

16th century and became popular throughout Europe later in the century. Soler's first mentor, Andrés Segovia, is credited with legitimizing and revolutionizing the traditionally-regarded "Instrument of peasants" in the late 1800s. Spanish culture embraced the guitar and, as a result, the majority of music throughout Latin America is flavored with the instrument. Whether listening to Argentinian chacareras, Ecuadorian danzantes, Panamanian murgas, Mexican rancheras, a Cuban mambo, Puerto Rican salsa, or Dominican merengue, one can hear the prolific influence of the guitar. It is indeed a fundamental element of Spanish and Latin culture, which Soler has mastered and re-defined.

Mr. Speaker, Francesc de Paula Soler is routinely referred to as "The Poet of the Guitar" throughout the world, based on the way he conveys raw emotion and tells complex tales with only his fingers and the strings of a guitar. He has mesmerized audiences at the Levine School of Music and the Achison Auditorium in the U.S. State Department, and has entertained a myriad of cultural societies throughout the United States. Thousands have filled the auditoriums of colleges and universities from coast to coast to hear Francesc de Paula Soler's guitar. Beyond these American performances, Soler has engaged audiences around the world.

In commemoration of Hispanic Heritage Month and the ways that Hispanic Americans have served our country throughout history, I encourage all of my colleagues to attend the concert and enjoy an hour of exquisite music.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Francesc de Paula Soler for his contributions to the world of music and for honoring us with his art.

PRO BONO PROJECT

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 25, 2001

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the dedicated volunteers of the Pro Bono Project of Santa Clara County. The Pro Bono Project uses volunteer attorneys, judges and other legal professionals to represent low income and indigent clients in Santa Clara County in family law cases, including divorce, custody, child/spousal support, and domestic violence issues. Often, the Pro Bono Project is the last chance its clients have at securing representation.

The success of the Pro Bono Project is a direct result of 150 volunteers, through whose efforts the Project offered over 200 clients per year over \$958,000 in volunteer services. Thanks to these volunteers, the Pro Bono Project was able to staff several clinics, including a Bankruptcy clinic and a Paternity clinic. Pro Bono Project attorneys staff the Domestic Violence Collaboration in conjunction with Bay Area Legal Aid, Battered Women's Support Network, Next Door and South County Alternatives. The Domestic Violence Collaboration provides divorce, support and custody services to victims of domestic violence. The Project's Family Law Mentor Program provides a volunteer mentor attorney in the office every Wednesday to provide family law advice and help to attorneys.

With very little funding, the Pro Bono Project does an amazing amount of work. I commend the Project's founders and volunteers. On behalf of Santa Clara County, I thank these remarkable volunteers for all of their hard work.

TRIBUTE TO DAN TRANT

HON. JAMES P. MCGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 25, 2001

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, sadly today many American families continue to mourn the loss of their loved ones during the senseless tragedies at the World Trade Center and the Pentagon. As each day passes, their stories are being heard by a growing number of Americans who are becoming intimately affected by these devastating losses.

I have spoken of several of these Americans here on the floor. I am also drawn to the story of Dan Trant, a former basketball legend at Clark University in Worcester, MA, and the older brother of a friend. Dan was a successful bond trader with the firm Cantor Fitzgerald at the World Trade Center.

Recently, the Boston Herald described Dan as an icon in New England college basketball who was drafted by the Boston Celtics in 1984 and went on to play professional basketball in Ireland, his family's ancestral home. Dan later played for the Springfield Fame during the inaugural season of the U.S. Basketball League, assisting his team in the first-ever league championship.

Off the court, Dan was even more inspiring. He was a father and neighbor who used his great successes in sports and in the business world to inspire hundreds of children in his church congregation, local school district and a nearby university near his home in Northport, LI. Many of the local children he helped attended his memorial service in New York, where they had an opportunity to express their love and say goodbye.

Mr. Speaker, our thoughts and prayers are with Dan's wife Kathy, his children Jessica, Daniel, and Alex, and all of those who loved him.

TO HONOR THE REVEREND CLARENCE D. ROBINSON

HON. THOMAS M. BARRETT

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 25, 2001

Mr. BARRETT of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize the work of the Reverend Clarence D. Robinson as he leaves St. Mark African Episcopal Church in Milwaukee after more than a decade of service. Rev. Robinson is moving to Chicago where he has been appointed presiding elder for 23 congregations in the city and its surrounding communities.

Following his ordination as an Elder in the African Methodist Episcopal Church in 1959, Rev. Robinson's career took him to churches throughout the Midwest. He came to St. Mark's in August, 1991 from Ebenezer A.M.E. in Detroit, Michigan, and truly left his mark as a leader in our community.

In addition to giving his time as a board member of several Milwaukee organizations, Rev. Robinson has also served our young people as a tireless advocate and role model. St. Mark's offers the Men to Boys mentoring program, and opens its recreation center doors on Friday nights for Word Up—a night of Bible Study, basketball, board games and other activities. Rev. Robinson has helped provide productive and non-violent options for young people, linking them with positive role models and encouraging them to lead a life free of drugs and violence.

Rev. Robinson's legacy will surely be felt at St. Mark A.M.E. Church for years to come. Last September the church opened its second senior citizen housing facility. The congregation named this 25 unit building the C.G. Robinson Terrace in honor of their leader.

During his 10 years in Milwaukee, Rev. Robinson has impacted our community in many ways, and he will be sorely missed. I am proud to join the members of St. Mark A.M.E. Church in thanking him for his service to the people of Milwaukee, Wisconsin and wishing him the best of luck in his new position.

VOLUNTARY SEPARATION INCENTIVE PAYMENTS

HON. DARLENE HOOLEY

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 25, 2001

Ms. HOOLEY of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, as part of an effort to reduce the federal work force within the United States Forest Service, Forest Service employees were offered the opportunity to participate in a "voluntary separation incentive payments" program a few years ago. This program was included in the Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act of 1997 (P.L. 104-180). As part of the agreement, employees were paid \$20,000; in exchange, they agreed to retire and not be employed by any federal agency for at least five years; if they were re-employed by the federal government they would have to forfeit all or part of the money from said agreement.

However, there has been a severe shortage of qualified firefighters to combat the extraordinary number of forest fires throughout the country over the past several years, specifically in the West. Many retired Forest Service employees have been asked to help fight many of these blazes, unfortunately many of them cannot without risk of forfeiting the payments they received through the buyout program.

My bill will amend Public Law 104-180 to allow former Federal employees who received voluntary separation incentive payments under the Department of Agriculture program to accept employment with the Federal Government once again, without loss of their payments, as long as their employment is directly related to fighting forest fires.

At a time when we need qualified, willing, well-trained individuals to fight these fires more than ever before, it's egregious if we do not change this law to allow these brave men and women to fight the fires that threaten our forests, wildlife, and our homes without having