

Congress, the class of 1994 changed the debate in Washington over our budget priorities. No longer do presidents project deficits as far as the eye can see. No longer do Senators and Congressmen spend billions first and ask questions later. No longer do politicians stuffed with trillions of dollars in tax revenue make the claim that another tax increase is needed to bring balance to the budget process.

Today, the values espoused by both parties center around fewer taxes, responsible spending, and a greater reliance on local authority.

Perhaps too few in Congress really believe Jefferson's statement that the government that governs least, governs best. But today, more than anytime in seventy-five years, politicians' fear of political retribution at the voting booth prevents them from casting America forth into a sea of red ink.

That simple political fact at the beginning of a new American century will be our lasting legacy.

My family, my friends, and my dedicated staff are owed my deepest gratitude on this night, as are the people of Florida's First Congressional District. They had the faith to send an untested 31-year old novice to Washington to represent their interests and views in Congress.

When I won my first campaign, I did so with the simple pledge that I would speak my mind, vote my conscience, and stand up and shout "no" when everyone was mindlessly saying "yes."

I kept my word, fought the good fight, and worked hard for the cause of less government and greater individual liberty.

Two hundred and twenty-five years later, that remains the legacy of Thomas Jefferson, James Madison and our other founding fathers. And tonight, on the occasion of my retirement from this great institution, it is my hope that if anyone cares to remember my work here in the future as a footnote to some greater story, perhaps my legacy will be that I contributed in some small way to the elevation of the individual over the power of the state.

I may be leaving Congress, but I won't be silent. I will continue to fight for common sense values that all Americans understand. I feel passionate about many issues and I will continue to speak out and be heard.

I pray tonight that the Lord that George Washington prayed to during the Revolutionary War, and the God that Abraham Lincoln turned to during America's darkest hours, will continue to bless this great city on a hill that still shines brightly for all the world to see.

May God bless America!

HONORING JAKE KRAUS

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 5, 2001

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor I would like to recognize Jake Kraus for his heroic efforts during World War II. His courage led to the liberation of thousands of half-starved American prisoners from the inhumane living conditions that they had been forced to endure.

Jake Kraus grew up on a farm in Pea Green, Colorado. Mr. Kraus was drafted into

the war and served as a tank driver under the command of General Eisenhower. The capture of the Ludendorff Bridge was due in part to Mr. Kraus and his Tank Destroyer Group, which in turn, opened the first permanent gateway to Berlin. This marked the defeat of Hitler's dream and the beginning of the long-awaited liberation of the American Prisoners Of War.

Mr. Speaker, the service that Mr. Kraus gave our country will always be remembered by the soldiers whose lives he saved and by their families for the years to come. Even after putting his life on the line, Kraus insists that he did nothing heroic. But such a humble and brave individual deserves many accolades for his service to our country. It is with great admiration that I thank and congratulate Mr. Kraus for a job well done.

ON THE CELEBRATION OF JAMES N. GOLDSMITH'S SELECTION TO HEAD VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF AMERICA

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 5, 2001

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call attention to an important milestone in the history of our nation's oldest veterans organization.

On Aug. 24, the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States installed James N. Goldsmith of Lapeer, Michigan, as Commander-in-Chief. Even as I speak, veterans from around the state and across the nation are assembling in Harbor Springs, a beautiful community in my congressional district, to welcome Jim home and congratulate him on his great honor. He is the first National Commander elected from Michigan since 1943.

Jim has been active since 1967 as a member of the VFW. He served as All State Post Commander in 1974, and in 1977 he earned recognition as an All State and All American District Commander. In 1978 he was selected as Michigan's "Young Veteran of the Year," and in 1980 he became the first Vietnam veteran to be elected Department Junior Vice Commander. He earned All American status as a Department Commander, 1982-83.

He served in Vietnam as an engineer from April 1966 to August 1967. In his acceptance speech as National Commander-in-Chief, Jim made the fight against diabetes one of the key elements of his tenure, demonstrating that he will clearly articulate the concerns of Vietnam veterans. I trust that all our House colleagues are aware that diabetes is linked to Agent Orange, and that combat forces who were "in country" during the Vietnam War and now have diabetes may be eligible for monthly disability compensation benefits and VA health care.

Jim has also been back to Vietnam. While serving as Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief, he was selected to travel there as part of a presidential fact-finding committee. On an earlier trip to Vietnam and Laos as VFW Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief, he participated in field efforts to recover the remains of missing U.S. service personnel.

The effort to account for missing combat individuals from past wars will remain one of the highest priorities of the VFW under Jim Gold-

smith. He has already announced a new VFW initiative called the "The VFW Reach Out for DNA Initiative" to help contact eligible donors of blood DNA.

The goal is to collect blood samples of all material relatives of World War II, the Korean War, Cold War, and Vietnam War casualties whose remains have not been recovered or identified. These samples will be sent to the Central Identification Laboratory in Hawaii to aid in such identification.

Mr. Speaker, I know that Jim Goldsmith will be a powerful spokesman for 1.9 million members of the VFW, for all our nation's veterans, for active-duty personnel and for their families. I know we will see Jim Goldsmith on Capitol Hill, speaking out in support of bills like H.R. 303, a bill that brings fairness and just compensation to military retirees who have a service-connected disability.

This weekend, as Michigan celebrates the selection of James Goldsmith to head the VFW, I ask you and our House colleagues to keep him in our thoughts and prayers, as he undertakes his vital task on behalf of all who served this nation so well.

HONORING CELIA DUNHAM ON BEING NAMED COLORADO TEACHER OF THE YEAR 2001

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 5, 2001

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate Celia Dunham on being named Colorado Teacher of the Year 2001 by Wal-Mart, Sam's Club, and the Miss America Organization.

