

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

PRIVATE CALENDAR

HON. HOWARD COBLE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 17, 2003

Mr. COBLE. Mr. Speaker, my colleagues, Mr. CHABOT, Mr. BOUCHER, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mrs. BLACKBURN and I would like to take this opportunity to set forth some of the history behind, as well as describe the workings of the Private Calendar. I hope this might be of some value to the Members of this House, especially our newer colleagues.

Of the five House Calendars, the Private Calendar is the one to which all Private Bills are referred. Private Bills deal with specific individuals, corporations, institutions, and so forth, as distinguished from public bills which deal with classes only.

Of the 108 laws approved by the First Congress, only 5 were Private Laws. But their number quickly grew as the wars of the new Republic produced veterans and veterans' widows seeking pensions and as more citizens came to have private claims and demands against the Federal Government. The 49th Congress, 1885 to 1887, the first Congress for which complete workload and output data is available, passed 1,031 Private Laws, as compared with 434 Public Laws. At the turn of the century the 56th Congress passed 1,498 Private Laws and 443 Public Laws—a better than three to one ratio.

Private bills were referred to the Committee on the Whole House as far back as 1820, and a calendar of private bills was established in 1839. These bills were initially brought before the House by special orders, but the 62nd Congress changed this procedure by its rule XXIV, clause six which provided for the consideration of the Private Calendar in lieu of special orders. This rule was amended in 1932, and then adopted in its present form on March 22, 1935.

A determined effort to reduce the private bill workload of the Congress was made in the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946. Section 131 of that Act banned the introduction or the consideration of four types of private bills; first, those authorizing the payment of money for pensions; second, for personal or property damages for which suit may be brought under the Federal tort claims procedure; third, those authorizing the construction of a bridge across a navigable stream, or fourth, those authorizing the correction of a military or naval record.

This ban afforded some temporary relief but was soon offset by the rising postwar and cold war flood for private immigration bills. The 82nd Congress passed 1,023 Private Laws, as compared with 594 Public Laws. The 88th Congress passed 360 Private Laws compared with 666 Public Laws.

Under rule XXIV, clause six, the Private Calendar is called the first and third Tuesday of each month. The consideration of the Private Calendar bills on the first Tuesday is manda-

tory unless dispensed with by a two-thirds vote. On the third Tuesday, however, recognition for consideration of the Private Calendar is within the discretion of the Speaker and does not take precedence over other privileged business in the House.

On the first Tuesday of each month, after disposition of business on the Speaker's table for reference only, the Speaker directs the call of the Private Calendar. If a bill called is objected to by two or more Members, it is automatically recommitted to the Committee reporting it. No reservation of objection is entertained. Bills unobjected to are considered in the House in the Committee of the Whole.

On the third Tuesday of each month, the same procedure is followed with the exception that omnibus bills embodying bills previously rejected have preference and are in order regardless of objection.

Such omnibus bills are read by paragraph, and no amendments are entertained except to strike out or reduce amounts or provide limitations. Matters so stricken out shall not be again included in an omnibus bill during that session. Debate is limited to motions allowable under the rule and does not admit motions to strike out the last word or reservation of objections. The rules prohibit the Speaker from recognizing Members for statements or for requests for unanimous consent for debate. Omnibus bills so passed are thereupon resolved in their component bills, which are engrossed separately and disposed of as if passed separately.

Private Calendar bills unfinished on one Tuesday go over to the next Tuesday on which such bills are in order and are considered before the call of bills subsequently on the calendar. Omnibus bills follow the same procedure and go over to the next Tuesday on which that class of business is again in order. When the previous question is ordered on a Private Calendar bill, the bill comes up for disposition on the next legislative day.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to describe to the newer Members the Official Objectors Committee, the system the House has established to deal with the great volume of Private Bills.

The Majority Leader and the Minority Leader each appoint three Members to serve as Private Calendar Objectors during a Congress. The Objectors are on the Floor ready to object to any Private Bill which they feel is objectionable for any reason. Seated near them to provide technical assistance are the majority and minority legislative clerks.

Should any Member have a doubt or question about a particular Private Bill, he or she can get assistance from objectors, their clerks, or from the Member who introduced the bill.

The great volume of private bills and the desire to have an opportunity to study them carefully before they are called on the Private Calendar has caused the six objectors to agree upon certain ground rules. The rules limit consideration of bills placed on the Private Calendar only shortly before the calendar is called. With this agreement, adopted on No-

vember 17, 2003, the Members of the Private Calendar Objectors Committee have agreed that during the 108th Congress, they will consider only those bills which have been on the Private Calendar for a period of seven (7) days, excluding the day the bill is reported and the day the calendar is called. Reports must be available to the Objectors for three (3) calendar days.

It is agreed that the majority and minority clerks will not submit to the Objectors any bills which do not meet this requirement.

This policy will be strictly enforced except during the closing days of a session when the House rules are suspended.

This agreement was entered into by: The gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. COBLE), the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. CHABOT), the gentlelady from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN), the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. BOUCHER), the gentleman from California (Mr. SCHIFF), and the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GRIJALVA).

I feel confident that I speak for my colleagues when I request all Members to enable us to give the necessary advance considerations to private bills by not asking that we depart from the above agreement unless absolutely necessary.

HOWARD COBLE.
STEVE CHABOT.
MARSHA BLACKBURN.
RICK BOUCHER.
ADAM SCHIFF.
RAUL GRIJALVA.

HONORING THE COX FAMILY

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 17, 2003

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Cox Family for its meritorious dedication to the United States Armed Forces. The Cox family has exemplified heroism throughout the years through their service during World War II and the Korean War.

The nine sisters and eight brothers of the Cox Family are the children of (Joseph) Riley and Mattie Cox. Eleven of the 17 children served in the United States Armed Forces with nearly 70 years combined service. The family began enlisting in the Armed Forces in 1943. Elijah, Warren, and Paula served in the United States Army. Mary, Sonja, and Paul served in the United States Air Force, as did James who had previously enlisted in the United States Army. Joseph served in the United States Navy, along with Clarence who later joined the Army and Air Force. Herbert first served in the United States Maritime Service, then in the United States Army. Jerry served over 20 years in the United States Coast Guard.

The Cox family's time in the service demonstrates their commitment to our country. The contributions the Cox family made during our times of war and peace have gone above and beyond the normal call of duty.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Cox Family for its patriotism and courageous efforts to promote freedom and democracy. I invite my colleagues to join me in conveying deep gratitude to the Cox Family.

THE NATIONAL ANTHEM
"SINGAMERICA" COMMEMORATION PROJECT

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 17, 2003

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Con. Res. 262, the National Anthem "SingAmerica" Project, and to bring to the attention of my colleagues this wonderful, new national initiative to commemorate American patriotic music and the role it has played in our history. This new initiative will involve several exciting music-related patriotic programs over the next 3 years.

The National Anthem "SingAmerica" project is designed to invigorate and inspire the American people to a greater appreciation of their patriotic musical heritage. Through this project, we will be able to renew our appreciation for the patriotic music that so movingly expresses our core national sentiments. The members of the National Association for Music Education, in collaboration with the Smithsonian Institution, and with support from the American Sportscasters Association, are already actively pursuing the laudable goals of the project.

The National Anthem "SingAmerica" project includes a series of activities calculated to bring the music, words, and sentiments of the Anthem and our nation's patriotic songs to everyone and to energize the participation of students and adults alike in this essential expression of patriotism. America's youth will give voice to our national anthem and be able to sing it proudly, accurately, and with a full understanding of its rich text. The American Sportscasters Association will be working to increase the emphasis on our national anthem at major sporting events, reaching many of those who otherwise would not have this musical experience. The National Association for Music Education will release a CD with patriotic music played by the Marine Band, complete with a history of this music's role in our nation's development. Teachers' guides will be distributed across the nation to help educators bring the practice and meaning of this music to our nation's students.

All of this activity will culminate on June 14, 2006, when the Smithsonian's National Museum of American's History unveils the newly restored Star Spangled Banner. This event plans to include history's largest performance of the National Anthem with millions of participants from around the country joining thousands of high school band and chorus members on the National Mall to celebrate the display of the restored Star Spangled Banner, the Flag that inspired the National Anthem.

