

TRIBUTE TO THE LATE JOHN  
LAVOO

**HON. SCOTT McINNIS**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 23, 1999*

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize and pay tribute to the memory of John LaVoo who died in Vietnam during an ill-fated combat mission. Mr. LaVoo will, at long last, be laid to rest on July 19, 1999, in Arlington Cemetery in Arlington, Virginia.

Mr. LaVoo was a native of Pueblo and a graduate of the United States Naval Academy. On September 19, 1968, John and his navigator, Robert Holt, were killed when their plane crashed in North Vietnam. LaVoo was declared missing and was believed to be dead by the Marines, and in his honor, his widow, Rosalie Rusovick, commissioned the fabrication of a memorial anchor.

Over the years, the memorial, which has hung in the Orman Street entryway of Tabor Lutheran Church, has served as a special place for family and friends, and in the absence of a gravesite, has provided them with some solace. The memorial serves as a constant reminder of the life and sacrifice of John LaVoo and none pass through without learning of the history behind the anchor.

Recently, the remains of Mr. LaVoo were discovered through DNA evidence, and now his courage and sacrifice shall be honored through burial in Arlington. Though John will finally be put to rest in Virginia, his spirit will always rest in Pueblo where the anchor hangs in his memory. It is with this that I wish to pay my respects to Mr. John LaVoo, and I would like to express my gratitude to the LaVoo family for John's strength, patriotism, and service for our country.

TRIBUTE TO FATHER ALBERT  
JEROME

**HON. JOHN SHIMKUS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 23, 1999*

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this time to congratulate Father Albert Jerome of St. Ann's church in Nashville, Illinois who celebrated his 40th Anniversary of ordination. When speaking of how he maintains his positive outlook on the world today, Father Jerome said, ". . . the answer to stop becoming a pessimist is to have a sense of humor. It has really been the mark of the greatest men . . ."

Father Jerome has given and received a great deal of love to and from the dedicated members he has ministered for in his numerous stops over the past forty years. It would serve us all if he could minister for another forty years. However long his service is, it will be a service to the people of his ministry and the rest of the community.

HONORING THE OUTSTANDING  
GRADUATES OF P.S. 15. THE  
PATRICK F. DALY SCHOOL

**HON. NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 23, 1999*

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I ask you and my colleagues to join me in congratulating special graduates of the 12th Congressional District of New York. I am certain that this day marks the culmination of much effort and hard work which has lead and will lead them to continued success. In these times of uncertainty, limited resources, and random violence in our communities and schools, it is encouraging to know that they have overcome these obstacles and succeeded.

These students have learned that education is priceless. They understand that education is the tool to new opportunities and greater endeavors. Their success is not only a tribute to their strength but also to the support they have received from their parents and loved ones.

In closing, I encourage all my colleagues to support the education of the youth of America. With a solid education, today's youth will be tomorrow's leaders. And as we approach the new millennium, it is our responsibility to pave the road for this great Nation's future. Members of the U.S. House of Representatives I ask you to join me in congratulating the following outstanding students from P.S. 15, the Patrick F. Daly School: David Watson and Precious Scott.

TRIBUTE TO SADAKO OGATA

**HON. NICK LAMPSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 23, 1999*

Mr. LAMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to salute and honor the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and its Commissioner, Mrs. Sadako Ogata.

Mrs. Ogata as the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees is responsible for protecting and finding solutions for refugees around the world. I would like to pay tribute to this organization today and to the work it is doing to help refugees around the world, but particularly the Kosovars.

Mrs. Ogata's organization is now working with more than 850,000 refugees from Kosovo, most of whom are in Albania and Macedonia, two small countries, who are struggling to aid these refugees despite their own substantial economic problems. UNHCR is the lead UN agency working throughout the countries of the former Yugoslavia. It has been hard pressed to raise the funds and find the staff and management skills, diplomatic support and logistical support needed to handle such an enormous undertaking as the Kosovo refugee emergency. The organization has had its problems. It depends on voluntary contributions to fund its programs and must respond to emergencies by moving staff from other duties to the latest crisis and unfortunately in refugee emergencies, no one is ever sure just how many people will be forced to

flee their homelands, or how long they will have to live under difficult conditions.

Recently, the UNHCR told donor governments that it still needed \$30 million to meet costs for the month of June (\$143 million required from March to June 30) and an additional \$246 million to continue its operations over the next 6 months.

UNHCR as an intergovernmental organization works with governments, other UN and international organizations and private voluntary organizations to aid the refugees. The U.S. has been one of UNHCR's major supporters both politically and financially. One of the important tasks that UNHCR must fulfill is to protect the lives and well being of refugees, particularly those who are vulnerable or at-risk because of physical or mental illness, insecurity, or separation from their families.

Despite all the big problems UNHCR faces in Kosovo, it can't forget the needs of individual families, like that of my constituents, the Halili family of San Leon, Texas whose relatives from Macedonia are safe today in Texas.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing the tremendous contributions of UNHCR and to its hard working staff and the NGO partners in Albania and Macedonia, and in Washington, who were willing to put in extra hours and deal with lots of paperwork and overcome many obstacles to speed the evacuation and the suffering of the Halili family.

IN TRIBUTE TO OLGA M. JONES,  
RECIPIENT OF THE AWARD 1999  
DISTINGUISHED WOMEN OF  
NORTH CAROLINA

**HON. EVA M. CLAYTON**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 23, 1999*

Mrs. CLAYTON. Mr. Speaker, one hundred and twenty-six women were nominated to receive an award for 1999 Distinguished Women Of the Year. Seven were selected. Among the seven is one of my constituents, Olga M. Jones.

A Native North Carolinian, Mrs. Jones attended public schools in our state and graduated from the Community Hospital School of Nursing. Later, she did post-graduate work at the University of Colorado and other institutions. In 1950, she became a Registered Nurse, launching a career that has taken her around the World, including Japan, Korea, Germany, Egypt and the Scandinavian Region. She has also traveled extensively, throughout the United States, including Alaska. And, currently she serves as Director of the Martin County Alzheimer's Group Respite Program in Williamston, North Carolina.

More than three decades of her nursing career was spent in the United States Army Nurse Corps, where she attained the rank of Colonel. Her experience with the Army and the opportunities she was afforded to travel helped cement her deep, unflinching commitment to health care and to a concern for others. She always knew she wanted to be a nurse, recounting how despite her mother's death when she was only five, the white nursing uniform that her mother wore remained etched in her mind.