

so that those with highly technical skills can focus their time and energies on the tasks they are trained to perform.

In Daytona Beach, for example, nearly two hundred members of our Senior Corps participate in the local Citizens on Patrol program, helping police with traffic management and neighborhood watch. They wear uniforms, look for suspicious activity, remove disabled vehicles, watch vacant homes, and search for missing persons. They have fingerprinted thousands of children in an effort to keep them safe in the community. Last year alone, they served more than 51,000 hours and logged more than 360,000 miles in their patrol cars, allowing trained law enforcement officials in the county to focus on crime prevention and real emergencies.

And there's more to come. Just a few weeks ago, we became one of the first federal agencies to direct grant money to community groups working in homeland security. The \$10.3 million in grants we gave to 43 private groups and public agencies in 26 states and the District of Columbia will support more than 37,000 homeland security volunteers across the nation. The grantees included: the venerable American Radio Relay League, based in Connecticut, which will create a national communications network of amateur radio enthusiasts prepared to respond in disasters when those new-fangled cell phones and pda's become inoperative; Mercy Medical Airlift, a charitable organization based in Virginia that usually flies critically ill patients to receive treatment around the country, but will also now prepare its network of pilots to fly at a moment's notice, transporting emergency blood shipments to hospitals, key relief agency officials to disaster sites, and needed materials to rescue and response crews; and the Housing Authority of the City of Milwaukee, which will train an intergenerational group of 2000 public housing residents in emergency preparedness, crime prevention, basic responder skills, and the use of two-way radios. In several communities, the American Red Cross will be working with local organizations to develop response plans and in New York City, the AmeriCorps Public Safety Program will place members in firehouses to relieve some of the administrative burdens on the "bravest of the brave," who sacrificed so much for all of us on September 11. Last, but not least, one of our grants will establish the New Jersey Secure Corps, whose main objective will be to ensure that every county in that state has a fully functioning VOAD.

These programs, I believe, represent some of the most appropriate and effective ways that citizens can help prepare for or respond to any future attack. They build on our strengths—the vast array of voluntary groups that are spread throughout our nation and the credibility they enjoy with so many Americans—to create an organized network that is ready, willing, and able to tackle emergencies whenever and wherever they arise. They do not ask ordinary citizens to take on the often difficult and dangerous tasks that the "first responders" and other specialists are qualified to do. But by coordinating their efforts with those trained professionals, these programs enable ordinary Americans—such as Senior Corps member Roseann Schneider, who is here today, but would otherwise be helping the Montgomery County police—to make extraordinary contributions to our nation's safety and security when the occasion requires them to do so.

Most importantly, by enlisting Americans in serving their country, these programs—and the broader efforts of the USA Freedom Corps—help to perpetuate our country's greatest source of strength, both in war and in peace: a citizenry that is actively engaged in public life.

When he announced the creation of USA Freedom Corps, the President also asked Americans to devote at least two years of their lives—or 4,000 hours—in service to their

Congress also needs to pass the Citizen Service Act, the legislation pending in the House right now would bring much needed improvements and reforms to our programs—as well as more resources. It has been almost a decade since the laws that authorize our programs were last debated and authorized—and while we have done much to expand and improve our programs with lapsed authorization, we think that debate and discussion will take us much further—and will ultimately help enhance the availability of quality volunteer opportunities for individuals and improve the quality of service that volunteers provide in response to many of our greatest national needs, including homeland security. A clear Congressional endorsement of this work would be a fitting way to recognize the efforts volunteers made on September 11—and are still making—to guard against the evils of terrorism.

Here with us today is one of those people: AmeriCorps member Mark Lindquist, who is a team leader at the DC campus of our National Civilian Community Corps. Right after September 11, he helped run shuttles between the Pentagon and Red Cross headquarters in Arlington, set up Red Cross centers for rescue and relief workers, as well as for survivors and their families, and a phone bank which people could call for more information. And during the rest of his AmeriCorps year, he took the training he received in helping victims of catastrophes to La Plata, Maryland, as well as states that had been ravaged by floods and forest fires.