Even more than producing these rousing patriotic events, the National Anthem "SingAmerica" project is a catalyst for all Americans to experience a greater understanding and appreciation of our patriotic music history. It will also remind us of the

countless sacrifices made by so many and of the courage displayed by all Veterans' who have served our country with great honor and pride.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I am proud to introduce H. Con. Res. 262 and to honor the flag and the song that are the symbols of America. I call upon my colleagues for their unanimous support in passing the SingAmerica Act.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROB PORTMAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 17, 2003

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, on November 5, 2003, I was unavoidably detained and missed the vote on rollcall No. 609 on H.R. 3365, the Fallen Patriots Tax Relief Act. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

PAYING TRIBUTE TO MEIJER INC.
AND UNITED PARCEL SERVICE
FOR REACHING OUT TO IRAQI
ORPHANS

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 17, 2003

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the compassionate actions of two Michigan businesses for reaching across the globe to touch the lives of orphaned children living in an Iraqi orphanage.

Leaders at Meijer Inc. and United Parcel Service learned that soldiers in the U.S. Army 101st Airborne stationed near Mosul, Iraq, were helping nearly 70 children in a nearby orphanage.

Meijer, a large supermarket/department store, immediately agreed to donate several large cartons of toys for the children. United Parcel Service supported the project, providing additional funds for toys.

In September, the toys were shipped to soldiers at the 101st mobile military hospital near the orphanage and this past week, they were distributed to the children.

These two generous organizations are to be commended for their efforts that not only help the individual children but also impact the relationships our military men and women are building with the citizens of Iraq.

The long-range impact of this compassionate act by Americans is immeasurable. As these children grow up, they will remember the care and love of Americans who came to free their nation from tyranny and give them a future with hope.

Mr. Speaker, we wish to extend congratulations to Meijer Inc. and United Parcel Service for their generosity and for being willing to reach across geographic and cultural borders to express their care and concern for children in need.

We are honored to recognize their accomplishments and ask that our colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives join in recognizing these Michigan businesses for their humanitarian efforts.

IN RECOGNITION OF MR. LIONEL
A. KAPLAN, ESQ.

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 17, 2003

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the esteemed Mr. Lionel A. Kaplan, ESQ, a man devoted to his community. On November 10, 2003 The Orthodox Union's Institute for Public Affairs, which serves the Orthodox community as the central voice for public policy advocacy and religious liberties, will present Mr. Kaplan with the National Distinguished Leadership Award.

Mr. Kaplan's extraordinary devotion to Israel and his love of the Jewish people have propelled his rise to the top levels of leadership in the American Jewish community. In 1988, Mr. Kaplan joined the American-Israel Public Affairs Committee, AIPAC, one of the leading pro-Israel lobby groups, as chairman of the Princeton/Mercer Area, a position he held until 2002. During those years, he also served as a member of the AIPAC Executive Committee; Member of the New York Regional Board; New Jersey State Chairman; Member of the National Board of Directors; and National Development Chairman. In addition, Mr. Kaplan became President of AIPAC from 1998–2000 and Chairman of the Board from 2000–2002. Throughout his career in AIPAC, he has always been known for his skills as a consummate fundraiser for pro-Israel causes.

Mr. Kaplan's contributions to his community do not stop with AIPAC. In the United Jewish Appeals, UJA, Federation, he served as a Member of the UJA National Young Leadership Cabinet, as a leadership and fundraising trainer at the UJA National Training Center, and has served as Vice President of the Jewish Federations of New Jersey. In his immediate community, Mr. Kaplan has assumed a variety of roles, including Campaign Chairman and President of the Jewish Federation of Princeton, Mercer, and Bucks Counties. Among his other community services, he has been the chairman of the New Jersey "Jerusalem 3000" Committee, which planned and coordinated events for the 3000-year anniversary of Jerusalem and Co-Chairman of the New Jersey Israel Communications.

Mr. Kaplan has a graduate degree from Harvard University and has received his J.D. from Rutgers University. He is a licensed attorney in the Firm of Joseph D. Kaplan & Son, P.C., in Trenton where he has been a partner since 1972. Mr. Kaplan is also a member of the American, New Jersey, and Mercer County Bar Associations. He and his wife reside in Princeton, New Jersey.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Kaplan has demonstrated what it means to be a true contributor to one's community. The extensive list of his tireless efforts shows a genuine compassion and devotion to public service. Accordingly, I ask that my colleagues rise and join me in honoring Mr. Lionel A. Kaplan, ESQ.

HONORING WILL GILL, JR., SENIOR
FARMER OF THE YEAR

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 17, 2003

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Will Gill, Jr., as the Madera County Chamber of Commerce and Madera County Farm Bureau Senior Farmer of the Year. Mr. Gill will be recognized at the Madera County Farm Bureau's 82nd Annual Members Meeting and Senior Farmer Presentation on November 6 in Madera, CA.

Will's dedication to his country and his strong work ethic have brought much success for him and his family. He has contributed 61 years to Madera County agriculture. Mr. Gill's family, natives of Iowa, migrated to Porterville, CA, in the 1870s and an agriculture legacy began. By the 1940s, the family's ranching operations were flourishing in Porterville and Madera. Upon the death of his father, Will, and his wife Jane, moved from Southern California to Madera to manage the family's local agriculture interests. Not long after his arrival, he was sent to Fort Sill, OK, where the U.S. Army needed his service in the midst of WWII. Mr. Gill served as an army sergeant of the Military Police in the China-Burma-India Theatre. In 1946, Will returned to Madera and resumed his work in the family's crop and livestock investments, which included oat and alfalfa hay, cows, and stocker and feeder cattle.

As a proud member of many organizations and the recipient of several awards, Will is no stranger to his community. He served on Governor Ronald Reagan's Advisory Committee on Foreign Trade, was past-president of the Madera Rotary Club, a member of the Madera County Air Pollution Board, a 60-year member of the California Cattlemen's and National Cattlemen's Associations, and the list goes on. Will was named Madera County Cattleman of the Year in 1963 and California Livestock Man of the Year in 1972. His favorite venture, raising quarter horses, has made his 53-year membership to the American Quarter Horse Association particularly enjoyable. The list of Will's achievements and commitments goes on, reinforcing his benevolent character.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Will Gill, Jr., for being named Senior Farmer of the Year by the Madera Chamber of Commerce and Madera County Farm Bureau. His contributions to America's agriculture communities have been invaluable. I invite my colleagues to join me in commending Mr. Gill for this achievement.

HONORING MASTER FOLTA

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 17, 2003

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate Master Nestor Folta on his 50th birthday and 20 years of successful Uechi-Ryu Karate study.

Master Folta is a civil engineer with the U.S. Department of Energy. He resides in Oakton with his wife and two children. For years, he has dedicated notable time and energy to the study and teaching of Uechi-Ryu Karate.

Uechi-Ryu is traditional Okinawan Karate, developed by Master Kanbun Uechi and his son Kanei Uechi. Uechi-Ryu has its origin in the ancient Chinese tradition of martial arts. Today, it is the only form of Okinawan Karate that remains in its original Soke, handed down from father to son from generation to generation.

Master Folta is a seven-time world champion of Uechi-Ryu and an inductee in the martial arts hall of fame. He has demonstrated a strong aptitude for and commitment to the study of karate.

The Academy of World Champion Nestor Folta (AWCNF), located in Fairfax County, carries on the Uechi-Ryu tradition. Through the study of Uechi-Ryu Karate, over 100 AWCNF students learn self-defense, self-discipline, and self-respect. Uechi-Ryu encourages the formation of high personal standards and respect for fellow men and women. The AWCNF's mission is to use Uechi-Ryu to help students become positive, successful, respected, contributing members of society.

Each year, AWCNF tuition raises an estimated \$25,000 for Fairfax County. In addition, the AWCNF has raised over \$20,000 for 9/11 victims.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I would like to recognize Master Folta's efforts to better himself, his students, and his community through the practice of Uechi-Ryu. I wish him a happy birthday, commend 20 years of success, and extend him all of my best for the years to come. I call upon all my colleagues to join me in applauding Master Folta.

