

HONORING JOHN MEHRMANN OF
MANCHESTER, NH

HON. JEB BRADLEY

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 15, 2003

Mr. BRADLEY of New Hampshire. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Manchester's John Mehrmann, New Hampshire's winner of the VFW's Voice of Democracy Scholarship contest. This contest is held each year to give high school students the opportunity to voice their opinion on their responsibility to our country. The following is Mr. Mehrmann's essay:

We were just kids. All our lives, everything was perfect; everything worked. Everything was planned. We went to school. We came home. We slept. We went to school. We came home. We slept. And somewhere along the road of our lives, we would graduate from school. After graduating from school, we would go to a new school, we would come home, and we would sleep. There was nothing to fear; there would always be food in the fridge and gas in the car. Every time we flicked the light switch, there would be light.

Then something happened. Suddenly something, somehow, someday, somewhere—shattered. As the dust settled and the magnitude of what we'd lost became clear, it wasn't the death of an age for us, and it wasn't the death of jokes. But as we walked across the street or through the halls or drove our cars, something was different. The world was smaller that day, and all the faces—you with your expensive car, or you who always had something important to say—they all looked so much alike. They didn't all have the same hair color or number of freckles. Some had straight teeth and some had big chins. But they were all sad. All thinking.

Innocence died that day—the innocence that let us worry about our grades, or the pimples on our noses. The freedom to do what we wanted, when we wanted, was lost somewhere in a hundred stories of broken steel and dust. We didn't grow up when we got our driver's licenses, and we didn't grow up when we got our first jobs or even when we turned 18. We all grew up when we had to.

We heard a lot of talk after our abrupt maturation about freedom and responsibility. There were a lot of speeches, and everyone seemed very serious. But mostly, we knew. We knew we could never be kids again. We finally realized what it meant to be responsible. Being responsible was doing our best, even when no one was watching. The responsibility thrust on us some unexpectedly one late summer morning opened our eyes. We learned to think with our minds and feel with our hearts. Now the people we heard speaking French or Swahili when we came to school each day weren't foreign—they were victims of reality like the rest of us.

We never knew how or when we would grow up. We didn't know why we had to. Then we saw the photos and the film clips of men and women leaping from flames only to careen hundreds of feet to their deaths. Again and again, we saw the missiles which we had all thought so harmless piloted to murder what could have been our entire school in an instant.

Freedom wasn't a badge. Freedom isn't a badge. It isn't a prize trophy to be flaunted and waved in the faces of the enslaved. Freedom is a burden, but a burden worth its price. Responsibility is the price of freedom. Freedom does not unequivocally allow for self-indulgence. Self-indulgence and selfish-

ness are not responsible, and it is irresponsible to self-perpetuate at anyone's expense. We think identities to be so important, and we imagine our lives to be so worthy of greatness that we forget the community of mankind of which we are so preciously miniscule a part.

Obsequiousness and submission are not the stigmas they were before adolescence was made extinct. Freedom is not a right to individuality, but a right to community. It is a right of individuals to determine their sociality within the bounds of a world not limited to oceans or lines drawn on a map, but one which spans the entirety of a globe, encompassing a myriad of peoples with enumerable concerns. It is the responsibility of the world's free people to determine which concerns take precedence. The free peoples of the world must recognize the greater goods for which to strive. Absolute singularity is no longer an option.

20TH ANNIVERSARY OF TRAVEL AND TOURISM

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 15, 2003

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, this week our Nation will celebrate the 20th Anniversary of America's leading industry—the industry you all use—but never consider as an industry. It's called the Travel and Tourism Industry.

The Travel and Tourism Industry is present in every Congressional district in the US. It's our restaurants, our museums, rental car companies, hotels, sports arenas, ski shops, and beaches.

Travel and Tourism brings in over \$1.5 billion to the economy of my district alone. There are 18 million Americans employed directly or indirectly by the tourism industry, and it is one of the few industries that creates a multi-billion dollar trade surplus.

As Co-chair of the Congressional Travel and Tourism Caucus, I've worked with my colleague MARK FOLEY of Florida to educate this body on the importance of tourism to this Nation's economy and to our districts' local economies.

The Travel and Tourism Industry has suffered many setbacks over the last two years including 9/11, the War in Iraq, SARS, and our struggling economy. All this hurt an industry which requires people to have confidence. So I encourage all Americans to take this opportunity to get out there. Take a trip, go to dinner, or visit a park or museum. Enjoy this great country of ours and share it with others.

Let's honor the 20th Anniversary of National Travel and Tourism Week.

NATIONAL POLICE WEEK

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 15, 2003

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor those police officers who devotedly and selflessly work to protect and serve the public on a daily basis. I also pay special tribute to those men and women who have given their lives in the line of duty.

According to the Federal Bureau of Investigation data, 152 law enforcement officers lost their lives while protecting our communities across America in 2002. Of those 72 died by criminal acts, including 54 officers shot, two stabbed, four fatally injured in assaults, and 12 who were killed when somebody drove a vehicle into them. The other officers died as a result of accidents.

