

grandparents of Canon City. Debra Rupp-Lindt, aunt, of Grand Junction, John Sallee, Pioneer Trails Paraprofessional, La Junta and Ted Kadlecsek, Post 2203, Rocky Ford. Several other Scouting volunteers from the Lamar area as well as many friends were in attendance.

On Feb. 19, 1998, James K. Haas completed the requirement to attain the rank of Eagle Scout. Jim is the son of Ken and Connie Haas. He is 16 years old and a sophomore at Lamar High School. In addition to Scouting Jim is also active in the Lamar FFA Chapter, where he received the Star Greenhand Award for the 1997 year, has attended "Made for Excellence" Leadership Training, attended the 69th Annual State Convention in Pueblo, and served on several committees. Jim is currently president of his Sunday School class, past member of the Cloverleaf 4-H Club and has been a Lamar Daily News carrier for five years, as well as a great asset to the family business. In his spare time he enjoys reading, farm mechanics, shooting sports, camping and hiking.

Jim began his Scouting career at six years of age, as a Tiger Cub at Park #221 chartered by Washington School. He completed the Cub ranks at Washington through first year Webelos. Jim transferred to Pack #222, chartered by LDS Church, and completed second year Webelos and Arrow of Light requirements.

May 1993, Jim became a Boy Scout in Troop #222, and a Varsity Scout in February 1996. Jim has served as quartermaster, grub master, scribe, chaplain, asst. patrol leader, and sr. patrol leader. Jim has attended Junior Leadership Training, two years summer camp at San Isabel Scout Ranch, Packard High Adventure Camp, and the 1997 National Jamboree at Ft. A.P. Hill, Va. "On My Honor" religious award was earned in 1997.

To date Jim has earned 42 merit badges, the varsity letter, three varsity pins, and is looking forward to a Philmont trek this summer.

Jim chose his Eagle project after a wildfire swept through the Lake Hasty Campground last March, destroying much of the natural cover for the birds in the area. After several meetings with Virgil Harp of the Corp of Engineers, and Steve Keefer of Department of Wildlife, the service project was successfully completed November 1997. With the help of follow members of Troop and Team #222, 13 quail shelters were erected, two bat boxes, two owl platforms, and 12 bird houses were placed in the Hasty Lake area. A total of 164 hours was involved in this project.

Scoutmasters Rich Nelson and James Bair, along with assistant Scoutmasters David Northrup, Tom McKannon, Kent Fisher and team coach Ken Haas, have all been instrumental in Jim's completion of Eagle rank.

As the Congressman representing the Fourth Congressional District of the State of Colorado, I am proud to represent James Haas. He sets a fine example showing the impact that youth can make when they strive to live a life of integrity. Once again, I congratulate him for this tremendous achievement and wish him well in any future endeavor he wishes to pursue.

HONORING THE RISING SUN  
CHAPTER

**HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 25, 1998*

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Rising Sun Chapter of the

Prince Hall Royal Arch Masons for providing leadership and support to its members and to the New York community.

The first Independent African Grand Holy Royal Arch Chapter of North America located at South Eleven Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, held its Grand Chapter Convocation on November 27, 1847.

At that convocation a petition was presented by Brothers from New York requesting that a delegation be sent from Grand Chapter to confer the several Royal Arch Degrees. The petition was received and adopted, and ten Brothers from New York were exalted.

Going back to the Civil War and the military conflicts that followed, its members have shown the way in the defense of this country overseas, even while confronting the challenges of racism at home.

Since its beginnings the lodge has made education a priority, and worked for the economic and social improvement of its members and the African-American community at large.

During the Harlem Renaissance Companion Arthur Schomburg, a Royal Arch Mason, shared his knowledge of the history of people of African descent and inspired other scholars and writers, such as James Weldon Johnson, Claude McKay and Richard Wright.

The lodge has supported the civil rights movement, been prominent in fighting the scourges of our community, from drug addiction to deadly diseases. It has supported efforts to improve the educational system and prepare our young people for the job market.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in saluting the Rising Sun Chapter for their great accomplishments.

TRIBUTE TO JEANNETTE MARY  
LOSCIUTO

**HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 25, 1998*

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Ms. Jeannette Mary LoSciuto upon her retirement from the New York City Board of Education. Jeannette taught in the NYC public school system since 1972 and will retire from teaching after 25 years. Jeannette's last 23 years were spent at the Joseph B. Cavallaro School, Intermediate School 281K in Brooklyn. Jeannette taught language arts to the students of IS281K and was the department leader for 20 years. Jeannette was also the faculty advisor for the school yearbook and newspaper from 1980 to 1982.

Jeannette is not only an educator but also very active in the Coney Island community. Her community activism includes serving as a member and/or officer on the local Community Board, boards of numerous elementary schools, day care centers, housing and homeowner associations, task force on poverty, Community Council, and PTAs. She also served with the Community Democratic Club from 1964 until its dissolution in 1994. This participation included positions as the editor of the newsletter, election district captain, poll watcher, petition counter and checker, and a member of its Executive Board.

Jeannette joined the Boys Scouts of America in 1963 and continued to be active long after her children's involvement. Jeannette re-

ceived various awards in her capacity as Den Mother; Webelo Leader; instructor; counselor for the Sheepshead District, Brooklyn; member of the Training and Commissioners staff and committee person, first in Troop & Pack #678 and then in Troop & Pack #504. Her active involvement with the Boys Scouts of America continues as committee person and merit badge counselor. In 1974, Jeannette was awarded the prestigious Silver Beaver.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I pay tribute to Jeannette M. LoSciuto upon her retirement as a teacher in the NYC public school system. At a time, when there have been many stories told about the failures in our public school system, it is with great pleasure that we can honor someone whose dedication is an inspiration to our youth.

RESTORE TAX RELIEF FOR SMALL  
COACH BUILDERS

**HON. PHILIP M. CRANE**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 25, 1998*

Mr. CRANE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commend to the attention of my colleagues a bill I am introducing today which will correct an inequity in the tax code which punishes certain small businesses.

The 1990 Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act taught Congress a number of tough lessons. At the time, I took on the leader of my party, then President Bush, and, along with every other House Republican, opposed the 1990 bill because of its huge tax increases. The bill enacted the infamous luxury taxes on boats, automobiles and other goods in order to "tax the rich." What I predicted at the time was confirmed when the U.S. boat and aircraft industries were hit hard economically as a result of these so-called "tax the rich" policies. The rich were not harmed, rather U.S. workers were out of jobs when consumers stopped buying goods subject to luxury taxes.

While Congress has since worked to repeal these harmful luxury taxes, there are a few remaining tax inequities from that 1990 bill. The federal gas guzzler tax attempted to force better gas mileage from automobiles in the U.S. by overtaxing cars that exceeded government mandated fuel economy standards. Congress in 1986 provided an exemption from the gas guzzler tax for small automobile manufacturers. Those benefitting from this tax relief were the small coach builders who modify existing automobiles into limousines. Unfortunately, the 1990 tax bill repealed this small business exemption, thus subjecting the small coach builders again to the gas guzzler tax.

Like the other luxury taxes, the negative consequences of this new tax increase fell hardest on the workers of the coach building industry. In the late 1980s, there were 35 builders producing up to 9,000 autos. Today, only 12 builders remain and they produce less than 2,400 vehicles. The gas guzzler tax adds, on average, \$1,800 to the cost of one of these vehicles. This cost must also be borne by the small businesses who operate limousine services and must replace a vehicle every 18 to 24 months.

The bill I introduce today will restore that exemption for small coach builders from the gas guzzler tax. Specifically, my bill will exempt