

HONORING RETIRING ACADIA
PARISH SHERIFF KENNETH GOSS

HON. CHRISTOPHER JOHN

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 19, 2003

Mr. JOHN. Mr. Speaker, the long and successful career of a good friend is drawing to a close. On June 30, 2004, after 20 years in his current office and over 40 years in law enforcement, Acadia Parish Sheriff Ken Goss will retire.

Sheriff Goss' distinguished career in law enforcement is known and respected across Louisiana. He has been a leader, innovator and enforcer his entire career, consistently keeping his department on the cutting edge of law enforcement while maintaining the respect of his peers and those in the community he serves.

He has received numerous awards and accolades from both his colleagues and his constituents, affirming his dedication to his community and his intense desire to constantly improve the safety of our neighbors. His long career has also incorporated service in the Louisiana Sheriffs' Association, including a term as president of the organization. Moreover, Sheriff Goss serves as a member of the Board of Directors of the National Sheriffs' Association.

He is dedicated to the young people in our community. Throughout his tenure, Sheriff Goss has implemented or expanded programs such as DARE, Mentoring Programs, the School Resource Officer Program, ACAMP—a summer camp for 8–10 year olds, and Basic Training—a summer program for 7th and 8th graders.

He has grown the Acadia Parish Sheriffs Office to 130 deputies and the Detective Division to 8 deputies in the Criminal Investigation Division. True to his desire to constantly improve as the resources allow, numerous programs within Sheriff Goss' department from narcotics to emergency response and communications have been enhanced to meet the needs of our community.

Sheriff Goss is an example to local law enforcers across the country. After 40 years in law enforcement in Acadiana, his record of accomplishment is unparalleled. I wish Sheriff Goss well in his retirement, and I speak for our community when I offer him my humble thanks for his lifetime of dedication to our safety.

IN HONOR OF SUSAN FERREN

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 19, 2003

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a distinguished Californian, Susan Ferren, as she is inducted into the San Mateo County Women's Hall of Fame.

Susan Ferren is a manager in San Mateo County's Human Services Agency and for the past 12 years has dedicated herself to improving health in San Mateo County. In addition to her job at the Human Services Agency, Susan Ferren is a Marriage and Family Therapist Intern and is working toward obtaining her li-

cense. She also works as a Crisis Therapist at Mills/Peninsula Hospital.

Susan Ferren has initiated and managed many innovative programs to address family violence and children's welfare. She is cochair of the Family Self-Sufficiency Policy Team which helps families achieve stability and independence, and a site coordinator for the Fatherhood Project. She serves on the board of directors of Sor Juana Ines and has given many hours of volunteer time to several community service agencies.

Susan Ferren is a mentor to interns at the Human Services Agency and gives generously of her time and talents to nurture them. A single parent, she is justifiably proud of her extraordinary son and daughter. She's been a Cub Scout Leader, a Sunday School Teacher, a Room Parent, a PTA Vice President and a Team Mother for several sports teams.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Susan Ferren as she is inducted into the San Mateo County Women's Hall of Fame.

TRIBUTE TO DOUG WINTER

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 19, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to honor veteran Doug Winter of Paonia, Colorado. It is my privilege to recognize Doug as he prepares to assume the role of State Commander of the Colorado American Legion. Doug believes deeply in our great nation and has demonstrated his dedication and commitment to his country through his service, endurance, and sacrifice in the United States Marine Corps as a battery gunner sergeant. Now, as he prepares to take on his new role as State Commander, I would like to honor Doug's service before this body of Congress and this nation.

Since his service in Vietnam, Doug has demonstrated a deep commitment to his fellow veterans. Thirteen years ago, Doug joined Paonia Post 97 of the American Legion. Since then, he has served as adjutant commander, commander and first vice commander of Post 97, and as District 11 junior and senior vice commander. Doug understands that the completion of military service does not mean the end of a serviceman's responsibility to his fellow veterans. He reaffirms his commitment to his country and his fellow veterans daily, through his work with the Colorado American Legion.

Mr. Speaker, in this time of international uncertainty, our veterans provide a firm foundation for our nation. It is an honor to rise today and recognize Doug Winter before this body of Congress and this nation for his service to this country and dedication to his fellow veterans. For the first time in 25 years, the Colorado American Legion will have a leader from the Western Slope, and it is my distinct honor to represent such a fine American as Doug Winter in this Congress.

SECURE AND FAST ENTRY AT THE
BORDER ACT OF 2003 (SAFE BOR-
DER)

HON. SUSAN A. DAVIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 19, 2003

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss an opportunity to strengthen national security, promote bi-national commerce, and provide assistance to our dedicated agents at the border.

