

TRIBUTE TO RON HOLLIDAY

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 7, 2006

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. Ron G. Holliday. Mr. Holliday will be retiring as County Manager of Summit County, Colorado, on January 5, 2007, after having served 4½ years in this position. Prior to his position in Summit County, Mr. Holliday served 5 years as the County Administrator for Jefferson County, Colorado. Before his county government experience, Mr. Holliday served over three decades as Director of State Parks in Texas, Colorado and Montana.

Together, these years of exemplary service by Mr. Holliday amount to nearly four decades working for the citizens and environment of many Colorado and other western communities.

As Summit County Manager, Mr. Holliday worked on issues related to forest health, the present bark beetle epidemic, increasing growth and development in this county along the critical Interstate 70 corridor, ski area and tourist management, as well as roadless issues in our national forests. He brought a collaborative spirit to all of these endeavors, and the citizens of Summit County have a thriving economy and a roadmap to help address future issues and needs.

As County Administrator for Jefferson County, Colorado, Mr. Holliday oversaw more than 1,200 employees and was responsible for daily operations and a \$344 million annual budget. He was serving this county at a time of significant growth, resulting in challenging transportation needs. To address this, he structured a multi-agency intergovernmental agreement for crucial transportation planning. He also helped guide the \$150 million open space acquisition program and helped win passage of a voter approved \$160 million open space bond issue.

Mr. Holliday also helped coordinate the county's administrative response to the tragic Columbine High School shooting. This incident garnered worldwide attention, and Mr. Holliday was part of the county's coordination team to manage the fallout from this unfortunate incident.

Prior to his work with Jefferson County, Mr. Holliday was Director of State Parks for the State of Texas for 5 years. At this position he oversaw 140 State parks with natural, recreational and historic significance encompassing 600,000 acres. He developed strategic plans for these attractions and tripled the revenue in 3 years. He also worked to create three new parks under his management.

Mr. Holliday secured similar achievements as Director of Colorado State Parks where he worked for 7 years. He increased the revenue of this office and developed strategic plans and longrange visions to our State's impressive park system. He got his start in this work for open space protection and visitor enjoyment working as State Park Director for Montana prior to working for State Parks in Colorado.

Throughout his work for open space, parks and county government, Mr. Holliday has brought a keen appreciation of the importance of preserving a quality environment and thriving

economy for the benefit of the local communities he served as well as the entire States and Nation. His dedication to public service and his communities stands as a model for future managers and directors who act as stewards of our lands and communities.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Mr. Holliday for his dedicated, collaborative service. I wish him the very best in his future endeavors and continued contributions.

A TRIBUTE TO GEORGE MANIAS
OF PEORIA, ILLINOIS**HON. RAY LAHOOD**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 7, 2006

Mr. LAHOOD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to George Manias, a man who is a legend in my hometown of Peoria, Illinois.

Yesterday, George Manias celebrated the 60th anniversary of the opening of his shoeshine business in Peoria. George Manias is the true personification of the American dream. The son of Greek immigrants who spoke no English when he came to Peoria, he was just 16 years old when he opened his business. From that first day in the corner of a downtown barbershop, George has worked tirelessly to make his shop a great success.

George has shined the shoes of countless people, from his fellow Peorians to former Presidents Gerald Ford and Ronald Reagan. The walls of his shop are covered with photos and clippings of the more famous of his customers, but each customer is special to George. His pride in his workmanship and his love of people are evident no matter who walks through his door.

This week, the Peoria City Council honored George with a resolution commemorating his 60th anniversary, and tonight, there is a big celebration planned for him. I want to add my congratulations to George and his family on reaching this milestone in his career. George Manias is truly the pride of Peoria.

HONORING THE DEPARTING FLORIDA
MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE**HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 7, 2006

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the four departing Members of the Florida Delegation. These Members, MIKE BILIRAKIS, JIM DAVIS, KATHERINE HARRIS, and CLAY SHAW, are leaving with a combined 64 years of congressional service. Our State is losing dedicated public servants who have worked on behalf of their constituents and the Nation. Their input will be sorely missed in the 110th Congress.

MIKE BILIRAKIS is a shining example of heartfelt dedication to veterans' issues and is someone whose passion for veterans is hard to duplicate. Having shared many flights back and forth to DC with MIKE, I can tell you that I learned a great deal from him during my time in Congress.

I always found JIM DAVIS to be a thoughtful, respectful, and thought-provoking Member of

Congress. I enjoyed serving with him because of his southern genteel manner.

KATHERINE HARRIS brought an amazing amount of energy to the House. We served together on the Financial Services and Homeland Security Committees, where I saw her dedication to the issues and the people of Florida. She is especially known for helping those looking to join the ranks of homeowners by fighting to pass the American Dream Downpayment Act.

CLAY SHAW worked tirelessly to find alternative approaches for preserving Social Security for future generations. While never the most flashy Member, CLAY was instead known for his legislative accomplishments as a senior member of the Ways and Means Committee. Not only was he the foremost proponent to save the Everglades, CLAY made America a better place by helping push welfare reform through Congress.

While each of these public servants will be replaced in the 110th Congress, their memories will not be forgotten. MIKE, JIM, KATHERINE, CLAY, we will miss you up here in Washington and wish you the best of luck in your future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO A DEMOCRATIC
TAIWAN**HON. THADDEUS G. McCOTTER**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 7, 2006

Mr. McCOTTER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor and acknowledge Taiwan's democratic practices and respect for human rights.

For 20 years, Taiwan's promotion of liberty, the rule of law, freedom of the press, an independent judiciary, and associative rights have contributed to the creation and continuation of a mature democracy. Through electoral competition which expanded their rights and innovative legislation which improved the lives of the Taiwanese citizenry, over time democratic practices, institutionalized democracy, and fostered the Nation's emancipation from authoritarian rule; and ensured the Nation's allegiance to liberty and justice.

Mr. Speaker, over the years, Taiwan has been a staunch ally of the United States and a responsible member of the community of nations. Thus, today, I ask my colleagues to join me in commending the people of Taiwan for establishing a flourishing, multi-party democracy and for their dedication to democratic ideals and human rights.

IRISH-AMERICAN HERITAGE
MONTH**HON. SCOTT GARRETT**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 7, 2006

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the resolution calling for a month to remember the significant achievements and contributions that Irish-Americans have made to our Nation.

Throughout our more than 200 years of history as a Nation and during our colonial period, countless immigrants from the Emerald