Celia Dunham, of Steamboat Springs, Colorado, teaches first grade at Strawberry Park Elementary. For her accomplishment, she will be presented \$2,500 in the name of Strawberry Park, and she will be considered for the national award.

Celia has taught full-time in the Steamboat School District since 1978. She is the first to explain that she has benefited from her kids by teaching them. She told Avi Salzman of The Steamboat Pilot that "their energy goes into me," and that, "It's what keeps me young." As any good teacher acknowledges, she also realizes that "she has learned an incredible amount from her kids."

Before entering consideration for the state competition, Celia first won the local competition, which was chosen from nominees entered by local Wal-Mart customers. For that honor, she received \$500 to use in her classroom. She was then entered into the statewide competition with 52 other candidates, where a panel of educational experts selected her as the winner. The contestants were chosen for their "rapport with students, student performance and teaching standards," said Wal-Mart Spokesman Rob Phillips.

Mr. Speaker, teachers provide a service vital to our Nation's youth. Celia has provided an excellent example for other teachers to follow. I would like to thank her for her dedication, and to congratulate her on being Colorado's Teacher of the Year.

HONORING CARA FISHER

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 05, 2001

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to extend my congratulations to Cara Fisher, the Director of the Cañon City Public Library History Center, for receiving the 2001 Colorado State Honor Award. Through her diligent efforts of preservation in Cañon City, Cara has contributed volumes to our historical knowledge as well as revitalizing significant portions of the city.

Cara is one of thirteen children who grew up in a large house with important historical ties. At one point, an individual threatened to tear the house down. However, the family sought to obtain a purchaser and was successful in preserving the house. Stemming from this experience, Cara gained an appreciation for preserving historical buildings and this has served as her guiding light for 17 years in Cañon City. Her particular focus is on preparing grants for substantial projects, and she has been an integral person in numerous efforts for the city.

The Colorado State Honor Award acknowledges her persistence and dedication to her passion. Cara Fisher has dedicated much of her time to ensure that our past is preserved and not compromised.

Mr. Speaker, as we progress into the future, I would like to thank Cara for all of her work and congratulate her for being honored with the 2001 Colorado State Honor Award.

HONORING WILLIAM RAIMER FOR
HIS MILITARY SERVICE**HON. SCOTT McINNIS**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 05, 2001

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, following the bombing of Pearl Harbor, many of our citizens dedicated their efforts to the success of our military forces. William Horace Raimer is the embodiment of service, success, and sacrifice and clearly deserves recognition from this body.

Bill Raimer was stationed on the USS Flying Fish—an SS-229 Gato Class submarine that was 311 feet long and carried a crew of 67 men led by nine officers—as a radioman. On the morning of May 29, 1945, the USS Flying Fish submerged and left Guam to an undisclosed location that was later revealed to be the Sea of Japan. The Flying Fish was traveling in a wolf pack called Hydeman's Hellcats, which were three groups of three submarines. The crew was charged with the duty, under the orders of Commander Robert D. Risser, of spending two weeks in the Sea destroying the remains of the Japanese fleet and any supply ships heading for Japan. Their path was laced with mines at various depths and different locations. As the submarine floated by mines, crewmembers could hear the anchor cables of the mines brush against the outside walls. Under attack by depth charges, the USS Flying Fish felt the shakes from the explosions, but was not destroyed. However, a companion ship—the USS Bonfish—was not so lucky and 85 men were lost at sea.

The USS Flying Fish was an integral part of the efforts to ensure the Japanese fleet did not succeed in World War II. Out of the nearly 300 submarines in that area at the time, 52 were sunk—a statistic that Bill Raimer remembers all too well. After the war, he moved to Montrose, Colorado with his brother 56 years ago. Although he was awarded numerous ribbons and medals, he is most proud of his Submariners Medal that was presented to him by Admiral Chester W. Nimitz.

Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to commend William Raimer on his service to this great Nation. His spirit of patriotism added to the success of the Allied Forces and ensured their victory in the Pacific Ocean. While 3,308 submarines never returned home from the war, William Raimer was a survivor and is able to share his story with others. I thank Bill for his dedication and extend my best wishes to him and his family in the time to come.

HONORING HOWARD AND MARY
LOUISE SHAW**HON. SCOTT McINNIS**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 5, 2001

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to pay tribute to Howard and Mary Louise Shaw for their generous gift which will help to prolong and improve the lives of countless cancer patients on the Western Slope. Howard Shaw, who recently passed away, did not let the opportunity slip by to set in motion the foundations for the Shaw Cancer Center. I would like to honor this great man and also to thank and recognize his wife, Mary Louise, who continues to watch the project progress.

For years, cancer patients on the Western slope have been underserved; patients in six counties have had no option but to drive across the Continental Divide to Denver in order to receive cancer treatments. As a result, patients were left stranded from their family and friends at a time when a strong support system is most important.

Mary Louise and Howard understood this need, and they decided to do something about it. They "jump-started the project" by providing over 2/3 of the estimated cost for the 60,000 square-foot, \$19 million Shaw Cancer Center, located in Vail Valley. Not only will patients be able to receive treatment closer to home, but they will have access to state-of-the-art treatment. Reporter Kathy Heicher quotes Dr. Rifkin, the Director of Medical Oncology Services for the Shaw Cancer Center, as saying, "The treatment patients can get at the Shaw Cancer Center is as good as anywhere in the region. This is the opportunity of a lifetime for the patients and the people that will work there."

Mr. Speaker, thanks to Howard and Mary Louise Shaw, cancer patients in the Western Slope can receive top-notch care without sacrificing the support of friends and family. Howard's legacy has already taken hold, and his generosity will relieve many of the added burdens associated with not having local care. I would like to pay tribute to him and to Mary Louise on behalf of Congress for this invaluable gift.