

Walk in Atlanta, Georgia. During this inspiring event, Mrs. Spears walked twenty-miles per day for 3 days and represented women everywhere that are battling this terrible disease. Recently, in Atlanta, she walked in the Susan G. Kormen Race For the Cure; an event that is celebrating its 20th Anniversary and is now the largest series of 5K races in the world. Thanks to dedicated volunteers like Mrs. Spears, the Susan G. Kormen Breast Cancer Foundation has raised over \$250 million for education, research, screening and treatment. On June 7, 2003, Mrs. Spears will walk again in her quest to fight cancer, here in our Nation's Capital, in the National Race For the Cure.

I am honored to recognize Mrs. Rebecca Sue Spears on this momentous occasion. She is an inspiration to her husband, James E. Spears, her two daughters, Kathryn and Karen, her two sons Jimmy and Steven, her six grandchildren, and countless others who are battling this disease. In her own words she describes her relentless determination by saying, "I walk and will continue to walk until a cure is found with hopes and prayers that my daughters, grandchildren, other family members and friends, as well as millions of others, will never have to be told—you have cancer."

INTRODUCING DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA DISTRICT ATTORNEY ESTABLISHMENT ACT OF 2003

**HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON**

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 4, 2003*

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today I introduce the District of Columbia District Attorney Establishment Act of 2003 continuing a series of bills that I will introduce this session to ensure a continuation of the process of transition to full democracy and self-government for the residents of the District of Columbia.

This bill will establish an Office of District Attorney for the District of Columbia, to be headed by a District Attorney elected by D.C. residents. Accordingly, this bill would move the city a quantum leap toward full home rule for the District of Columbia and equality with other Americans. This bill effectuates a November 2002 referendum where D.C. voters overwhelmingly (82%) approved a locally elected D.A.

This important legislation is designed to put the District of Columbia on par with every other local jurisdiction in the country by allowing D.C. residents to elect an independent District Attorney to prosecute local criminal and civil matters now handled by the U.S. Attorney, a federal official. Instead the new District Attorney would become the city's chief legal officer.

There is no issue of greater importance to our citizens and no issue on which residents have less say here than the prosecution of local crimes. A U.S. Attorney has no business in the local criminal affairs of local jurisdictions. No other citizens in the United States are treated so unfairly on an issue of such major importance. This bill would simply make the D.A. accountable to the people who elect him or her as elsewhere in the country.

In addition to issues of democracy and self government, such as congressional voting

rights and legislative and budget autonomy that we are entitled to as American citizens, district residents are determined to make every effort to achieve each and every other element of home rule. Amending the Home Rule Act with a local D.A. provision would be a dramatic development toward our goal of achieving true self-government. I urge my colleagues to support this important measure.

CONGRATULATING MISS UNIVERSE  
AMELIA VEGA

**HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 4, 2003*

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Ms. Amelia Vega of the Dominican Republic on being crowned Miss Universe in ceremonies held in Panama City, Panama on June 3, 2003. She was selected for this honor in a competition that featured more than 70 of the most beautiful young women in the world.

It was also a good night for the women of the Caribbean, who earned the pageant's other honors. Miss Dominican Republic, in addition to winning the big prize, was voted as the best dressed contestant while Miss Puerto Rico, Carla Tricoli, was awarded the title of Miss Photogenic and Miss Antigua and Barbuda, Kai Davis, was honored as Miss Congeniality.

Miss Vega, who is the first Dominican to win the beauty pageant, won the crowd and the judges over with a humble confidence that extended beyond her 18 years of age. She intends to spend the next year pursuing her dreams of an entertainment career and leading fundraising efforts on behalf of AIDS research and awareness.

The Miss Universe title opens doors for both its winner and her country of origin. As the native country of the current Miss Universe, Panama was able to host this year's pageant, helping to generate what government officials say could be as much as \$60,000,000 in revenues. Perhaps as important, it is also a source of national pride and inspiration for all those associated with the Dominican community, abroad and in the United States. As a representative of a district that contains the largest concentration of Dominicans outside of Quisqueya, I join the people of Washington Heights as they bask in the joy of seeing one of their own succeed on such a competitive world stage.

Miss Vega understands that alongside the numerous "once in a lifetime opportunities," her fame will allow her to affect the image that the world has of the Dominican people and its culture. Although potentially daunting, it is a responsibility that she is excited to accept. As she told the crowd last night, "I didn't come here just for the crown, but also to make my country proud."

Undoubtedly, she is on her way.

