

which all of its students will participate to demonstrate the knowledge, skills and traditions they have learned during their years of study at the School.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues rise with me today in celebration of the commemorative banquet celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the School of Ukrainian Studies. Many young persons have surely benefited from the work of this wonderful school, and our community has benefited from its efforts to keep the language and tradition of the Ukraine alive in the United States. Let us honor this distinguished school and let us wish them 50 more years of fantastic service to our population.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO BILL HARPEL

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 17, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with a solemn heart that I rise before you today to pay tribute to the memory of a wonderful citizen from my district. Bill Harpel of Pueblo, Colorado recently passed away at the young age of 40 after a hard-fought battle with leukemia. As Bill's family and friends mourn his passing, I would like to recognize his life before this body of Congress and this nation.

Bill will always be remembered as a staple of the Pueblo theater community. A kind and caring family man at home, Bill was a highly respected professional on stage. Bill was a Pueblo native and studied acting at the University of Southern Colorado. He had an amazing passion for the theater and devoted his time to his acting. Bill spent most of his time in the theater on stage, but also could be found directing several productions. Bill served as President of the "Impossible Players," a local theater company. He was recently awarded the Lifetime Service Award for 2003 by the organization. Away from the theater, Bill was known as a loving husband and a proud father of two.

Mr. Speaker, there is no doubt that the Pueblo theater community lost one of its most prominent members this past September, and the City of Pueblo has lost a remarkable citizen. Bill Harpel's memory will live on in the hearts of his friends and family. He will certainly be missed.

HONORING MOTHER TERESA

HON. PETER HOEKSTRA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 17, 2003

Mr. HOEKSTRA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mother Teresa, a beloved humanitarian revered throughout the world for her charity toward the poor and afflicted.

Mother Teresa, who died on September 5, 1997, at 87 years old in her Missionaries of Charity home in central Calcutta, India, was truly a spiritual guide whom we admire and respect for her uncompromising generosity. Her impact was felt by millions worldwide, and she made all those she touched view the world with a kinder and gentler eye.

A Roman Catholic nun and missionary, she served impoverished people unselfishly, never

asking for anything in return. She firmly believed that the poorest of the poor required self-esteem and hope to escape poverty, and she devoted her life to providing it one person at a time until the day that she died.

She was rightfully awarded a Nobel Peace Prize in 1979 following a lifetime of reaching out to the needy, the suffering and the dying. Her efforts have inspired generations to contribute to the well-being of humanity in both large and small ways.

Mr. Speaker, I offer these remarks to honor the beatification of Mother Teresa by Pope John Paul II on October 19, 2003, in Rome. Her tireless, inspirational work is missed, but her legacy will live on for eternity.

RECOGNIZING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE VILLAGE OF NEWARK

HON. JAMES T. WALSH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 17, 2003

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the Village of Newark's Sesquicentennial Anniversary. Incorporated on July 21, 1853, the Village of Newark along the Erie Canal in Wayne County, New York is 150 years old this year, and a host of celebratory events are planned to recognize this milestone this month.

Newark is the only village in Wayne County, New York established as a result of the building of the Erie Canal. Begun in 1817, canal construction crossed the bountiful farmlands of Wayne County, where land was cheap but virtually inaccessible overland or by natural waterways.

In 1820, Joseph Miller received the contract to construct a mile and a quarter of the canal through what is today the Town of Arcadia. In addition to constructing the waterway, Miller purchased some 100 acres for the establishment of a canal side village, plotting streets and dividing parcels into building lots.

The Village of Newark grew into a busy merchant port along the canal, and served as a gateway to markets for Wayne County farmers. Newark has a strong history as being the founding home to many well-known business entities, including Sarah Coventry Jewelry, the Jackson & Perkins Company, and Ultralife Batteries. Today, Newark remains a commercial center for the region and is Wayne County's most populated urban center.

On behalf of the people of New York's 25th Congressional District, it is my honor to recognize and congratulate the residents of Newark on the Village's 150th Anniversary.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO JOAN RICHARDSON

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 17, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today to pay tribute to a wonderful citizen from my district. "Grandma Joan" Richardson of Grand Junction, Colorado volunteers her time to help area students in the classroom, pro-

viding them with a helping hand and teaching them how to read. Joan is a valued citizen of the Grand Junction community, and I am honored to stand before this body of Congress and this nation today to honor her altruistic virtues.

Twice a week, for two and a half hours at a time, Joan devotes her time in an area that she is quite familiar with: the classroom. Having retired from her career as a high school and middle school teacher, Joan has felt the urge to continue to contribute toward the education of local children. The students benefit from having an additional teacher in the classroom a few days per week, while Joan is able to share her valuable skills as a teacher. Joan began helping out on a part time basis when her grandson began school over five years ago. Today she continues to donate her time, helping schools in the Mesa Valley School District.

