first hand the education and preventive ways to combat this virus. In Soweto, South Africa, when the AIDS virus detonates this black township of 3 million in a decade or so, the disease will wipe out about 600,000 people. This is almost six times as many people as the atomic bombs killed in Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

Some estimates predict that more than 25% of the working age population in South Africa will be infected with HIV by the year 2010. The global spread of AIDS is reaching catastrophic numbers.

HIV/AIDS has greatly reduced the life span of the citizens of South African countries. Life expectancy in Botswana has declined from 61 years five years ago to 47 years, and is expected to drop to 41 years between 2000 and 2005. In Zimbabwe 1 out of every 5 adults is affected and is significantly reducing population growth from 3.3%.

More than 33 million are infected and more than 14 million have died. Of this number, more than 16 million people have died from AIDS since the 1980s, 60% of them from sub-Saharan Africa. In 1998, 200,000 people died from armed conflicts on the subcontinent, while AIDS has caused about 2.2 million deaths.

Former Congressman Ronald Dellums, who is now the President of Healthcare International Management Company, has conceived the AIDS Marshall Plan for Africa as a means to bring treatment to those affected with the HIV/AIDS virus. Also, the NAACP introduced a similar measure declaring HIV/AIDS a crisis in Africa.

The Clinton administration has taken the right step to curb the spread of AIDS. President Clinton recently declared $254 million to prevent the spread of AIDS around the world.

Bristol-Myers, one of the largest pharmaceutical company and is headquartered in the state of New Jersey, has also pledged their support of $1 million to prevent the further spread of HIV and to care for those affected by this devastating disease.

In conclusion, let me say that the spread of infectious diseases poses a threat to our own health here in the U.S. We should support the AIDS Marshall Plan and the Clinton administration's efforts to rid the world of this deadly disease.

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I want to join my colleagues in their support of H.R. 3519 the ''World Bank AIDS Marshall Plan Trust Fund Act.'' In Testimony before the Committee on Government Reform, Sandra Thurman, the Director of the Office of National AIDS Policy, sometimes called the AIDS CZAR said that as of this moment, AIDS has killed 12 million men women and children in Africa. Today and every day, AIDS in Africa buries more than 5,500 men, women and children. And that number is estimated to double in the next few years. AIDS has become the leading cause of death in Africa.

But in order to understand the total dimensions of this tragedy, we not only look at the dead, but we must also look at the living. It is estimated that by the year 2010, 40 million children in Africa will be orphaned by AIDS. These children will have lost their parents, and many will have lost entire families. What will these children do? Who will pay for their education? How will they get the basic necessities of food, clothing and shelter? Who will teach them right from wrong? Forty million children with no connection to society, no connection to family, the community or each other will grow up to be forty million adults who have no sense of past, present, or future. Forty million people who are without moorings can and will destabilize a country, a region, a continent and a world.

I know that the fate of Africa or Africans may not be a high priority for many here. Many may not care about the AIDS virus or its victims. But I don't know anyone here who does not care about children. I ask you to do what you can to prevent the predictions of forty million orphans from coming true. Lets find a way to keep their parents healthy and alive. Lets find a way to provide medical assistance so that there will not be 40 million orphans. The United States can and should be a leader in the fight against this pandemic. We can not be the leader of democracy and turn our backs on these families.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. BIGGERT). The time of the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LEE) has expired. All time has expired.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. LEE. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on the subject of our special order tonight.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from California?

There was no objection.

TRIBUTE TO THE COLORADO STATE LEGISLATURE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 1999, the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. MCINNIS) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. MCINNIS. Madam Speaker, as the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CUMMINGS) knows, I have an hour and I would be happy to yield to the gentleman up to 5 minutes so he could conclude his statement. I think the issue that he is speaking about is very important. I yield up to 5 minutes to the gentleman.

Mr. CUMMINGS. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. MCINNIS) for yielding.

Second, we must come to an understanding that all sectors and all spheres of society have to be involved as equal persons in combatting this crisis. The health sector cannot meet this challenge on its own, nor can one government or one nation.

So it is imperative that we have a collective global effort to increase international AIDS spending in Africa. This collective effort must also make vaccine research and development a priority and secure access to treatment for infected individuals. We must encourage pharmaceutical companies to reduce the percentage of spending on marketing and advertising and instead reduce drug prices and increase expenditures on patient assistance programs.

Passage of H.R. 3519, the World Bank AIDS Marshall Trust Act, would be an important step towards these goals. This legislation calls for the governments of key nations, the private sector, and nongovernmental entities to partner in the creation of a Marshall Fund to eliminate AIDS. The fund would provide $1 billion over 5 years for research, prevention, and treatment.

I thank the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LEE) and the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. LEACH) for having the foresight to introduce this measure. When the history of our time is written, it will record the collective efforts of societies responding to a threat that has put in the balance the future of whole nations. Future generations will judge us on the adequacy of our response.

One of my mentors, the Reverend Jeremiah Wright of Chicago, has stated many times, ''In my time and in my space, I will make a difference with God's grace.''

And so, Madam Speaker, I urge support of H.R. 3519 for this is our space, and this is our time; and we must make a difference with God's grace. With that, I yield back; and I thank the gentleman from Colorado for yielding.

Mr. MCINNIS. Madam Speaker, I can tell my colleagues as many have experienced themselves personally, the great time in my life that I served in the State legislature, the State of which I represent here in the United States Congress.

Being able to serve in the State House of Representatives for the State of Colorado meant a great deal to me. I was honored to be elected by the people of the 57th district of the State of Colorado to serve five terms. I had the opportunity to go and serve as the chairman of a committee and ended my career in the State House of Representatives as majority leader.

