

been measured in the billions. Forest fires burned thousands of acres, left hundreds homeless and several dead. Sadly, thousands lost their lives as a result of dehydration, fever and other heat-related illness. In France alone, more than ten thousand people lost their lives.

Citizens of Europe have not hesitated to bow their heads and join us in grief during times of tragedy, especially to remember the terrible events of September 11, 2001. Let us take a moment to express our sympathies and share in the grief of the family and friends of those who succumbed during Europe's recent human tragedy.

TRIBUTE TO LENEXA, KANSAS,
MASONIC LODGE #135

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 24, 2003

Mr. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, like all Members of this House, I commute to Washington for my work in the House of Representatives. I live in Lenexa, Kansas, and it is my honor to rise today on behalf of my home town and my congressional district, to recognize the Lenexa, Kansas, Masonic Lodge, #135, on the 130th anniversary of its founding, which is upcoming on October 15th.

A document compiled by Lenexa Historical Society member and current Masonic lodge member Angelo Mino, based on articles by Henry D. Gillette and Joseph R. Wilson, reveals that the history of this lodge is intertwined with the history of Lenexa. In reading the history of this, the very first fraternal or civic organization of Lenexa, I learned much about Lenexa's history.

The City of Lenexa was platted in 1869, and the first Masonic Lodge meeting was held the very next year, in 1870. The Lenexa lodge received official recognition from the Masonic organization on October 15, 1873. The earliest leaders of the lodge were also the early leaders of Lenexa. Members of this Masonic Lodge include the first mayor of Lenexa, the first police judge, the first postmaster, and the first city physician. This tradition of community service has continued to today.

The first Eastern Star chapter associated with the Masonic Lodge was also established in 1873. After the lodge building burned down in 1877, the Eastern Star chapter was not reconstituted until 1919 when the ADDA Chapter was formed.

In 1922, the first DeMolay group in Johnson County, Kansas, received its charter. The Lenexa Lodge has sponsored this chapter since 1994. In 1953, the Rainbow Girls Assembly #56 of Lenexa began.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the members of the Lenexa Masonic Lodge #135 on this remarkable anniversary, and thank them for 130 years of community leadership and service. I hope that their lodge will continue to flourish and serve our community for this century and beyond.

HONORING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF BOB G. CARTER

HON. STEVAN PEARCE

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 24, 2003

Mr. PEARCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Bob Carter for receiving the 2003 Governor's New Mexico Distinguished Public Service Award. To know Bob Carter is to respect him. He is a public servant, a leader, a statesman and a friend.

Bob and his wife, Glenda, moved to Lovington, New Mexico in 1971 and have been an instrumental part of the community. He held the job of Lovington economic development director before becoming assistant city manager, and then city manager. In 1992, Bob was named citizen of the year by both the Board of Realtors and the Lovington Chamber of Commerce.

Bob now works for the good people of Southern New Mexico as the District Outreach Director in my office. He travels the entire district listening to the concerns and the visions of my constituents. Thanks to his background and expertise in city government, he works especially hard to facilitate economic development opportunities in Southern New Mexico.

Bob has left his trademark on our communities for his love of God, family, state and country. I thank him for his services and for his dedication to making life better for the people of Southern New Mexico.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me today in recognizing and congratulating Bob Carter, a remarkable man who has selflessly served his community and fellowman. God Bless him and his family.

IN PRAISE OF MOTHER TERESA

HON. SUE WILKINS MYRICK

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 24, 2003

Mrs. MYRICK. Mr. Speaker, I cannot hope to give fitting praise to Mother Teresa's impeccable legacy of generosity and selflessness on the occasion of her beatification by Pope John Paul II. Reflecting on her Christ-like attitude and example of loving charity, I share feelings of awe and deep respect with so many others who can't help but venerate this heroic woman.

I had the great honor of attending Mother Teresa's funeral in Calcutta, her adopted home and base of her own order, Missionaries of Charity. Representing the U.S. Congress on this occasion, I was once again humbled by her devotion to some of the world's most destitute citizens. Not only did this "angel of mercy" ease the physical horrors of so many hopeless people, she treated them as God's own children, leaving a global impression with her hands-on determination.

While Mother Teresa's impact was always felt by the impoverished in India, her inspirational spirit infused charitable objectives and even public policy on an international scale. She aided victims of war and tragedy in every circumstance, from those dying of AIDS in New York to the desperate in Beirut and Palestine. Ever-mindful of the sanctity of even un-

born human life, the good nun is known for asserting that "a child is a gift from God. If you do not want him, give him to me." As Pope John Paul II prepares to beatify this truly virtuous woman, I pray that her fearless displays of unconditional love and charity may forever encourage us all.

TRIBUTE TO NATIONAL SPORTS CENTER FOR THE DISABLED

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 24, 2003

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to The National Sports Center for the Disabled in Winter Park, Colorado. This outstanding internationally recognized recreational program in my district has been serving people with disabilities more than thirty years.

Founded in January, 1970 by The Winter Park Ski Resort ski school to teach skiing to amputees from The Children's Hospital in Denver, this now year-round recreational program has now served over 48,000 persons with a range of disabilities.

Blind, paraplegic, cancer, stroke, amputees, deaf and cerebral palsy children and adults from across the country participate in skiing, mountain climbing, hiking, horseback riding, golfing, rafting and fishing in the beautiful Fraser Valley of Colorado.

Recreational and competitive programs prepare disabled athletes for this range of mountain sport activities to develop confidence and self-esteem in an athletic environment long thought to be inaccessible to disabled members of society.

The Sports Center's competitive programs groom elite-level skiers for regional, national and international competition. Winter Park's Disabled Ski Team competed in the 2002 Paralympics in Salt Lake City, winning over 20 medals in competition.

In 1992, a therapeutic riding center, run by volunteers, was established to give participants riding lessons, training riders in the care, grooming and health of horses. The Center also provides a fully accessible camping experience for disabled campers and their families. This outdoor experience is offered on a first come, first serve basis and is completely free.

Through a partnership with The Metropolitan State College of Denver, the Center is creating a virtual reality skiing experience on the internet to help the disabled overcome the fear of the unknown and work toward participating in the many athletic programs available at Winter Park.

Through the generous support of the Robert R. McCormick Tribune Foundation, the Denver Broncos Charities Fund, Barbara and Joseph Glaser Scholarships, and the NSCD's Sponsor an Athlete Scholarship fund, athletes from around the country are selected to come to Colorado. Scholarships are awarded based on need and athletic commitment.

Widely considered the largest and most successful outdoor therapeutic recreation agency in the world, each year thousands of children and adults with disabilities come to our magnificent state to learn they, too, can enjoy the mountains, trails, golf courses and streams