

received their paramedic training through Stanford University and graduated in 1978. The five other firefighters to receive their training in that inaugural season were Dave Mellow, Skip Rains, Jon Treebotich, Joe Baez and Tony Balsa, who were schooled in Southern California.

As the call volume increased, so did the need for another paramedic unit. In 1992, the department decided that the most effective way to deliver paramedic services was by attaching them to engine companies rather than as a stand-alone unit. In 1994 three paramedic engine companies were put into service. In July 2003, the city's paramedic capability increased with the addition of a fourth paramedic engine. The new fire station for Engine Company 4 will open in January 2004.

Mr. Speaker, in a city of 74,000 people where more than 60 percent of the emergency calls require paramedic intervention, the Napa City Paramedic Program provides an invaluable service to our community. It is therefore appropriate that these men and women be honored and acknowledged for their commitment to the well being of the citizens of Napa, California.

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TRIBUTE TO SALLIE WATKINS

**HON. SCOTT McINNIS**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 25, 2003*

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise before this body of Congress and this nation today to pay tribute to an outstanding citizen and educator from my district. Sallie Watkins, a physics teacher from Pueblo, Colorado, has worked tirelessly to teach and inspire her many students. I am honored to share her story here today.

In 1946, Sallie began teaching at Notre Dame Academy in Cleveland, Ohio. Her dedication and commitment toward the betterment of humanity came through in her work within the church. Leaving the convent, Sallie came to Pueblo in 1966 to continue her work. She took a position at Southern Colorado State College. Through the years, she has continued to teach and inspire countless students.

In addition to teaching, Sallie has been very involved with the local community. She helped found the Girls Club, which became part of the Boys and Girls Club of Pueblo. She also oversaw the creation of the Pueblo Program, a program to improve science teaching and curriculum in the local schools. Many community organizations, such as the American Cancer Society, the YMCA, and the Colorado Association of Mental Health, have benefited from Sallie's involvement.

Mr. Speaker, Sallie Watkins has dedicated her life to serving others. She is an inspirational teacher and a loving volunteer. Sallie's students hold her in such high regard that they are currently creating a physics scholarship in her name. Sallie is an inspiration and a person of the compassion. I am honored to join with my colleague in thanking Sallie for all her hard work and wishing her the best of luck in the future.

IN HONOR OF ESTUARY DAY 2003

**HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 25, 2003*

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the city of Elizabeth's Estuary Day 2003. Estuary Day was held on Saturday, September 20, 2003, at the Marina in Elizabeth, New Jersey.

Estuary Day 2003 provides families from the city of Elizabeth and surrounding areas the opportunity to learn about and celebrate the importance of the Elizabeth River and the Arthur Kill. In addition to providing recreational uses for residents, these two estuaries have a unique historical significance to the city of Elizabeth.

Elizabeth's Estuary Day is part of National Estuaries Day, which seeks to promote awareness about the importance of estuaries. The National Estuary Program has been critical to administering the goals of the Clean Water Act, and to improve the quality of estuaries nationwide. This program mandates the protection of public water supplies and the protection and propagation of indigenous population of shellfish, fish, and wildlife.

Estuary Day provides an opportunity for many residents to become aware of the natural wonders present in their backyard. As estuaries are some of the most important ecosystems on the planet, it is important for residents to view our waterways as part of the community, and to maximize their recreational and environmental uses.

Estuary Day presents the importance of protecting and appreciating our natural resources to the people of Elizabeth, by providing fun and educational activities. Such interactive environmental educational opportunities, presentations and environmental boat rides, allow for an in-depth and hands-on approach to learning about life within and around estuaries.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Future City Inc., in conjunction with the city of Elizabeth's staff and Mayor J. Christian Bollwage, a committed member of the New York/New Jersey Harbor Estuary Management Committee, for planning Estuary Day 2003 in Elizabeth.

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HONORING ALEX KAZMIERCZAK,  
JR. ON HIS RETIREMENT

**HON. WILLIAM O. LIPINSKI**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 25, 2003*

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a remarkable craftsman and community leader from my District on the southwest side of Chicago, Illinois. I would like to honor Alex Kazmierczak, Jr., on achieving two milestones in his life, celebrating his 65th birthday and retiring after forty-one years in the plumbing service.

Mr. Kazmierczak has been employed by C.J. Erickson Plumbing Company since 1959. He is a man dedicated to his field. Alex has spent his career involved with such prominent organizations as the Plumbers Union Local 130 and the National Underground Contractors Association, as well as affiliated with the

Ground Hog Club and the South Side Master Plumbers Social Club.

The strength of this man is measured by his love for his wife, family, faith, friends and community. Alex and his wife, Rosemary, have been married for 41 years and they have been blessed with a wonderful family of four children and seven grandchildren. The family has been a part of the St. Gerald Parish for over 36 years.

The commitment, dedication and energy given by Alex Kazmierczak to his community have been an inspiration to many individuals. For 12 years, Alex served as Commissioner for the Oak Lawn Park District. He has coached youth hockey and baseball teams in Oak Lawn and even initiated the District's T-ball program.

His civic duties are still called upon him today as he sits as a member on the Oak Lawn Board of Appeals, Service Commission, and as chairman for Oak Lawn Parks Foundation.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in honoring Alex Kazmierczak, Jr., on his achievements and wish Alex many years of future success.

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IN RECOGNITION OF SHARON K.  
VALASEK, THE FIRST HONORARY  
CONSUL FOR THE CZECH REPUBLIC  
TO REPRESENT KANSAS,  
MISSOURI, AND NEBRASKA

**HON. KAREN MCCARTHY**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 25, 2003*

Ms. MCCARTHY of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly rise to recognize the historic appointment of Sharon K. Valasek as the first Honorary Consul for the Czech Republic to represent Kansas, Missouri and Nebraska. Czech Republic Ambassador to the United States, His Excellency Martin Palous, who officially announced her appointment, will take part in the installation ceremonies September 24-26, 2003, in the Greater Kansas City Metropolitan area. Sharon K. Valasek holds a Masters of Business Administration Degree from Avila College. As Honorary Consul, she will incorporate her education and her expertise in business and trade to facilitate United States commerce with the Czech Republic. She has valuable telecommunications and marketing experience from working for a global provider of broadband and wireless services. Her marketing and developmental skills will be of great value to the business partnership between the United States and the Czech Republic.

Honorary Consul Valasek is committed to supporting local relationship building initiatives. She has a strong base for fostering new partnerships in the Czech Republic since her relatives live in Moravia. She serves as a board Member for the People to People International, Club President of the Czech and Slovak Club of Greater Kansas City, member of the Czechoslovak Society of Arts and Sciences, and Czechoslovak Genealogical Society International.

Ms. Valasek will serve as an advocate of educational and cultural initiatives while preserving customs and traditions.

The importance of an Honorary Consul in our region stems from shared heritage and our