During that period of time, I established lifetime friendships with fellow legislators on both sides of the aisle. By political design, the activity that we have in Congress in Washington is dramatically different than the type of system that we operate at least in the State of Colorado. In Colorado, for example, we have what we call ''instant voting.'' Now, why do I bring up the facts to my colleagues of instant voting? Because I want to explain what that leads to.

It leads to strong friendships. Why? Because instant voting such as we have in the State of Colorado requires that all of the State legislators, and I speak generically, the State senators as well, have to be on the House floor at the time that the voting machine is opened, as compared to the United States Congress here in the House of Representatives where we have a minimum of 15 minutes on most votes, 5 if it is a subsequent vote, to come to the House floor and cast our vote.

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As a result of that here, we do not mill as a group for a very long period of time.

Under the rules of the Colorado House of Representatives, the Colorado State Senate, they in fact work with each other and stand around, sit by each other throughout the entire voting process. As a result of that, they have moments where they get to know the person sitting to their right or the person sitting to their left. They have an opportunity to stand in the back of the chambers and have a cup of coffee with a Democrat or a Republican or somebody from the city or somebody from the rural areas of the State of Colorado.

It is very easy to really bring together strong friendships that last throughout a person's political career and throughout a person's personal career. I was privileged to be fortunate enough to be able to do that.

I also want to point out, as many of my colleagues obviously know, here in the United States Congress, we have to travel great distances, and our travel is very, very extensive. The district that I represent in the State of Colorado is actually geographically larger than the State of Florida. My travel is extensive.

But in the State legislature, one does not have those kinds of traveling requirements. In the Colorado State legislature, one has more opportunity to get to know each other. In the Colorado State legislature, they have 65 members. In the United States Congress, we have 435 in the House, and we have 100 in the Senate. In the Senate in the State of Colorado, they have 35 members.

So simply by the fact that they have a smaller number of people, it is easier to make lasting and strong friendships. That is what I did.

Tonight, I stand here in front of my colleagues talking about a few of those good friends that I made. I am also going to talk about a few fine legislators whom I did not know as well but who are concluding their service for the State of Colorado.

Tomorrow, Wednesday, is the last day that the Colorado State legislature has in session. In Colorado, we have a 120-day limitation. So the legislature can only meet for 120 days. We also have in Colorado term limitations. We have a number of people who are subject to term limitations who will be leaving office or serving their last legislative day tomorrow.

So with the patience of my colleagues, I am going to go through some of the names of some of these people, talk just a little bit about them, because it is kind of special for me to be back here talking to my colleagues, Madam Speaker, as U.S. Congressmen about some people that are very exceptional people in the State of Colorado.

Let me begin with a long-time friend of mine, the speaker of the House in the State of Colorado. His name is Russell George. His wife's name is Neal. They have a fine, fine family.

Russ has impressed me over the years because, number one, no matter whether one agrees with him or disagrees with him, no matter what one thinks of his political leanings on one day or his political leanings on another day, there has never been a question about Russell George's integrity. His integrity is second to none in the State of Colorado.

Now, in the State of Colorado, we have waited for over 20 years on the western side of the State to get a speaker of the House. Russ George became our speaker from western Colorado. Unfortunately, under the term limitations, he could only be the speaker for 240 legislative days. So despite his qualifications, despite his remarkable career, he is out, automatically shoveled out of the Colorado State capitol.

Now Russ has served 8 years in the 57th district. Russ is an attorney at law. He is recognized in the legal community for his capabilities and his exceptional knowledge of the law. He is also recognized in the legal community for his ability to sway in the courtroom. See, he is well known. He is soft spoken, but he is well spoken.

In the Colorado State House of Representatives, he has earned compliments from both sides of the aisle for his fairness and for his leadership. I am confident that after Russ leaves the State House of Representatives in Colorado, that there will be a number of golden opportunities for the people, for him, but for the people who might be lucky enough to retain his services in some way or another.

Russ dealt with a number of tough issues. His latest issue was the Gas and Oil Commission. Now, whether one agrees or not in the State of Colorado with what the speaker of the House attempted to do with the Oil and Gas Commission, the fact is the intensity of his work was reflected even up to the last few days that he served as a legislator. He is to be commended.

I stand in front of all my colleagues tonight, almost all of whom have never met Russell George and would say to each and every one of them, I hope that they some time have the opportunity to at least meet him. I have had the absolute privilege of considering him one of my best friends for many, many, many years.

We have others who are leaving the Colorado House and the Colorado Senate. Debbie Allen. Debbie Allen is a friend of mine. Debbie was elected in 1992. She has worked hard. Some of her key issues have been crime, law enforcement obviously falls into that category, and education issues.

Debbie's husband Bob has been very faithful and good; faithful, meaning that he has been a good supporter. As my colleagues know, to be a State legislator, one has got to have a spouse that is pretty understanding. One has got to have a spouse that is ready to stand by one for those late night hours and the intensity that that job has for that 120-day period. Bob did that.

Debbie served as the chairman of the Education Committee. Madam Speaker, in the State of Colorado this year, education has been an especially tough issue. Now, education has always been a priority of the Republican Party and of the Democratic Party in Colorado. But this year the Republicans really led the fight on more funding for education. Debbie was the chairman of that committee.

She is the owner and the manager of a company called Custom Data Services. She served as a secretary, vice chairman, and chairman of the Arapahoe County Republican Party. She has been a Republican activist. But I can tell my colleagues, as a Republican activist, she still crosses the aisle. She considers many Democrats her friends.