By making the educational process both interesting and fun for the students, Joan is instilling learning habits that will benefit them for their entire lives. Thanks for your dedication to our youth Joan. I wish you all the best in your retirement.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JIM SAXTON

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 17, 2003

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to provide an explanation for the votes I missed on October 15 and 16, 2003. Due to a Congressional fact-finding trip to Iraq and other parts of the Middle East, I unfortunately missed several votes on the floor of the House on the evening of October 15. Additionally, I missed votes on October 16 because I had to attend a conference regarding information technology at the Department of Defense, an issue over which my Subcommittee on Terrorism and Unconventional Threats and Capabilities has sole jurisdiction.

Had I been present, I would have voted in the following fashion:

Rollcall vote 540: "Aye" (H.R. 6, On motion to instruct Conferees on the Energy Conservation, Research, and Development).

Rollcall vote 541: "No" (H.R. 1308, On motion to instruct Conferees on the Tax Relief, Simplification, and Equity Act).

Rollcall vote 542: "No" (H.R. 1, On motion to instruct Conferees on the Medicare Prescription Drug and Modernization Act).

Rollcall vote 543: "Aye" (H.R. 1828, On motion to suspend the rules and pass the Syria Accountability and Lebanese Restoration Act of 2003).

Rollcall vote 544: "Aye" (H. Res. 396, On ordering the previous question for providing for the Consideration of H.R. 3289: Emergency Supplemental Appropriations for Defense and for the Reconstruction of Iraq and Afghanistan for Fiscal Year 2004).

Rollcall vote 545: "Aye" (H. Res. 198, On agreeing to the resolution as amended which expressed the sense of the House of Representatives that France, Germany, and Russia, can initially best contribute to the reconstruction of Iraq by forgiveness of outstanding debt).

I would like to also note, that I am a co-sponsor and strong supporter of the Syria Accountability and Lebanese Restoration Act of

2003 (H.R. 1828) because it holds Syria accountable for the serious international security problems it has caused in the Middle East. Specifically, H.R. 1828 calls on Syria to halt its support for terrorism, end its occupation of Lebanon, stop its development of weapons of mass destruction, and cease its illegal importation of Iraqi oil and illegal shipments of weapons and other military items to Iraq.

Knowing the importance of this bill, I have been a long-time supporter of H.R. 1828. As such, I would have voted in favor of its passage and will continue to work to ensure it is signed into law as soon as possible.

MOURNING THE LOSS OF STEPHEN WYATT

HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 17, 2003

Mr. HALL. Mr. Speaker, the grim realities of the war in Iraq came home to the Fourth District this week with the death of Private First Class Stephen E. Wyatt, 19, of Kilgore, Texas. Stephen died on October 13 in Balad, Iraq, in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. He was in a convoy that was hit by an improvised explosive device and small arms fire. He was assigned to C Battery, 1st Battalion, 17th Field Artillery Regiment, Fort Sill, Oklahoma and had been in Iraq since April.

Stephen enlisted in the Army on his 18th birthday, having expressed his desire to join the military at an early age. He looked forward to the opportunity to serve his country, to travel and broaden his horizons, and to pursue a higher education degree through the Army. Stephen was a 2002 graduate of Kilgore High School, where his teachers described him as hard working, determined, and likeable. He returned to his high school for a visit in the spring before being deployed to Iraq. While there, he spoke to a government class about how well he liked the military, and he encouraged students to sign up if they were interested.

Stephen was described as an avid outdoorsman who loved hunting and fishing. His ultimate goal would have been to pursue his interest in wildlife preservation. Those aspirations ended on October 13 on the battle front in Iraq.

Our prayers go out to his family and friends. His wife, Kelly Wyatt, is a service member stationed in Hawaii. They were married on Thanksgiving, 2002. His father, Charles Wyatt, and stepmother Lilmah reside in Kilgore. His mother is deceased. Friends and residents of Kilgore responded to his death with an outpouring of sympathy. Mayor Joe Parker signed a proclamation honoring Stephen, asking that flags in Kilgore be flown at half-staff for a week.

Stephen's death is a tragic loss to his family and friends—and to all of us who mourn the loss of one so young who gave his life in defense of our Nation. We owe a debt of gratitude that can never be repaid to Stephen and all those who have made the ultimate sacrifice, generation after generation, in defense of the freedoms that we enjoy today. Without their service, and their willingness to place themselves in the line of fire, America would not be the great Nation that we know today.

