

are matched with a sense of right and wrong, a regard for others, self-respect, and a willingness to work hard. Private and public entities which seek to help high-risk youth, should emulate the Boys Ranch. We are proud of this Colorado organization which has touched the lives of our children and communities.

EXPRESSING UNEQUIVOCAL SUPPORT FOR MEN AND WOMEN OF OUR ARMED FORCES CURRENTLY CARRYING OUT MISSIONS IN AND AROUND PERSIAN GULF REGION

SPEECH OF

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 17, 1998

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, I am deeply saddened by the events of this week, and my heart goes out to the men and women in uniform and their families who are involved in Operation Desert Fox. We want them to know that America is firmly behind them as they face their most difficult challenges.

To bomb another country is no an easy decision for a president. However, I am convinced that President Clinton had no choice but to respond to Saddam Hussein's repeated violations of negotiated agreements by launching the strike.

The United Nations Special Commission on Iraq (UNSCOM) is responsible for monitoring Iraqi weapons programs and dismantling weapons of mass destruction. The United Nations and the United States have repeatedly demanded that Iraq cooperate with UNSCOM and fully comply with all applicable UN Security Council resolutions. Yet, Saddam Hussein has repeatedly defied the United Nations and refused to keep his promises. He has attempted to restrict UNSCOM's activities and interfere with the efforts of UN weapons inspectors.

This conflict is not with the Iraqi people. It is with Saddam Hussein—a dictator who has repeatedly threatened his neighbors, defied world public opinion, oppressed his own people, violated their basic human rights and used weapons of mass destruction against innocent civilians. I sympathize with the suffering of the Iraqi people and I am hopeful that this military action will be completed with minimal loss of life.

No matter what difference we may have domestically regarding the President, this is clearly not a time for partisan politics and divisive language. We must stand united behind our troops and assure them that the American people are with them in this tragic time of crisis. I am hopeful that this mission may be completed quickly and without the loss of American lives and that our fighting men and women may be able to return home to their families in time for the holidays.

TRIBUTE TO RAFAEL ALBERTO WAGNER

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 18, 1998

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. Rafael Alberto Wagner, an outstanding individual who has devoted his life to his family and to serving the community. Mr. Wagner will be celebrating his retirement from Columbia Presbyterian Medical Center in the company of his family and friends today, Friday, December 18, 1998. He worked for Columbia University for 29 years.

Mr. Wagner was born in the Dominican Republic on June 27, 1935. He came to the United States in 1964 and became a U.S. citizen in 1985.

He worked as a shoemaker until 1969 when he joined the Facility Services Department at Columbia University.

Mr. Wagner is married to Carmen Maria Wagner and they have three children, Clara, Wagner-Anderson, David Wagner and Cindy Altgracia Wagner. They have four grandchildren, Jazmin Janay Wagner, David Wagner, Jr., Derek Wagner and Abdiel Rolando Anderson II, and look forward to greeting a fifth in March.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing a happy retirement to Mr. Rafael Alberto Wagner.

IN RECOGNITION OF RUSSELL EUBANK

HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 18, 1998

Mr. HALL of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay my respects to and honor a man dedicated to his community, his family and his church—Mr. Russell Eubank of Canton, Texas.

Mr. Eubank was born June 8, 1918, in Hamilton County to the late Mr. and Mrs. Robert Lee Eubank. He grew up in Wills Point, Texas, and was salutatorian of the 1936 graduating class at Wills Point High School. Mr. Eubank received a B.A. degree from North Texas State College. He then finished mortuary school in Dallas before entering the U.S. Navy in 1942. In 1946, at the end of the war, Mr. Eubank returned to Canton to operate the Eubank brothers' businesses. Active in several organizations, in 1968–69 he served as president of both the Texas Cemetery Association and the Texas Association of Life Insurance Officials. He also served on the local school board, city council and did other civic work as well.

Honored for his commitment to the community Mr. Eubank received the Man of the Year Award of Van Zandt County in 1990 and the Canton Chamber of Commerce Outstanding Citizen Award in 1979. A member of the Masonic Lodge No. 141, AF&AM, Mr. Eubank also received the Golden Trowel Award.

Mr. Eubank was also a 50-year member of the Lions Club, a Mason and a Long time member of the First Methodist Church of Canton.

After a long illness, Mr. Eubank passed away at his Canton residence on June 20, 1998. He is survived by his wife, three sons and ten grandchildren. Mr. Speaker, as we adjourn today, let us do so in honor of and respect for this outstanding East Texan—the late Russell Eubank.

A TRIBUTE TO JUSTIN MERTENS

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 18, 1998

Mr. BOB SCHAFFER of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a fine young man in my district. Mr. Justin Mertens, of New Raymer, Colorado, won the national Future Farmers of America, or FFA, award for Diversified Crop Production. Growing up on his family's dry land farm, Justin learned the importance of agriculture at an early age. He started by learning to drive a tractor. Soon, he hopes to earn a degree in diesel mechanics, buy more land and join his family enterprise. Hopefully, he will pass along his skills to future generations of farmers. Mr. Speaker, agriculture remains the backbone of American society. In Colorado, agricultural exports contribute greatly to the economy, feed our families and provide open space and wildlife habitat. I commend Justin for his fine work, and hope that many will follow his example.

WYCKOFF HEIGHTS MEDICAL CENTER RECEIVES ACCREDITATION WITH COMMENDATION FROM JOINT COMMISSION ON THE ACCREDITATION OF HEALTHCARE ORGANIZATIONS

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 18, 1998

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the notable achievements of Wyckoff Heights Medical Center (WHMC) in Brooklyn, New York. As a 1998 recipient of an Accreditation with Commendation from the Joint Commission on the Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations, the Nation's oldest and largest accrediting body, WHMC has been recognized as a superior health care provider.

This Accreditation with Commendation is a significant achievement that recognizes WHMC's exemplary performance for providing quality care in the borough of Brooklyn. Formed in 1951, the Joint Commission evaluated and accredits almost 11,000 hospitals and home care agencies, and over 7,000 other health care organizations.

As the Representative of the 10th Congressional District of Brooklyn, I am extremely proud of these dedicated men and women. Under the vigorous leadership of Dominick J. Gio, President and CEO, WHMC is poised to lead the nation into the new millennium. WHMC employees at both the main campus and ambulatory sites go the extra mile on a daily basis in order to provide the best possible health care to its patients. This award highlights the fact that WHMC is a shining star in the world of healthcare.