She was the President of Aurora Republican forum, and she was awarded the Junior League Champion for Small Children Award.

Now, Debbie is not totally leaving the legislature. She is going to make a run for the Colorado State Senate, but her years in the State House of Representative are much appreciated.

I want to talk just for a moment here about another friend of mine, and that is representative Bob Hagedorn. Bob was elected in 1992. He was named as the CACI business legislator of the year, and his key issues have been education, reform, and health care.

Bob has faced a pretty tough challenge in the last few years, and he overcame that challenge. While I may not necessarily agree with my friend Bob on a number of different issues in the political arena, I can tell my colleagues I consider him my friend, and I admire him for his courage to overcome the challenges that faced him.

Representative Dorothy Gotlieb. Dorothy is a great person. She is an aggressive, aggressive legislator. She works very hard on the issues of the budget. She served as a member of the Denver Board of Education for 6 years, and she was the President for the Denver Board of Education for 2 years. She served as a member of the State Board of Education for 6 years and 2 years as chairman.

As a member of the Denver Public Schools Athletic League Hall of Fame, she won many different education awards. Dorothy is well known for her expertise in education. She is also known for how hard she pushes to make children the highest priority of State legislative issues.

She obviously was on the Education Committee. She served on the Transportation and the Energy Committee in the State legislature. She served on Criminal Justice. She worked hard on Small Business and efficient in Accountable Government issues.

She, too, is running for the State Senate, but she wraps up her days tomorrow in the State House. I can tell my colleagues something, Dorothy has done a great job. I want my colleagues to know that I hope they someday have the privilege of getting to meet all of these people of which I am trying to

give them some reference to this evening.

Representative Ken Gordon. Ken has done a good job as the House minority leader. Minority leader. I am a Republican. But I can tell my colleagues I respect Ken for his efforts as a minority leader. He has been strong for the Democrats. He stood up on a number of different issues. Ken is also known for his straightforwardness. He had success in his plain language law, which he passed. He was elected in 1992. Ken has done a good job.

I will talk about my good friend Bill Kaufman. Bill is a special guy to me. Bill was appointed to a vacancy in 1993, and he was elected time after time after time since then. He served as chairman of the Judiciary Committee and was a member of the Legal Services Committee. Currently my friend Bill is the Speaker Pro-Temp.

Bill served as an attorney in the Loveland area. He has a good reputation, a strong reputation in the Loveland area for his capabilities in the field of law and for his honesty in that field.

He is very active in the Republican party. He was chairman of the Dole-Kemp campaign in 1996. He coordinated the campaigns of people like Senator Armstrong, Senator Hank Brown, Senator WAYNE ALLARD.

He was named in 1996 as the Legislator of the Year. That is a great honor. CACI and the American Planning Association gave him awards in that regard. He got awards from the Social Legislation Committee and the Colorado Sheriff's Association. He has been very active in education, transportation, and prisons.

Now, the reason Bill is such a good friend is, over the years, I have had a number of tough issues, even as late as last week where I took issues that we work with on this House floor. As my colleagues know, real government is at the local level. That is where the best government is is at the local level. We really should serve more of a perfunctory role. We have duties in regards to defense and in regards to commerce and international trade, but the real government is at the local level.

One can always go to Bill and sit down with Bill and discuss issues or even conflicts between the Federal government and the State government. He would listen, and if he felt that one's position had good merit, not necessarily popular merit, but good merit, he would get behind one.

I am going to miss Bill in the Colorado State House of Representatives. He has got a lot of good years ahead of him. He is a young man, and his career has just gotten off to a start. Tomorrow will be his last day as well, and he is to be congratulated.

I also want to talk about his wife Diana. I will tell my colleagues she is quite a lady, and obviously Bill could not have done this without her.

I will talk about Representative Ron May. Ron May is a good friend of mine. He was out in Colorado Springs, Colorado. I wish my colleagues could meet Ron. Ron is very good on transportation issues. He was elected to the House in 1992. He also has worked very hard on the technological capabilities.

As my colleagues know, I think, as I have spoken before, I think we are in the second industrial revolution in this country when it comes to the Internet. Here is an individual, Ron May, who helps take elected officials like my colleagues and I, and try and bring us up to speed on some of these technological issues.

He served on the city council before he went to the State legislature; and as we all know, that is pretty good training ground. He sponsored a number of bills on workers' compensation, unemployment insurance, highway speed limits, right-to-work law and information systems.

He and his wife Onilla are good people. I will tell my colleagues something, Ron has done a great job for the people of the State of Colorado, and I hope my colleagues have an opportunity to meet him at some point.

Representative Maryanne Keller. Maryanne I do not know well, but I know about her. She was elected in 1992. She cosponsored standards in education legislation, and she is a special education teacher. I have heard more about the representative of her teaching capabilities. They have been very positive. They have been very strong.

As I understand it, she is exactly the kind of person that we want teaching. But she is an excellent teacher, and I also understand, of course, that she did an excellent job or did a good job on education issues. She did an excellent job as a State representative. She, too, will be leaving us.

Same with Representative Ben Clarke. Ben was appointed in 1994. His key issues have been health care. Why are they health care issues? Because Representative Clarke is a retired doctor. He is one of the few doctors we have in the State legislature. Instead of leaving and living a cushy life of retirement, he decided that he would become active in the State legislature, especially in regards to health care issues.

As many of my colleagues on the House floor know this evening, these health care issues are predominant, predominant on our agenda. I can go on and on. I would like to get into another subject and talk about the Republican health plan for prescription services and talk about what we are trying to do to get good health care delivery out in our country. We already have good health care delivery, but better health care delivery.

