

near, he focused more on the needs of others than on his own, remaining the same soft spoken, good humored, down-to-earth, hard-working, bright and decent guy we had always known.

Frank was born in Macon, Georgia and raised in Fort Gaines, Georgia. He attended Mercer University in Macon. He was a newspaper reporter; managed retail businesses; operated his own small business when he turned his baseball card hobby into a profession; and served as a social worker and finally a Congressional case worker. He often said he was doing exactly what he wanted to do. For him, there was no higher calling than helping others, and he did it extraordinarily well.

At an early age, he was diagnosed with a congenital kidney problem that eventually led to a transplant at the age of 23. When the transplant failed some years later, he was sustained with regular kidney dialysis. Several years ago, he was found to have cancer. Eventually, his condition proved to be untreatable. He died at the age of 49 at the Phoebe Putney Memorial Hospital in Albany.

He is survived by his mother, Mrs. Della Spooner Bell of Albany; a brother, Robert A. McKay (Juline) of Bushnell, Florida; an uncle, R.S. Spooner of Donalsonville, Georgia, and a number of nieces, nephews and cousins. Our prayers go out to his family.

The Frank Spooner I have known would likely be embarrassed by all of the praise that has come his way in recent days from the many people who loved him, worked with him, and were helped by him. He would say he was not doing anything special—just doing his job as best he could.

Frank did his best—and left the world a better place because of it.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO FRANCES
GRAY "PEGGY" RICHARDS

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 5, 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. Frances Gray "Peggy" Richards of Durango, Colorado recently passed away at the age of eighty-three. Peggy was very active in her community and cared deeply for her fellow Coloradans. As her family and friends mourn her passing, I am honored to pay tribute to Peggy here today.

Peggy was a powerhouse of community service, beginning in the mid-1950s when she served as the Pagosa Springs Town Clerk and Justice of the Peace. During the 1960s, she served simultaneously as an Archuleta County Judge and the Chief Judge of the Jicarilla Apache Tribal Council, while remaining active in numerous community groups. Over the years, Peggy worked as Executive Director of the Southern Ute Community Action Programs and Director of Program Operations for Up-land, Inc., promoting rural development in eleven Colorado counties and three American Indian reservations. In addition, Peggy was the Director of Economic Development for the Southern Ute Tribe, where she wrote the Tribal Comprehensive Plan and generated \$15

million in much needed funds through grants and loans.

Mr. Speaker, Peggy Richards dedicated her life to her community, and many of the successful development projects in southern Colorado can be traced back to Peggy's hard work. She was truly one in a million, and while Peggy has passed, her legacy is sure to live on. I am honored to join with my colleagues in paying tribute to the life and memory of Frances Gray "Peggy" Richards. My thoughts are with her family during this difficult time.

PIONEER OF THE YEAR

HON. MARY BONO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 5, 2003

Mrs. BONO. Mr. Speaker, I and Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. BECERRA, Mr. MCKEON, Mr. BERMAN, Mr. WAXMAN, Mr. MATSUI, Mr. GALLEGLY, Mr. SCHIFF, Ms. WATSON, and Mr. SHERMAN, all from California, rise today to pay tribute to a good friend and an outstanding citizen, Michael Eisner, who will be receiving the prestigious "Pioneer of the Year" award from the Will Rogers Motion Picture Pioneers Foundation on December 4. As Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of The Walt Disney Company, Michael is exceptionally deserving of this recognition. His wise stewardship of this multi-national company has led to a prodigious enhancement of its influence, reputation and scope.

Born in Mt. Kisco, New York to Lester and Margaret E. Eisner, Michael was raised in a caring environment with two successful parents as role models. His father was a famous litigator and public servant who at one time administered the Department of Housing and Urban Development. His mother was co-founder of the American Safety Razor Company and president of a medical research institute. His parents required two hours of reading for every hour of television and strictly rationed their children's consumption of sitcoms and movies.

Michael enrolled in Denison University, initially as a pre-med student. He soon changed his major, however, to reflect his interest in English literature and the theater. A summer job as a page at NBC studios in New York gave him his first taste of the entertainment industry.

Michael's meteoric rise to prominence in the entertainment industry began at ABC, where he made his mark, initially as Director of Program Development for the East Coast, then as Vice President for Daytime Programming and by 1976, as Senior Vice President for Prime Time Production and Development. Under his guidance, the network rose from third to first place among the networks.

In 1977, he took the post of President and Chief Operating Officer of Paramount Pictures, where his leadership brought the studio to become number one in box office and profitability.

