

Department of Education liaison to the California School Food Service Association for more than ten years. In addition, Marilyn has authored and acted as an expert reviewer for numerous nutrition publications, and presented keynote speeches on nutrition related topics across the country.

In recognition of her exceptional contributions in the field of child nutrition, Marilyn Briggs has received several awards. They include the "Friends of Agriculture" outstanding public service award by the California Farm Bureau and the California Agriculture in the Classroom Program, the California Department of Education Unit Award, a graduate student fellowship from the University of California at Berkeley, and the "Moscone Commitment to Nutrition and Nutrition Education Award", which has been given to her twice by the California School Food Service Association.

In addition to working as the Assistant Superintendent of Public Instruction, Marilyn has held several positions within the Nutrition Services Division of the California Department of Education since 1981. They include Nutrition Education and Training Specialist, Child Nutrition Consultant, Administrator of Nutrition Education and Training, and Assistant Nutrition Services Division Director. She has also worked in a temporary Intergovernmental Personnel Assignment as a Special Assistant to the Associate Administrator of Food and Consumer Service, United States Department of Agriculture, in Washington, D.C. during 1994 and 1995. In each of these positions, Marilyn has not only demonstrated her passion for child nutrition and nutrition education, but she has worked tirelessly to lead collaborative efforts to develop nutrition programs and curriculum and ensure their implementation.

Marilyn was born Marilyn Mae Briggs on June 6, 1946 in Washington, D.C. to Eleanor Reese Briggs and George McSpadden Briggs, Jr. She attended Bethesda Elementary School in Bethesda, Maryland, where she earned straight A's all seven years, and excelled in music and performing in school plays. She graduated from Leland Junior High School in Bethesda, Maryland, and Acalanes High School in Lafayette, California, where she continued to excel in academics, music, and drama. In 1968, she received a Bachelor of Science Degree in Dietetics and Nutrition from the University of California at Berkeley, where her father was the Chair of the Nutritional Sciences Department. She completed her Dietetic Internship at the United States Public Health Service Hospital in Staten Island, New York, and became a Registered Dietitian in 1969. After working a few years, Marilyn earned her Master of Science Degree in Nutritional Sciences, again from the University of California at Berkeley, and she became Credentialed as a School Foodservice and Nutrition Specialist (S.F.N.S.) through the American School Food Service Association in 2000. Marilyn has three children, Nancy, Catherine, and Robert, two grand daughters, Emma and Samantha, and two sisters, Nancy Louise Briggs and Catherine Briggs Hanafi, in addition to her mother, Eleanor, and her father, the late George Briggs.

Marilyn Briggs's career has been one of continually giving above and beyond what has been required of her. As Assistant Superintendent of Public Instruction, Director of the Nutrition Services Division, for the California

Department of Education, she has been responsible for the administration of the National School Lunch Program, School Breakfast Program, Child and Adult Care Food Program, Summer Food Service Program, Food Distribution Program, Special Milk Program, and State Meal Mandate in California. While managing these programs with perfection, Marilyn has continually sought development and implementation of new concepts and programs to advance good nutrition and nutrition education in California and beyond. Many of her dreams and ideas have become national models and standards, yet Marilyn seeks no personal credit. She is humble in her success, a strong but gentle leader, and highly respected by everyone with whom she has ever worked. She accomplishes what she sets out to do, finds ways around roadblocks, and is a master of communication, with the ability to bring consensus among dissenting groups when necessary to focus on the common goal of good nutrition. The vision of the Nutrition Services Division, "Working with our partners, we will lead the nation in providing exemplary nutrition programs and services," has definitely been achieved under Marilyn's direction. She is truly a great friend and advocate to all who value nutrition and nutrition education.

#### SPINA BIFIDA AWARENESS MONTH

#### HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 12, 2002*

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, today, I take the opportunity to let my colleagues know that October was National Spina Bifida Awareness Month. I think we should all pause for a moment and pay tribute to the more than 70,000 Americans—and their family members—who are currently affected by Spina Bifida. After all, Spina Bifida is the nation's most common, permanently disabling birth defect. The Spina Bifida Association of America (SBAA), an organization that has helped people with Spina Bifida and their families for nearly 30 years, works every day—not just in the month of October—to prevent and reduce suffering from this devastating birth defect.

The SBAA was founded in 1973 to address the needs of the individuals and families affected by Spina Bifida, and is currently the only national organization solely dedicated to advocating on behalf of the Spina Bifida community. As part of its service through 60 chapters in more than 100 communities across the country, the SBAA puts expecting parents in touch with families who have a child with Spina Bifida. These families answer questions and concerns and help guide expectant mothers and fathers. The SBAA then works to provide lifelong support and assistance for affected children and their families.

Together, the SBAA and the Spina Bifida Association of the Tri-State Region, which is based in Flemington, New Jersey, work tirelessly to help families meet the challenges and enjoy the rewards of raising their child. I would like to acknowledge and thank SBAA and the Spina Bifida Association of the Tri-State Region for all that they have done for the families affected by this birth defect, especially those living in my district. Their work is truly a labor of love.