But I want to come back to Ben. He is also a veteran. He served in the war in Korea. Ben was a good legislator. Tomorrow is his last day. Again, I hope my colleagues have an opportunity to shake his hand someday.

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Representative Andy McElhany. Andy is from Colorado Springs. Andy is probably one of the most energetic, dedicated, focused guys I have met. Andy was chairman of the State, Veterans and Military Affairs Committee. He served on the Colorado Springs Park and Recreational Advisory Board. In fact, he was the board chairman. He was a real estate broker. Has a strong reputation for integrity and professionalism in the real estate field in Colorado. He is the Colorado Library Association Legislator of the Year, the Colorado Union of Taxpayers' Friend of Taxpayer, and the Associated Press' Outstanding Legislator.

He was the sponsor of the ''Deadbeat Parent'' bill, denying driver's licenses to parents not paying child support. And talk about something that gets people to pay child support, as Andy told his colleagues and as Andy told me, tell them they are not going to get their driver's license. Most people gasp at that. They say, well, how do they get to work. But the fact is very few people will ever let their license go like that if they have the option of paying off that child support. It works. Andy convinced me of it, and he has proven it.

He worked, obviously, on other areas regarding health care reform, transportation, government efficiency, and tax reform. Andy has done an excellent job as a representative in the Colorado House of Representatives.

Representative Gloria Lebya, appointed in 1995 and elected in 1996. She was active with the Bobby Kennedy campaign in 1968.

She has been a champion and worked very hard with healthy communities. Communities and the centrifuge of how communities come together in regards to community activities has been where she has devoted a lot of her energy.

Again, one of the people who, obviously, I know. I have met with her. I do not know her that well, but I speak about her based on her reputation, and it is a good reputation. So it is easy to speak of her, and I wish her the very best in her future.

Representative Gary McPherson. Gary is a dedicated guy. I have known Gary for some time. He was appointed in 1994 to the Colorado State House. He was a member of the Appropriations and Judiciary Committees. He is an attorney at law, practiced for a number of years with Kissinger and Fellman, a professional corporation.

He was the vice chairman and the board member of the Arapahoe County Recreation District. He was a CACI Legislator of the Year and the recipient of the Aurora Public Schools' Superintendents' award.

He has dealt with legislation regarding minors and smoking. Gary has really focused on the problems that we have with smoking and minors. Later on, if I have the opportunity to finish what I am doing here, I would like to talk a little about how smoking impacts our minor children in this country.

Here is a guy right here, Gary, that that was a big issue for him; and he was really recognized as a leader in the Colorado Legislature as somebody who had good capable facts on what we do with that problem of our young people smoking, of our young people becoming addicted to tobacco, which every one of us in this Chamber knows is a killer. So I hand it to him. He deserves a big star for that one.

He also worked quite aggressively on education, crime, and welfare reform. Gary's done an excellent job in the Colorado House.

Representative Marcy Morrison. Now, Marcy is a character. People like Marcy. She has been very active. Her husband, Howard, is, in my opinion, an excellent guy, a good supporter. She used to be an El Paso County commissioner, and she enjoyed a strong reputation down there in El Paso County for the job she did. She is tough. She is tough, but she has some humor about her. And it is good to see somebody who is tough and holds the line but can smile and sit down and have a cup of coffee with you after the debate.

She served on the Committees of Health, Environment, Welfare and Institutions and Judiciary. She also served on the State of Colorado Board of Health. She sponsored the Post Delivery Care for Stays in Hospitals and immunization for more Colorado children, a pilot program to evaluate health care costs concerning children. She has done an excellent job. She cares and has been very active on the health care issues for seniors, the disabled, and child care.

Marcy has done an excellent job, and she is also one of the people, if any of my colleagues ever go to Colorado and are down in El Paso County, they will hear about Marcy Morrison and they will want to meet her after they hear about her. She is that kind of person.

Representative Penn Pfiffner. Penn was elected in 1992. His wife, Karen, is obviously a spouse who is supportive of the issues she has taken on.

Penn is aggressive. He is tough. I would say that he is probably one of the more conservative members of the House. He is conservative especially when it comes to these economic issues and on social issues as well. But he is particularly astute on economic issues.

He served as an officer in the United States Navy. He served on the Utility Consumer Advisory Board. He has proposed legislation on everything from prison reform to education alternatives to privatization and transportation deregulation.

He currently serves as a consulting economist to construction and real estate industries. He served, obviously, on the Finance Committee. He served on the Legislative Audit and the State, and the Veterans and Military Affairs Committees.

Penn has given good service to the State of Colorado.

I want to visit about another good friend of mine, Senator Dorothy Rupert. Dorothy and I go back a long, long ways. I want to tell a special story about Dorothy and I.

Years ago, she and I came back to Washington, DC, with a group of individuals, other State legislators; and it was the first time that I had ever seen the Vietnam Memorial wall. Obviously, for my generation, the generation of most of us in this room, that Vietnam Memorial wall has a very special feeling; a sad feeling, a warm feeling, a feeling of pleasure that these people have been recognized. All of those feelings were brought out by Dorothy Rupert.

And I will never forget, as long as I have the mental capability to remember, I will never forget that evening. It was a cold evening, but the sun had been shining that day. And as Dorothy and I went up to the Vietnam Memorial wall, and as my colleagues know it is black granite, it had absorbed that sunlight. And even though there was a cold wind, the sun had just gone down; and that wall emitted warmth because it had stored it up from the sunshine during the day. It was as if the soldiers being recognized by that wall once again stood up to help protect us, keep us warm from that cold wind going down through there.

