

I had the pleasure on having Rear Admiral Goldberg serve on my Service Academy Nominations board since I was elected to Congress in 1980. I urge all my colleagues to join me in wishing Rear Admiral Goldberg the traditional naval parting for a fallen naval officer, farewell and following seas.

IN RECOGNITION OF MR. DONALD
"MAC" McLAUGHLIN

HON. JOEL HEFLEY

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 26, 2002

Mr. HEFLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Donald "Mac" McLaughlin. After 61 years of service to his country, Mr. McLaughlin is retiring.

He began his career in 1940 as a cadre in the 10th Mountain Division at Fort Carson in Colorado Springs. He went on to become a member of the 82nd Airborne Division and a parachute jumper for the regimented combat team. After a combat jump in Holland in 1943 and the end of World War II in 1945, he returned home. Mr. McLaughlin separated from the Army that year and began his service with the Air Force in food services.

Twenty-six years later, Mr. McLaughlin retired from active duty as a chief master sergeant, but his service to our Nation did not end there. He was hired by the Air Force Academy athletic department as a concessions manager where he devoted many long hours to ensure that Falcon Stadium and its patrons were accommodated.

This man knows the true meaning of service to his country and I am proud to have him as a constituent. I congratulate him on his long and rewarding career and wish him well as he enters retirement.

IN HONOR OF THE LOWER EAST
SIDE PEOPLE'S FEDERAL CREDIT
UNION

HON. JERROLD NADLER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 26, 2002

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Lower East Side People's Federal Credit Union (LESPFCU) on the occasion of the grand opening of its Avenue C ATM.

Since 1986, the Lower East Side People's Federal Credit Union has served the financial needs of low-income neighborhood residents who are not served by commercial banks. For over 15 years, since the closing of the last commercial bank in the Lower East Side community, the credit union has maintained its goal of stimulating the economic and community development of the neighborhood by providing a safe, sound, and democratic alternative to traditional banks. Today, nearly 4,000 area residents and employees are members of the credit union. Including the extended family of credit union members who benefit from its services, the credit union serves close to 10,000 Lower East Side community members. As of December 2001, LESPFCU has made over \$8 million in loans

to 3,488 members of the community, enabling them to realize their dreams of home ownership, starting a small business, or furthering their education.

The Lower East Side People's Federal Credit Union has now opened its second ATM location on Avenue C between 8th and 9th Streets. This new ATM makes the credit union the first financial institution to establish a presence on Avenue C since the 1960s. The opening of the ATM marks two important developments for the Lower East Side: first, it is the beginning of the credit union's expansion plan, which will allow it to continue to serve the growing financial needs of the community; secondly, it demonstrates a revitalized interest and dedication to the economic well-being of the Lower East Side. These developments are sure to contribute to a revitalized community and to benefit the long-term recovery of New York City.

I would like to congratulate those whose hard work has contributed to the opening of the new ATM: the dedicated staff and leadership of the Lower East Side People's Federal Credit Union, the Lower East Side People's Mutual Housing Association, New York City Councilwoman Margarita Lopez, the Co-op Network, Citibank, HSBC, and JP Morgan Chase.

HONORING STAFF SERGEANT
BRANDON PEARCE

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 26, 2002

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Staff Sergeant Brandon R. Pearce on the occasion of him being named the United States Air Force's Airman of the Year. Mr. Pearce is an Aircraft Hydraulic Systems Journeyman assigned to the 146th Maintenance Squadron, 146th Logistics Group, 146th Airlift Wing, Channel Islands Air National Guard Station, California. In order to achieve this high honor, Mr. Pearce competed against more than 6,000 airmen in California with the national competition including members from throughout the United States and territories.

Staff Sergeant Pearce graduated from Mariposa High School in 1988 and enlisted in the Air Force. While on active duty, Staff Sergeant Pearce received several Crew Chief of the Month awards and was assigned to his own C-141 aircraft. He participated in Operation Just Cause in Panama, the Persian Gulf war as well as many other operational missions. Staff Sergeant Pearce has also received other military awards, such as the Air Force Longevity Service Award Ribbon and the Air Force Training Ribbon. Upon completion of his 4-year enlistment, he became a full time student which earned him an Associate of Arts degree in History in 1993, and a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1995. In addition to his two degrees, he also obtained a Teaching Credential and devoted 3 years helping to educate and mentor the youth of Ventura and Mariposa Counties.

After completing his education, in 1998, Staff Sergeant Pearce rejoined the Air Force in the California Air National Guard as an Aircraft Hydraulic Systems Technician with the

146th Airlift Wing. Some of his responsibilities include maintenance of all hydraulic components of the wing's 12 C-130Es, including flight controls, brakes, and landing gear. In addition to his busy schedule at the California Air National Guard, he and his wife, Jackie, still find time to take active roles in their church's community outreach program assisting families in need and the homeless.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Staff Sergeant Brandon Pearce on his achievement of being named the United States Air Force's Airman of the Year. Not only is he a fine example in the service to his country, but also to his community. His success reflects credit upon himself, the Air Force and our Nation. I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring Staff Sergeant Brandon Pearce being named Airman of the Year and wish him many more years of continued success.

TRIBUTE TO DEREK PARRA

HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 26, 2002

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, I ask for unanimous consent to revise and extend my remarks.

I rise today to pay tribute to one of America's new Olympic heroes. Like all Americans, I watched all of our athletes competing in the 2002 games with great pride. We love the Olympics. We love the international spirit, the thrill of competition, the joys of victory and stories of struggle. The athletes capture our imaginations and our hearts.

I watched one athlete with particular pride, speed skater Derek Parra, winner of the silver medal in the 5,000-meter skate and the gold in the 1,500-meter skate.

You see, Derek Parra is from my district. He went to school with my son, Joe Baca, Jr., and I attended church with Derek's father, Gilbert Parra, at St. Catherine's in Rialto, California.

Derek Parra is an American hero. One of eight Olympians chosen by fellow teammates to carry the American flag into the opening ceremonies, Derek accepted the honor even though his first race was the next day. While most athletes spend the night before a race resting, Derek jeopardized his medal chances to carry Old Glory.

On February 9, 2002, Derek's family and friends gathered on Saturday at Graziano's pizza restaurant in Colton to watch the San Bernardino native dazzle the world. Derek unexpectedly broke the world record in the 5,000-meter speed skating race with a time of 6 minutes and 17.98 seconds, beating his own best time by 15 seconds. Derek won the silver medal when the Dutch skater edged out Derek's record-breaking time.

Derek's record breaking performance and silver medal were a bit of a surprise even to the people who knew him best, because the 5,000-meter was not his best race. Friends and family eagerly awaited his best event, the 1,500-meter race on February 19th.

Ten days later on February 19, 2002, fifty of Derek's closest relatives and friends jammed a tiny San Bernardino living room to watch Derek break another world record this time in the 1,500-meter speed skating race with a