During this week of poignant ceremonies, New Mexico remembers three police officers from our State who died last year. We honor Officer Jeffrey Cole Russell of the Albuquerque Police Department, Police Officer Kevin William Schultz of the Pojoaque Pueblo Tribal Police Department, and Deputy Sheriff Damacio Montano of the Valencia County Sheriff's Department. We will never forget these men who made the ultimate sacrifice.

All Americans should keep alive the memory of these three brave and heroic men, and recognize the contributions of the countless other law enforcement officers who have either been slain or disabled while performing their duties. For these reasons I am a proud member of the Congressional Law Enforcement Caucus. Throughout my public career, I have done everything that I can to provide for law enforcement. Whether it is fighting for the COPS program or working to see the Bulletproof Vest Partnership Program be reauthorized, I am eternally grateful for the service of our men and women in blue.

Sadly, in our society today, unless we are personally affected by violence or disorder, we often do not realize the dedication of our law enforcement officers, and the sacrifices they make to keep our communities safe. "National Police Week" is an important time for all Americans to recognize the role law enforcement officers play in safeguarding the rights and freedoms we all enjoy daily and give thanks for their countless hours of service.

Mr. Speaker, we owe a debt of gratitude not only to the slain officers who served their communities so courageously by preserving law and order, but also to their families, who have lost a spouse, parent or child. Our law enforcement officers are heroes and we must never forget their contributions and sacrifices—during "National Police Week," they are well remembered.

RECOGNIZING COMMUNITY HOUSING WORKS OF ESCONDIDO, CA

HON. RANDY "DUKE" CUNNINGHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 15, 2003

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Community Housing Works (CHWorks) of Escondido, CA for receiving the Fannie Mae Foundation's annual Maxwell Award of Excellence on May 13, 2003.

Community Housing Works was created by the 2002 merger of Community Housing of North County and the San Diego Neighborhood Housing Services to provide housing, re-investment and community leadership opportunities throughout the San Diego region. CHWorks was one of eight organizations hand-picked to be an inaugural member of the San Diego Foundation's Organizational Effectiveness capacity building program.

Community Housing Works helps the homeless and also helps people achieve stable rental housing and homeownership by providing personal finance education, homeownership classes and counseling, and low-income and first-time homebuyers with down payment and closing costs. This organization has acquired and refurbished more than 70 homes and helped more than 400 low and moderate income people buy homes in San Diego County. They have also rehabilitated nearly 800 apartments in well maintained rental complexes. Their award winning designs have received national recognition, from TIME magazine to the American Institute of Architects.

The Fannie Mae Foundation is recognizing Community Housing Works today for their dedication to the refurbishment of the Bandar Salaam apartment complex. Due to the efforts of CHWorks, the Bandar Salaam apartment complex is now a safe, renovated home for 340 residents, and it will remain affordable for the next 55 years. This complex is primarily occupied by Somali refugees with large families. Prior to the acquisition by CHWorks, many of the Somali residents found the living conditions no better than at the refugee camps that they had fled. Bandar Salaam has evolved into a place where people are creating a land of peace in the community.

The success of this project is due to the creativity and flexibility of CHWorks, and the commitment of a number of private financing sources, including the San Diego Housing Commission, the Bank of America, the California Equity Fund, and the San Francisco Federal Home Loan Bank. I would also like to recognize the incredible efforts of the dedicated and organized community of the Bandar Salaam complex. These residents were willing to accept many challenges in order to make their community vibrant and healthy.

I ask my colleagues to join me today in congratulating Community Housing Works, the residents of the Bandar Salaam complex, and all those who assisted in making this project a success.

HONORING DOYLE ELAM CARLTON

HON. JIM DAVIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 15, 2003

Mr. DAVIS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Doyle Elam Carlton, Jr., a sixth-generation Floridian whose love of our state, its people and its land made him one of Florida's finest public servants.

Although Doyle was raised in Tampa, his heart was in Florida's countryside. A successful cattleman, Doyle held a deep respect for the land and was all cowboy through and through.

However, most Floridians remember Doyle for his years in public service and the integrity with which he served. Doyle was a state senator for 10 years, and during that time he was repeatedly recognized for his leadership. His work in the Senate to secure funding for the eradication of the screwworm, which was devastating Florida's cattle, earned him his 1991 induction into the Florida Agriculture Hall of Fame.

In 1957, he fought an attempt by the Legislature to close Florida's public schools rather

than comply with the U.S. Supreme Court's order to integrate. In recognition of his efforts, the Florida Democratic party gave him the first LeRoy Collins Award for Political Courage.

During Doyle's 1960 run for governor, he narrowly lost the Democratic runoff to Farris Bryant because he chose to face down segregationists rather than give into political pressures. Shortly before the runoff, Doyle publicly stated that he would not remove his children from a public school if it was integrated.

