

my staff, Leroy Colvin of Burlington, Washington. Leroy passed away suddenly on Sunday, May 17, 1998. His death was a great shock to those of us fortunate enough to have known and worked with him.

When I first met Leroy, he was a caseworker in the Bellingham, Washington office of my predecessor, Al Swift. I had always respected Leroy, so when I was elected in 1994, I asked if he would like to continue working for me in that office, and he did.

Leroy was one of the people that make the programs created in Congress work for the average American. If a person was having trouble with Social Security, veterans' affairs, or any other program, they could not have a better advocate than Leroy Colvin. He was the person on my staff that one could go to if they had a really tough case that needed a positive solution.

Leroy was born February 2, 1935 to a farming family in Skagit County, Washington State. During his days as a farmer, Leroy grew 120 acres of strawberries, 20 acres of raspberries, and 100 acres of cucumbers annually.

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As a farmer, Leroy was unique for his time in that he provided day care for the children of the migrant farm workers that would come way up North each year to harvest his crops. He was concerned with their welfare and always tried to do the right thing by them. He also operated a restaurant and lounge in Burlington for about 10 years.

My staff all have their own favorite stories and observations of Leroy, but one truth has come through consistently. Leroy loved a challenge. Like most Americans our age, Leroy was not used to the great many things that computers could do to provide information to help him do his case work. When he was shown the great wealth of information that was available on the Internet, Leroy was fascinated. He would often provide information on obscure topics to other members of my staff while they were on the telephone with a constituent talking about that subject. He would get on that thing and go while they were talking and bring them information. He loved a really hard case or a request for the most obscure fact or figure. He would work at it every day until he came up with the answer.

When a member of my staff wanted to reunite her husband with his son after a 30-year absence, it was Leroy that was able to search America via the Internet and finally locate him. The end of that story, they plan to meet later this year.

Leroy was also fascinated by genealogy. He was sort of a self-appointed family historian for the Colvin family of Skagit County. He had friends and relatives in the Ozarks, and he loved to travel to Branson, Missouri. Leroy had friends all across the country. He had lived in many places in America as a younger man and still had contact with

the friends he made from this time of his life. He was a stranger to no one he met.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of myself, my wife and my staff, I wish to convey our heartfelt condolences to the Colvin family on the passing of Leroy. No building or program will ever bear his name, but few have done as much on a daily basis with as much heartfelt caring to make American government work for the average person than Leroy Colvin.

I, along with my wife and staff, as well as the people in need of help from their government, will miss him deeply.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BURR of North Carolina). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mr. SHERMAN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. SHERMAN addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

REMEMBERING EDDIE RABBITT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, a few years ago I was riding on an airplane, and I sat down next to a fellow who was a little reluctant to start talking to me initially. But we had about a 3-hour flight, and, as the flight progressed, I got a chance to get to know this fellow. His name was Eddie Rabbitt, and he was a country and western singer who over the last 20 years had 26 number one country hits. And Eddie and I became very good friends, and we talked on the phone quite frequently. We did not get together very much, but we talked on the phone on a regular basis.

And about a year ago I found out that Eddie was suffering from lung cancer. He was 55 years old at the time, and he had part of his lung removed, and he went through chemotherapy and all the other things that people go through when they suffer from cancer of almost any type anymore. And Eddie was a very courageous fellow. He fought very, very hard to whip cancer, and they thought that they did have it whipped but, unfortunately, a couple of weeks ago Eddie Rabbitt passed away.

He was one of the finest men I had the opportunity to know. He was a good family man. He feared God. He cared about his country, and he believed that entertainment, country and western entertainment, should be very clean and free from obscenities. And he talked about that quite frequently.

He was one of the nicest guys that I had the opportunity to know over the past several years, and he will be missed by me and by a lot of other people across the country who really loved and admired his work.

At the height of his career, he decided to cut back on his performances

because he had a son Timothy who had liver disease, and his son died in 1985, 1 month shy of his second birthday. It was very difficult for him, and he decided to cut back on his work so he could spend more time with his family. Rabbitt and his wife Janine had two other children, daughter Demelza, 16, and son Tommy, 11. They lived in the Nashville suburb of Franklin, Tennessee.

He was a wonderful man. He was a man who was loved by people all across this country. He was a great entertainer, a great artist, and he will be missed by people all over this country and all over the world.

REGARDING RELATIONS BETWEEN THE PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES AND THE PEOPLE OF THE PHILIPPINES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Ms. MILLENDER-McDONALD) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. MILLENDER-McDONALD. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in support of H. Res. 404 regarding the relations between the people of the United States and the people of the Philippines. In light of the Philippines 100th anniversary of its independence from Spain, this measure appropriately acknowledges the Philippines' efforts to improve its democracy and human rights, rule of law and expansion of the free market. Such accomplishments are reflective of a nation striving to fulfill its potential as a future leader in international diplomacy.

As a nation on the rise, the Philippines has made significant strides to uphold and promote democratic ideals. From open elections to establishing diplomatic relationships with free world nations, the Philippines has accepted its role as an emerging power in the international forum. This role has been further established by its efforts to promote human rights both domestically and abroad.

In the annals of U.S. military history, the Philippine people have made incredible contributions to the preservation of world democracy. Fighting side by side with American troops in World War II, the Korean War and Vietnam, Filipino troops demonstrated both valor and fighting prowess in all these engagements. In the constant face of adversity, these men and women endured and prevailed. The accomplishments of Philippine Americans have not only been noticed in military endeavors, but have also been noteworthy for their contributions to the United States.

As U.S. citizens, Filipino Americans have made great contributions to the growth and prosperity of our Nation. In the 37th Congressional District of California, the Filipino American community has contributed immeasurable leadership and vision. As a result of these contributions, the Filipino American community deserves the respect