

When Fred retired as Director in 1996, he left a dynamic organization providing Senior Centers, Head Start, family planning, nutrition and day care services, and housing, energy crisis and rural transportation assistance to more than 30,000 people in thirteen Central Texas counties.

In his 1964 State of the Union speech, President Johnson described Americans living "on the outskirts of hope," and he declared an unconditional War on Poverty. "It will not be a short or easy struggle, no single weapon or strategy will suffice, but we shall not rest until the war is won."

Fred Wittenburg heard President Johnson's words, took them to heart, and made that war on poverty his life's work.

An old saying tells us, "When eating a fruit, think of the person who planted the tree." Through his long and distinguished career of service to others, Fred Wittenburg planted thousands and thousands of trees. And, the people of the Central Texas Hill Country will enjoy the fruit of those trees and think of him for generations to come.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BOB RILEY

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 7, 2002

Mr. RILEY. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained for Roll Call No. 8, H. Res. 342, on ordering the previous question. Had I been present I would have voted yea.

I was also unavoidably detained for Roll Call No. 9, S. 1888, to correct a Technical Error in the Codification of Title 36 of the United States Code. Had I been present I would have voted yea.

I was also unavoidably detained for Roll Call No. 10, H. Con. Res. 312, expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the scheduled Tax Relief Provided by the Economic Growth and Tax Relief Reconciliation Act of 2001 passed by a Bipartisan Majority in Congress should not be suspended or repealed. Had I been present I would have voted yea.

I was also unavoidably detained for Roll Call No. 11, H. J. Res. 82, Recognizing the 91st birthday of Ronald Reagan. Had I been present I would have voted yea.

FEBRUARY SCHOOL DISTRICT OF THE MONTH

HON. CAROLYN MCCARTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 7, 2002

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I have named the Rockville Centre Union Free School District as School District of the Month in the Fourth Congressional District for February 2002. The schools in the district are Francis F. Wilson, Jennie E. Hewitt, Floyd B. Watson, Riverside and William S. Covert Elementary Schools, and South Side Middle and High Schools.

I decided to honor the entire Rockville Centre school district for their commitment to helping the victims and their families of the Sep-

tember 11 tragedy. I commend their determination to make the world a better place.

Dr. William Johnson is the Superintendent of Schools in the Rockville Centre School District. Primarily serving the residents of Rockville Centre, the school district also includes portions of the neighboring South Hempstead communities. The administrators of the schools are: Joan F. Waldman, Principal, Floyd B. Watson Elementary School; Darren Raymar, Principal, William S. Covert Elementary School; Carol Burris, Principal, South Side High School; Thomas Ricupero, Principal, South Side Middle School; Joanne Spencer, Principal, Jennie E. Hewitt Elementary School; Patricia Bock, Principal, Riverside Elementary School; and Ann Peluso, Principal, Francis F. Wilson Elementary School.

All five of the elementary schools contributed to the various relief funds through a wide-range of events such as fundraisers, exhibits and collections. Students at Hewitt and Waston Elementary Schools responded immediately to President Bush's request for one dollar from every child to be sent to starving children in Afghanistan. Covert Elementary School will donate half of the proceeds from its annual Variety Show to their local World Trade Center fund. Wilson Elementary School ran a coin campaign and donated the proceeds, totaling over two thousand dollars to the American Red Cross.

Furthermore, the Rockville Centre school district has excelled on the academic front. Several schools in the district have recently received individual awards for outstanding educational standards.

Riverside Elementary School recently became the recipient of the Pathfinder Award, a prestigious distinction given by the Business Council of New York State for most improvement on state-wide English and Math exams. Two students from South Side High School are semifinalists in the nationwide Intel Science Talent Search, where the winners receive college scholarships. In 1998, South Side High School was named Blue Ribbon School.

The unity and generosity of these children and their families is amazing. I am very proud of all of these schools and their benevolent efforts. Congratulations on this honor, and keep up the good work.

TRIBUTE TO ROSEMARY HOLGUIN COLUNGA

HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 7, 2002

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in memory of a woman who was very special to me, to my aide, Ruby Ramirez, and to the entire Colton community. I rise to pay tribute to the life of Rosemary Holguin Colunga, beloved community activist, volunteer and leader.

Rosemary was active in every kind of community organization from her high school days until her death. Rosemary was a woman who dedicated her life to the people of her community. She had visions of opening doors for those less fortunate making sure that everyone had a chance in life.

Rosemary, herself, was no stranger to hardship. She was born on September 6, 1937 in

San Bernardino, California, the second child of Jose Ramon and Catherine Holguin Colunga. Shortly afterwards, her parents moved to the City of Colton to raise their children, and Rosemary would remain a member of the Colton community for the rest of her life. She attended Garfield/Woodrow Wilson School continuing her education at Colton High School, but she had to drop out of school due to an illness. Never one to be defeated by life, Rosemary regained her health and earned her high school diploma from San Bernardino Valley College going on to earn an Associates Degree in Liberal Arts and completing a general secretarial course at Skadron Business College.

While Rosemary's education prepared her for a career in business, her heart belonged to service. In 1968 she began working for the anti-poverty programs for the San Bernardino County, and later coordinated community services for the City of Bloomington. Rosemary was pivotal in bringing Loma Linda University's low-income neighborhood to open a clinic for area residents.

After working for the City of Bloomington for nine years, Rosemary moved to her own neighborhood of South Colton to become the Facility Coordinator for the City of Colton at the Luque Multi-Service Center at Veterans Memorial Park. The Luque Center was located in a low-income area, but this did not stop Rosemary from bringing every available program to the center that was offered uptown. If any of the programs were unavailable at her center, then she would just take the people uptown where they could enjoy the services in her typical "can-do" spirit.

Her community involvement did not stop with her career. Service was a way of life for Rosemary. Rosemary became the president of Woodrow Wilson's PTA when no one else wanted to take on the responsibility even though she had no children of her own. Rosemary was determined not to let the students go without community leadership. She was also the first, and only, female president of Los Padrinos, a community organization. Rosemary was also active in her local Catholic Church, San Salvador where she served as a lecturer, Eucharistic minister and sang in the choir. Her fellow parishioners remember that her beautiful voice that brought tears to their eyes, because she was singing "from her heart."

Rosemary was particularly devoted to the very young and the very old of her community. She organized outings for the senior citizens of South Colton such as sight seeing, shopping and gambling. She truly loved spending time with the seniors referring to them as "my Viejitos." The youth of her community were always seeking Rosemary's advice and she spent endless hours counseling, scolding and working with them at the centers. Many members of the Colton community count Rosemary as one of their mentors.

Rosemary's service to her community did not go unnoticed during her lifetime. She received accolades and awards from countless organizations, the late Congressman George Brown, Lt. Governor Cruz Bustamonte, State Senator Nell Soto, the City of Colton, and the Colton Joint Unified School District. Rosemary was nominated by Assemblyman John Longville and received the "Woman of the Year 2000" award, which she always considered her greatest accomplishment.