Every Floridian who enjoys our annual Florida State Fair also owes a debt of gratitude to Doyle. In 1976, Doyle became a charter member of the Florida State Fair authority and served as chairman for more than a decade. Doyle and his wife helped create the Cracker Country exhibit at the Fair, a preserved collection of Florida's pioneer buildings. For his efforts the Tampa Historical Society presented him with the D.B. McKay Award for significant contributions to the cause of Florida's history.

Doyle will also be remembered for his generosity to a host of charitable causes including the Hardee Memorial Hospital, Pioneer Park in Zolfo Springs and Tampa's Joshua House for unwed mothers. Doyle served on the Southern Baptist Convention's brotherhood Commission from 1956 to 1963 and as Vice President of the Florida Baptist Convention in 1960. He was an active member of Wauchula Baptist Church, where he was memorialized this week.

Most of all, Doyle was a family man. A dedicated husband to his wife, Mildred, and father of three, Doyle always made time for family. On behalf of the Tampa Bay community, I would like to extend my deepest sympathies to Doyle's family and friends. Doyle's selfless, lifelong devotion to Florida and all its citizens made him a man for all seasons and a shining example for every Floridian he touched. Doyle encouraged and guided countless leaders throughout Florida and his example will continue to inspire the best in future generations of Floridians.

MINING LAW REFORM
LEGISLATION

HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 15, 2003

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, nearly 131 years to the day after President Ulysses S. Grant signed the 1872 General Mining Law, today I am introducing legislation to provide much needed environmental and fiscal oversight for the hardrock mining industry, the nation's largest toxic polluter. Joining me in sponsoring this bill are CHRISTOPHER SHAYS, JAY INSLEE, EARL BLUMENAUER, BRIAN BAIRD, SHEILA JACKSON-LEE, DALE KILDEE, GEORGE MILLER, BILL LIPINSKI, MARK UDALL, RON KIND, BARNEY FRANK, GRACE NAPOLITANO, ENI FALEOMVAEGA, RAUL GRIJALVA, HILDA SOLIS, BETTY MCCOLLUM, ADAM SCHIFF, and JIM MCDERMOTT. I would add that our bill is endorsed by 43 organizations representing affected citizens and taxpayers across the Nation.

This bipartisan legislation would overhaul an antiquated statute signed into law by President Grant on May 10, 1872—a law that contains no environmental protection provisions gov-

erning the mining of hardrock minerals such as platinum, gold, silver, and copper on public domain lands in the western States; prevents the federal government from stopping ill-advised proposed mines on federal lands; and has left the headwaters of 40 percent of western waterways polluted by mining. The 1872 Mining Law also allows extraction of these minerals from the public domain without the payment of a royalty to the American taxpayers and allows a mining company to purchase mineral rich public lands for no more than \$5 an acre irrespective of its true value.

Our legislation would bring hardrock mining law into the 21st century. It would protect precious water resources from toxic mine waste with much needed environmental standards, and prevent mining industry ripoffs by requiring the industry to pay a royalty on the extraction of publicly owned minerals. It would also prevent mining operations from endangering federally designated wilderness areas and other special places by requiring land managers to weigh mine proposals against other potential land uses when making permitting decisions.

The lack of a royalty in the 1872 Mining Law and the absence of deterrents or penalties for irresponsible mining have caused enormous taxpayer giveaways and liabilities. Under the Mining Law the federal government has given away over \$245 billion in mineral rich public lands. And, in return, the mining industry has left taxpayers with a cleanup bill estimated to be in the range of \$32 to \$72 billion for hundreds of thousands of abandoned mines that pollute the western landscape.

To be sure, Congress has attempted to reform the Mining Law at various times over its history—each time to be thwarted by powerful mining interests. Former Congressman Mo Udall came close to achieving reform of the mining law in the 1970's. During the 102d Congress in 1991, I introduced mining reform legislation and we came close to enacting legislation that would have reformed this archaic law in 1994. But, at the last moment, after both the House and the Senate had passed separate bills, the Conference failed to reach a compromise and the rest, as they say, is history. Since then, I have re-introduced reform legislation in each succeeding Congress.

Many Americans support reform and question why Congress does not address this issue. These people believe that American taxpayers are being robbed every time a multinational conglomerate breaks U.S. ground and mines our valuable minerals for free. These people also wish to be protected from the poisoned streams and pockmarked vistas that are the historic legacy of the mining industry. Attached to my remarks is a letter signed by 43 organizations representing many of these affected citizens and taxpayers, all of whom endorse mining law reform.

The Rock Creek Alliance, one of the endorsers of our bill, is an example of the growing grassroots support for mining reform. This Idaho-based organization is battling a proposed silver and copper mine on the Idaho-Montana border.

If the plan is approved, as expected, the mining operator will bore two three mile tunnels underneath the Cabinet Mountains Wilderness Area, one of the first areas protected under the Wilderness Act of 1964. This mine will threaten one of the last remaining grizzly bear populations in the Lower 48 states, negatively impact populations of threatened native