

light today. Thank you for all your hard work, Jerry, I wish you all the best in your future endeavors.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE UNIFORMED FIRE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 11, 2002

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the Uniformed Fire Officers Association in New York City (UFOA), which represents 2,500 lieutenants, captains, battalion chiefs, deputy chiefs, supervising fire marshals and medical officers of the New York City Fire Department. The fine officers represented by UFOA risk their lives daily to protect our community.

On September 11, 2001 the New York City Fire Department lost a total of 343 members in the attacks on the World Trade Center. Among the lost were 254 firefighters, 89 superior officers, 45 lieutenants, 20 captains, 17 battalion chiefs, 3 deputy chiefs and 2 staff chiefs. New York's Bravest also lost two of their most senior leaders, the Chief of the Department as well as the First Deputy Commissioner. Further adding to their devastation, the Catholic Chaplain, the much-loved Reverend Mychal Judge, also perished.

The men and women who comprise the New York City Fire Department, as well as the Uniformed Fire Officers Association, work so closely together, that they often think of and refer to one another as family. For many, the brave men who perished were more than colleagues: They were 343 members of their extended family.

Since the disaster, the members of the UFOA have worked together to continue a long held tradition among fire personnel, by joining together to ensure that the immediate families of those who perished—spouses and children—are cared for. They are also working

to ensure that the brave legacy of the firefighters lost that day endures, and that the heroes of September 11th are never forgotten.

UFOA is also working to ensure that veteran officers receive the support they need to rebuild their devastated agency. While the events of September 11th are unique, fires continue to threaten our community. The NYFD has done an outstanding job of pulling together to carry on with fighting some devastating fires that have broken out since September 11th. Their continued dedication and hard work deserves our strongest commendation.

For the bravery exhibited by the members of the Uniformed Fire Officers Association on September 11, 2001, and for the bravery they exhibit every day they show up to work to protect the rest of us, I ask my colleagues to pay tribute to the members of the Uniformed Fire Officers Association and the invaluable contributions of the UFOA.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO GEORGE THURSTON

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 11, 2002

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with profound sadness that I rise today to recognize the life and contributions of George Thurston of Glenwood Springs, Colorado. George peacefully left us on a Monday, January 11, 2002 at the age of ninety-five. George was a popular member of the community and was often sought by many in the community for his listening ear, advice, and warm smile. He was known as a man of many interests and his foresight into the future needs of his fellow Coloradans is enjoyed throughout the State today. George was a remarkable man and I am honored to bring forth his good deeds and accomplishments before this body of Congress and this nation.

Born in Carbondale in 1906, George moved and eventually settled a few miles away Glen-

wood Springs, Colorado, where he quickly became a great contributor in the Western Slope community. George held many careers throughout his life including work for the Bureau of Land Management, the Forest Service, and work on Public Works projects to supply the state with our most valuable commodity, water. In 1940, George was named general manager of Holy Cross Electric Association, a local energy co-op that serves several surrounding communities. Because of his dedication and commitment to his fellow residents, George saw the company grow through the difficult years of World War II, and provide power to areas not served by the larger power companies. Among his greatest visions was the decision to provide several early ski slopes and resorts, including Aspen, with power. His good sense paid off and today the resorts in Vail and Snowmass owe part of their initial gambles to his trust and dedication to advancing his community.

Throughout his life, George was well known throughout his community as a leader and dedicated patriarch of his family. Later in his life, George could be found in his favorite place, the Colorado outdoors, enjoying his time at his mountain cabin with family. He is survived by a loving and dedicated wife of almost forty years, Dollie, daughter Karen, stepson Larry, and four grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to pay tribute to George Thurston for the great strides he took in establishing himself as a valuable leader and visionary in the Glenwood Springs community. His dedication to family, friends, work, and the community certainly deserves the recognition of this body of Congress and a grateful nation. Although George has left us, his good-natured spirit lives on through the lives of those he touched. I would like to extend my regrets and deepest sympathies to George's family and friends during their time of bereavement and remembrance. George Thurston was a remarkable man and he will be greatly missed.