My district touches the U.S.-Mexico border. Because of this proximity, ports of entry play a vital role in our area's economic and social life. Thousands of San Diego and Tijuana residents cross the border every day as commuters, shoppers, or visitors, illustrating the growing global connection between our neighboring countries. Unfortunately, our border infrastructure has not kept pace with the booming traffic volume, and travelers frequently encounter delays and congestion at the border.

The tragic events of September 11 further intensified these challenges along the border. Increased security measures severely over-extended inspection resources and waits lasting up to several hours became commonplace. Ports of entry in other states that had not previously encountered significant delays realized that they were not well equipped to handle future volume growth. This climate raised the need for innovative methods that meld security measures with more efficient practices. For some of my constituents, the answer came in the form of a dedicated commuter lane program called SENTRI.

SENTRI, which stands for Secure Electronic Network for Travelers' Rapid Inspection, accepts only low-risk travelers who pass both an extensive background check to verify their eligibility and a thorough inspection of their vehicle. After passing through these steps, travelers receive the privilege of using an exclusive lane to cross the border into the United States.

Since its introduction, SENTRI has quickly demonstrated its ability to reduce wait times without compromising border security. Border waits often lasted an hour or more before SENTRI, but now average only 5 to 15 minutes for enrollees. Travelers in other lanes also benefit because the prescreened SENTRI crossers move swiftly through the border, reducing the number of motorists using general commuter lanes. Expediting inspections through SENTRI is actually helping to improve border security, as Customs and Border Patrol agents can focus more attention on non-screened drivers and passengers. Additionally, those travelers in SENTRI lanes have a 50 percent greater probability of being referred to secondary inspection than those in regular lanes due to built in random selection. As a result of embedded security measures, statistics show an extremely low rate of fraud among renewal participants. Simply put, SENTRI lanes are more efficient and better inspected than regular commuter lanes.

Unfortunately, SENTRI has become a victim of its own success. SENTRI needs a greater investment of resources to keep up with the current and future demand. Enrollment increased by more than 100 percent after September 11 and, currently, prospective applicants must wait approximately 8 months. I believe that if we want innovative programs like

SENTRI to work, we must provide them with the tools and resources they need to succeed. This is why I am re-introducing the Secure and Fast Entry at the Border Act or SAFE Border Act.

The SAFE Border Act recognizes the contribution of SENTRI to border security and the agents who administer the program. My bill ensures the continuity of SENTRI as the Immigration and Naturalization Service and Customs Department transition into the Department of Homeland Security, and reinforces recent agency action by permanently extending the SENTRI renewal period from 1 to 2 years—enabling border agents to process new applicants and reduce the current enrollment wait. SAFE Border also recommends the appointment of dedicated SENTRI staff to expedite application processing, encourages the creation of a dedicated commuter lane for prescreened, low-risk pedestrian crossers, and promotes the integration of technology at SENTRI sites for increased access at participating ports of entry.

Our agents at the border shoulder an enormous responsibility every day. I believe we owe them the appropriate resources and support they need to carry out their duties. The SAFE Border Act, as a result, increases security by enabling more people to be prescreened and allowing border agents to focus more attention on other border crossers.

Our nation's economic and overall security is heavily linked to smooth and secure border crossings. The SAFE Border Act provides a way for trusted travelers to cross the border securely and quickly.

I urge my colleagues in Congress to act quickly in passing the SAFE Border Act into law.

TRIBUTE TO DR. WALLACE
CONERLY

HON. ROGER F. WICKER

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 19, 2003

Mr. WICKER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to an individual whose dedication and contributions to my home state of Mississippi are exceptional.

Dr. A. Wallace Conerly has devoted his career to public service. A native of Tylertown, Mississippi, Dr. Conerly graduated from Millsaps College in 1957, and went on to receive his M.D. from Tulane University in 1960. He served six years in the United States Air Force until his honorable discharge with the rank of Major. Since 1973, Wally has dedicated his time to the University of Mississippi Medical Center in Jackson, Mississippi.

He held the title of Assistant Vice Chancellor for 13 years until obtaining the title of Chief Executive Officer in 1994. As the CEO of the state's only academic health sciences center, he leads an institution of 7200 employees with an annual budget of more than \$610,000,000.

Dr. Conerly has directed a \$335 million building program, the largest in the history of higher education in Mississippi, including a new children's hospital, a new women and infant's hospital, a new 256 bed adult hospital and a critical care hospital, along with a host of new facilities for the School of Nursing, the

School of Health Related Professions and the Medical Center complex.