Dorothy was appointed to the State senate in 1995. She obviously served honorably in the State House of Representatives before that. She has worked very extensively on hate crime issues. She is a high school teacher. She is a counselor. And I can tell my colleagues that there were a number of issues that Dorothy and I voted on the opposite side of, but never once did I consider myself really adversarial to Dorothy Rupert. She is the kind of person who has the type of personality that does not disarm someone to a disadvantage. The feeling, I guess, is one of professionalism, the debates that she gets into.

She is recognized by her colleagues as a person who is very caring. She has a heart many, many times the size of her body. Dorothy has served the State of Colorado very well, and her friendship is something that is very special to me.

Now, let me talk about one of my western people, representative Jack Taylor. Jack's done a great job for western Colorado. Jack comes from Steamboat Springs, Colorado. He was elected in 1992. His wife, Geneva, and I go back a long ways as well. She has been very active, and Jack's been very active in the party.

But Jack understands agricultural issues. Jack knows about Colorado water. As I have said many times from this podium, Colorado's water is very unique compared to most States in the Nation. In Colorado, our State is the only State where all of our water goes out. We have no free-flowing water that comes into the State of Colorado for our use. So as a result of that, those water resources are very precious.

We do not get much rain in Colorado. It is an arid State. We depend on our snow fall and spring runoff. Spring runoff does not last all year long. It lasts about 65 to 90 days. We just started it in Colorado. This means if we do not have the capability to store water, we are in a lot of trouble in Colorado. And there are a lot of organizations that want to make sure there are no storage projects on our rivers; that want to make sure there are no diversions from the streams. Well, that is the only way we can survive out in the West. It does not rain in the West like it rains in the East.

Jack Taylor knows that. And Jack Taylor has understood that for a long time. And Jack Taylor has been a good part of the team, lead, frankly, by Rus George, on the water issues back there in the State legislature in Colorado.

He was chairman of the Business Affairs and Labor Committee; served on the Agriculture, Livestock and Natural Resources Committee and the Legislative Audit Committee. He was a businessman for 30 years in Steamboat. He was named Business Legislator of the Year. He earned the Guardian of Small Business Awards and the NFIB, which is the National Federation of Independent Businesses, Colorado Legislator of the Year.

Jack worked very hard to get equal access to telecommunications state-of-the-art technology throughout Colorado. As many of my colleagues know that represent rural districts throughout the United States, we are concerned. We do not want to get behind the eight ball in this second industrial revolution on the Internet. We need technological advancements that are going to the cities. We need those fiberoptics out in the rural areas. It hurts if we in the rural areas do not have access to fiberoptics; if we do not have the technological capability to do business with our colleagues in the cities.

Jack understood this and he pushed it and pursued it very hard. Jack has a strong sense. It is kind of like a sixth sense for him, for common sense. He exercises it well. And, obviously, with his business experience that he brings to the legislative process, it has been of some assistance.

I think he has worked very hard to try to create more efficiencies for government, and I think above probably next to water his strong stances on the right to private property and the respect for private property in Colorado is probably second to none currently in the State legislature. Jack's done a good job. We will miss him in the State House of Representatives.

Senator Bob Martinez. Bob and I go back a long ways. Bob was elected in 1984, same year actually I went into office in the Colorado State House of Representatives. Bob and I had an opportunity to serve many, many years in the State House of Representatives, then he went on the State senate. He was a higher education administrator.

He has always been very strong on adoption and the ability for people to

adopt. He has been very caring for the homeless people. But I will tell my colleagues something else about Bob. Bob has always served in the minority, in the State senate and in the State house. The Republicans have controlled the State house and the State senate since Bob went into office. But Bob had that knack to be able to go across the aisle, and he built up relationships that enabled him to be a very effective legislator despite his political minority status.

Bob is a wonderful guy. He is a good guy to work with. He is a good guy to have as a friend. And he is a neat guy out of the city that understands some of the rural issues that we in rural Colorado faced. I miss Bob. Bob has done good service for the State of Colorado, and he should be recognized for that.

My next friend, Representative Steve Tool, whose father, Gene Tool, is a long-time friend of mine, former chairman of our State party. Steve is a guy, who also like Russell George, has an impeccable reputation. He serves on the Finance Committee, the Judiciary Committee, and the Health Environment and Welfare and Institutions Committee.

He is a strong family man. Has a wonderful family. He is a real estate broker, an appraiser in Fort Collins. He served in the United States Air Force as a navigator on B–52s in Vietnam. He is a Vietnam veteran. He flew 160 missions, 160 missions over Southeast Asia.

He has been very active in and has sponsored legislation for the changing of child abuse resulting in death from a felony to a homicide. He has also been very aggressive in regards to school finance and trying to balance school finance in the State of Colorado so the poorer communities are not left, and to reorganize our educational system to guarantee the maximum amount of dollars into the classroom and the maximum amount of accountability from our teachers who teach our young people. He has done a good job on that.

We are going to miss Steve. He did a good job and I hope my colleagues here on the floor also sometime have an opportunity to meet Steve Tool. He is a young man, and his career has just begun.

Senator Frank Weddig. He was appointed in 1994 and was elected in 1996. He is an electrician. Children's welfare and children's issues.

Again, Frank I do not know well, but you feel like you know him because you have heard about him. As I have said with some of my other colleagues who I have not had an opportunity to meet and know, like a Bob Martinez, or like a Rus George, or like a Jack Taylor or Bill Kaufman, some of those people I did not get to know that well. I kind of looked at their reputations and listened to what their colleagues had to say about them.

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Frank has enjoyed a strong reputation amongst his colleagues, and that speaks well for him.

