and the world, a better place for generations to come.

Mr. Speaker, I commend her accomplishments and ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Linda Shoemaker for her outstanding contributions to Colorado.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 18, 2004

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, due to attendance at a funeral in my district, I was unable to vote during the following rollcall votes. Had I been present, I would have voted as indicated below.

Rollcall No. 532, "yes." Rollcall No. 533, "yes."

EULOGY TO KENNETH H. POLLARD OF METHUEN, MASSACHUSETTS

HON. MARTIN T. MEEHAN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 18, 2004

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay my respects to an outstanding citizen of Methuen, Massachusetts Kenneth Pollard. Kenneth passed away on Tuesday, November 9, 2004 at 82 years of age.

Kenneth is survived by his wife, Betty; daughters Sharon and Patricia; sons Michael and K. Jeffrey; sisters Claire and Jacqueline; granddaughters Catherine, Haley, and Morgan; and grandsons Christopher and Kenneth.

Kenneth lived a full life and touched the lives of countless individuals. He was an accomplished athlete in his youth and a dedicated Red Sox Fan. He joined the Army Air Corps during World War II and was a member of American Legion Post 122 of Methuen. Kenneth was a successful businessman, devoted family man, and community leader. Throughout his life he volunteered much of his time to community boards and committees, as well as serving as a Methuen city councilor.

Sharon M. Pollard, who is the Mayor of Methuen, Massachusetts, delivered a beautiful eulogy to her father, Kenneth, at Saint Monica's Church on Saturday, November 13, 2004. I ask for unanimous consent to submit to the RECORD Mayor Pollard's eulogy to her father:

My Mom, brothers, sister and aunts wish to thank you so much for the support you have all given us in the last few days, weeks and months. Our family sends you a collective thank you.

Dad was born into a loving home with his parents, grandparents, and great grandparents. His sisters affectionately say that in this home he was known as ''my son-my son''.

A product of Methuen's public schools, he excelled in school as a student and an athlete. He received letters in baseball, football and basketball. Although mostly English, he liked to think of himself as Irish. He used to tell the story of how his great uncle Tom who had been born in Ireland, wanted him to go to Notre Dame, but he decided to stay closer to home and attend Boston College. He loved watching the Eagles and the Fighting Irish play football.

He loved his country and served as a sergeant in the Army/Air Force in WWII. He served in various places, but it was at his last stop, Sedalia, Missouri where he met Mom. In May, they celebrated their 58th anniversary and they loved each other very much.

Dad had four children and each one of them received a piece of him. Michael, his profession, Patty, his passion for baseball, Jeff, his name and athletic ability and me—well we did politics together. We were kindred political souls. And now you know what the conversation was at our dinner table.

He was blessed with five beautiful grandchildren: Catherine, Haley, Morgan, Kenny and Christopher from whom he received much love and pleasure. Dad was happiest when the children were around, but as we grew older we realized that it was the little ones that he really wanted to spend time with. In the last 10 years, Sundays at the beach were the best times—he knew that the children and grandchildren would be coming for dinner.

Dad was a very unique person. He was highly motivated and created a highly successful business from the ground up. He