

RECOGNIZING THE FAIRFAX COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE 2003 VALOR AWARD RECIPIENTS

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 11, 2003

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an extraordinary group of men and women in Northern Virginia. Several members of the Fairfax County Office of the Sheriff were honored at the Fairfax County Chamber of Commerce's 25th Annual Valor Awards. Each year, the Chamber recognizes individuals who have courageously demonstrated selfless dedication to public safety. These outstanding men and women have played an intricate role in building a better community. This hard work and determination has earned several members of the Office of the Sheriff the highest honor that Fairfax County bestows upon its public safety officials—The Valor Award.

There are several Valor Awards that a public safety officer can be given: Lifesaving Award, a Certificate of Valor, or a Gold, Silver or Bronze Medal of Valor. During the 25th Annual Awards Ceremony, 88 men and women from the Office of the Sheriff, Fire and Rescue Department, and Police Department received one of the aforementioned honors for their bravery and heroism.

It is with great honor that I enter into the RECORD the names of the recipients of the 2003 Valor Award in the Fairfax County Office of the Sheriff. Receiving the Lifesaving Award: Deputy Charles Taggart; Certificate of Valor: Private First Class Michael Hammond, Private First Class Leslie Sheehan, Deputy Randall Naeve, Master Deputy Sheriff Amy Gaisor, Private First Class Sharon Fogle, Sergeant Kevin Timothy, and Deputy Charles Taggart.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating this group of extraordinary citizens. In addition, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the men and women who serve the Fairfax County Office of the Sheriff. The events of September 11th served as a reminder of the sacrifices our emergency service workers make for us every day. Their constant efforts on behalf of Fairfax County citizens are paramount to preserving security, law and order throughout our neighborhoods, and their individual and collective acts of heroism deserve our highest praise.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO ALOYS AND WANDA SCHNEIDER

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 11, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I rise today to recognize "Moon" and Wanda Schneider of Montrose, Colorado. The Schneiders have been important members of their local community and the State of Colorado for many years, and I would like to pay tribute to their efforts before this body of Congress and this nation today.

The Schneiders have been married for fifty-six years and are the parents of eight children.

The couple began volunteering after Moon retired from the Agriculture Stabilization Conservation Service in 1978. Wanda had learned to play the piano, accordion and clarinet as a young girl in Canon City, so in 1983 the Schneiders started visiting nursing homes, where Wanda would play her keyboard and Moon would entertain the residents with his sharp sense of humor. When the new senior center opened in Montrose, the Schneiders put on their show once a week.

Eight years ago, Wanda volunteered to serve as the senior center's program chairman. Since then, she and Moon have helped with a variety of activities, including producing four plays. Moon himself has starred in three of them, most recently portraying the colorful actress Carmen Miranda. Moon has also served on the board of directors for the Golden Circle for six years, and the couple still finds time to pack and deliver Meals on Wheels.

Mr. Speaker, it is with pride that I recognize Moon and Wanda Schneider for the countless hours they have contributed to the welfare of seniors in Montrose, Colorado. They have been a great asset to the senior center and to the people of the nursing homes they serve. Their active involvement in their community is a credit to Montrose County and the entire State of Colorado.

TRIBUTE TO THE LOLA DE RODRIGUEZ DE TIO ACADEMY OF FUTURE TECHNOLOGIES AT INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL 162 FROM THE SOUTH BRONX

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 11, 2003

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute and to congratulate The Lola de Rodriguez de Tio Academy of Future Technologies at Intermediate School 162 from the South Bronx which, on Saturday, February 8, 2003, won the 2003 New York City FIRST Lego League Tournament. This is a highly competitive tournament that trains students to use Lego blocks and computers to solve challenges that urban planners face every day.

The New York City competition included 115 schools from the five boroughs, including Manhattan East, IS 72—The Rocco Laurle School, Brooklyn Tech, Hunter High School, IS 98K—Bay Academy, MS 51K, Satellite West Academy, IS 227Q—Louis Armstrong, MS 217 Q, IS 90M—Mirabel Sisters, IS 22—Mott Hall, IS 187—The Christa McAuliffe School in Brooklyn, among many others.

Despite being a rookie team they went on to win every category—including the robotics competition and the research competition. They also won the 2003 First Lego League Bronx Ryders Winner of the Top Prize Director's Award.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to recognize the members of the team. From the 8th Grade Team they are: Terrell Washington, Byron Flores, Durrell Washington, Hazel Rivera, Elyse Arroyo, Noel Pichardo, Valentine Dixon and Austin Leak. From the 7th Grade Team they are: Jose Verdejo, David Quiñones, Nikisha Romsaran, Nickolos Rivera, Joshua Rodríguez, Natholy Torella, Jose Matos and Alexis Herrera.

The team will be heading to Houston, Texas to compete in the National Tournament from April 10–April 13. Only 20 teams out of 2500 nationwide have been chosen to compete. We wish these amazing young people from the South Bronx the best of luck.

They have demonstrated that they have the ability and the desire to be assets and role models in our community. We are proud of their accomplishments and I hope they will continue to be successful. They are terrific examples for young men and women throughout our communities.

Again, I congratulate and I wish them the best of luck in their future enterprises. They are our Champions!

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to and congratulating The Lola de Rodriguez de Tio Academy of Future Technologies at Intermediate School 162 from the South Bronx.

RECOGNIZING BOWIE STATE UNIVERSITY MEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 11, 2003

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to give recognition to the Bowie State University men's basketball team. On March 1, 2003, the Bowie State Bulldogs defeated Virginia Union to earn their first central intercollegiate athletic association men's title.

In their first appearance in the CIAA tournament in 30 years of play, the Bulldogs were down 41–32 at half-time against a 14-time league champion. Nevertheless, the team rallied back for a neck-and-neck second half. The winning basket was a heartstopper and came with less than a minute to go, giving the Bulldogs a 72–71 victory.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in recognizing the great accomplishment of the Bowie State University men's basketball team and wish them the best of luck in their upcoming NCAA Division II tournament.

INTRODUCING THE MEDIKIDS HEALTH INSURANCE ACT OF 2003

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 11, 2003

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I join with 34 colleagues to introduce the MediKids Health Insurance Act of 2003, which will provide universal health care for our nation's children through a new Medicare-like national program with benefits tailored toward children.

Sen. JAY ROCKEFELLER is introducing a companion bill in the Senate. I am grateful to Senator ROCKEFELLER for his leadership and commitment to this issue. We are introducing the bill at this time in recognition of the national educational and awareness campaign that has named this week "Cover the Uninsured Week."

Despite Medicaid and the implementation of the S-CHIP program, more than 9 million children are still without health insurance in America today. Now, with states facing severe