For those colleagues who don't know, Spina Bifida is a neural tube defect that occurs when the central nervous system does not properly close during the early stages of pregnancy. Spina Bifida affects more than 4,000 pregnancies each year, with more than half ending tragically in abortion. Many times, unborn children with Spina Bifida are killed by abortion because of a false belief that nothing can be done to help victims of this disease. The truth is that today, approximately 90 percent of all new born babies diagnosed with this birth defect live into adulthood, approximately 80 percent have normal IQs, and approximately 75 percent participate in sports and other recreational activities.

With proper medical care, people who suffer from Spina Bifida can lead full and productive lives. However, they must learn how to move around using braces, crutches or wheelchairs, and how to function independently. They also must be careful to avoid a host of secondary health problems ranging from depression and learning disabilities to skin problems and latex allergies.

During this month of October, the SBAA and its chapters make a special push to increase public awareness about Spina Bifida and teach prospective parents about prevention through proper nutrition and pre-natal care. Simply by taking a daily dose of the B vitamin folic acid (which is found in most multivitamins), women of child-bearing age have the power to reduced the incidence of Spina Bifida by up to 75 percent. That such a simply change in habit can have such a profound effect should leave no question as to the importance of awareness and the impact of prevention.

While consumption of folic acid helps with prevention, we must do more to ensure a high quality of life for people already living with Spina Bifida so more families choose the blessing and joy of having a child. The challenges of raising a child with Spina Bifida are significant, but the challenges can be overcome. Fortunately, Spina Bifida is no longer the death sentence it once was, and now most people born with Spina Bifida will likely have a normal or near-normal life expectancy. The challenge now is to ensure that these individuals have the highest quality of life possible.

I call upon my House colleagues to provide \$3 million in much-needed funding to establish a National Spina Bifida Program at the National Center for Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities (NCBDDD) at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to ensure that those individuals living with Spina Bifida can live active, productive, and meaningful lives. In addition, I urge the House to take up the recently passed Senate version of the "Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities Prevention Act of 2002," (S. 2980), which takes many critical steps that will work to prevent Spina Bifida and to improve the quality of life for individuals and families affected by this terrible birth defect. I am hopeful that we will act shortly to pass the measure so it can be sent to the President for his signature.

I again wish to thank the SBAA and its chapters for all of their hard work to prevent and reduce suffering from this birth defect, and for their commitment to improve the lives of those 70,000 individuals living with Spina Bifida throughout our nation. Much more work still needs to be done, and I am confident this fine organization and its chapters will lead the

effort for decades to come. I wish the Spina Bifida Association of America and the Spina Bifida Association of the Tri-State Region the best of luck in their endeavors and urge all of my colleagues and all Americans to support their important efforts.

TRIBUTE TO CHRISTOPHER J.  
D'AMELIO

**HON. SAM FARR**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 12, 2002*

Mr. FARR of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Christopher J. D'Amelio, Boat-swain's Mate First Class, United States Coast Guard, a longtime resident of Aptos, California. Petty Officer D'Amelio has been selected to receive the 2002 Gold Medal from the Association for Rescue at Sea for his integral role in a rescue that occurred near Peacock Spit at the mouth of the Columbia River.

Petty Officer D'Amelio deserves recognition for his heroic actions on September 2, 2001. His excellent performance as Surfman aboard Coast Guard Motor Life Boat 47248 was directly responsible for the saving of three lives. Petty Officer D'Amelio expertly maneuvered the MLB through plunging breakers 18 feet high to reach a capsized fishing boat. He calmly squared the bow into the oncoming surf and skillfully backed the MLB to the four individuals clinging to the overturned vessel. With the assistance of a rescue swimmer, Petty Officer D'Amelio successfully retrieved all four survivors and then escaped to calmer water where he and his crew could more accurately evaluate their condition. Upon discovering that one individual required immediate medical attention, Petty Officer D'Amelio quickly coordinated and directed the transfer of the individual to a waiting Coast Guard helicopter. Petty Officer D'Amelio's superb Surfman skills, his leadership, and his poise under great pressure prevented an already disastrous situation from becoming even worse.

Since joining the United States Coast Guard in 1995, Petty Officer D'Amelio has consistently demonstrated the three core values—Honor, Respect, and Devotion to Duty—that have contributed to this service's distinguished heritage. In recognition of his repeated displays of leadership, bravery, and outstanding achievement Petty Officer D'Amelio has twice received the Coast Guard Good Conduct Medal, the Commandant's Letter of Commendation with the Operational Distinguishing Device, the Coast Guard Achievement Medal with the Operational Distinguishing Device, and the Coast Guard Commendation Medal with Operational Distinguishing Device. In addition Petty Officer D'Amelio was named the Enlisted Person of the Year for the Thirteenth Coast Guard District in 2001.