He created a campus-wide Office of Research in 1998 to further enhance the Medical Center's research mission. Since that time, grant and contracts awarded to the Medical Center have more than tripled—from approximately \$12 million to more than \$40 Million annually. He spearheaded the Medical Center's efforts to get national Heart, Lung and Blood Institute funding for the Jackson Heat Study, the project that will follow cardiovascular risk factors in African-Americans for decades.

Wally Conerly has worked hard to make the Medical Center a more diverse environment. He has expanded the institution's efforts to recruit and retain minority students. He was successful in securing funding for 12 full scholarships designated for African-American students in the School of Medicine. The scholarships, worth approximately \$25,000 annually to the student, also have helped keep these promising young students in Mississippi—where they are now more likely to practice. Wally also has worked to increase the Medical Center's number of minority employees at the professional level through aggressive recruitment efforts. Currently, 35 percent of UMC's employees in that category are minorities; approximately 45 percent of the Medical Center's total work force is minority. In 2001, Minority Access, Inc. recognized the Medical Center as a "National Role Model Institution" for these achievements. Dr. Conerly has enriched the lives of Mississippians and enhanced the national prominence of the Medical Center resulting in better health care for our citizens.

In August 2002, Secretary of Health and Human Services Tommy Thompson appointed Dr. Conerly to a four-year term on the Board of Regents of the National Library of Medicine. He is the first Mississippi an to serve on the prestigious body. Dr. Conerly has served on the Board of Directors of the American Red Cross, Mississippi Chapter and the Capital Area United Way. He is past president of the Rotary Club of Jackson and past chairman of the Board of Governors of the University Club. He is on the boards of the Metro Jackson Chamber of Commerce, Junior Achievement, the Jackson Medical Education District, the Community Bank and it's a member of the Community Advisory Council of the Junior League of Jackson. In 2001, the Mississippi Division of the Multiple Sclerosis Society honored Dr. Conerly with the Hope Award. He also received Millsaps College's "Alumnus of the Year" award in 2002, and he and his wife Frances Bryan Conerly were recognized as the 2002 People of Vision by Preserve Sight Mississippi. Wally and Frances are the proud parents of two sons, Al and Charlie.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to commend this extraordinary man and my dear friend for his superior service and thank him for his strong commitment to helping the citizens of Mississippi.

IN HONOR OF LENNIE ROBERTS

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 19, 2003

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a great American and a most distin-

guished Californian, Lenore (Lennie) Roberts, as she is inducted into the San Mateo County Women's Hall of Fame.

Ms. Roberts has been named to the Hall of Fame for her success in protecting "much of the open space that makes the San Francisco Peninsula a uniquely beautiful place to live and work."

I founded the Women's Hall of Fame in 1984 to honor women who have made major contributions to our community and our country. Lennie Roberts is the personification of those we honor; she is intelligent, fair, effective, trusted, and articulate. The Peninsula would not be the place it is today without Lennie and her extraordinary work.

Lennie Roberts has a unique vision which extends beyond the limits of San Mateo County. In addition to her work with the Committee for Green Foothills, she serves as a member of the Yosemite Association Board of Trustees and helped form the Yosemite Fund Council of Directors, and is a member of the Citizens Advisory Commission for the Golden Gate National Recreation Area.

Among Lennie Roberts' many achievements were the passage of Measure A which protects San Mateo County's rural coastal area from urban sprawl and her successful fight to prevent a giant freeway from being built on the coastside.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring this great and good woman. Lennie Roberts is one of the most exceptional, effective and respected leaders in our community and through her commitment and professionalism, she has made our communities and our country a better place for all.

TRIBUTE TO VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT
OF NORWOOD-REDVALE

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 19, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I rise before this body of Congress and this nation today to recognize the men and women of the Norwood-Redvale Volunteer Fire Department of Norwood, Colorado. Their heroic efforts are responsible for saving the lives and homes of many in my state, and it is my honor to pay tribute to their efforts today.

On the night of December 29, 2002, there was a fire in a home south of Norwood. Although the home is occupied, there was no one present when the blaze started. The quick actions of the Norwood-Redvale Volunteer Fire Department saved the house, which sustained only minimal smoke damage. Almost the entire fire department responded, including four engines and the ambulance crew, adding up to more than fifteen VFD members on the scene who spent more than three long hours battling the flames.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise to recognize the Norwood-Redvale Volunteer Fire Department before this body of Congress and this nation. Their selfless and capable service is a credit to themselves and their families, and their dedication to community is a great asset to their neighbors and countrymen. I personally thank them for their efforts.