

TRIBUTE TO TAYLOR PROCTOR

**HON. SCOTT McINNIS**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 12, 2003*

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to honor Taylor Proctor of Pueblo, Colorado for the selfless act of courage he displayed on November 8, 2002. Taylor's quick actions, along with the efforts of other students from Centennial High School, helped Edith Lichtenberg to safety after flames engulfed her home.

On November 8, 2002, billowing smoke one block from Centennial High School prompted a group of students—Prince Speights, Clint

Albrecht, Nick Pino, Kathy Ortiz, Linus Trujillo, and Taylor Proctor—into action. Driving toward the smoke, the group quickly discovered the bushes and trees in 86-year-old Edith Lichtenberg's yard ablaze and used a cell phone to contact emergency dispatchers. The flames rapidly spread to the house and the group moved swiftly to make sure no one was in the home. With the fire engulfing the front of the house, the students jumped the locked fence around the backyard to warn anyone who might still be inside. Noticing the back door open and seeing Ms. Lichtenberg still inside, they caught her attention and guided her outside away from the flames. Taylor courageously assisted in getting Ms. Lichtenberg out of the house personally, and the group moved her to safety.

The youths maintained their composure during a time of adversity and conducted themselves in a fashion that has brought honor to themselves, their families, their school, and the entire community of Pueblo. It is always heartening to see young Americans meet such an extraordinary circumstance successfully. Courage like theirs strengthens and protects our communities every day.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to rise today and recognize the heroic efforts of Taylor Proctor before this body of Congress and this nation. Taylor's quick actions, coupled with those of his fellow students, prevented a terrible fire from ending in great tragedy. Their selfless actions are an inspiration to us all, and it is an honor to represent such an outstanding group of Americans in this Congress.