All of us at the Corporation for National and Community Service, including our chairman, former Mayor Stephen Goldsmith and distinguished board of directors, are privileged to work with people like Mark and on issues such as volunteerism, philanthropy, and national service for many years now. For the first time in a long time, the values that we seek to inculcate and perpetuate through programs such as AmeriCorps, Senior Corps, and Learn and Serve America—patriotism, democratic citizenship, a concern for the national purpose, the desire to give back—are on the front burner of our nation's politics.

But they won't stay there forever. Dr. Robert Putnam, author of the book *Bowling Alone*, recently noted that: "in the aftermath of [last] September's tragedy, a window of opportunity has opened for a sort of civic renewal that occurs only once or twice a century. But though the crisis revealed and replenished the wells of solidarity in American communities, so far those wells remain untapped."

We should not lose the momentum toward civic connectedness and service to others that came out of the terrible event whose anniversary we will mark in just two weeks. Our Nation still has a great need for volunteers, in homeland security and in many other areas. And public service itself is a responsibility that attends the privilege of life in a free society. Among all that we will be called upon to remember in the next two weeks, let us not forget that the ideals embodied by our country are not only worth defending. They are also worth serving.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO JIM
OLTERMAN

SCOTT McINNIS
OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 9, 2002

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sorrow as I rise to pay tribute to the memory and passing of Colorado Division of Wildlife biologist, Jim Olterman of Dolores, Colorado. Jim Olterman had an exemplary career in his time at the agency and embodied the prin-

ciples of honesty, hardwork, and courage that Coloradans and all Americans should strive to exemplify. As his family mourns his loss, we should pay tribute to a man who has contributed so much not only to the vitality of the region's wildlife, but also to the State of Colorado.

Mr. Olterman tragically lost his life Wednesday when his plane crashed while he was carrying out aerial fish-stocking duties high in the lakes of the Sangre de Cristo Mountains. As the most experienced pilot in the CDOW, Jim understood the danger that was involved in flying these high risk operations, but he chose the assignment because he believed in the division's mission to ensure the vitality of animal species in the wild.

Mr. Olterman served a very distinguished career in 27 years at the division. After attending Oregon State graduate school, Mr. Olterman entered into Division of Wildlife training classes and, in 1972, began to work for the Colorado Division of Wildlife's Ridgeway District. In 1979, Jim was promoted to the position of senior terrestrial biologist for the district, followed by a promotion in 1994 to senior terrestrial biologist for the entire Western Slope of Colorado.

Jim was involved in the reintroduction of many wildlife species in Western Colorado such as moose, lynx, and the black foot ferret. He was also the lead biologist of big game species in his district and played a crucial role in the expansion of big game herds throughout the region. Well-liked and widely respected throughout the agency, Jim Olterman was known as the "go to guy" who could always provide assistance and a thoughtful opinion on a broad range of subjects. It has been widely expressed throughout the CDOW that his pleasant company will be deeply missed and the proficiency and expertise that he brought to his work will be irreplaceable.

Mr. Speaker, it is with deep respect and great sadness that I recognize Mr. Jim Olterman before this body of Congress and this nation for the definitive contributions he made to his profession, to Colorado, and this nation. He devoted his life to the protection and management of Colorado's wildlife, and I commend him for the diligence and commitment he displayed in his professional endeavors. He will be missed by the many souls he touched in his life and I express my sincere condolences to his wife Robin and his family.

REFLECTIONS ON AMERICA

HON. JOSEPH M. HOFFFEL

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 9, 2002

Mr. HOFFFEL. Mr. Speaker, recently, as the one-year anniversary of September 11 approached, I looked back over the statement I released the day after the attacks occurred. As I read the statement that was issued even as the smoke and dust still billowed over Lower Manhattan, the Pentagon and a field in rural Pennsylvania, I was struck by how easy it was to write some of the words and how difficult it was to write others.

It was tremendously difficult to put into words my feelings of disbelief and anger over the insane acts of 19 individuals and their supporters. It still is. It was heart rending to try to voice the sorrow and sympathy I felt for the victims and their families. And that, too, is still difficult.