HONORING WILLIAM J. MULVIHILL, SR. AS HE RECEIVES THE ARTHRITIS FOUNDATION'S CHARLES B. HARDING AWARD FOR DISTINGUISHED SERVICE

HON. ROB PORTMAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 17, 2003

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor William J. Mulvihill, a friend and constituent, who received the Arthritis Foundation's prestigious Charles B. Harding Award during the Foundation's national meeting on November 14, 2003. The Arthritis Foundation is the only nationwide nonprofit organization leading efforts to prevent, control and cure arthritis, which is our nation's number one cause of disability.

The Charles B. Harding Award is the highest honor the Arthritis Foundation presents for service as a volunteer. The award was established in 1976 and is given annually to the individual who best exemplifies the highest standards of concern and commitment to the arthritis cause. Previous recipients of this high honor include former First Lady Betty Ford and actress Jane Wyman.

Bill has spent more than 20 years raising awareness and advocating on behalf of the more than 43 million people affected by arthritis and its related diseases. Diagnosed with rheumatoid arthritis at the age of 25, he became active locally in the Southwestern Ohio Chapter of the Arthritis Foundation, and went on to serve as Senior Chair, Chair and Vice President.

In 1985, Bill became active with the Foundation on the national level, becoming a mem-

ber of the House of Delegates and later National Vice Chair, Treasurer, a member of the Board of Trustees and National Chair. As National Chair, he was responsible for leading nearly 600,000 volunteers and staff nationwide. He is currently Trustee Emeritus, and is a member of the National Medical and Scientific Council. Bill also serves on the Board of Directors of the Alliance for Lupus Research, where he is a founding member.

A native Cincinnati, Bill is Senior Associate Athletic Director at the University of Cincinnati, and has been with U.C. for 30 years. He is in his 24th year as head of the athletic department's fundraising efforts, and previously held positions in Alumni Affairs and Public Affairs. He is a graduate of St. Xavier High School, and received his Bachelor's of Business Administration from the University of Cincinnati and his Master's of Education from Ohio University.

Bill and his wife, Beth, live in Anderson Township. Their son, Billy, is a graduate of the University of Cincinnati and is a valued member of the staff of the U.S. House of Representatives' Committee on Ways and Means.

All of us in Southern Ohio congratulate Bill on receiving this prestigious honor, and appreciate his dedicated service.

RECOGNITION OF THE ARMED
FORCES RELIEF TRUST FUND

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 17, 2003

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding efforts of the National Association of Broadcasters for their partnership with the Armed Forces Relief Trust Fund. The Armed Forces Relief Trust Fund serves as an umbrella organization incorporating the four Military Aid Societies from the Army, Navy-Marine, Air Force and Coast Guard collecting and distributing donations that help reduce the burden on families of our military men and women. The partnership with National Association of Broadcasters will help create and broadcast public service announcements to encourage Americans to donate to the Armed Forces Relief Trust Fund.

While our military men and women are serving our country, it is paramount that the American people band together so that we can ensure that no family incurs hardships while their loved one is away. Military aid programs, funded by private donations, provide services like college tuition for children and health care for pregnant wives, services that could have been provided if their family member had not been called to duty. Last year alone, the four military aid societies provided over \$109 million in grants and interest free loans to 145,000 families.

I am confident that with the help of the National Association of Broadcasters the Armed Forces Relief Trust Fund can far exceed the number of families it was able to help last year. As an increasing number of Americans answer the call to duty, more and more families will be asking the Armed Forces Relief Trust Fund for help. The public service announcements developed by The National Association of Broadcasters will help to increase donations and insure that the trust fund has the solvency to answer this call.

Mr. Speaker, the continued support of the brave men and women serving this country is extremely important to me. I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking the National Association of Broadcasters and the Armed Forces Relief Trust Fund for their assistance to our troops.

IN RECOGNITION OF BISHOP
DONALD HILLIARD, JR.

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 17, 2003

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to laud the accomplishments of Bishop Donald Hilliard, Jr. Bishop Hilliard is a man of conviction and dedication, as well as an inspiration to his community. This year, the Cathedral International Church is celebrating twenty years of excellence under the leadership of Bishop Donald Hilliard.

Bishop Hilliard is someone who places a high value on education. He earned his Bachelor of Arts degree from Eastern University in St. David's, Pennsylvania. He later earned a Master of Divinity degree from Princeton Theological Seminary, and was awarded a Doctorate of Ministry degree from the United Theological Seminary in Dayton Ohio. Yet, Dr. Hilliard's accomplishments extend far beyond academia. His list of achievements range from economic and community developer to spiritual leader.

Bishop Hilliard always approaches life with a positive attitude, as revealed in his trademark "Say Yes" services at the Second Baptist Church in Perth Amboy, New Jersey. At the age of 26, Bishop Hilliard became the Church's Senior Pastor. Since then, the church has grown from 125 members in 1983 to over 7,000 members today. What started out as one church has grown to three located in urban settings throughout New Jersey. Dr. Hilliard's faith and inspirational words draws people from out the tri-state area of New York, Pennsylvania, and New Jersey. The Cathedral is recognized as a growing and influential church and as been cited by American Baptist churches, USA as a model church for growth.

In 1995, Bishop Hilliard was consecrated a bishop and is currently the presiding Bishop and founder of the Ecumenical Fellowship and Cathedral assemblies, Inc. In this role, Bishop Hilliard serves as the spiritual advisor and mentor for several pastors and churches across America and West Africa. The Bishop has also established the Clergy Leadership Institute where innovative leaders from different denominational backgrounds gather to confront and minister to various issues faced by the clergy daily, as well as to expand their theological and social horizons.

Bishop Hilliard and his church have been cited numerous times by the city of Perth Amboy and the State of New Jersey for their contributions to community development. Today, I rise to ask this national body to recognize the accomplishments of this esteemed gentleman. Mr. Speaker, a man such as Bishop Hilliard should be an inspiration to us all. He has given so much of his life to serving others in need. Accordingly, I ask that my colleagues rise and join me in honoring Bishop Donald Hilliard, Jr.

CONGRATULATING THE
HOMENETMEN SCOUTS FRESNO
SASSOON CHAPTER

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 17, 2003

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Homenetmen Scouts Fresno Sassoos Chapter on their 30th Anniversary. There will be a banquet held in their honor on Saturday, November 15 in Fresno, CA.

In its 30th year, the Homenetmen Scouts Fresno Sassoos Chapter strives to encourage Fresno's Armenian youth to be involved in competitive sports and Armenian Boy Scouts activities, while forming an efficient organization that preserves the grace of Armenian language and culture. Since its establishment in 1973, the organization's main purpose has been twofold: to provide the Armenian youth with a moral and physical education outside of the school environment; and teaching them the richness of Armenian culture while accepting and participating in the culture that surrounds them. Comprised of disciplinary and athletic divisions, the Fresno Chapter boasts ten basketball teams spanning a variety of ages, and a strong Troop 12 Armenian Boy Scouts group. The Homenetmen Scouts Fresno Sassoos Chapter is part of the world-wide organization with over 25,000 members on five continents.

The Armenian General Athletic Union and Scouts known as Homenetmen, is a nonprofit organization which was founded 85 years ago in Constantinople by Shavarsh Krisian, Hovhannes Hintlian, and Krikor Hagopian. The organization promotes a sense of fraternity and humanitarianism, which extends far beyond mere camaraderie and benevolence. Homenetmen's motto, "Elevate yourself and others with you," is a poignant reminder of the fundamental objective to strive for individual and collective excellence. In the United States, the first Homenetmen Olympic Games took place in Brooklyn, NY, in 1922, though the organization was not officially established in America until 1932 with chapters in New York, New Jersey, and Boston. From that point on, Homenetmen organized chapters in the communities wherever there was a large concentration of Armenians.

Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to congratulate the Homenetmen Scouts Fresno Sassoos Chapter on its 30th anniversary. I urge my colleagues to join me in wishing them many years of continued success.

HONORING HARRIS D. ARLINSKY
(RET.), USA GREEN BERETS

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 17, 2003

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize LTC Harris David Arlinsky (retired) for 50 years of service to our country.

This past June marks the 50th anniversary of when he volunteered for the Army National Guard at 17 years old. He did so proudly.

