

Training and Doctrine Command at Fort Monroe, Virginia. At Fort Monroe, she worked with the Deputy Chief of Staff for Resource Management in the planning, execution, and overall management of resources totaling 4.2 billion dollars.

As a reflection of the leadership skills and financial management expertise that have allowed her to shape the future of financial services for soldiers and their units serving worldwide, Colonel Berard has received numerous awards and decorations. Eight Meritorious Service Medals, two Army Commendation Medals and two Army Achievement Medals are only a few of the many distinctions that she received throughout her career. Upon her retirement, Colonel Berard will be awarded the prestigious Legion of Merit, an honor reserved for members of the Armed Forces who have displayed exceptionally outstanding conduct in the performance of meritorious service to the United States. This tremendous award is a fitting tribute to Colonel Berard for her courage, patriotic service, and exemplary dedication to her profession.

I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Colonel Berard for her service to the Nation and the United States Army, and wish her and her family all the best in their future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO DON MOFFATT

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 24, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise before this body of Congress and this nation today to pay tribute to the life and memory of a great citizen from my district. Don Moffatt of Crested Butte, Colorado recently passed away at the age of 58, and as his family and friends mourn Don's passing, I would like to pay tribute to his life and memory.

Don was an active member of his community. He served on the Board of the Adaptive Sports Center, where he worked hard to secure funding to help physically-challenged adults and children. Don was also an avid golfer and was active with the Crested Butte Open. Throughout the community Don was widely admired and respected. Don treated everyone he met with courtesy and respect, and he will always be remembered as someone who looked for, and found, the best in those around him.

Mr. Speaker, Don Moffatt was a beloved member of the Crested Butte community. His love for life and dedication to his friends and neighbors touched many lives. While Don has passed on, his legacy will continue to live. I am honored to join with my colleagues in honoring Don here today.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LEE TERRY

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 24, 2003

Mr. TERRY. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, September 23, 2003, I missed four votes due to

a funeral for Omaha Police Sergeant Jason Pratt, who was killed in the line of duty. Had I been present, I would have voted NO on: Roll Call Vote #509—The Motion to Instruct on H.R. 1308 and Roll Call Vote #510—The Motion to Instruct on H.R. 1.

I would have voted YES on: Roll Call Vote #511—The Motion to Instruct on H.R. 1588 and Roll Call Vote #512—H.R. 1409—To provide for a Federal land exchange for the environmental, educational, and cultural benefit of the American public and the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, and for other purposes.

HONORING REV. SCOTT R. PILARZ ON HIS INAUGURATION AS THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNIVERSITY OF SCRANTON

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 24, 2003

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call the attention of the House of Representatives to the inauguration of Rev. Scott R. Pilarz as the new President of the University of Scranton. I am pleased to be joining the entire community of Northeastern Pennsylvania in welcoming him to the area this Friday, September 26, 2003.

Rev. Scott R. Pilarz, S.J., Ph.D. has a remarkable background and career. He entered the Society of Jesus in 1981 and was ordained a priest in 1992. He received his bachelor's degree in English from Georgetown University, and a master's degree in philosophy from Fordham University and in divinity and theology from the Weston School of Theology in Cambridge, Massachusetts. He went on to earn a Ph.D. in English at the City University of New York, CUNY, and his dissertation won the 1997 CUNY Alumni Achievement Prize for Dissertation Excellence.

As he was completing his studies at Weston, Father Pilarz served as a lecturer in the philosophy department of St. Peter & Paul Seminary at the University of Ibadan, Nigeria. While completing doctoral studies, he was appointed to the English faculty of St. Joseph's University in 1994. In 1996, he joined the Georgetown faculty as an assistant professor of English. In 2002, he was appointed interim University Chaplain, where he served as a member of the President's Cabinet and was responsible for leading campus ministry efforts on Georgetown's Main, Medical and Law campuses. He worked with the President to promote Georgetown's Catholic and Jesuit character, sponsored inter-religious dialogue and coordinated interfaith activities on all three of Georgetown's campuses.

He was recognized by the Georgetown Alumni Association in 2002 with the William Gaston Award for Outstanding Service and was chosen by the graduating class of 1999 to receive the Edward B. Bunn, S.J., Award for Faculty Excellence, an award that recognizes outstanding teaching and service.

As a scholar, Father Pilarz has delivered numerous papers at scholarly conferences on various aspects of Medieval and Renaissance literature. He has also lectured and published on topics related to Jesuit education. His articles on John Donne, Robert Southwell and Medieval drama have appeared in academic

journals and collections of essays, and his book, Robert Southwell, S.J., and the Mission of Literature 1561–1595: Writing Reconciliation, will be published by Ashgate Press.