My friend Senator Gloria Tanner. Gloria was appointed in 1994 in the State Senate. She served in the State House of Representatives prior to that. I got to serve with her.

Gloria represented the issues of the minority community very well. She spoke up and helped educate those of us who did not live in the urban areas in the cities. She was very patient with us and very educational with us I guess you would say in walking us through the issues that are unique to minority communities in big cities. She worked hard on the pension fund protection issues. She is a real estate agent. I can tell my colleagues, my service with Gloria Tanner was enjoyable. She is a professional, a real pro.

Well, the State House of Representatives is going to lose their Speaker of the House this year. And the State Senate in Colorado, again because of term limits, loses the Senate president.

Ray Powers. His wife's name is Dorothy, a wonderful, wonderful lady. I have known her for years. Ray has done a tremendous job as the President of the Colorado State Senate. He has had a lot of tough issues. He has been there for many years. He has worked with a lot of people. The people that have worked with Ray walk away from Ray thinking, gosh, that guy is on the ball. He knows what is going on.

To be the leader of the State Senate in Colorado, you have got to have some finesse, you have got to have some capabilities to have a strong personality to deal with people. That happens, too, with the Speaker of the House. But Ray had those.

Ray could deal with people without making them angry. Ray could be firm but he did not have to be mean. He could be firm without being mean. Ray Powers had a lot of capability in convincing people and helping educate his colleagues on the issues of the day.

Now he is a former rancher. He has a ranch down in Colorado Springs. He is active in the local bank down there. He sponsored any number of bills, including bills on the death penalty, highway funding, more judicial requirements or appropriate judicial requirements for judges. He dealt with the major regional presidential primary that we wanted to have there in Colorado. He has been recognized by the United Veterans Committee Distinguished Service Award, the Colorado Springs Chamber of Commerce named his as Legislator of the Year. The Colorado Public Affairs Council named him Business Legislator of the Year.

Dorothy and Ray will do well in their retirement. We are going to miss his service in the Colorado State Senate.

Senator Mike Feeley. Mike is the minority leader elected in 1992. He is smart. He is aggressive. He and I did not agree on a lot of issues but I can tell you, as with some of his colleagues, the disagreements were professional disagreements.

He was recognized by his colleagues as, let us just say, a person of persistence, a person who when he decided to support an issue he stuck with it. He was recognized as the minority leader. He enjoyed a strong reputation for the job that he did as the minority leader.

Mike Feeley is spoken of by the Democrats in the State of Colorado as one who holds future promise for a political office. Frankly, I would like to convert him to a Republican. But the fact is he is a Democrat. They consider him a good Democrat. I consider him a good man, and we are going to miss him.

Dorothy ''Dottie'' Wham. Dorothy is her former name. I called her ''Dottie'' for all those years. I served with Dottie for the 10 years I was in the State legislature.

Let me tell my colleagues something. I am not sure I have had the opportunity to serve with a woman who I think has been more dedicated to the process, more dedicated to being sure that the government in Colorado served the people of the State of Colorado.

She comes from a community from Denver. Her husband Bob is a lawyer well recognized in the community in his own regard. But I will tell you something, Dottie took on tough issue after tough issue. Dottie never was too busy to sit down with those of us outside the Denver metropolitan city limits and talk to us about different issues.

She worked hard on the juvenile justice, on the children's code in Colorado, on the Denver Health Authority, on AIDS legislation, proposed adoption, State recodification, salaries of elected county officials. If there was a tough issue and you wanted somebody who could take the arrows, it was Dottie Wham.

I have deep, deep respect for Dottie. My years with Dottie were nothing but satisfying. My professional career with her and my professional relationship with her was excellent. Dottie will be missed not only by me. She will be missed by the State of Colorado. She will be particularly missed by the City of Denver and by her colleagues.

Ron Tupa. Ron is a representative minority whip. I have actually not gotten to talk with Ron very long, but I saw him on TV the other day. I can tell you about Ron. I watched him and I did not agree with him at all on the issue. I think Ron was talking about campaign reform. And while everybody, of course, wants campaign reform, the issue is how do you go about it. I mean, who gets the short end of the stick? That is what the issue is about.

But as I watched him, I was just flipping through with my remote control. I was in a hotel, as I often am, and sitting there and flipping through with my remote control, I come across this local station coverage and there is Ron.

He is an impressive guy. He speaks well. He was well received by the audience to whom he spoke. I thought his points were frankly to the point. I think Ron is respected outside, not just in the legislature, but outside the legislature. He is a young man. He is a social studies teacher.

I can tell just by listening to him that he probably has a knack for being able to communicate very well with his students. His issues, of course, have been e-mail privacy and some of the education issues. And, as I mentioned, he was the minority whip.

Senator Elsie Lacy. She was elected in the Senate in 1992. I will tell you, Elsie is quite a lady. She is a heck of a State senator. She is a solid, strong State senator. And she is a good friend. Elsie has done a tremendous job for the State of Colorado.

Her husband Duane, in his own regard, is well-respected. But I can tell you, Elsie has the respect of her colleagues. She was chairwoman of the appropriations committee and chairman of the joint budget committee. She served on the Aurora City Council. She worked primarily in transportation, health, education, and local government issues. Although, as chairman of the joint budget committee, her responsibilities obviously were dealing with the budget.

In Colorado, just like here, colleagues in Congress, we deal with some tough issues on the budget.

Elsie was there during the time that Colorado was just beginning to get out of the tough times, so she had to make tough decisions then. And as chairwoman she had to make tough decisions when Colorado got a surplus. Because then everybody thought Colorado had plenty of money. So people would go up to Elsie and say, Elsie, I want more money for this program. You got a surplus in Colorado. We want to start this new government program. We want to start this new government program.