After serving in the regular Army for a few years, Colonel Arlinsky attended college at the University of Arizona. He set his sights on being an Air Force pilot; unfortunately, his blurry vision made this impossible. Upon graduation and accepting a commission in the U.S. Army, then-Second Lieutenant Arlinsky attended training for the newly created U.S. Special Forces. The Special Forces, also known as the Green Berets, are the best of the best and have been instrumental in countless conflicts. Colonel Arlinsky knew he belonged with the elite forces and passed their extremely difficult tests to gain the coveted Green Beret.

As a Green Beret, he commanded a "B" Team for the Fifth Special Forces Group in Pleiku, Vietnam. He served two tours and was involved in pushing back Vietcong forces during the Tet Offensive. After the Vietnam War, Colonel Arlinsky continued to serve our nation through various Special Forces projects. Eventually, he left active duty to serve the civilian intelligence services, maintaining reserve status.

During the Reagan administration, Harris Arlinsky worked directly for Vice President George Bush as the Special Intelligence Advisor for the National Narcotics Border Interdiction System for the southwest U.S. border region. While in the region, he also commanded a U.S. Special Forces "B" team with five "A" teams in Texas and New Mexico. Upon completion of the assignment, he returned to Virginia to assist with other national intelligence agencies.

Today he is enjoying his retirement as a college professor, spending time with his wife, Kathleen; his children Beth, Abra, and Michael; and his grandson, Elias.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I would like to commend COL Harris Arlinsky for his service to our Nation. He nobly has dedicated his life to the safety and well being of the United States of America. As COL Harris Arlinsky continues to celebrate his 50th anniversary of his first month of service to us, let us thank him and all our soldiers for their sacrifices. I ask that my colleagues join me in saluting COL Harris Arlinsky.

TRIBUTE TO M. DEAN HAINES

HON. JIM SAXTON

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 17, 2003

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to M. Dean Haines on the occasion of his retirement as clerk of Ocean County.

As one of the County's Constitutional Officers, he has been responsible for the administration of a wide range of services offered by the Office of the County Clerk for two decades.

Serving the community is the main focus of the Clerk's Office, including assisting residents in real estate transfers, obtaining passports, courtesy photo identification and Alcoholic Beverage Control Cards, and supervision of elections in the county. Dean's office has been recognized as the most technologically advanced County Clerk's Office in our State, thanks to his leadership and innovation.

Dean Haines' involvement in many community service organizations such as his membership on the Southern Ocean County Hospital Board of Trustees, the Southern Ocean

County Rotary, Jersey Shore Council Boy Scouts of America, Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Council of Ocean County, Barnegat Historical Society, and both Barnegat Fire Company Number One and the New Jersey State Fireman's Association is a demonstration of his commitment to the people of Ocean County.

I have always valued his friendship and support through the years. I hope Dean and his wife, Christine, will accept my congratulations and best wishes for a retirement filled with health, happiness, and dreams come true.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 1588,
NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION
ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2004

SPEECH OF

HON. ELLEN O. TAUSCHER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 7, 2003

Mrs. TAUSCHER. Mr. Speaker, I have mixed emotions as I consider the fiscal year 2004 defense authorization conference report.

I would like to thank my chairman, Mr. HUNTER, and Ranking Member SKELTON for working with me on several items that will benefit the people in my district, Travis Air Force Base, and our military airlift capabilities overall.

Indeed, the language in the bill expediting the transfer of land from the Navy to the Housing Authority of the City of Dixon will improve the living and work conditions of migrant workers who contribute to the local economy.

The language preventing the Secretary of the Air Force from retiring C-5A aircraft until one has been modernized and tested is a crucial measure that not only sustains a critical investment in upgrading one of the United States' most reliable transport planes, but it also ensures that Travis Air Force Base will continue to be an important provider of strategic lift in the near future.

The bill also contains a number of important provisions for our men and women in uniform such as an increase in base pay; a reduction in housing expenses; an increase in family separation allowance; and an increase in the rate of special pay for our brave troops who serve in hostile situations and imminent danger.

Despite these important positive elements, the bill contains several reckless provisions that undermine the security of the United States and needlessly jeopardize civilian employees and the environment.

This bill puts the United States back in the business of making nuclear weapons, adds unnecessary regulations that hamstring the DOD's nonproliferation programs, takes away the protections of civilian personnel, and gratuitously endangers the environment.

By lifting the ban on research and development of low yield nuclear weapons, Congress is abetting the administration's efforts to build a new generation of nuclear weapons; is inviting an arms race with rogue states, terrorists and allies; and is making a nuclear conflict more likely in the long run by undoing decades of American leadership in controlling the spread of the most deadly weapons known to man.

The Defense Bill, rather than increasing the budget for the DOD's valuable cooperative

threat reduction programs that dismantle and destroy weapons of mass destruction in the former Soviet Union, adds unnecessary funding restrictions that in the end will only hurt the security of the American people.

The broad environmental exemptions provided for in the bill will undermine efforts to protect our environment by, among other things, making it harder to wall-off parts of military facilities as protected areas for wildlife.

Proponents use spin to claim this is necessary for military readiness, but it's hard to see how a blanket environmental exemption for everything on military installations from golf courses to swimming pools are pressing matters of national defense.

Moreover, the Pentagon can already get waivers from the Endangered Species Act and the Marine Mammal Protection Act when national security is at stake. But in the three decades since these laws have been in effect, not a single waiver has been sought.

The bill also abolishes DOD's long-standing labor relations system and replaces it with one in which civilian employees have only minimal consultation with unions and Congress.

The bill allows DOD to remove basic due process rights that employees currently enjoy by waiving their right to a written response, their right to be represented by an attorney, and their right to a written decision explaining the action.

I am deeply disturbed that the Republican Party has hijacked an important bill for our troops and attached to it a radical slash-and-burn ideology that is sure to undermine civilian morale at the Pentagon, needlessly endanger the environment and most alarmingly, endanger the American people with an irresponsible nuclear agenda.

I am voting for this bill because I do not believe, especially in a time of war, we should punish our active troops by withholding funds and measures that would benefit them because of some of the administration's imprudent and over-reaching provisions in the bill.

HONORING SPC. JAMES "JIMMY"
ANDERSON CHANCE, III

HON. CHARLES W. "CHIP" PICKERING

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 17, 2003

Mr. PICKERING. Mr. Speaker, I rise this evening before the House to pay tribute to Specialist James "Jimmy" Chance of Kokomo, Mississippi. Specialist Chance was a member of the Mississippi Army National Guard serving in C Company of the 890th Battalion attached to the Army's 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment in Iraq.

Tragically, Specialist Chance was killed on Thursday, November 6, 2003, when his vehicle struck a landmine near the Syrian border. He was the first of our own Mississippi National Guardsmen to lose his life while bravely serving in the Iraq War.

Specialist Chance is a true American hero who has paid the ultimate price to protect our country from terrorists and defend the liberties of the citizens of the United States of America. Furthermore, he has unselfishly given his life to win freedom for the people of Iraq who suffered under the unbearable rule of an evil dictator. These are people he did not know, but

yet, he has helped give millions of Iraqi men, women, and children, the chance to live lives of freedom and independence like we know at home in the United States.

Even though I know his family is enduring great suffering as a result of their loss, I hope they will find peace in knowing that Specialist Chance bravely served his country and his countrymen and defended the values and principles that Americans hold so dear. Specialist Chance was a defender of peace and a lion of liberty.

Specialist James Anderson Chance, III, represents the best of Mississippi and our Nation. I ask my colleagues in Congress to join me in honoring his courageous service, and ask that you pray that his family will find peace during this trying time.

A TRIBUTE TO THE WOMEN'S SOCIAL AND CULTURAL SOCIETY OF MOSUL

HON. DEBORAH PRYCE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 17, 2003

Ms. PRYCE of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, as the leader of the first all women's United States Congressional Delegation to Iraq, it is my pleasure on behalf of Representatives JENNIFER DUNN, SUE KELLY, ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN, MARSHA BLACKBURN, KATHERINE HARRIS, DARLENE HOOLEY and CAROLYN MCCARTHY, to commend the excellent work being done at the Women's Social and Cultural Society of Mosul. Today, with great honor and privilege, I would like to recognize the major milestones the organization has achieved.