While maintaining his professional excellence, Petty Officer D'Amelio has also maintained the role of devoted husband and father. He and his wife, Courtney, have two children: Taylor Brooke D'Amelio and Matthew John D'Amelio. In all spheres of his life, Petty Officer D'Amelio's extraordinary efforts and superb accomplishments merit respect and appreciation. I offer him congratulations for his years of dedicated service in the United States Coast Guard, and it is my great honor to represent such a courageous constituent.

CITIZEN INPUT

**HON. BOB SCHAFFER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 12, 2002*

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, throughout the 6 years I have represented them in Congress, the people of Colorado have shared with me their thoughtful insights, beliefs, and dreams for a better state and country in a variety of ways. In writing, by telephone, by e-mail and through personal visits, I have enjoyed the input of tens of thousands of Coloradans.

These efforts have been indispensable in my efforts to accurately and completely represent my state in the Congress, and I am grateful to every citizen who has ever taken the time to contribute their best judgment toward resolving the important issues of the day. Thanks to them, I have learned much about often complex issues, about the country and about Colorado.

Through these letters, e-mails, and telephone calls my constituents have expressed the values of hard-working families. Consistently, the themes of less government intervention, more personal freedom, and opportunity for prosperity have been the most vivid expressed by those who have contacted me. It is clear that Coloradans are a self-reliant and outspoken people for whom faith, integrity and an honest day's wage form the foundation of a thriving community.

In particular, I am grateful for the personal artifacts included with so many letters. Items such as pictures, pins, and books truly exhibit the character of the individuals I am elected to serve. These are among the things that have made the greatest impression on me while serving in Congress.

In addition, I am thankful for all the people who have ever attended my weekly breakfast town meetings in Larimer County, CO. Each Monday morning they share their hopes and expectations with me, on legislation and politics. I have found the attendees to be dynamic and sincere. They come from around Colorado, and quite often, other states. They are never timid about stating their opinions, which have been a valuable resource for me. In fact, my work at the nation's capital always reflects the ideas and comments expressed during these meetings.

Surely, among the most significant duties of a U.S. Representative is aiding individuals in fighting the red tape of insensitive government agencies. During my time in Congress, I have had the privilege to help thousands of people who came to me for help. Some common examples include cases of ensuring veterans receive benefits promised in exchange for their years of dedicated service, assisting Social Security recipients in getting monthly checks, helping entrepreneurs fight the Internal Revenue Service, assisting farmers in getting drought relief, and helping immigrants become legal U.S. citizens.

Regardless of the issues confronting the Congress, fighting for Coloradans is the most gratifying work. I am thankful for the people of Colorado who contacted me for help. Serving in this great Congress to represent the values of Colorado has truly been an honor. Those Coloradans who volunteer their opinions have contributed to a solid record for which I am most proud. My voice has been theirs as I

have endeavored to be nothing more than a reflection of my constituency. I will forever remain in their debt. They are the best of America.

TRIBUTE TO KRISTA ANDERSON

**HON. GREG WALDEN**

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 12, 2002*

Mr. WALDEN of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a member of my Medford, OR, district staff. During her time with us, Krista Anderson has tirelessly served the people of the Second District of Oregon, and will soon be on her way back to Western Oregon University to finish her degree. Her cheerful demeanor and strong work ethic will be greatly missed.

Mr. Speaker, Krista has volunteered countless hours this summer assisting my district staff. Whenever something needed to be done, Krista readily stepped in and offered to help. From simple tasks like answering phones to helping with complex preparations for the visits of President George W. Bush and former Speaker Newt Gingrich to Medford, Krista proved herself to be an extremely reliable and efficient worker. My staff came to rely on her heavily, and she never let them down. I'm sure this strong work ethic will serve her well in any path she chooses to pursue.

Krista is the daughter of John and Renee Anderson of Medford. She graduated from South Medford High School in 2000 with a perfect 4.0 grade point average. While at South Medford, she proved to be not only a top-notch student, but excelled in extracurricular activities, as well. She was a member of the International Thespian Society and helped with the production of eleven plays, earning honors as best technician.

From Medford, Krista moved to Monmouth, OR, to attend Western Oregon University, where she has continued to stand out in her college years. She is a member of the Honor Society Phi Kappa Phi and is currently working toward a degree in Public Policy Administration with a minor in Speech Communication, maintaining a 3.94 grade point average. This is quite a feat given that she also devotes her time to Concert Choir, College Republicans, Campus Crusade for Christ, and a cultural group called Conversation Links.

Mr. Speaker, Krista has proven herself to be a kind, upstanding, hard-working individual, both personally and professionally. Mr. Medford office was very fortunate to have such a dedicated intern during an especially busy summer. I know that Krista will only continue to excel, and I wish her all the best in her future endeavors.

HONORING ROSEMARY DUNCAN

**HON. JOHN E. SWEENEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 12, 2002*

Mr. SWEENEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Ms. Rosemary Duncan on her outstanding leadership and dedication to helping our military personal at the Samuel S. Stratton