Elsie had a way of being very polite in saying no if it would not give us a balanced budget.

Now, as Elsie told me one time, her choices were never choices on that joint budget committee between bad programs and good programs, as Elsie puts it. And as all of my colleagues here on the floor know, many, many times our choices are between good programs and good programs. The bad programs get eliminated very early on in the process. The tougher choices is as we begin to filter it out and we get to the good programs versus the good programs.

I thought Senator Lacy did an excellent job in shifting through that. And I think her service to the State of Colorado, especially in her focus in regards to the State's budget, will serve the State well for many, many years to come. Because the State of Colorado, I am proud to say, in large part to her and in part to our goner, Governor Bill Owens, its fiscal ship is in order and is strong.

Representative Sue Windells elected in 1998. Her big issues were education and tax reform. She is a teacher. Again, I did not know Sue that well. But I can tell you that, once again, these people that I did not know well, I went and asked because I knew I was going to give these comments tonight, I went to some of my colleagues that do know them and I asked them about them. What about Sue? What are some of her attributes?

She is well-received. She is honorable. She is knowledgeable. And she is respected by her colleagues. What more do you need said about a person?

In politics, if somebody acknowledges that you have got the technical capability, that you understand and care about people and that you are honest, that says a lot. Sue meets every one of those standards, and she is going to be missed.

Senator Dave Wattenberg. I can tell you a lot about Dave Wattenberg. He and I got elected at the same time back in 1982. He and I are from rural Colorado, the same area. Well, we actually bordered each other. He later went to the State Senate because he served in the State House of Representatives.

Dave and I, when we first ran for office, no one either gave Dave or me a chance of winning office. I was running against a very popular and very capable incumbent, and Dave was not given much of a chance of winning the seat.

I will never forget. The day before the election, he and I were sitting in a bar having a drink and Dave asked me, Wattenberg says, Scott, have you ever given any thought as to what is going to happen if by some chance we win this thing? I mean, we spent all this time campaigning, we spent all this time talking as candidates, but you and I have never been able to work as elected officials. I mean, we really are going to have to do what we said we are going to do. We are going to have to get aggressive. We really have got to stand up for issues like water and so on and so forth.

I would say in the State legislature there is probably no one right now as popular as David Wattenberg.

David is a cowboy. He is an old cowboy. I do not mean old in age. I mean old in respect. He is on a ranch up there in the northern part of the State.

For a number of years, Dave did not have opposition. In fact, I will tell my colleagues, he was so popular in one of his elections that his Democrat opponent who was very aggressive against Dave and ran a very aggressive race until about halfway through the race and, after debating Dave on a number of different occasions, liked him so well and felt he was so capable and so deserving as serving that district as State senator, pulled out of the race, and endorsed him.

Have you ever heard of somebody in a partisan race pulling out midway through the race and endorsing the other person?

That speaks very well, by the way, for the Democrat that did that, in my opinion. I am sorry, her name slipped me this evening. But I can tell you, it speaks well for David Wattenberg.

David, as I said, was elected to the House in 1982 and to the Senate in 1992. He is chairman of the agriculture natural resource energy committee. He also served on the business affairs and labor committees. His ranch is called the Wattenberg Ranch in Walden, Colorado.

He sponsored bills on all kinds of things, everything from horse racing to water issues to mining and transportation to tort reform. He specifically focused in on agriculture, water, ranching issues, and banking issues.

He has received any number of awards. He has been named Legislator of the Year, honored by Colorado Ski Country and Consulting Engineers Council and Guardian of Small Business.

As I was on the airplane this morning, I open up the Denver Post or the Rocky Mountain News, I am not sure which one of those two major papers, and there is David Wattenberg dancing on the Senate floor. He was serious but he had good humor.

As I said earlier in my comments about Dave, he is probably the most popular legislator in Colorado today. Dave Wattenberg is going to be sorely missed.

Representative Penfield Tate. I know Penfield by his work. I know him as a person. I have respect for him. I have dealt with him not extensively, but I have dealt with him.

Penfield is one solid guy, and he is known by his work. His work product is excellent. He works aggressively on it. He works hard. He has a strong reputation. His focuses have been primarily education and health issues. He is a member of the Denver Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce. I will tell you, Penfield is a fellow that anybody would like to have work as a partner with him. He has done a good job. We are going to miss him.

Senator Maryanne Tebedo. Maryanne and I went in and she actually was appointed shortly after I was elected. But, in essence, we have served together for 10 years in the State House. She went on to the State Senate.

Her husband Don is a retired air traffic controller. She was chairman of the State Veterans Military Affairs Committee, and she served on the Finance Committee.

She is also our parliamentarian. She is actually a certified professional parliamentarian. She served on the National Task Force on Labor, and she has worked hard on uniform stated permits for concealed weapons, regulations of the funeral board, State boards, highways. I mean, Maryanne has worked on a lot of legislation.

Senator Tebedo, when she took on an issue, she did several things with that issue. Number one, she learned about the issue. Number two, she figured out what the ramifications of her bill would be with that issue. She was aggressive in her pursuit of passing her

legislation. I think she was professional at every step of the way.

Now, not everyone agreed with her. But I will tell you, if you wanted to disagree with Senator Tebedo, you better have your facts in order. Because I never saw her without having her facts in order.

We are going to miss her.

Senator Tom Blickensderfer. Tom is a long-time friend of mine. Tom is a fine man. His wife is Kristen. He just got married 4 or 5 years ago. She is a beautiful woman. And I mean that in a very broad way. She has got all kinds of things about her that just make her a beautiful person.

