

most refugees and has extended help generously in the past. This year, World Refugee Day renews a commitment to explore all means possible to encourage cooperation among nations in seeking permanent and durable humanitarian solutions for refugees.

On World Refugee Day, the UNHCR celebrates the many contributions of refugees around the globe, as well as highlights their particular vulnerabilities and ongoing need for protection and assistance. This year, World Refugee Day is dedicated to refugee youth. In Central Africa alone, 57 percent of refugees are under age 18. Young people between the ages of 12 and 24 represent about 35 percent of all refugees. Deprived of the protection of their homes and communities, young people are vulnerable to abuses including forced labor; military or terrorist recruitment; and sexual exploitation.

This year, we recognize the governments of Kenya, Tanzania, and Zambia in honor of World Refugee Day. Tanzania is home to Africa's largest refugee population, primarily from Burundi and Congo-Kinshasa. According to Refugees International, 700,000 refugees have found safe haven in Tanzania. The Republic of Kenya continues to provide sanctuary for refugees and displaced persons from Sudan, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Somalia, Somaliland, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi and Djibouti. The new leadership is moving forward in a positive and receptive direction. Over 250,000 refugees continue to seek refuge there. The peaceful transition in Angola and the innovative burden-sharing arrangement by the Zambian government, as host to Angolan refugees, also deserves praise. There is much to be learned from their example. We encourage these and other governments in their continued hospitality and promotion of humanitarian assistance to refugees and displaced persons.

TRIBUTE: TELLURIDE VOLUNTEER
FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 19, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise before this body of Congress today to pay tribute to the

contributions that the men and women of the Telluride Volunteer Fire Department have made to the Telluride community and the State of Colorado. This year, the Telluride Volunteer Fire Department will be marking its 125th anniversary of service to the community. As we reflect upon this landmark anniversary, I would like to commend the Telluride Volunteer Fire Department for its invaluable public service.

The Telluride Volunteer Fire Department's technology has evolved at the same rapid pace as the town that it serves. Since its early days, the department has become one of the best-equipped volunteer fire departments in the country. In addition to its technology and equipment, the efficacy of the Department has depended upon its volunteers' unwavering commitment and the community's steadfast support. The department's skill and level of commitment have earned it a position as one of the most respected organizations in the community.

The Department serves the Telluride community in numerous ways. Each year, the Department provides a \$1,000 renewable scholarship to one graduating senior from Telluride High School. This year, members of the Fire Department expect to increase the amount of the scholarship to \$1,500. Moreover, the Department is responsible for putting on a spectacular fireworks display each year for its Fourth of July celebration.

Mr. Speaker, I am deeply honored to pay tribute to the Telluride Volunteer Fire Department. The Fire Department's volunteers selflessly sacrifice their time in order to provide a vital service to the Telluride community. I commend the Telluride Volunteer Fire Department for 125 years of excellence and thank its volunteers for their exemplary public service.

HONORING SERGEANT DALE D.
STEVENSON

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 19, 2003

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today on behalf of the wonderful men and women of the Michigan State Police. Day after

day, these brave people work to maintain safe streets for our children to live and play. On June 20, the Michigan State Police will recognize one of their own, as they gather to celebrate the retirement of Sergeant Dale D. Stevenson after 25 years of dedicated service. Dale Stevenson was born October 5, 1955 in Caro, MI, and graduated from Caro High School in 1973. In 1977, he graduated from Delta College with an Associated Degree in Law Enforcement and Police Administration, and a year later began his career with the Michigan State Police, with an assignment to the Ypsilanti, MI, Post. In 1983, he returned home to work at the Caro Post, and after stints in Bay City and Sandusky, was again stationed in Caro, where he remained, serving as Acting Lieutenant/Post Commander.

During his 25-year tenure with the State Police, Sgt. Stevenson was the well-deserving recipient of numerous honors and citations, and his actions have benefited law enforcement officials from all over the state. A member of the State Police Underwater Recovery Unit since 1981, Dale has played a vital part in many investigations throughout the Great Lakes. From saving drowning victims in Saginaw Bay to joining recovery units for the Mackinac Bridge, he constantly put his own safety at risk to help keep others from harm. His underwater work has given him the opportunity to act as team leader in an international effort to recover a sunken vessel from the Detroit River, and take part in a submerged vehicle study featured on the Discovery Channel.

In addition to becoming an upstanding member of his hometown community, Dale has always found time to be a devoted husband to Linda, his wife of 25 years, and father to their sons Ty and Christopher, and daughter Jocelyn. Dale is also a member of the First Baptist Church of Caro, and is District Chairman of Ducks Unlimited.

Mr. Speaker, as a Member of Congress, I consider it my duty and my privilege to protect and defend human dignity and the quality of life for our citizens. I am extremely grateful to have a person like Sgt. Dale Stevenson who shares these beliefs, and has made it his life's work to see this task achieved. I ask my colleagues in the 108th Congress to please join me in congratulating Dale, and wishing him the very best in his retirement.