TRIBUTE TO SUZANNE NEWLIN

**HON. SCOTT McINNIS**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 4, 2003*

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to stand and pay tribute to an

outstanding educator from my district. Suzanne Newlin, a teacher at Montrose High School in Montrose, Colorado, is the recipient of this year's high school teacher of the year award from the National Association for Sport and Physical Education. Suzanne is an innovative teacher with an uncanny ability to motivate her students, and I am honored to recognize her commitment and dedication to education today.

Suzanne has made it her life's work to get her students hooked on physical activities that they can enjoy throughout their lives. Most kids won't take part in team sports as adults, so she introduces them to other activities such as bicycling, rock climbing and power walking. Suzanne not only participates with her students, but she teaches them how to get the most out of their workouts and individualize the sessions by including heart-rate monitors. Suzanne does teach traditional team sports as well, though she does so by personally demonstrating skills and techniques to make the experience more meaningful.

Mr. Speaker, Suzanne's positive spirit, creativity and innovation make her a true asset to the students of Montrose High School, and it is my pleasure to recognize her efforts here today. She not only touches the lives of her students, but she gives them the tools to succeed later in life. That is a precious gift, and it is a great honor to speak of her inspirational accomplishments before this body.

HONORING MARÍA ELENA DURAZO

**HON. HILDA L. SOLIS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 4, 2003*

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Ms. María Elena Durazo who is receiving the 2003 Paul Wellstone Citizen Leadership Award for her outstanding service to the Hotel Employees and Restaurant Employees Union of Los Angeles.

As President of the Hotel Employees and Restaurant Employees Union (H.E.R.E.) Ms. Durazo has helped the union emerge as a vital force in the life of Los Angeles residents, representing over 250,000 workers in the hospitality industry in the U.S. In 1996, she also became the first Latina to be elected to the national leadership of the H.E.R.E. International Union and has long served as a role model for other Latina leaders.

Ms. Durazo has worked tirelessly to obtain justice for the mostly immigrant-based union in Los Angeles, adopting a policy of bilingualism for its union meetings and newspaper. Furthermore, she has empowered countless bilingual employees to acquire positions and benefits they deserve. Under her leadership, the union has been widely recognized as one of the most active rank and file unions in southern California, striving to build valuable coalitions among community, church, academic, ethnic, and political organizations throughout the local area.

María Elena has further advanced the Hotel Employees and Restaurant Employees Union by securing and improving citywide hotel contracts, increasing wages and benefits for thousands of hotel workers in downtown Beverly Hills and the Westside. María Elena now serves as National Director of the Immigrant

Workers' Freedom Ride, campaigning to improve immigration laws in the United States.

With these accomplishments, it is fitting that she will receive the Paul Wellstone Citizen Leadership Award. I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring Ms. Maria Elena Durazo for her diligent work in improving labor conditions for the workers of southern California.

HONORING TESS CARMICHAEL

**HON. SCOTT McINNIS**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 4, 2003*

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to stand before this body of Congress today to recognize a dedicated educator from my district. Tess Carmichael recently retired from Mesa State College in Grand Junction after teaching mass communications for over 30 years. We should all be inspired by the many years of enthusiastic service Tess has given to her students and it is my pleasure to highlight a few of her outstanding accomplishments here today.

Tess began her education at Western State College, receiving four Bachelor's Degrees. She went from there to the University of Colorado where she earned her Master's degree in Journalism and Mass Communications. Tess found her way to Mesa State in 1973, and through the years her passion and dedication to her students has remained steadfast. Her impact at Mesa State spans the entire campus, as she has taught courses in business, theater, speech, English, and mass communications. Just think of the countless number of lives Tess has touched. She not only has lent her talents but also passion to her work and, by so doing, she has given her students an awesome gift—the opportunity to succeed.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to stand before this Congress today to express my gratitude and reverence for Tess Carmichael's many years of service. This is a chance to remind us all of the importance teachers play in guiding our youth and of the admiration and respect they deserve. Teaching is truly a noble calling and Tess Carmichael has answered that call. Thank you Tess, for your many years of dedicated and selfless public service.

IN SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF  
CORY M. SINNING ON HIS APPOINTMENT TO ATTEND THE  
UNITED STATES AIR FORCE  
ACADEMY

**HON. PAUL E. GILLMOR**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 4, 2003*

Mr. GILLMOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to an outstanding young man from Ohio's Fifth Congressional District. I am happy to announce that Cory M. Sinning of Van Wert, Ohio, has been offered an appointment to attend the United States Military Academy.

Mr. Speaker, Cory's offer of appointment poises him to attend the United States Military Academy this fall with the incoming cadet class of 2007. Attending one of our nation's

military academies is an invaluable experience that offers a world-class education and demands the very best that these young men and women have to offer. Truly, it is one of the most challenging and rewarding undertakings of their lives.

Cory brings a special mix of leadership, service, and dedication to the incoming class of West Point cadets. While attending Van Wert High School, Van Wert, Ohio, Cory has attained a grade point average of 3.81, which places him twenty of one hundred sixty-nine students. During his time at Van Wert High School, Cory has received several commendations for his superior scholastic efforts. Cory's accomplishments include being a four year Renaissance Card Holder and a member of the National Honor Society.

Outside the classroom, Cory has distinguished himself as an excellent athlete. On the fields of friendly strife, Cory participated in Basketball where he earned his Varsity Letter and served as a team captain for three years. In addition to his athletic accomplishments, Cory proved himself a dedicated citizen of Van Wert through dedicating time to volunteer for Elementary Basketball Camps, Junior High Basketball Camps, YMCA, and Served as a Mentor for At-Risk Students.

Mr. Speaker, I would ask my colleagues to stand and join me in paying special tribute to Cory M. Sinning. Our service academies offer the finest education and military training available anywhere in the world. I am sure that Cory will do very well during his career at United States Military Academy and I wish him the very best in all of his future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO MR. AND MRS.  
ANTHONY ROSE, SR.

**HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 4, 2003*

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate an exceptional couple, Mr. and Mrs. Anthony Rose, Sr. as they celebrate their 50th Wedding Anniversary on Friday, June 6, 2003.

Mr. Anthony Rose and his wife, Mrs. Francis Rose, are the proud parents of nine children, one of which lives in my Congressional District.

Their children are outstanding members of the communities in which they reside. Several are business owners and one son is a professional basketball player. They have nineteen grandchildren and one great-grandchild who are truly the "apples of their eyes".

The Roses have made invaluable contributions to our society and are commended for their achievements and commitments.

Mr. Rose is a decorated Veteran. He served with distinction in the United States Army, which included fighting in the Korean War. Mrs. Rose was employed for 18 years with Eastman Kodak where she worked in a lab until her retirement.

Today, the Roses are active members of Memorial A.M.E. Zion Church in Rochester, NY where they have worshipped for the last 52 years. They are also weekly volunteers at the local Soup Kitchen and the YMCA.

I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Mr. and Mrs. Anthony Rose on 50 years

of a loving relationship. They are truly examples of what all married couples strive for—a life-long partnership.

I wish them continued success and more happy years.

THE F.C.C. DECISION

**HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 4, 2003*

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. The health of our democracy depends on a full and open airing of ideas and opinions. Monday's action by the Federal Communications Commission will limit the range of voices and opinions Americans will hear in the marketplace of ideas. With marginal media coverage and little solicited public participation, the FCC's vote to relax media ownership rules has made possible the further concentration of the print and broadcast media in the hands of only a small number of powerful corporations.

The FCC's action will only deepen existing concerns about an industry plagued by accusations of homogeneity and fears that the news and views Americans hear is dominated and controlled by a few powerful voices. Years ago, Congress debated the rules that regulate the cable industry. One of the strongest arguments in support of cable at that time was that the medium would increase the opportunity for a diversity of voices in an arena where only a few corporations controlled America's access to information. Yesterday, the FCC said its decision to allow greater media concentration was motivated largely by the dearth of choices offered by the cable industry today. They argue that the current rules are outdated and discourage competition. But they ignore the fact that the lofty aspirations set years ago for the cable industry have fallen short of the mark. Today an alarmingly small number of corporations like General Electric, AOL Time Warner, Viacom and Disney control not only the conduits through which information flows to the public, but increasingly, the program content as well. The FCC's decision will only continue this trend.

This is a dangerous road we are on. As media concentration has grown over the years, we have watched as more and more voices have been pushed from the public stage. Not only minority voices and alternative viewpoints, but increasingly even local community voices are silenced as corporate executives adjust program schedules to maximize their bottom lines.

Despite the best efforts of the FCC and those in the media who stand to gain the most financially, the public has been able to make its opposition to this change known. Members of Congress have received thousands of calls from angry constituents who, already concerned about the lack of choice, fear that the FCC's decision will mean a further erosion of choice. The day before the FCC was to deliver its decision, they had to shut down their public email box because it overflowed with hundreds of thousands of complaints from ordinary citizens who recognized the gathering threat. Ted Turner and Barry Diller wrote editorials opposing the FCC's plan and groups across the political spectrum from the NRA to now joined the chorus of voices condemning the decision.