But back to Tom. Tom is a great guy. He has been an excellent State senator. He was in the State House. He was a Senate majority leader. He was an attorney at law. I knew him well before he came into the State legislature.

His issues ranged from everything from water in the rural areas of the State. We could always go to Tom because Tom would always sit down with us and talk about the rural issues even though he represented a metropolitan area.

His family had a long running reputation in the ski industry in the State of Colorado. Tom's leadership as the majority leader in the Senate has been second to none.

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He is a strong leader. He is recognized throughout the political community for his contributions to his party. He is Republican. I am not talking about financial. I am talking about his volunteer time, his help with other candidates.

I will say, in my opinion, Tom has a wonderful future ahead of him. He has a great family. He has a great background. He has served the State of Colorado very well, and Tom is going to do very well in his future.

Representative Stephanie Takis, she was elected in 1996 and her big issue was affordable health care. She is a financial specialist. Again, I did not know Stephanie very well but as with the others I sat down and visited with my colleagues about Stephanie. I did not find anybody who said anything critical, although they had the opportunity to because my conversations with some of my colleagues were in private, and these were the colleagues that I could have that kind of conversation with. Not one bad word said about her.

She has done well in her service to the State of Colorado; and she, too, it appears, has a very promising future ahead of her.

Madam Speaker, I know that my colleagues may be saying, gosh, we sat here this evening; and we have had SCOTT MCINNIS talk about State legislators from the State of Colorado who are concluding their service tomorrow. What has that got to do with us? What has that got to do with the U.S. House of Representatives? After all, these are State legislators. This is the U.S. Congress in Washington, D.C.

It has a lot to do with us because those individuals that I just talked about can set an example for us back here, one that local government really truly is the best government. The Federal people in Washington, D.C., do not always know best. There are certain roles that we have to play, leadership in military, leadership in international trade, leadership in interstate commerce. But the fact is these State legislators are on the line. They are at the front of the battle.

The people that I spoke about this evening, most of my colleagues probably will never even meet one of them, but I can say what I hope was gotten out of my recognitions of these special people was the fact of their integrity, the impeccability of their hard work, the focus on the issues that they really cared about, the ability to cross party aisles. We all know politics is partisan. It is designed to be that way. It has to be that way. Somebody has to be boss. We cannot all be equal bosses. Somebody has to be the leader. So there is always partisan politics, but a real leader has the capability to step aside. The minority may not have a right to rule; but the minority has a right to be heard, and the individuals that I talked about this evening recognize that. They worked on both sides of the aisle.

I consider it a real honor to stand here in front of my colleagues in the House on the House floor of the United States Congress and recognize that tomorrow will be the last day for those colleagues of mine and their service in the State senate or State house respectively, and I want them to know from the highest level of the Federal Government here in the House of Representatives, that we acknowledge the work that they do; that we appreciate their honesty and their integrity and the respect that people who work with them understand that public officials, elected public officials, almost all of them really are good people. They work intensely for the people that they represent. They work intensely on the issues they care about. They work intensely and are proud of the States that they represent or the districts that they represent.

My colleagues in the State of Colorado are an excellent example of this.

Madam Speaker, in my concluding remark, let me just say truly it was my privilege to get to know and work with these people as they served the State of Colorado in the State legislature, and I hope to have a continued professional and profound good friendship with all of my friends in the State of Colorado.

WHAT IS FREE TRADE?

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. BIGGERT). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 1999, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. PAUL) is recognized for 60 minutes.

Mr. PAUL. Madam Speaker, I asked for this Special Order this evening to talk about trade. We are going to be dealing with permanent normal trade relations with China here soon, and there is also a privileged resolution that will be brought to the floor that I have introduced, H.J.Res. 90. The discussion in the media and around the House floor has been rather clear about the permanent normal trade status, but there has not been a whole lot of talk yet about whether or not we should even really be in the World Trade Organization.

I took this time mainly because I think there is a lot of misunderstanding about what free trade is. There are not a whole lot of people who get up and say I am opposed to free trade, and many of those who say they are for free trade quite frankly I think they have a distorted definition of what free trade really is.

I would like to spend some time this evening talking a little bit about that, because as a strict constitutionalist and one who endorses laissez-faire capitalism, I do believe in free trade; and there are good reasons why countries should trade with each other.

The first reason I would like to mention is a moral reason. There is a moral element involved in trade, because when governments come in and regulate how citizens spend their money, they are telling them what they can do or cannot do. In a free society, individuals who earn money should be allowed to spend the money the way they want. So if they find that they prefer to buy a car from Japan rather than Detroit, they basically have the moral right to spend their money as they see fit and those kinds of choices should not be made by government. So there is a definite moral argument for free trade.

Patrick Henry many years ago touched on this when he said, ''You are not to inquire how your trade may be increased nor how you are to become a great and powerful people but how your liberties may be secured, for liberty ought to be the direct end of your government.'' We have not heard much talk of liberty with regards to trade, but we do hear a lot about enhancing one's ability to make more money overseas with trading with other nations. But the argument, the moral argument, itself should be enough to convince one in a free society that we should never hamper or interfere with free trade.

When the colonies did not thrive well prior to the Constitution, two of the main reasons why the Constitutional Convention was held was, one, there was no unified currency, that provided a great deal of difficulty in trading among the States, and also trade barriers are among the States.

Even our Constitution was designed to make sure that there were not trade barriers, and this was what the interstate commerce clause was all about. Unfortunately though, in this century the interstate commerce clause has