

All of us who have been sworn to uphold the Constitution recognize the vital role our newspapers play in protecting our freedoms by remaining vigilant against any violations of our First Amendment. I urge all Nevadans and all members of this House to join with me in congratulating Sherman on winning this high honor.

NATIONAL DAY OF THE REPUBLIC
OF CHINA

HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 7, 2003

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, October 10 marks the 92nd anniversary of the founding of the Republic of China and is celebrated internationally as Taiwan's National Day. As this historic day approaches, I would like to take the opportunity to congratulate President Chen Shui-bian and the people of Taiwan for their continuing political reforms and economic achievements.

Mr. Speaker, over the last decade, Taiwan has established itself as a strong and successful model of democracy. Under the leadership of President Chen, the government and people of Taiwan have continued to implement domestic reforms and strengthen diplomatic relations with surrounding nations. This continuing commitment to democratic progress can best be seen in next year's elections. With both the presidential and legislative elections scheduled for 2004, next year will likely prove to be a politically dynamic and exciting year for Taiwan. I applaud the robust multiparty democracy that Taiwan has become.

Mr. Speaker, along with its democratic development, Taiwan remains an important economic partner for the United States. We are Taiwan's largest market, but Taiwan is our 7th largest trading partner. This is a remarkable achievement for this island nation of 22 million people. Taiwan's accession to the World Trade Organization last year will set the stage for even greater opportunities for U.S. business.

Mr. Speaker, as Taiwan continues to earn international acclaim as a model of democratic progress and free market economics, I call on my colleagues to join me in commending Taiwan during the upcoming celebration of Taiwan's National Day.

CONGRATULATIONS ON TAIWAN'S
92ND ANNIVERSARY OF NA-
TIONAL DAY

HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 7, 2003

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this time to offer my congratulations to the 23 million people of Taiwan; it will be celebrating the 92nd anniversary of its National Day on October 10, 2003.

Taiwan is a dynamic democracy, and world economic leader. With a total of more than 95 political parties, every public office is hotly contested through free elections. People enjoy full political freedom, including freedom of

press and assembly. Its per capita income ranks among the highest in the world.

The State of Washington, including the Seventh Congressional District, has enjoyed the close commercial, social and cultural ties that link our two nations. Many of our brightest leaders in the state trace their roots to Taiwan, and the Taiwanese American community is integral to our country's rich ethnic diversity.

The annual commemoration of this historic date is a valuable reminder that freedom and justice are paramount goals shared by our countries.

Again, congratulations to Taiwan and its people on their National Day.

REMEMBERING THE LATE JOE
LAPPIN

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 7, 2003

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to mourn the passing of my good friend and neighbor L.W. "Joe" Lappin. Joe passed away Monday, September 8, at the age of 85.

Joe, as everyone knew him, was a pillar of our community, as a member of the Boulder City Elks Club, Archeo Nevada, and the 31ers Club. Joe was a fountain of knowledge about Boulder City for all of those, including myself, who wanted to know about the origins and traditions of this unique community. As a former Mayor of Boulder City, I knew that I could count on Joe to know what needed to be done, and more importantly, what I was doing wrong.

Joe is survived by his wife Patricia, his two children and three grandchildren. We will all miss Joe, and I urge the members of this House to join me in expressing our condolences to his family and friends.

IN MEMORY OF ROMAN Q.
BENAVENTE

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 7, 2003

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of my dear friend, Roman Quichocho Benavente who passed away on September 30, 2003.

Roman was born on February 22, 1922. He was married to the late, Margarita Mendiola Mesa Benavente and father to Frances B. Leon Guerrero, Nora B. "Lola" Beck, Barbara B. "Bobbie" Vaira, Randolph Mesa "Randy" Benavente, Raymond Mesa Benavente, and Bernice B. Batson and the late Danny San Nicholas. He was also grandfather, great-grandfather, brother, uncle, godfather, and friend.

Roman was a shining example of the strength and courage of the Chamorro people. We are proud and grateful of his 50 years of service to his country and his people. He was a 30-year veteran of the United States Navy from which he retired as a Chief Petty Officer in 1970. He went on to serve with the United States Capitol Police, retiring after 20 years in 1991.

Although Roman and his family remained in the states after his retirement, his love for the island of Guam and his Chamorro heritage was constant. Together he and Margarita raised their children with a deep appreciation of their Chamorro heritage and a love of their island home. As a founding member of the Guam Territorial Society, now known as the Guam Society of America, Inc., he was an active member, planning and participating in all activities. More importantly, Roman has helped bring those of us residing in the area together to continue our local traditions and to help pass these traditions on to our children.

