

ordained as a Deacon of the First Baptist Church where he was also treasurer and Sunday school Superintendent.

Bob later moved to Magnolia, Arkansas, where he opened Furniture Land. He was active in the community by serving as president of the Magnolia Columbia Chamber of Commerce, as a member of the Rotary Club and Optimist Club and Deacon at Central Baptist Church.

Bob Lann was an avid bluegrass fan and loved playing the fiddle with his friends.

My deepest condolences go to his wife of fifty-nine years, Bobbie Ruth Coffman Lann; his daughter, Ameta Vines and her husband Johnny; his son Randy Lann and wife Cindy; his two grandchildren Julia Lann and Brad Lann; his step granddaughter, Toni Dickinson and his step great-granddaughter Emilee Dickinson. Bob Lann will be greatly missed in Columbia County and throughout the state of Arkansas.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO ROD A.  
DAVIS

**HON. JON C. PORTER**

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 27, 2006*

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my good friend Rod A. Davis for his leadership as CEO of St. Rose Dominican Hospital.

Rod attended college at Idaho State University, majoring in business administration with an emphasis on information systems. Following college, he began installing IBM computer systems in hospitals, where he says he "started catching the spirit of hospitals really helping people . . . and thinking this would be an excellent career."

Today, Rod oversees the operation and direction of three St. Rose Dominican Hospitals in Southern Nevada for Catholic Healthcare West, a not-for-profit, religious-based and non-tax-supported hospital system. St. Rose's is a major healthcare employer in Southern Nevada, with a current payroll of more than 2,100 workers. As St. Rose's CEO, Rod has stabilized operations and overseen the creation of the Barbara Greenspun WomensCare Center of Excellence, the launch of Henderson's only open-heart surgical and pediatric intensive care center program, and the development of numerous outreach programs.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor my good friend Rod A. Davis. Under his leadership, St. Rose Dominican Hospitals have expanded tremendously and have greatly enhanced the lives of countless citizens of southern Nevada. I applaud his success and with him the best with his future endeavors.

IN RECOGNITION OF DEANNA  
ABLESER

**HON. JANE HARMAN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 27, 2006*

Ms. HARMAN. Mr. Speaker, very few people in our society possess the power to change a child's life the way a teacher can.

The values, ethics, work habits and ambition they instill in our youth serve as life lessons that translate into action for the rest of their lives.

That is why I rise today to honor one of my constituents, Deanna Ableser of Torrance, California, who has been awarded the VSA Arts Playwright Discovery Teacher Award. This award is presented annually to educators who creatively bring disability awareness to the classroom through the art of playwriting.

Deanna Ableser teaches six drama courses at Dana Middle School in Hawthorne, California. A significant portion of her curriculum is dedicated to playwriting. She encourages her students to write about characters with physical or mental disabilities in hopes of expanding empathy, understanding, compassion and tolerance. Her intermediate playwriting course is dedicated exclusively to the VSA Arts Project.

It is testament to Ms. Ableser's effectiveness as a teacher that her students have won numerous awards for their accomplishments in acting, playwriting and technical theatre.

On behalf of my constituents and the students and families at Dana Middle School, I extend our congratulations to a wonderful educator and role model, Deanna Ableser, and best wishes for this school year.

Break a leg!

IN RECOGNITION OF CRANIO-  
FACIAL ACCEPTANCE MONTH

**HON. MIKE ROSS**

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 27, 2006*

Mr. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to share my support and acknowledgement of September as Craniofacial Acceptance Month.

Each year approximately 100,000 children are born in the United States with some form of facial disfigurement. In many cases, reconstructive surgeons can correct these problems early—often while the children are still infants. In other cases, however, reconstruction is not so easy or even possible. The Children's Craniofacial Association, CCA, is an organization that supports these children and their families. Through CCA's continued dedication and efforts, I am pleased to share my support and thanks for their designation of September as Craniofacial Acceptance Month.

In 2001, my constituent, Wendelyn Osborne, brought the craniofacial disorders issue to my attention. At a young age Wendelyn was diagnosed with craniometaphyseal dysplasia, CMD. CMD is a rare disorder that affects only 200 people worldwide. Specifically, CMD involves an overgrowth of bone which never deteriorates. In Wendelyn's case, this caused an abnormal appearance, bilateral facial paralysis and deafness. Other cases can include those characteristics as well as blindness and joint pain. Wendelyn has had to go through 17 reconstructive surgeries to counteract the medical difficulties that comprise her disorder.

Unfortunately, the majority of reconstructive surgeries, such as these that Wendelyn has undergone, are not covered by insurance companies. Rather, many of them are treated as strictly cosmetic. As a result, individuals are forced to fight their insurance companies just to receive the life-saving surgeries they need.

The fact that these surgeries have been grouped in the same "cosmetic" category as surgeries that simply make people look better or younger is a tragedy.

Wendelyn's story inspired me to introduce legislation that would assist these thousands of individuals who are affected by a craniofacial disorder. My legislation, the Reconstructive Surgery Act, would ensure nationwide insurance coverage for medically necessary reconstructive surgeries.

It is my hope that further education and understanding of craniofacial disorders will allow our nation to move forward and update existing laws to better meet the medical needs of those needing reconstructive, not cosmetic, surgery. I urge my colleagues to join in this effort and help recognize these conditions through Craniofacial Acceptance Month so that all Americans can access the care they need.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO WALTER M.  
HIGGINS III

**HON. JON C. PORTER**

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 27, 2006*

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my good friend Walter M. Higgins III for his leadership as CEO of Sierra Pacific Resources, the parent company to both Nevada Power Company and Sierra Pacific Power Company.

Walter's first career was as a U.S. naval officer. After obtaining a nuclear science degree from the U.S. Academy, he served as a nuclear submarine officer. After ending his active military service, Walter remained a naval reservist, ultimately retiring as a captain after a total of 29 years of service.

The transition from military service to a civilian career was relatively easy for Walter, who obtained a position with Bechtel Corp., which was designing and constructing nuclear power plants. From there, he worked at the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission, Portland General Electric and Louisville Gas & Electric. He expected to remain in Louisville as the CEO for Louisville Gas & Electric throughout the remainder of his career, but was surprised when utility companies began recruiting him. He subsequently accepted a job with Sierra Pacific Power Co. in 1993. He then moved to Atlanta to head a natural gas company, only to return to Reno in 2000 as CEO of Sierra Pacific Resources.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor my good friend Walter M. Higgins III. I applaud his professional success and efforts on behalf of the community; he has greatly enriched countless lives with his activism. I wish him the best in his future endeavors.

IN RECOGNITION OF RUDY F.  
DE LEON

**HON. JANE HARMAN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 27, 2006*

Ms. HARMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Rudy F. de Leon, whom I have