

them. I have run into them a couple of times.

Congressman SANDERS. Other comments?

AMANDA BEAN. I was wondering about longer hours of day care, like not longer days, but being open longer. Most day cares are 5:00 or 6:00, and what about people who work until 9:00 or 10:00 at night and have to pay someone extra, and weekend day cares. I work on the weekends, and I have to pay somebody unreal amounts of money to babysit my kid, and there goes most of my money.

Congressman SANDERS. The issue that we are talking about obviously is a very personal and difficult issue. I very much applaud you all for coming up, and I thank you for doing that.

HONORING SGT. JOHN PETERSON

HON. MARGE ROUKEMA

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 24, 1998

Mrs. ROUKEMA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to call attention of my Colleagues to a tragedy in my Congressional District earlier this month. Sgt. John Peterson, a loyal and dedicated Alpine, New Jersey, police officer was critically injured on the job. His case has brought an outpouring of sympathy from our community.

Sgt. Peterson was directing traffic around a Bell Atlantic cable-stringing crew on Hillside Avenue in Alpine about 1:30 p.m. July 2 when he was struck by a car. The car turned from Church Street onto Hillside, then increased in speed while ignoring Sgt. Peterson's orders to stop. The sergeant finally attempted to jump out of the way but was struck by the car and suffered broken bones in his nose, pelvis, chest and shoulders, among other injuries. He was flown by helicopter to Hackensack University Medical Center, where he was listed in critical but stable condition at last report. A 71-year-old Cresskill woman has been changed with failing to comply with the directions of a police officer.

Sgt. Peterson has patrolled the streets of Alpine for more than 25 years, becoming well-known among the residents of the affluent Bergen County borough. He, his wife, Marie, two adolescent children and one grandchild live in nearby Emerson. The couple also have two adult children. When word of the accident and severe injuries spread, the community was shocked. As a result, Alpine residents Ed and Sally Desser have begun a fund-raising campaign to help Sgt. Peterson and his family pay for medical expenses. A fundraising barbecue will be held at the Desser's home this weekend.

Mr. Speaker, we all know that police officers are among the most valued members of our communities. They work nights, weekends and holidays to protect us, our families and our property. Their work is hard and their pay modest. And every day they know they may be called on to put their lives on the line. Officers' spouses and children pray each day that they will return home from work safely—not a worry most of us have to face. In a small and relatively crime-free community such as Alpine, those worries seldom turn into real-life tragedy. But this terrible accident reminds us of the dangers a police officer faces every moment of every day—whether chasing drug dealers through a crime-ridden corner of a

major city or directing traffic in a peaceful suburb.

I ask all the Members of the House to join me in offering their gratitude to the hard work and dedication of officers like Sgt. Peterson across our nation. Let us strive to keep Sgt. Peterson and his family in our thoughts and prayers.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 24, 1998

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, on July 15, I was unavoidably detained during roll call vote number 282, on final passage of H.R. 3267, a bill concerning the Salton Sea. Had I been present for the vote, I would have voted "no".

EXPRESSING CONDOLENCES TO
THE STATE AND PEOPLE OF
FLORIDA FOR LOSSES SUFFERED
AS A RESULT OF WILD
LAND FIRES

SPEECH OF

HON. CARRIE P. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 20, 1998

Mrs. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of House Concurrent Resolution 298. The people in the northeast and central regions of the state of Florida have experienced great hardship because of the destruction of nearly 500,000 acres of land and over \$276,000,000 dollars in aggregate damages.

I would like to express my heartfelt sympathy to the people who have personally incurred loss, or who had family and friends who sustained losses due to the brush fires that damaged or destroyed nearly four hundred homes and businesses in Florida.

We must also recognize the firefighters, from forty-seven states across this nation who unselfishly worked around the clock in extreme heat to combat these fires.

At the same time, this incident underscores the need to prepare ourselves in advance for future catastrophes. I am hopeful that we can learn from our experiences in this matter and apply our knowledge to prevention.

With the victims and families of this disaster in mind, I strongly urge my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to vote for House Concurrent Resolution 298.

TRIBUTE TO CAROLE PONCHETTI

HON. GEORGE P. RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 24, 1998

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Fresno Businesswoman Carole Ponchetti, President and Chief Executive Officer of J.E. Ethridge Construction Inc., for her efforts and success in the business arena. Carole Ponchetti's climb and dedication to her current position in a traditionally male-

dominated field has made her very deserving of this recognition.

Mrs. Ponchetti has clearly demonstrated a drive for success. She attended California State University, Fresno, earning her license as a Class B General Building Contractor. In 1971, Mrs. Ponchetti began her career with Ethridge, working as a secretary in a one-employee office. Steadily climbing the corporate ladder in the mid 1980's, Mrs. Ponchetti was a key figure in the renovations of the Fresno Bee and the Fresno Metropolitan Museum.

Mrs. Ponchetti has served the community in more ways than one. She is currently on the Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, a board member of the San Joaquin Business Investment Group (a minority interest), and a member of the Fresno Business Council.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I pay tribute to Carole Ponchetti for her effort with J.E. Ethridge Construction Inc. Her commitment and unflinching dedication serve not only as a model for current heads of business, but also for women who wish to enter and succeed in the business field. I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing Carol Ponchetti many more years of success.

RECOGNIZING LARRY D. HAAB

HON. GLENN POSHARD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 24, 1998

Mr. POSHARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to my constituent, Mr. Larry D. Haab, who will be retiring from the Illinova Corporation, a power company in my congressional district. He has honorably served as Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer, and will resign from the latter post this summer after more than 25 years of service. I wish him all the best during his retirement.

Larry attended Millikin University in my district and earned his bachelor of science degree in 1959. He recognized that commitment to his career and Illinova was essential in the business world. Larry established his career in the early 1970's when he was appointed manager of data processing at Illinova. His superior service to the company resulted in his promotion to vice president two years later, and reelection in the subsequent years until he achieved the presidency in 1989. By 1991, Larry had achieved the offices of Chairman and Chief Executive Officer. Larry recognized the potential of Illinova, and he wanted to expand it into larger and new markets. During his career, he helped in the growth of the corporation from a local utility to a nationwide business to an international operation.

In addition, Larry devotes his energy to serving on dozens of boards and councils with dynamic leadership and integrity. He understands the importance of being involved and committed to the Decatur community. From the Illinois Energy Association and the Millikin University Alumni Board to the Decatur County Economic Development Foundation, Larry has maintained active involvement with business and community issues. He is married to Ann Haab, and has two daughters and a son.

Mr. Speaker, please help me in recognizing Mr. Larry D. Haab for his dedication and commitment to Illinova and his community. As a member of the House Small Business Committee, it is a pleasure to witness businessmen