In 1998, he received a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities, and he has received three research grants and a competitive junior faculty research leave from Georgetown.

Father Pilarz serves on the boards of Boston College, Loyola University of Chicago, the Community Medical Center, Scranton, and Camden Catholic High School in Cherry Hill, N.J., from which he graduated. His professional memberships include the John Donne Society, the Renaissance Society of America, the Shakespeare Association of America, the Medieval and Renaissance Drama Society, the Polish Institute of Arts and Sciences of America, and the Modern Language Association.

Father Pilarz has served as a member of The University of Scranton's Board of Trustees since 2000. In April of 2003, The University of Scranton's Board of Trustees completed a national search and announced the selection of Father Pilarz as the next President.

Father Pilarz became the twenty-fourth President of The University of Scranton on July 1, 2003.

Mr. Speaker The University of Scranton is, by tradition, choice and heartfelt commitment, a Catholic and Jesuit university. Founded in 1888 as Saint Thomas College by the Most Reverend William G. O'Hara, D.D., the first bishop of Scranton, it achieved university status in 1938 and was entrusted to the care of the Society of Jesus in 1942.

On the inauguration of its newest President, I would like to pay tribute to the University of Scranton, its administration, trustees, faculty, alumni, and students. I would also like to wish Father Pilarz the best of luck as he leads this university into the future. Thank you.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 24, 2003

Mr. CARTER. Mr. Speaker, during rollcall votes 509, 510, and 511, Representative Ryan (OH) Motion to Instruct Conferees on H.R. 1308, Representative Stenholm Motion to Instruct Conferees on H.R. 1, and Representative Rodriguez Motion to Instruct Conferees on H.R. 1588, I was unavoidably detained. If I had been present, I would have voted "no."

During rollcall vote 512, the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians Land Exchange Act of 2003, H.R. 1409, I was unavoidably detained. If I had been present, I would have voted "yea."

TRIBUTE TO TRI-COUNTY HOUSING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 24, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise before this body of Congress and this nation today to pay

tribute to an organization that is dedicated to serving people in need of affordable housing. The Tri-County Housing & Community Development Corporation serves Colorado's Bent, Crowley, and Otero counties. The corporation works to rehabilitate homes and bring neighborhoods back to life. It is for their ongoing efforts to provide safe, sanitary, and affordable housing to the residents of Colorado that I would like to recognize Tri-County here today.

The Tri-County Housing & Community Development Corporation was created in 1991 to provide assistance in rehabilitating low-income housing. Over the years, Tri-County has received several accolades, including the Eagle Award from Colorado Housing NOW, as well as acknowledgement from Housing and Urban Development Secretary Henry Cisneros.

From helping build or repair homes to answering questions regarding financing, Tri-County serves local homeowners in many ways. Tri-County serves more than homeowners, though. The corporation also owns and operates several low-income housing apartments. Tri-County remains active in community development, assisting with downtown renovations, restoration of historic train stations, and improving local senior centers. Tri-County has been a major help in securing funding for the creation of parks, libraries, nature trails, and other community services.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize an organization committed to creating and maintaining safe, sanitary, and affordable housing. Tri-County Housing & Community Development Corporation provides a needed service to a grateful community. Tri-County's work lifts not only individual people but transforms the entire community. I join with my colleagues today in honoring this dedicated and hard-working organization.

RECOGNIZING REPUBLIC OF
KAZAKHSTAN

HON. JOE BARTON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 24, 2003

Mr. BARTON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Republic of Kazakhstan for its potential to enhance our nation's energy independence and for its significant contributions in support of the United States in the War on Terror. I ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing the strategic importance of Kazakhstan to our nation's well-being.

It is widely recognized that the United States relies greatly on imports of OPEC oil from the Middle East. This reliance is exacerbated by the present instability of that region. Mr. Speaker, if the United States is to become truly energy independent, it must seek non-OPEC alternatives for our supply of oil. Kazakhstan can—and is willing to—help greatly in this endeavor.

The Caspian region of Central Asia contains a wealth of oil reserves. Kazakhstan, in particular, shows great promise. Adding to its robust economy, over the past six years, Kazakhstan has more than doubled its production of oil from 415,000 to almost 1 million barrels per day. By 2015, Kazakhstan is expected to produce 2.5 million barrels per day. This production would place it among the top non-OPEC producers of oil in the world. However,

Kazakhstan requires foreign investment in order to improve and expand its oil and gas infrastructure so that the benefit of its significant reserves can be realized.