Mr. Speaker, as we adjourn today in the House of Representatives, let us do so by honoring Stephen E. Wyatt and extending our deepest condolences to his family and friends. America is free today because of the sacrifices of such young American heroes. Stephen Wyatt is one of those heroes, and we will never forget him.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO THE BARBARA DAVIS CENTER FOR CHILDHOOD DIABETES

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 17, 2003

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise before this body of Congress and this nation today to pay tribute to an outstanding organization. The Barbara Davis Center for Childhood Diabetes at the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center, Fitzsimons Campus in Denver, Colorado provides care and support for children with Type I diabetes and their families. For their diligent work and extraordinary commitment to excellence, I wish to pay tribute to the Barbara Davis Center for Childhood Diabetes here today.

Since 1980, the Davis Center has worked tirelessly to meet the needs of countless children throughout Colorado and the world who suffer from Type I, or Childhood On-Set, diabetes. The Center's clinics have received worldwide recognition for their care of those affected by this debilitating disease. In addition, the Center is a first-class teaching and research facility on the forefront of the investigation into the cause, treatment, and elimination of diabetes.

Mr. Speaker, the Barbara Davis Center for Childhood Diabetes is relentless in its efforts to treat children with diabetes, support their families, and find ways to prevent this devastating disease. For many years, the Center has proudly served the children of Colorado, our nation, and the world. The workers at the center have dedicated themselves to bettering the lives of those affected by diabetes. They are true heroes and I am honored to recognize their work here today.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CASS BALLENGER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 17, 2003

Mr. BALLENGER. Mr. Speaker, on October 15, I inadvertently did not vote on rollcall vote 543, the Syria Accountability and Lebanese Sovereignty Restoration Act (H.R. 1828). I supported this amendment.

HONORING WILLIAM DANIEL BROWN

HON. SHELLEY BERKLEY

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 17, 2003

Ms. BERKLEY. Mr. Speaker, on October 12, 2003, Nevada lost a friend and our nation lost

a true patriot, when the Silver State's oldest veteran, William Daniel Brown passed away at 109 years old. Mr. Brown lived a long, rich life filled with many unique experiences. I had the pleasure to meet this wonderful, mild man and to watch as he was honored for his bravery on the battlefield in the First World War.

A grandson of slaves, Willie was born in a log cabin on August 23, 1894 in Cuero, Texas. He grew up in rural America, ate only what he and his family planted and harvested, attended school in a one-room school house, and learned at a young age what it meant to work hard. In 1918, Mr. Brown, a man of peace, left Texas when President Wilson called on him to serve his country in World War I. Upon his arrival in France, he fought with other black soldiers under French units because the United States Army was still segregated. "I was assigned to repair barbed wire. I'd fix it at night, and the Germans would shoot it up during the day and I'd go back at night and fix it again," he recalled.

After the war, Willie, as his friends called him, returned to Cuero and made a living doing odd jobs around town. In 1935, he married Louise and they moved to California to start anew life together. In California, he worked in an old soldier's home for \$5 a day, but found better work hauling freight for the Pacific Motor Trucking Co. until he retired. After the loss of his first wife, he married again in 1960 and enjoyed a happy life with his second wife Lucille, until her death in 1980. Although he never had children of his own, he was surrounded by the love and loyalty of his 30 nieces and nephews throughout his life.

Thirty years ago, Willie moved to Las Vegas, where his niece, Jennie Jefferson, cared for him. Even after he had surpassed the century mark, Willie continued to be active in the Las Vegas community and attended the New Jerusalem Baptist Church. As Nevada's oldest veteran, he took pride riding in parades and participating in the Veterans of Foreign Wars organization.

On the 80th anniversary of the armistice, Willie was overlooked by the French government when it awarded the Legion of Honor—its highest national award—to 900 American World War I veterans who fought on French soil. After I was made aware of this by the Veterans of Foreign Wars, I worked with the French government to ensure that William Brown's service was recognized. On his 107th birthday in 2001, I was truly honored to stand with the Nellis Air Force Base Honor Guard and several Nevada veterans when the French Consul General named Mr. Brown the Chevalier of the National Order of the Legion of Honor.

On the day before Mr. Brown was awarded the medal, I spoke with him and asked if there was anything that he wanted to do that he had not done already. He replied without hesitation that he wanted to meet President Clinton. Coincidentally, Bill Clinton was visiting Las Vegas on that day and I called the Las Vegas Sun Publisher, Brian Greenspun, who called President Clinton. Without hesitation, President Clinton invited William to his hotel so that he could personally thank him for his service to our country.

The day before Mr. Brown's death, he received a U.S. Presidential Citation from President Bush for his longevity and his wartime service during World War I.

Mr. Brown lived a long and fruitful life despite facing many challenges. He had said of