

community, there is solace in knowing that his life has made an impression that will transcend his death for many years to come.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TAMMY BALDWIN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 11, 2002

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday September 4, 2002, I missed two votes due to flight delays. Although I received the appropriate leave of absence from the House, I wish to inform my colleagues and constituents of the 2nd District of Wisconsin on how I intended to vote on the roll call votes that I missed.

On Roll Call vote 371, I would have voted No. On Roll Call vote 372, I would have voted Aye.

MISSOURI'S #1 YOUNG BASEBALL TEAM

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 11, 2002

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, let me take this means to congratulate and pay tribute to the Blue Springs Indians baseball team of Blue Springs, MO. These young players have distinguished themselves, the Blue Springs community and the State of Missouri with outstanding conduct on and off the field.

The Blue Springs Indians are the #1 baseball team in Missouri in the 8 years old and under USSSA Missouri League. The team managed this feat by winning the Missouri State Championship Tournament. The Indians finished 11th in the World Series and are ranked #15 in the nation.

The Blue Springs Indians are Taylor "Tator Tot" Cross, Luke "Biscuit" Crabb, Cole "Little Man" Erwin, Nate "Bear" Goff, Nick "G-Man" Gulotta, Gehrig "Lou" Hudson, Landon "Boot" Mason, Steven "Sully" Sullivan, Logan "Mowgs" Taylor, Brett "T-Rex" Valentine, Trevor "T-Bone" Wescott, and Andrew "Action" Wright.

Mr. Speaker, these young ball players have played a wonderful season of baseball and have made their friends and family proud. I am certain that my colleagues will join me in wishing the Blue Springs Indians all the best.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JERRY WELLER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 11, 2002

Mr. WELLER. Mr. Speaker, due to unavoidable circumstances, I was forced to take a medical leave of absence from the House of Representatives from 12:00 p.m. on September 5, 2002, until 12:00 p.m. on September 10, 2002. I respectfully request that how I would have voted had I been able to be present for votes be submitted and accepted into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD at an appropriate place as follows:

On Rollcall vote No. 375, H.R. 5157 offered by Representative DON YOUNG, on Federal Transit Formula Grants Flexibility, had I been able to be present I would have voted "aye."

On Rollcall vote No. 376, H. Con. Res. 401 offered by Representative DON YOUNG recognizing the heroism and courage displayed by airline flight attendants each day, had I been able to be present I would have voted "aye."

On Rollcall vote No. 377, H. Res. 516 offered by Representative NORTHUP congratulating the Valley Sports American Little League Baseball Team from Louisville, Kentucky, for their outstanding performance in the Little League World Series, had I been able to be present I would have voted "aye."

On Rollcall vote No. 378, H.R. 5010 offered by Representative JERRY LEWIS to close portions of the conference on the Defense Appropriations bill, had I been able to be present, I would have voted "aye."

On Rollcall vote No. 379, H.R. 3210 offered by Representative OXLEY to instruct conferees, had I been able to be present, I would have voted "aye."

On Rollcall vote No. 380, on approving the Journal, had I been able to be present, I would have voted "nay."

TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE WES WATKINS

HON. FRANK D. LUCAS

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 11, 2002

Mr. LUCAS of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, today Oklahoma's delegation to the United States Congress pays tribute to our friend and colleague, the distinguished gentleman from Oklahoma, WES WATKINS.

Following twenty years of service in the House, WES WATKINS is leaving Congress at the end of this term. His service on behalf of Oklahoma's Third Congressional District spans parts of four decades: From 1977 to 1991 as a Democrat, and from 1997 to the present as a Republican.

Those of us who have had the honor to serve and work with WES WATKINS know him to be one of the hardest working and most dedicated members of the Congress.

The Third District of Oklahoma has been one of the most rural, economically distressed areas of the nation, and WES WATKINS has made it his mission to lay the foundation for private sector economic development and job growth in his district.

Whether he was recruiting potential employers or seeking federal funding for basic infrastructure that most of the country takes for granted—like paved roads and running water—WES WATKINS has always placed the needs of his constituents first on his priority list.

When traditional financing couldn't be arranged for businesses to expand or locate in his district, WES WATKINS helped found Rural Enterprises of Oklahoma, a non-profit economic development organization that in the past twenty years has financed more than \$200 million in business loans for rural Oklahoma. When a potential business recruit told him there was not an ample water supply to locate a coal-fueled electric power plant in his district, WES WATKINS obtained federal funding

to raise the level of a local lake to accommodate the plant's needs.

WES WATKINS led the effort to help fledgling rural businesses succeed by helping create the nation's first rural business incubators in his district. And he worked with Oklahoma's career and technology education system to create rural distance-learning centers to help bridge the digital divide between urban and rural areas by bringing technology training directly to his rural constituents.

Thanks in large part to WES WATKINS' efforts, southeastern Oklahoma—once known for its welfare dependency—is now developing into one of the fastest growing areas of our state.

In addition to his economic development efforts in rural Oklahoma, WES WATKINS has earned a reputation as a strong supporter of our state's agriculture and energy industries. He has worked to improve rural health care and education. WES WATKINS has been an outspoken advocate for our nation's veterans and for a strong national defense. He has obtained funding for countless economic infrastructure projects like road construction, airport improvements, and water development in his rural district. And WES WATKINS' efforts to ensure Oklahoma's former Indian lands were eligible for federal Indian land tax incentives have provided Oklahoma with one of the best industrial recruitment tools in America.

With twenty years of experience in the House, WES WATKINS is the dean of Oklahoma's House delegation. His leadership and wisdom will be greatly missed not just by his many admiring colleagues, but by his district, his state, and his nation.

Thank you WES, for your many years of service and for a job well done. Your friends in Oklahoma's congressional delegation wish you the best of health and continued success in the years to come.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO JOE ULIBARRI

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 11, 2002

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to Judge Joe Ulibarri of Pueblo, Colorado and recognize his contributions and service to his community. After twenty-three years in the Pueblo Municipal Court, Judge Ulibarri has retired. Throughout his tenure, Judge Ulibarri has made a number of important rulings, notably his 1991 decision that allowed the Municipal Court to accept juvenile citations and relieve the state Court of their backlog, leading to the expeditious handling of juvenile cases in Pueblo. The career and accomplishments of Joe Ulibarri are a testament to fine public service and most certainly deserve the recognition of this body of Congress and this nation.

Judge Joe Ulibarri was born on July 31, 1943 and was educated at Southern Colorado State College where he received an Associate of Arts degree in Social Studies and English. He went on to study law at the University of Denver School of Law, where he received his Juris Doctorate degree in 1970. Following graduation he earned a job as a staff attorney