The Women's Social and Cultural Society, comprised of more than 200 members, represents a variety of ethnic, religious and professional affiliations. These women are truly creating a new ideal within their country as they promote social, political and educational equality for all Iraqis. For too long, Iraqi women have suffered without equal or even adequate access to education, justice within the legal system, employment opportunities, and representation within the government. The members of the Women's Social and Cultural Society of Mosul must be applauded for their commitment to end decades of oppression against women by fighting to give them a voice and a respected role of leadership within their communities. The challenge is immense, but their determination is steadfast and unwavering.

We commend and praise the Women's Social and Cultural Society of Mosul today and urge our colleagues to wish them continued success as they pave the way for future generations of Iraqi citizens.

IN HONOR OF HILARY KITASEI

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 17, 2003

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, Riverdale is a fortunate community in that not only do the people who live here care for it, but newcomers after they arrive also do their best to make it even better.

Hilary Kitasei came to our community a few short years ago and in that relatively brief time has made a lasting impression on her new neighborhood and on how the community looks. She first took on a rather desolate piece of wasteland at Fieldston Road at the Henry Hudson Parkway overpass and using her considerable abilities transformed it into a woodland glade that is a highlight of the neighborhood.

It was planted by the students from almost all of the local schools as well as neighbors and is now a part of the New York City Parks Department Greenstreets Program.

Setting her eyes on a larger project she is spearheading the development of the Hudson Scenic Byway Program to create New York State's first urban scenic byway.

Riverdale, and by extension all of New York City, is lucky to have such people as Hilary Kitasei. I join all of our community in thanking her for the wonderful things she has done.

CONGRATULATING DR. GLORIA BROMELL-TINUBU ON HER APPOINTMENT AS THE 5TH PRESIDENT OF BETHUNE COOKMAN COLLEGE

HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 17, 2003

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Dr. Gloria Bromell-Tinubu on becoming the 5th president of Bethune-Cookman College in Daytona Beach, Florida.

An educator and a community leader, Dr. Bromell-Tinubu is an economics professor at Spelman College in Atlanta, and was a former member of the Georgia State Board of Education. She is currently the chief executive officer of the Atlanta Cooperative Development Board, a nonprofit agency that serves as a catalyst in developing cooperative-owned business enterprises. Within 9 months as CEO, she obtained a \$1 million grant to assist the economically disadvantaged move toward self-sufficiency, and continues research that explores the use of cooperatives as a means of establishing economic security in asset-poor communities.

Dr. Bromell-Tinubu is a former member of the Atlanta City Council who has considerable community development experience, as shown by legislation she authored creating the Atlanta Neighborhood Deputies Program, a city-wide citizen driven code enforcement effort. She has served on numerous community development boards, including the Metropolitan Neighborhood Development Corporation (MNDC), which she founded.

In taking the helm of Bethune-Cookman College, Dr. Bromell-Tinubu becomes the fifth president of this private coeducational liberal arts college with a diverse student population of more than 2,700. Established in 1904 by Mary McLeod Bethune, the college is ranked among the top historically black colleges in the country. Most recently Bethune-Cookman College was selected as one of 10 colleges in the country to participate in Project Pericles, a program funded by the Eugene Lang Foundation to establish educational programs for social responsibility and participatory citizenship

as an essential part of higher education learning, in the classroom, on the campus, and in the community.

The Bethune Cookman College could not have found a more perfect fit to fulfill their goals and mission. I know that all of my colleagues join me in congratulating Dr. Gloria Bromell-Tinubu today, and we wish her every success in her future.

HONORING SPECIAL AGENT
LEANNE G. CHARETTE ON THE
OCCASION OF HER RETIREMENT

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 17, 2003

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I stand to join the many family, friends, and colleagues who have gathered today to extend my sincere congratulations to Leanne G. Charette on the occasion of her retirement marking the end of a thirty-two year career with the Internal Revenue Service.

When the average American thinks about the Internal Revenue Service, often they only contemplate the time, energy, and paperwork it takes to file an annual tax return. While the Internal Revenue Service is charged with the task of collecting revenue, they are also responsible for ensuring the protection of American citizens from fraud and evasion. Every day we hear the stories of corporations and individuals who seek to undermine the government through waste, mismanagement, and fraud. It is through the efforts of Special Agents like Ms. Charette that American taxpayers are saved millions in lost revenue.

Throughout her career, Leanne Charette has demonstrated a unique commitment to public service. As a Special Agent with the Criminal Investigation Division of the Internal Revenue Service, she has been an active member of several complex investigations. As a member of the Health Care Fraud Task Force, she worked with representatives from several federal agencies to identify abuses in the health care field which were used to help develop health care reforms. More recently, Ms. Charette worked on a task force investigating a massive insurance fraud responsible for bilking insurance companies in several states of assets in excess of two hundred million dollars. Her efforts helped to identify several problems with the industry and the results will go a long way in helping to establish solutions to these issues. More importantly, the task force has been able to recover most of the stolen assets which will be distributed to the victims.

Too often, we overlook the tireless efforts of those in public service. Throughout her career, Ms. Charette has exemplified all that a public servant should be. Her commitment and diligence has earned her the respect and admiration of her colleagues and all of those with whom she has worked. For her many years of dedicated service, I am proud to rise today to extend my heart-felt congratulations to Leanne G. Charette as she joins her husband, Dick, in retirement. My very best wishes to you both for many more years of health and happiness.

TRIBUTE TO DR. YJEAN
CHAMBERS OF GARY, INDIANA

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 17, 2003

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker it is with great remorse that I rise today to pay tribute to one of Gary, Indiana's most dedicated and caring citizens, Dr. YJean Chambers. YJean passed away on Wednesday, November 12th at Methodist Hospital after a longtime illness. Her efforts as a distinguished educator as well as her numerous contributions to her community are worthy of the highest commendation and recognition.

YJean and her family moved to Gary, Indiana from Kentucky when she was a young girl, seeking a better life for themselves. In 1939, she graduated from Gary Roosevelt High School ranking second in her class, and then went on to earn her Bachelor of Education degree from Illinois State University. She also went on to earn her Master of Arts degree from Purdue University, where she received Purdue University's highest award, Doctor of Humane Letters in 1993.

YJean knew how important education was to all members of her community and therefore shared her gift of knowledge and enthusiasm for learning by becoming a teacher in Madison, Illinois. After two years she began teaching speech and drama at her alma mater, Gary Roosevelt High School. In 1971, YJean became a full time professor at Purdue Calumet in Hammond, Indiana where she taught communications and was appointed Assistant Professor of Communications in 1973.

YJean gave selflessly to her community in so many ways, including being a member of several volunteer and service organizations. She served as President of the Steel City Hall of Fame, sat on the Service Academies Nomination Board, was a member of the Board of Trustees of the Gary Community Schools, and was also a member of the Board of Directors of the Indiana School Board Association. YJean made history in Northwest Indiana by becoming the first African American woman elected to the Northwest Indiana Crime Commission and the first woman to serve on the Advisory Board of the Bank of Indiana.

Although she dedicated her life to serving her community, YJean never limited the time she gave to her loving family. She is survived by her husband Mr. Herman Chambers, and their son Lanel.

Mr. Speaker, YJean Chambers was a caring and committed woman who gave of herself in so many ways to her community. I respectfully ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in paying tribute to Dr. YJean Chambers, she will be remembered honorably and truly missed.

TRIBUTE TO JOSHUA PETERS

HON. MIKE PENCE

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 17, 2003

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I pay tribute today to Joshua Peters of Muncie, Indiana. Joshua is an Army

medic currently serving in the 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment in Iraq. This soldier's recent unselfishness and courageous acts of aiding to his fellow comrades demonstrated true American heroism. The citizens of Indiana's Sixth Congressional District, joined by all Americans, are proud of Joshua's extraordinary actions displayed toward his fellow Americans.

Earlier this month, one of two Chinook helicopters transporting soldiers to Baghdad International Airport for their R&R flights home to the United States was shot down. The second helicopter did an immediate harsh landing to assist the brave men aboard the downed Chinook. As Joshua and his fellow regiment members ran to help the injured, they came under heavy gunfire without any protective gear, weapons, or medical supplies readily available. Joshua was initially the only medic at the scene and attended to the wounded for more than 2 hours. During this time, Joshua's thoughts remained solely with the health and safety of his fellow servicemen. "God, don't let anything happen to me that would render me unable to help these guys—help me, Lord."