Importantly, Kazakhstan has taken steps to promote transparency in its financial transactions, particularly with regard to oil transactions. The government recently established the National Fund, which will be a model for openness and disclosure in the management of the country's oil revenues. The government also has pledged transparency and openness in future oil and gas contracts, and has officially endorsed the British government's Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative.

Kazakhstan is a young country struggling to institute meaningful democratic reforms. This has been a difficult path to travel and much work remains. Yet from the beginning, Kazakhstan's tangible progress has signaled its unwavering commitment to effect true change. Kazakhstan's desire to forge a strong energy partnership with the United States is one example. Another is Kazakhstan's support of the United States in the War on Terror.

As the center of the former Soviet Union's nuclear and biological weapons programs, Kazakhstan held considerable—and potentially dangerous—power over the world as the Soviet Union broke apart. In fact, Kazakhstan had the fourth largest arsenal of nuclear weapons in the world larger than Britain, France and China combined. Rather than capitulating to countries offering to pay millions of dollars to purchase these weapons, Kazakhstan's leader, Nursultan Nazarbayev, boldly chose instead to destroy the country's stockpile and position Kazakhstan as a stabilizing force in the region. Mr. President, in light of September 11, threats from North Korea, and the war and continuing operations in Iraq, Kazakhstan's courageous decision against becoming a nuclear state certainly has helped the world avoid greater threats to peace and stability.

Kazakhstan has been a leader and is the current chair of the Central Asian Cooperation Organization, which unites several nations of the region to combat terrorism, extremism, and drug trafficking. Toward that end, Kazakhstan has consistently supported the United States in the War on Terror. During the war in Iraq, Kazakhstan granted to the United States overflight rights and access to its airbase at Almaty. Kazakhstan also participates in NATO's International Security Assistance Force in Afghanistan.

Kazakhstan's contributions have not gone unnoticed. During a visit to Kazakhstan in July 2003, the NATO Secretary General praised Kazakhstan for its support of the peace keeping mission in Iraq and its support for the War on Terror. Kazakhstan was the first Central Asian republic to join in the post-war reconstruction efforts. In August 2003, Kazakhstan sent 27 military personnel, including de-mining experts, engineers, and translators to Iraq.

The illustrations of Kazakhstan's tangible efforts to join the democratic world could not be more stark. Kazakhstan chose non-proliferation over possessing nuclear weapons; it chose peace and prosperity over terrorism and strife; it chose a market economy over the communist status quo; and it chose the difficult path of reform over complacency. Kazakhstan's ability to greatly enhance our energy independence, and its position alongside the United States in the War on Terror,

are but two illustrations of Kazakhstan's resolve to affect positive, longstanding change.

Kazakhstan stands out because it possesses great potential and is supported by a powerful commitment toward democracy. Considerable work remains, and the United States must lend its support to ensure that Kazakhstan continues down the path toward democratization. I ask that my colleagues join me in commending the Republic of Kazakhstan on its positive steps forward.

NORTH STAR CHARTER SCHOOL

HON. C. L. "BUTCH" OTTER

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 24, 2003

Mr. OTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the work and purpose of the North Star Charter School in Eagle, Idaho. This public school was founded by volunteers—parents with a vision of virtue, citizenship and leadership not only for their own children but also for their community and our nation.

I recently had the honor of visiting the North Star Charter School at its new building, not far from my ranch in Idaho. About 270 students joined with 20 excellent faculty members and a similar number of involved, caring parents as we unveiled a painting of George Washington at prayer. That painting now is displayed prominently near the school's main entrance. It is a stirring image of the first and greatest of our Founding Fathers, and it provides a fitting reminder of the kind of values that the North Star Charter School has made the foundation of its curriculum and educational environment.

The school for kindergarteners through eighth-graders, led by Board of Directors Chairman Gale Pooley and Principal Nancy Smith, has established as its mission the development of virtuous citizen leaders. The lives and work of our Founding Fathers are the historical guideposts of that journey.

Even the school's name provides a constant reminder that its goals are unwavering and steadfast, like the North Star itself—an eternal beacon trusted by navigators searching for new lands, or simply making their way home.

I couldn't hope to say it any better than the school's own mission statement: "The North Star Charter School will endeavor to develop each student into a leader that can be trusted to serve the interests of his family, community, profession and nation with the strength of character and the depth of knowledge to stand for the time-honored principles and ideals of a free and open society."

Mr. Speaker, I am extremely proud to represent the school, its students and the families that find such great value in the timeless lessons of our nation's birth.

TRIBUTE TO MS. RITA BALIAN

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 24, 2003

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize a woman who exemplifies the idea of the humanitarian