Michael cemented his status as a leader in the entertainment industry in September, 1984, when he left Paramount to become Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of The Walt Disney Company, the position he holds to this day. His business acumen and strong work ethic helped him lead Disney through di-

versification and aggressive, but intelligent management. Under Michael's guidance, Disney grew from \$1.7 billion in assets in 1984 to over \$10 billion just ten years later.

Eisner has strongly encouraged Disney and its employees to support local communities and in 1997, he committed to one million hours of community service, helping rebuild the burned First AME Zion church in South-Central Los Angeles, and establishing GOALS—a free youth hockey program for underprivileged youngsters in Orange County, Calif. Under his leadership, Disney has developed two major television events recognizing educators and students: Disney's American Teacher Awards brings together and recognizes 35 of the nation's finest teachers annually and Disney's Young Musicians Symphony Orchestra each year assembles young musicians from North America and Europe for a two-week music camp and an opportunity to perform at a major venue.

Not content to be a master of diversification in the corporate entertainment world, Michael also serves on a number of boards of charitable and civic organizations. He is a trustee of the California Institute of the Arts (CalArts), the American Film Institute and Denison University, his alma mater. He is a Founding Member of the Points of Light Foundation. His success in the entertainment industry has earned him high acclaim and his work has been recognized with many awards and honors, including the International Radio and Television Society Gold Medal Award (1992) and his induction into the Academy of Achievement's Hall of Business (1994).

Michael and his wife Jane are the extremely proud parents of three sons, Breck, Eric and Anders. The family resides in Los Angeles where they are well known for their generous philanthropy. The Eisner Foundation, which they founded in 1996 with an initial \$89 million grant, funds children's organizations, public schools, medical and dental-care programs with a special emphasis on helping Southern Californians. The Eisner Foundation is headed by Jane Eisner.

We feel extremely fortunate to have a person like Michael Eisner in our community. Southern California is a better place because of his willingness to give back to his community.

Mr. Speaker, we invite our colleagues to join us in saluting Michael for his myriad accomplishments, and in congratulating him on being named the "Pioneer of the Year" by the Will Rogers Motion Picture Pioneers Foundation. We wish him continued success in all his future endeavors.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO HELENE
MONBERG

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 5, 2003

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with a solemn heart that I rise before this body of Congress to honor the memory of a great citizen. Helene Monberg recently passed away at the age of eighty-four. Helene was the respected and well-liked former Washington Correspondent for The Pueblo Chieftain and Star-Journal. As Colorado and the larger community mourn her passing, I would like to pay tribute to her memory here today.

Helene began her career as a reporter for the Leadville Record and, in 1942, took the pioneering step of being the first full-time female employee of the Washington Bureau of United Press International. Helene began reporting for the Chieftain in 1947, and extensively covered water and land issues in the West, as well as the education issues she cared for deeply in her heart. In 1965, she started Western Resources Wrap-Up, a newsletter designed to update people on issues related to natural resources. Helene also founded the Achievement Scholarship Program in 1973, and has donated to other scholarships to ensure underprivileged children can attend college.

Mr. Speaker, Helene Monberg was a woman of honesty and compassion. Through the years, she proved herself a dedicated journalist and a committed philanthropist. Helene was a great American, a great journalist, and most importantly, a great person. I join with my colleagues today in honoring her memory and her life here today. My thoughts and prayers go out to her family during this difficult time.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PHIL ENGLISH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 5, 2003

Mr. ENGLISH. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to vote for rollcall vote No. 591 on October 30. Had I been able, I would have voted "nay."

PAYING TRIBUTE TO RUSSELL TAYLOR

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 5, 2003

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise before this body of Congress and this nation today to pay tribute to an inventor and entrepreneur from my district. Russell Taylor of Grand Junction, Colorado saw a need in the community for cellular phones that everyone could afford, and created a phone to fit that need. For his innovation and ingenuity, I am honored to pay tribute to Russell here today.

Russell recently invented a disposable cellular phone, a phone that does not cost a fortune or require the user to sign a lengthy contract. He believes that many people shy away from cell phones because of the high costs, and intimidating contracts. Russell also feels that people who deny themselves a cell phone, may be denying themselves an essential tool in an emergency situation. His concern for his fellow citizens prompted him to create this disposable phone. Russell's invention provides security and peace-of-mind to many Coloradans, allowing them to stay in contact while driving through Colorado's mountains, and call for help if necessary. Russell's phone is becoming a popular commodity in the Grand Junction region, and many of his fellow Coloradans thank him for the convenience his creation has afforded them.

Mr. Speaker, Russell Taylor is an example of American ingenuity. He saw a need and

turned his attention to solving it. Because of Russell's hard work and determination, countless people will now have access to cell phones, a necessity in today's society. For his creativity and inventiveness, I am honored to join with my colleagues in paying tribute to Russell Taylor here today.