Mr. Speaker, I am honored today to rise and pay tribute to Joshua Peters, a man who by his actions has demonstrated a promise to help defend America's freedom. Heroes emerge from the significant events happening in Iraq, and I am proud to say that Joshua Peters is among them.

Mr. Speaker, it is my great privilege to stand today and honor Joshua Peters of Muncie, Indiana before Congress and the Nation.

HONORING THE ARTISTIC CONTRIBUTIONS OF CLIFF SEGERBLOM

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 17, 2003

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the life-long artistic contributions of Cliff Segerblom to the Southern Nevada community. The Boulder City Arts Council will present "Hanging with Cliff," a diverse selection of the artists works.

The works of Mr. Segerblom chronicle the history of the ever-changing Nevada landscape from his original assignment as the official photographer for the Bureau of Reclamation at the Hoover Dam in 1938 until his passing in 1980. Throughout this period, Cliff used a variety of media in portraying our environs in Southern Nevada, from the natural beauty that surrounds us to the feats of human endeavor that inspire us. I wish to thank Boulder City's most famous artist, and I urge all residents of Nevada to acquaint themselves with the powerful work of Mr. Cliff Segerblom.

RECOGNIZING VINCENT M. COULDRY FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 17, 2003

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Vincent M. Couldry, a very spe-

cial young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 60, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Vincent has been very active with his troop, participating in many Scout activities. Over the 9 years Vincent has been involved with Scouting, he has earned over 60 merit badges and has held numerous leadership positions, serving as patrol leader, chaplain, quartermaster, and Cub Scout leader. Vincent had been involved with the Tribe of Mic-O-Say for 3 years and is in the Warrior Class.

For his Eagle Scout project, Vincent landscaped an area around Savannah High School and Savannah City Tennis Courts in Savannah, Missouri. With the assistance of 22 other Scouts and leaders, Vincent planned, gathered the needed materials, and mulched 78 trees.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Vincent M. Couldry for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

TRIBUTE TO TIM MCCARTHY

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 17, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with a solemn heart that I rise today to pay tribute to the passing of a great man from my district. Tim McCarthy, a descendant of one of Pueblo, Colorado's pioneer families, was an enthusiastic figure who was known for his knowledge about Pueblo and its residents. His passing is a great loss for the Pueblo community, and I would like to take this opportunity to remember his life before this body of Congress.

After graduating from Pueblo Catholic High School, Tim spent a year studying Theater at the Pasadena Playhouse before completing a music degree at Northwestern University. Upon graduation, Tim moved back to Pueblo and became a dynamic music teacher who inspired his students to respect their fellow man. In 1957, Tim joined his father in the family funeral home business. He was a well-known art and theater enthusiast, and organized Tri-Hi Inc., a group dedicated to entertaining troops at military bases.

Tim loved to share his knowledge of Pueblo's history with others. On any given day, he could be found explaining historical events to his many friends and family members throughout town. Tim was a caring man who loved tradition and sought to keep it alive through educating his community on its past.

Mr. Speaker, Tim McCarthy was a compassionate human being who touched the lives of everyone he met. I am honored to pay tribute to a phenomenal soul who encouraged happiness and kindness in his community. Pueblo has lost a great man who exemplified the inner beauty that comes from a life-long pursuit of community service. My thoughts and prayers go out to Tim's family during this time of bereavement.

A TRIBUTE TO RALPH DICKERSON, JR. AND GLORIA DENNA DICKERSON

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 17, 2003

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Ralph and Gloria Dickerson in recognition of their commitment and service to their community.

Ralph Dickerson, Jr. has served honorably as the President of United Way of New York City since May 1988. As President of United Way of New York City, he has led the organization into the position of being the largest private funder of health and human services in New York City and as a major force in forging bold new solutions to the city's most critical human care challenges.

Under his leadership, United Way of New York City's revenue has grown from \$75.1 million to \$135 million, making it the largest United Way in the nation. In addition, United Way of New York City has used its extensive knowledge of community-based human service agencies to broker and partner with government, foundations and business in ground breaking initiatives that are successfully addressing the city's human care issues and the high dropout rate.

Ralph has held key executive positions for 30 years in local United Ways including St. Louis, Missouri; Madison, Wisconsin; Cleveland, Ohio; and Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. He holds a B.S. in Business Administration; and he received a M.B.A. from the University of Wisconsin.

Ralph and Gloria are the proud parents of two children, daughter, Maria Renee (deceased), and Ralph III. Their son, Ralph III and daughter-in-law, Michelle, have given them two grandsons, Cameron and Garrett and a granddaughter, Lauren.

Gloria is the President of Maral Enterprises, Inc., The Learning Tree, and Copy Bee, which she started in May 1988. Maral is a children's book distribution company while the Learning Tree, and Copy Bee are retail stores offering teachers, parents and children a full line of educational books, materials and learning guides. This entrepreneurial business came about as a result of Mrs. Dickerson's written bibliography and review of children's books mostly written by African-American authors.

Prior to this business venture, she served as Assistant Dean at the University of Wisconsin and Cleveland State University. She began her career as a special education teacher. Gloria holds a B.S. in Special Education, an M.S. degree, and completed her work toward a Ph.D. in educational psychology at the University of Missouri.

Gloria serves on educational, civic and volunteer organizations, boards and as a Trustee at her daughter's school, The Winchester Thurston in Pittsburgh. She is a member of several professional organizations including the Alpha Kappa Alpha National Sorority.

Ralph has served as a Director with several civic and corporate organizations and has received numerous city awards and honorary degrees. He was also inducted into the Alpha Kappa Psi Honorary Business Fraternity.

Mr. Speaker, Ralph and Gloria Dickerson have both made significant contributions to

their community through both their professional and voluntary endeavors. As such, they are more than worthy of receiving our recognition today and I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring these truly remarkable people.

COMMENDING THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF BROADCASTERS AND THE ARMED FORCES RELIEF TRUST

HON. ROY BLUNT

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 17, 2003

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of an important initiative undertaken by the National Association of Broadcasters and the Armed Forces Relief Trust.

With over 140,000 troops stationed in Iraq, in Afghanistan, and around the world, military families' budgets are stretched thin. In many cases, the personnel deployed are the sole breadwinners for their family, making it difficult to cope with unexpected expenses.

Last year, the relief agencies for each branch of the military raised and distributed over \$109 million in assistance to military families in need. This year, with the support of the National Association of Broadcasters and its local radio and television station members, the four relief agencies have come together to form the Armed Forces Relief Trust.

In support of that effort—and to help respond to the escalating needs of military families, the NAB and its 6,000 radio station and 1,000 television station members have produced, distributed and aired Public Service Announcements to raise monies for the Trust.

Considering recent events in Iraq, I think Americans everywhere are looking for ways to support our troops. The AFRT provides valuable services to the family members of our brave men and women who are fighting terrorism abroad. The program pays for airfare so personnel can fly home to the funeral of a loved one.

It provides needed medical attention for the spouses of military personnel. It can help offset the cost of college tuition for the child of a soldier. While the military is dedicated to taking care of its own, the needs will only continue to escalate as the length of deployments stretch out. The Trust can help make up for some of the shortfall.

By providing access to the airwaves, local television and radio stations are supporting what I believe to be an important and timely cause.

I'm therefore well aware that deployments are not only emotionally trying for military families, but financially trying as well.

I therefore commend the AFRT for providing needed relief to these families and the National Association of Broadcasters for helping get out the word.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 17, 2003

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, due to business in my district, I was unable to vote during the fol-

lowing rollcall votes. Had I been present, I would have voted as indicated below.

Rollcall No. 612, "yes"; rollcall No. 613, "yes"; rollcall No. 614, "yes"; rollcall No. 615, "yes"; rollcall No. 616, "yes"; rollcall No. 617, "yes"; rollcall No. 618, "no"; rollcall No. 619, "yes."

RECOGNIZING SHAUN THOMAS DIAMOND FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 17, 2003

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Shaun Thomas Diamond, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 374, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Shaun has been very active with his troop, participating in many Scout activities. Over the 9 years Shaun has been involved with Scouting, he has held numerous leadership positions, serving as assistant senior patrol leader, assistant patrol leader, patrol leader, and librarian. Shaun has been involved with the Tribe of Mic-O-Say and is a Keeper of the Sacred Bundle. He also served on staff for 2 years at H. Roe Bartle Scout Reservation.

For his Eagle Scout project, Shaun led a group of boys and adults in the removal of the obsolete woodland trail header and in the construction of a new woodland trail header for Martha Lafite Thompson Nature Sanctuary. The new header will be enjoyed by many visitors and has increased the safety of the trail.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Shaun Thomas Diamond for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

TRIBUTE TO STAR BAR

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 17, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today to pay tribute to a remarkable small business in my district. The Star Bar in Pueblo, Colorado has been serving customers and its community for nearly a century, and it is my privilege to recognize its longevity and dedication to its customers here today.

Over the years, a variety of owners have operated the renowned Star Bar. The bar's current proprietors, Louis and Linda DeNiro, bought the establishment approximately five years ago. Despite changes in ownership, the Star Bar has remained a constant in the lives of many Puebloans. In fact, little has changed since the business was featured in an issue of National Geographic. Due to its undeniable appeal, The Star Bar has been bringing customers back for decades, and will surely continue to do so for years to come.

Mr. Speaker, dining establishments such as the Star Bar hold a special and important place in communities across the nation. Their

customers find comfort in the consistently warm and friendly service. I am honored to stand here today before this body of Congress and this nation to recognize Pueblo's Star Bar and its many years of tremendous service.

A TRIBUTE TO CHARLES E. SIMPSON, ESQ.

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 17, 2003

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Charles E. Simpson, in recognition of his commitment and service to his community and his outstanding accomplishments in the field of law.

Charles is an attorney and a partner of Windels Marx Lane & Mittendorf, LLP., and chairs the firm's Bankruptcy, Corporate Restructuring and Workouts Practice Group. He is also a member of the Litigation and Real Estate Practice Groups.

Since 1981, Charles has served as one of the counsels to the Honorable Edolphus Towns of the 10th Congressional District, Brooklyn, New York. In addition, he is a former member of the Board of Directors of the Brooklyn Children's Museum, the Brooklyn Red Cross, the Queens Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, and the Brooklyn Area Council of the Boy Scouts of America. From 1983 through 1987, Mr. Simpson served as Brooklyn's Representative on the Board of Directors of the then New York City Public Development Corporation. He also served as counsel to the Bed-Stuy/Crown Heights Area Health Plan and the Brooklyn Navy Yard Development Corporation. He was a member of the New York State Bar Association's Committee on Minorities in the Profession from 1987 to 1992.

Charles, who served in the U.S. Army from 1969–1972, graduated magna cum laude from Pepperdine University in Los Angeles, California in 1974 and received his law degree in 1977 from Harvard. He was named a Martin Luther King Jr. Fellow in 1974.

Mr. Speaker, Charles E. Simpson has dedicated his time to an array of local activities and causes, often using his legal expertise for the betterment of the community. As such, he is more than worthy of receiving our recognition today and I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring this truly remarkable person.

COMMENDING STUDENTS IN FREE ENTERPRISE 2003 WORLD CUP CHAMPION TEAM FROM DRURY UNIVERSITY

HON. ROY BLUNT

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 17, 2003

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the Students In Free Enterprise (SIFE) 2003 World Cup Champion Team from Drury University in Springfield, Missouri. These exceptional university students demonstrated on an international stage what it means to practice free enterprise with common sense in a socially and ethically responsible manner. Drury University's SIFE team

prepared both a live presentation and a written report of their activities over the past year and competed against students from 30 countries to receive this prestigious award. A panel of 18 international business leaders, including representatives from KPMG, Wal-Mart, Sara Lee and Pepsi-Co, named Drury University's SIFE Team World Cup Champions for the second time in three years.

SIFE students are making a positive impact in their community and beyond, through service projects that teach entrepreneurship, market economics, ethics and financial responsibility to struggling business owners, school children and economically disadvantaged individuals. By applying the concepts they are learning in the classroom to everyday life, they are taking the guesswork out of economic theory.

Drury University's SIFE team worked on a number of projects over the past year, helping high school students develop a t-shirt company that is self-sustaining and student-run. The Drury team also established an entrepreneurial camp to teach young people in southwest Missouri's growing Hispanic communities the entrepreneurial skills needed to develop their own businesses.

Drury University SIFE team volunteered more than 5,000 hours of service to their community last year. The students at Drury, however, are not alone. SIFE teams around the world engaged in hundreds of thousands of hours of community service, impacting millions of people. Too often, the energy and idealism of our youth are never fully utilized. In SIFE, young people are given an opportunity to contribute meaningfully to their society. It is encouraging to see bright, passionate college and university students work to "change the world" with a common sense approach that stimulates economic empowerment.

Mr. Speaker, I commend the achievements of Alvin Rohrs, the President and CEO of Students In Free Enterprise, and his team of co-workers at the SIFE World Headquarters in Springfield, Missouri. His leadership has enabled SIFE to plant the seeds of free enterprise on campuses across our nation and around the world. Mr. Rohrs and his team work tirelessly to ensure the principles of free enterprise are firmly rooted in the hearts and minds of college and university students on more than 1,500 campuses worldwide. By encouraging social entrepreneurship among SIFE students, Mr. Rohrs and his staff have fostered real change in countries around the globe. In Ghana, SIFE teams taught impoverished villagers how to make and market soap from locally available resources. For the first time in that community, money now changes hands, and the people who live there have a source of income. Alvin Rohrs and his team are also supporting programs in places where free enterprise education is rare. In China, a SIFE team is helping managers of a state-owned enterprise privatize the business and develop a plan for success in the face of an emerging market economy.

The success of SIFE has been well documented by both the national and international business community. Business and industry leaders frequently participate in SIFE competitions, judging SIFE teams and scouting future business leaders. They see and understand the importance of SIFE to the economic future of our nation and our world, as we all learn to compete in a global market that emphasizes education and communication.

Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate the students from Drury University's SIFE team. These students may be completing their studies on a small campus in southwest Missouri, but they are making a difference. Along with their peers in 37 countries, these young people are changing the world, one person, one community and one project at a time.

HONORING GLEN AND LYNN
TOBIAS

HON. NITA M. LOWEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 17, 2003

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate my friends Glen and Lynn Tobias as they are honored for their distinguished leadership by the Anti-Defamation League. The Tobias' years of service, integrity, and commitment should serve as an example to all of us. I ask unanimous consent to submit a letter of congratulations I recently sent them.

NOVEMBER 10, 2003.

GLEN AND LYNN TOBIAS
*Anti-Defamation League,
New York, NY.*

DEAR GLEN AND LYNN: I write with such respect, admiration, and gratitude for your invaluable contributions to the Anti-Defamation League. The ADL's Distinguished Leadership Award is a fitting tribute to your years of service to this vital institution, and I am proud to join with those who honor you as you receive the recognition you both so deeply deserve.

A key aspect of your leadership has been your constant willingness to battle against all forms of racism and intolerance. The dramatic rise in global anti-Semitism over the past few years threatens to undermine the stability and progress we seek in the Middle East, Europe, and around the world. Through your efforts, the ADL has led the counter-attack against this scourge, by seeking to measure the rise in anti-Semitism and to address it in meetings with key heads of state and foreign ministers, as well as at an international conference meant to bring Jewish and non-Jewish leaders together to create a strategy to combat the problem.

On our own shores, your efforts to educate the public have been greatly appreciated. You have led crucial initiatives to expand ADL's education programs on campuses and schools, especially about hate crime prevention. You also educated the public and Members of Congress on the threats to religious liberty and civil rights by federal and state voucher programs for private and religious schools—an effort greatly welcomed by myself and my colleagues on the Hill.

For all these reasons and many more, you are richly deserving of the ADL's Distinguished Leadership Award. I would like to thank you once again for your friendship and years of service to ADL, to the United States, and to the global community, which have all benefited from your wisdom, your diligence, and your desire for equity and peace.

Sincerely,

NITA M. LOWEY,
Member of Congress.

RECOGNIZING SAMUEL THEODORE
HUCKE IV FOR ACHIEVING THE
RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 17, 2003

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Samuel Theodore Hucke IV, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 374, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Sammy has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the years Sammy has been involved with Scouting, he has earned 38 merit badges and has held numerous leadership positions, serving as Patrol Leader, Assistant Patrol Leader, Den Chief, and Assistant Senior Patrol Leader. Sammy has been involved with the Tribe of Mic-O-Say and is a Keeper of the Sacred Bundle. He also served on staff for three years at H. Roe Bartle Scout Reservation.

For his Eagle Scout project, Sammy constructed three road signs for Camp Shawnee, a Campfire USA camp. The new signs will help direct new campers and visitors to the camp facilities.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Samuel Theodore Hucke IV for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

TRIBUTE TO HAROLD JAMES BOYD

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 17, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with a solemn heart that I rise to pay tribute to the passing of a great man from my District. Harold James Boyd, better known as Father Theo, served the Old Snowmass Saint Benedict's Monastery with dedication and commitment until his death on October 8th of this year. Father Theo will be remembered as a valued member of the Snowmass community, and I am honored to bring his many contributions to his community to the attention of this body of Congress.

Father Theo entered the monastic life in 1950 at St. Joseph's Abbey in Spencer, Massachusetts. After his first charge, he spent the rest of his years at Saint Benedict's Monastery, where he served as retreat director, confessor, and cantor. Father Theo was also an accomplished author who published a book entitled "Tales of the Magic Monastery" in 1981.

Mr. Speaker, Harold James Boyd was a warm and generous soul who selflessly gave his life to inspire others. Throughout his life, Father Theo touched many lives and I am honored to pay tribute to such an extraordinary man.

A TRIBUTE TO WESNER MOISE,
M.D.

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 17, 2003

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Wesner Moise, M.D. in recognition of his commitment and service to his community and his outstanding accomplishments in the field of medicine.

Wesner is the director of Geriatric Medicine at Interfaith Medical Center. He has been a solo practitioner at the same Brooklyn location for 27 years. He earned his medical degree from the State University of Haiti. He joined St. Johns Episcopal Hospital, now Interfaith Medical Center, for a rotative internship after completing an additional six-month rotation in pathology. He spent the next three years in the Department of Medicine and became chief resident. He remained very active in the Institution and served on different committees: Quality Assurance, Infection Control and the Medical Executive Committee.

Wesner has always had a special interest in the elderly. He provides free seminars to senior centers, screening examinations and flu vaccine. He is also a founding member of the Haitian Association of Physicians Abroad (AMHE), New York Chapter and frequently lectures on health care issues affecting the Haitian community. He is a member of the American College of Physicians, the New York State Medical Society, Kings County Medical Society and American Geriatric Society.

Dr. Moise and his wife Mireille, an artist, have been married for thirty-three years. They are very proud of their three children who all graduated from Harvard University. Patrick, an entrepreneur, is developing a software company in Seattle, Washington. Astrid is an aspiring academic cardiovascular surgeon. She is presently doing research on stem cells and angiogenesis at the University of Pennsylvania. Michael, a financial analyst, is presently pursuing his MBA at Columbia University. The Moises are the quintessential "Interfaith Family." His wife and four sisters all worked as registered nurses at Interfaith.

Dr. Moise's philosophy can be summarized as follows: Be all you can be, make a difference for your community, be a role model for your children, and be supportive of your family.

Mr. Speaker, Wesner Moise, M.D. has dedicated his time and medical expertise to the community through his own practice and his work at Interfaith Medical Center. As such, he is more than worthy of receiving our recognition today and I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring this truly remarkable person.

IN HONOR OF GARY A. BELLER

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 17, 2003

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Gary A. Beller of New York, in recognition of his retirement from an extraordinarily accomplished and distinguished career of over thirty years in the corporate legal profession.

The practice of law is itself a worthy pursuit. It is an accomplishment to do outstanding work for outstanding companies, as Mr. Beller has done for two venerable giants of the financial services industry—American Express early in his career and more recently MetLife. But what I have learned is that the preeminent characteristic of the career of Gary Beller is his devotion to best practices and legal excellence; setting the standard for highly ethical and skilled legal work and consistently exceeding that standard out of sheer energy, talent, and sense of responsibility.

As 2003 draws to a close, Gary Beller retires from his position as senior executive vice president and general counsel for MetLife. Mr. Beller joined MetLife in November 1994 and has since overseen the company's extensive legal affairs group as well as the mergers and acquisitions department. One of the notable accomplishments of his tenure at MetLife was his contribution to bringing the company public in 2003 from its previous status as a mutual company. MetLife became one of the most widely held public stocks as result of the successful completion of the transaction.

This is the kind of high quality work that has made Gary Beller well known and respected professionally. To those who know him and work with him, Mr. Beller personifies the best of the corporate legal profession. The perfect example is his chairmanship of the Insurance Marketplace Standards Association, an organization devoted to establishing the best in ethical market conduct for the insurance industry.

In addition to his professional success, Mr. Beller has also been a leader in his community. He served as Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Citizens Crime Commission of New York for 10 years and remains a Vice Chairman today. He is also a member of the Board of Directors of Lenox Hill Neighborhood House, one of New York City's renowned social service agencies.

In recognition of his outstanding accomplishments, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the dedication and service of Gary Beller as he retires from MetLife. He is a role model of civic involvement, corporate loyalty and professionalism, and service to the legal profession. He deserves our congratulations and well wishes as he begins his retirement.

RECOGNIZING JAMES RILEY TEE-
TER FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK
OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 17, 2003

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize James Riley Teeter, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 351, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

James has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the 4 years James has been involved with scouting, he has earned 32 merit badges and has held numerous leadership positions, serving as Patrol Leader, Quartermaster, Scribe, Assistant Patrol Leader, and Troop Guide. James is also a Brotherhood Member in the

Order of the Arrow and is a Warrior in the Tribe of Mic-O-Say.

For his Eagle Scout project, James repaired the restroom facilities at the Platte County Fairgrounds in Tracy, Missouri. He pressure washed, painted, and mortared the restrooms, and also cleaned up the surrounding ground.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending James Riley Teeter for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

TRIBUTE TO AL KELLY

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 17, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to rise and pay tribute to a remarkable man from my district. Alfred E. Kelly from Alamosa, Colorado. He has dedicated his life to the betterment of others, and I am proud to call his contributions to this body of Congress.

Al has been the Director of the San Luis Valley Health Education Center for the last 25 years. His tenure in this position has been defined by his brilliance and unwavering dedication. Over the past quarter century, Al has been instrumental in the creation and administration of numerous charitable organizations, including the Tu Casa battered women's program, Hospice De Valle, and the Casa de Oro Center.

Al is also a founding member of the Valley Community Fund, an organization that assists 31 non-profit organizations in their fund raising efforts. He has also spearheaded numerous community programs for the benefit of low-income students, senior citizens and patients.

Despite his steadfast dedication to those in need, Al is a loving and devoted father, husband and friend. His engaging personality, integrity and conviction result in Al having a positive impact on everyone he meets. Scores of people throughout the San Luis Valley and our State have had their lives enhanced as the result of their interactions with Al.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to pay tribute to Al Kelly. Al's selfless dedication to serving those in need is a shining example to all Americans. The many charitable organizations that Al has supported are a testament to his altruistic spirit. On behalf of the countless people he has helped, and a grateful Nation, I would like to thank Al for all that he has done.

CONGRATULATIONS TO SENATOR
RICHARD J. CODEY, PRESIDENT
OF THE NEW JERSEY SENATE

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 17, 2003

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise today to recognize an outstanding public servant from my home state, Senator Richard J. Codey; as he ascends to the position of President of the New Jersey Senate. Senator Codey is being honored by his many friends and family members at a special ceremony at the Essex County Hall of Records in Newark.

Senator Codey has established an outstanding reputation for both his legislative achievements and his contributions to the community. Senator Codey was elected to the Assembly in 1973 and re-elected three times. He has served in the Senate since 1981. He represents the 27th legislative district, which includes Caldwell, Essex Fells, Fairfield, