

Currently, he is the principal owner of a management consulting firm that provides marketing and management services to a variety of businesses. He formerly served for more than eight years as Executive Vice President and Chief Administrative Officer with Ruiz Engineering Corporation/Maya Construction Company, where he was responsible for managing and directing business activities relating to corporate planning, finance and business development.

Dan has worked on more than 50 local, state, and national campaigns, both on a partisan and non-partisan basis. His first measurable involvement in a campaign was at the age of 13 when he successfully assisted a group of neighbors who were running for the South Tucson Town Council by preparing a campaign slogan and printed literature. In 1991, he was very instrumental in organizing the successful Pima County campaign which helped to elect Ed Pastor as the first Hispanic in the state to serve in Congress. In 1994, he served a key role in the campaign of Democratic gubernatorial nominee, Eddie Basha. He has also provided valuable leadership and guidance to area non-partisan voter awareness and educational projects sponsored by the Southwest Voter Registration Education Project and the Labor Council of Latin American Advancement (LCLAA), of which he is an associate member. He is currently a member of the National Association of the Latino Elected and Appointed Officials (NALEO).

Dan has earned numerous award and honors for his community service. In March 1996, he received the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC) National Presidential Citation and Community Service Award. In 1993, we were both presented with the prestigious Montemayor-Barraza Award which is the highest national honor given by the Labor Council for Latin American Advancement (LCLAA). In 1992, Dan was inducted into the Arizona Democratic Party Hall of Fame. In 1991, he received the Distinguished Citizen Award by the University of Arizona Alumni Association. In 1988, his service to the City of South Tucson was best acknowledged when the Mayor and City Council named the newly constructed municipal complex in his honor.

Dan has been married for more than 30 years to Mary Alice Rosales. They reside in South Tucson with their two children, Jennifer, age 26, and Daniel, age 22. The Eckstrom family is very active in the community. His wife served four terms as President of the League of Mexican American Women. His daughter, at the age of 18 was elected to the South Tucson City Council and has the distinction of being one of the youngest elected officials in the state. His son serves as a Neighborhood Reinvestment Coordinator for the City of South Tucson and was a participant in the National LULAC Youth Legislative Conference in Washington, D.C.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my colleagues join me today in honoring Dan Eckstrom for all his hard work and dedication to the people of Pima County.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO WHIT
EASTMAN

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 17, 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 an outstanding citizen from my district. Whit Eastman of Gunnison, Colorado recently passed away at the age of sixty-seven. Whit was a kind, generous man who cared greatly about his community. As his family and friends mourn his passing, I would like to take this opportunity to remember Whit today.

A life-long resident of Gunnison, Whit had deep roots in the community. Whit has given much to his country and his community. He served a tour of duty in Korea during the Korean War. Upon returning home, he became the Financial Director for the City of Gunnison and, later, the President of the First National Bank. He actively strengthened the local Masonic Lodge, as well as serving as the President of the Rotary. Whit also served on the Western State College Foundation Board of Directors at his alma mater, Western State College.

Mr. Speaker, Whit Eastman was a beloved member of the Gunnison community, and he will be deeply missed. His love for life and dedication to his friends and neighbors touched many lives. While Whit has passed on, his legacy will continue to live. I am honored to join with my colleagues in honoring Whit here today. My condolences go out to Whit's family and friends during this difficult time.

IN HONOR OF WORLD POPULATION
AWARENESS WEEK

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 17, 2003

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in order to call attention to the Population Institute's annual World Population Awareness Week, which will focus on "Water: Our Most Precious Resource."

This event is one of great importance, and its topic, water, is one that demands immediate action. Currently, 1.2 billion people worldwide lack healthy and abundant water. As a member of the world community, the United States has a commitment to aid our fellow human beings in obtaining their natural right to water. And, even more importantly, the United States has a commitment to itself, to ensure that no American will ever be without water. Many regions in America have a water supply that is strained beyond its capacity, leaving many Americans vulnerable to massive shortages of water.

Unfortunately, the water supply problems are only becoming more prevalent, as currently there is a trend to turn water into a commodity through the privatization of the supply. Multinational companies that contract to supply developing countries focus on profit, not access. Their use of cost recovery measures

increases profits for these companies through the additions of annual fees on water, but force many people to go without the essential and natural right to water because of burdensome costs.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in recognizing the importance of water to our world community and in recognizing the Population Institute's World Awareness Week.

RECOGNIZING EDWIN R. HILL FOR
HIS 30 YEARS OF SERVICE AS
EAST CALN TOWNSHIP MANAGER

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 17, 2003

Mr. GERLACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Edwin R. Hill for his 30 years of service as manager for East Caln Township in Chester County, Pennsylvania.

Edwin R. Hill has served as one of only two full-time employees for East Caln Township for over three decades, where he took on many duties under his title of Township Manager. With his retirement, Mr. Hill leaves behind a legacy any public official would be proud of, and East Caln Township will be hard-pressed to replace such a fine individual.

In addition to his position as Township Manager, Edwin R. Hill was a past President of the Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors, a role and an honor in our state that truly illustrates his tremendous leadership abilities. Mr. Hill made it a point over the years to pass his tremendous knowledge and experience on to others. He was a part-time instructor for the Governor's Center Municipal Training Classes where he taught such courses as Road Masters Class, Commercial Drivers License Training and orientation courses for newly-elected officials. Mr. Hill also served on the Chester County Planning Commission, as well as various other local committees to resolve issues in municipal government.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues join me today in recognizing and honoring Edwin R. Hill for the hard work and dedication he has demonstrated over the years in making East Caln Township, Chester County and all of Pennsylvania a better place to live.

HONORING MAYOR ALFONSO
GEREFFI

HON. PETER DEUTSCH

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 17, 2003

Mr. DEUTSCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Mr. Alfonso Gereffi, former mayor of Lauderdale Lakes, Florida. A distinguished leader and great Floridian, Mr. Gereffi was also a devoted husband, father, grandfather and great grandfather.

Mr. Gereffi moved to South Florida in the late 1960's from Pittsburgh and quickly took an active role in the community. An outspoken advocate, Mr. Gereffi served on the Lauderdale Lakes City Council for nearly three decades. He served as a City Council member from 1973 to 1980 and as Mayor from 1980 to

1998. Under his exemplary leadership, the City boasted a record low tax rate and had a \$9 million surplus. In addition to fulfilling his civic duties, Mr. Gereffi devoted his efforts towards charitable works as well. Among his proudest accomplishments was helping to open the Alzheimer's Day Care Center in Lauderdale Lakes.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to stand before you today in memory of a model citizen from South Florida. Mr. Gereffi devoted his energies to his family, friends, constituents and community at large. His greatest joy was in helping his fellow man and improving the quality of life for all in his city. He is survived by his daughters, a brother, four grandchildren, four great grandchildren, and several nieces and nephews.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO OTHELL
BALLAGE

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 17, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with solemn heart that I rise before you today to pay tribute to the memory of a remarkable citizen from my district. Othell Ballage of Pueblo, Colorado was a leader in his community and a friend to many. Sadly, he recently passed away at the age of 74. As his family and friends mourn his passing, I would like to remember Othell for his kind heart and generous spirit.

Othell was transferred to Pueblo by the U.S. Army and stationed at the Chemical Depot over thirty years ago. Having seen much of the world during his time in the Army, Othell decided Pueblo would be a good place to call home upon retiring from the service in 1975. It was then that Othell chose to realign his sights from national service to a more regional focus. After his days in the Army, accomplishing what would be considered a lifetime of achievements for most, Othell began to leave his mark on Pueblo. For the next twenty years, Othell pursued his goals in both higher education and public service. He received a Bachelor of Science degree in business administration from the University of Maryland in 1982 and went on to earn a Master's degree in management from Pacific Western University in 1996. Othell also worked as a counselor for the Colorado Job Training Program and served on numerous boards, including those of the NAACP and the Pueblo Human Rights Commission, as well as the Governor's Task Force on Drunk Driving.

Mr. Speaker, the city of Pueblo and its citizens have lost a truly outstanding citizen and friend. Even more impressive than his numerous contributions to the community was Othell's role as a loving husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather. Othell was a remarkable citizen and he will certainly be missed. I am honored to pay tribute to his life here today.

HONORING OF UHHS BEDFORD
MEDICAL CENTER

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 17, 2003

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of UHHS Bedford Medical Center on the occasion of its 75th anniversary of service to the community. Originally no more than four beds on the second floor of a private home in Bedford, the hospital has grown through the years to keep pace with an expanding population and the demand for high quality accessible medical care.

UHHS Bedford Medical Center originally opened as the Bedford Municipal Hospital on November 29, 1928. The community strongly supported this hospital through passing 5 levies between 1943 and 1952. By 1956, the hospital was known as Bedford Community Hospital and boasted many new and modern departments and amenities. In 1962, the Joint Commission for the Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations accredited the hospital for the first time. The hospital continued to grow, adding a new wing and surgical facilities. In 1979, the name was changed to The Community Hospital of Bedford. It continued to expand and, by 1984, the hospital achieved its current capacity of 110 beds.

On November 30, 1993, the University Hospital Health System purchased the hospital, ushering in an era of rapid growth and innovation, adding a state of the art Outpatient Surgery Center and the Bretschneider Women's Unit offering enhanced obstetrics and gynecological services. Bedford Medical Center is continuing to grow: in 2001, adjoining land was purchased to augment Bedford Medical Center's current facilities.

Bedford Medical Center represents a model of collaboration and success evidenced by the relationships established between the Board of Trustees, the physicians and staff. Growth has been a key word in the hospital's history. A key to the hospital's growth is an unparalleled staff that focuses on keeping patients and the staff satisfied, well cared for, healthy and happy.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor and recognition of Bedford Medical Center on its Diamond Anniversary of serving over 260,000 residents in Southeast Cuyahoga and Northern Portage and Summit Counties. In tribute to the hospital's rich tradition of commitment to the community, let us celebrate these last 75 years with motto—Generations of Caring. I hope that the Bedford Medical Center will continue to serve and care for its community for at least another 75 years.

A TRIBUTE TO TOM MOHR—SAN
MATEO UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
SUPERINTENDENT

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 17, 2003

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I invite my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to a dedicated and distinguished public servant, San Mateo Union High School District Super-

intendent Tom Mohr, who recently announced his retirement. During a remarkable 43-year career in public education as a teacher, counselor, principal, district level administrator, and Superintendent in my district, Mr. Mohr has demonstrated a continuous and unwavering commitment to providing the best education possible for San Mateo County's youth.

After an exceptional career in the Jefferson School District in Daly City, he joined the San Mateo Union High School District in 1985 as an Assistant Superintendent, and was promoted to Superintendent in 1996. During a time of tremendous challenges in the field of education, Superintendent Mohr has never failed in his determination to provide a superior education for our students, while building first class institutions, and supporting a first-class professional staff.

The San Mateo Union High School District serves 8,300 students from six communities in my congressional district. It maintains seven high schools—Aragon, Burlingame, Capuchino, Hillsdale, Mills, Peninsula, and San Mateo. Five of the district schools have been recognized as National Blue Ribbon, or California Distinguished Schools.

Superintendent Mohr has been a strong leader in the district. His excellent communication skills have kept the community, staff, and students informed and involved, and have effectively reduced tensions between groups. His boundless energy has enabled him to excel in the many roles and demands placed on the Superintendency. Recently, under Mr. Mohr's outstanding leadership, the community passed a \$137.5 million bond issue to modernize six of the district's schools.

His erudition and experience have led to his appointment to numerous community and professional task forces and advisory boards, which include the U.S. Naval Academy undergraduate selection committee, plus nearly 30 different school accreditation teams, the majority of which he has chaired. He has worked tirelessly to establish high academic standards, encouraging all students from diverse backgrounds to pursue excellence in all of their endeavors. He initiated an exemplary safety program for the students that was endorsed by law enforcement agencies, and built strong school-community partnerships that serve the needs of citizens of all ages.

Superintendent Mohr was honored in 1999 by the Mid-Peninsula Boys & Girls Club as its Citizen of the Year. In 2001 he was named Superintendent of the Year by the San Francisco and San Mateo County region of the Association of California School Administrators, and he is the City of San Mateo's Citizen of the Year for 2003. Upon his retirement in January 2004, Mr. Mohr plans to spend more time with his grandchildren and possibly to pursue advanced university studies. Such is his personal commitment to the value of education.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Mohr's presence will be greatly missed in the boardroom and classrooms of the San Mateo Union High School District. His courage, intellect, integrity, and level of professionalism testify to the endless capabilities of this man and to the impact he will surely leave on the district. His legacy lives in the standards of excellence he has modeled for those who follow and in his unwavering commitment to the district's goals and programs. Mr. Mohr's efforts to better the education of San Mateo County's youth will serve as an inspiration to all of us. I urge my