HONORING WAYNE TANAKA ON HIS APPOINTMENT AS HONORARY CONSUL GENERAL OF JAPAN

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 5, 2003

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my good friend Wayne Tanaka on his appointment as the Honorary Consul General of Japan in Las Vegas, Nevada. Wayne has been a dedicated public servant throughout his career. I am proud that Wayne has been given this high honor by the Japanese government.

Wayne Tanaka started his career as an educator in the Clark County School District in 1972. He spent 28 years teaching in the fastest growing school district in the country, never losing his commitment to excellence or his desire to give every child an education that would give them the knowledge and character they need in later life. Wayne completed his career as principal of Clark High School in 2001.

Wayne is now serving as principal of the Andre Agassi Preparatory Academy, a charter school dedicated to giving inner-city children the resources and education they need to succeed in life. Wayne's own personal commitment to these goals have made the Academy a success, and an example to schools throughout the country.

As the new Honorary Consul for Japan, Wayne will be able to give his students, not only firsthand knowledge of Japan and the strong friendship and economic relationship between it and the United States, but also a visible sign of the rewards of leadership, dignity, and community commitment. I am proud to call Wayne Tanaka my friend and urge the House to join me in honoring him today.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO JACQUELYN SCHICK

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 5, 2003

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to rise and pay tribute to a remarkable woman from my district. Jacquelyn Schick spent the last forty years acting for the betterment of the people of Pagosa Springs, Colorado. Recently, Jackie announced her retirement from her position as the Pagosa Springs Town Clerk. When news of the retirement reached the citizens of Pagosa Springs, there was an outpouring of gratitude for Jackie's years of service. Because of her selfless and caring nature, Jackie is truly a beloved member of her community, and it is my honor to call her contributions to the attention of this body of Congress and this nation.

Jackie and her husband Gene moved to Pagosa Springs in 1955. After she volunteered in the Town Clerk's Office for two years, the Town Board asked Jackie to hold the Clerk position permanently. As Town Clerk, Jackie was compassionate, caring and dedicated. She always approached her job with the best interests of the citizens of Pagosa Springs in mind, and did a fine job in serving them.

Mr. Speaker, it is truly a privilege today to pay tribute to a woman who has spent her life serving her fellow Coloradans. Although the citizens of Pagosa Springs will miss having Jackie as their Town Clerk, she remains a tremendous asset to the Pagosa Springs community. Today I join the people of Pagosa Springs in thanking Jackie for her service.

REVEREND DR. AVERY ALDRIDGE

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 5, 2003

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today to pay homage to a very dear friend of mine, Reverend Dr. Avery Aldridge. Reverend Aldridge passed away in his sleep at his residence in Flint, Michigan on Saturday, November 1, 2003 at the age of 78. I am deeply saddened by this great loss, for Reverend Aldridge was an inspiring and positive force for Genesee County, the State and Nation. He was a true friend and advisor. I will miss him greatly.

Dr. Avery Aldridge was born on February 9, 1925 in Widener, Arkansas. He organized The Foss Avenue Baptist Church, located at 1159 E. Foss Avenue, Flint, Michigan on December 2, 1956. Under his leadership Foss Avenue Baptist Church has organized 50 auxiliaries and committees to carry out the work of the Lord. Dr. Aldridge also founded several enterprises to serve the membership and community. Those enterprises are the Foss Avenue Dairy Queen, Foss Avenue Free Clothing Center, Foss Avenue Federal Credit Union, Avery Aldridge Family Life Center, which was the first of its kind to be opened in Flint, and the Foss Avenue Christian School of Elementary and Secondary Education. The Church's current facilities and enterprises are valued at over \$3 million. Through Dr. Aldridge's leadership, Foss Avenue Baptist Church has grown to be a tremendously influential Church in Genesee County. One of the greatest blessings of being a father is to know that your children turn out well. Dr. Aldridge has that blessing. On February 10, 2002, Dr. Aldridge installed his son, Reverend Derek Aldridge, as the new Pastor of Foss Avenue Baptist Church.

Dr. Aldridge made his mark in history when he became involved in the civil rights movement of the 1960's. His no nonsense and non-violent approach helped to calm the tension in the City of Flint, after the 1967 rioting in Detroit. Dr. Aldridge was the voice of the community. He fought for better education and work opportunities, not only for the African Americans, but also for all people. Dr. Aldridge from that moment forward was revered as the Civil Rights Leader for Genesee County. In 1969, he founded the Concerned Pastors for Social Action (CPSA) to rid the community of local institutional racism, and to improve the relationship between the community and the police.