Roman was known for his kindness, generosity and his sense of humor. He was known for his love for God, his family and friends, his island and his country. He was known for his love of cooking, singing and dancing. Yet for the many things for which Roman will be remembered, I will especially remember Roman for his steadfast loyalty, support and friendship to me and my family throughout the years. Roman would open his home to us whenever we visited Washington, D.C. and I could count on his presence and participation at all my events. In fact, on the day I was sworn in as Guam's Delegate, he was the first person to arrive for the ceremony. He came early to offer his assistance. This was typical of Roman. Whenever anything needed to be done, he was the first to arrive and the last to leave, doing what needed to be done and having a great time doing it.

We have much to learn from Roman and the way he lived his life. He taught us to love, to laugh and to celebrate and to be there for each other. Though we mourn his death, we honor his life in living by his example. On behalf of the people of Guam, I extend our deepest sympathies and prayers to the family and friends of Roman Quichocho Benavente.

TRIBUTE TO MR. STEVE BARRON

HON. CHARLES F. BASS

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 7, 2003

Mr. BASS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Steve Barron, a teacher at Claremont Middle School in New Hampshire. He passed away this summer, but has left behind a deep impression on his students. Because I cannot improve upon the sentiments expressed by one of his former students, Robin Lasko, I will simply include her letter to me and close by saying he will be missed.

DEAR CHARLIE BASS: On the night of July 25, 2003, one of the finest educators the state of New Hampshire has ever seen passed away. His name was Steve Barron, a seventh grade social studies teacher.

My name is Robin Lasko, and in the fall of 2003 I will become a junior at Stevens High School. Mr. Barron was my homeroom teacher in seventh grade. He will always be remembered for the things he taught me, things that books could never show. He taught me to have compassion for the earth, and to care even when no one else does. He taught me that being accepted by the public eye was not the only thing that mattered in life, and he taught me to think of the consequences of everything I do.

The first day of seventh grade, I walked into Mr. Barron's classroom and was very intimidated. My first thought was that I was

going to have to sit in this room everyday and listen to some old man talk about which countries lie on which longitudes. I soon found that I could not wait for my social studies class everyday. Mr. Barron did not only teach us the physical features of our world, but he showed us the culture, and the many different ways of life. Mr. Barron had a love for culture. He loved diversity and I am so very thankful that he passed a little of that on to me. To show how much he loved diversity I would have to know him like the back of my hand, but I don't. I do know a little about Steve Barron though, I know that he taught in an inner city school in New York City, and that he also lived in the Arctic Regions of Alaska, and if that is not a love for diversity, then I do not know what is.

Every year when it was time to do fundraisers, Mr. Barron always used the same two companies, one of them was called Humanities, and this company took a portion of their profit and gave it to an endangered animals foundation. Mr. Barron was a "devoted environmentalist". This was one way of showing that he cared about our planet. Another way was as part of our classroom grades we had to bring in plastic bags or some other form of recycling every week. He was helping the earth any way that he could. These two things are only a part of the great man that Steve Barron was.

I feel that Steve Barron should be Honored and Recognized as the wonderful educator and person that he was.

Steve Barron was born on August 22, 1943 in Brooklyn, New York. He was the loving husband to Linda (Kupiec) Barron for 29 years. He and Linda had two daughters, Jenny and Jenine. On July 25, 2003 Steven E. Barron died of Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma. In an ending to this letter I would like to quote the motto that Mr. Barron lived by, "The choices we make dictate the lives we lead."

Sincerely,

ROBIN L. LASKO.

SPINA BIFIDA AWARENESS MONTH

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 7, 2003

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to the more than 70,000 Americans and their family members who are currently affected by Spina Bifida. October is National Spina Bifida Awareness Month. Spina Bifida is the Nation's most common, permanently disabling birth defect. It is a neural tube defect that occurs when the central nervous system does not properly close during the early stages of pregnancy. Each year more than 4,000 pregnancies are affected and of these 1,500 babies are born with Spina Bifida.

I would like to especially recognize Angelina Gonzalez-Abreu, the niece of my Chief of Staff, Arthur Estopinan. Angie is a precious little three year old who was born with Spina Bifida. She is an absolute delight who brings great joy to all who are blessed to know her. I have had the great pleasure of spending time with this vivacious little bundle of joy, and am moved by the tremendous progress she has made in her life thus far.

The Spina Bifida Association of America (SBAA), an organization that has helped people with Spina Bifida and their families for nearly 30 years, works tirelessly to prevent

and reduce suffering from this devastating birth defect.

I would like to acknowledge and thank SBAA and the local chapters in my State for all that they have done for the Floridian families affected by this birth defect.

The exact cause of Spina Bifida is not known, but researchers have concluded that women of childbearing age who take daily folic acid supplements reduce their chances of having a Spina Bifida pregnancy by up to 75 percent.

I am proud to be a member of the newly established Congressional Spina Bifida Caucus. The Congressional Spina Bifida Caucus will bring increased attention to this condition and advance initiatives that will improve the quality of life for those individuals and their families living with Spina Bifida.

I again wish to thank the SBAA and its chapters for all of their hard work to prevent and reduce suffering from this birth defect and for their commitment to improve the lives of those 70,000 individuals living with Spina Bifida throughout our Nation. I wish the Spina Bifida Association of America the best of luck in its endeavors and urge all of my colleagues and all Americans to support its important efforts.

COMMENDING VICTORINE Q. ADAMS FOR BEING HONORED BY THE BLACK/JEWISH FORUM OF BALTIMORE, INC. FOR HER MANY YEARS OF DEDICATED SERVICE TO BALTIMORE

HON. ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 7, 2003

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate the Honorable Victorine Q. Adams who is deservedly being honored by the Black/Jewish Forum of Baltimore, Inc. (BLEWS) at their 25th anniversary dinner meeting in Baltimore on November 19, 2003.

Mrs. Adams served effectively in both the Maryland General Assembly and the Baltimore City Council, where she served for 16 years. While a member of the City Council, she led the successful effort to establish the Baltimore Fuel Fund, the first such assistance fund in the nation. Early in her career in 1946, she organized the Colored Women's Democratic Campaign Committee and initiated a voter registration campaign that enrolled 4,000 persons. In 1958, Mrs. Adams and Ethel P. Rich organized Woman Power, which was instrumental in desegregating Baltimore's downtown hotels.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Mrs. Adams for her significant contributions to Baltimore as an elected official, community leader, civil rights activist, businesswoman and humanitarian.

IN HONOR OF SHERIFF DON HORSLEY

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 7, 2003

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor an extraordinary leader of San Mateo County, California, Sheriff Don Horsley, who is being awarded the 2003 Distinguished Citizens Award by the Pacific Skyline Council of the Boy Scouts of America.

Don Horsley was first elected Sheriff of San Mateo County in June 1993, with a law enforcement career that spanned more than thirty years. He began as a patrol officer in Daly City and later served as a patrol deputy in East Palo Alto. In these positions, he learned to effectively respond to the needs and concerns of citizens as he worked directly with them in their communities.

Sheriff Horsley has been unwavering in his commitment to the people of the communities of San Mateo County. In 1992, when the small community of East Palo Alto was given the dubious title of being the nation's "murder capital," Sheriff Horsley made a promise to the people of East Palo Alto that the Sheriff's office would help the community and make it the safe place its residents deserved. Immediately, 18 Sheriff's Deputies began working with the East Palo Alto Police Department and within 3 years, violent crimes were down 54 percent and homicides decreased by an astounding 86 percent. Because of Sheriff Horsley's commitment, the San Mateo County Sheriff's office continues to work with the City of East Palo Alto to ensure that its law enforcement needs are fully met.

Sheriff Horsley is a caring and compassionate law enforcement leader. During the expansion of the Maguire Correctional Facility, Sheriff Horsley ensured that the project included facilities for mental and health care, substance abuse recovery, and educational and religious needs for inmates.

Sheriff Horsley is a leader among his colleagues in law enforcement. He has served on the Board of Directors of the California Peace Officers' Association, the San Mateo County Criminal Justice Council, the San Mateo County Vehicle Theft Task Force, the County Narcotic Task Force, and the Northern California High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area, among many other organizations.

Beyond his career in law enforcement, Sheriff Horsley is dedicated to improving the education and the lives of youth. He is not only a former classroom teacher and a Board Member of Redwood City's Garfield Charter School, but he is also a strong supporter of the Boy Scouts of America. He has been instrumental in the Law Enforcement Exploring program, the Boy Scouts' STAR Camp and the Sea Scouting program. Sheriff Horsley has served as Co-chair of the Attorney General and State Superintendent of Public Instruction's Safe Schools Task Force.

Mr. Speaker, I'm proud to call Don Horsley my friend and I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring and thanking Sheriff Horsley for his extraordinary service to our community, our state and our nation.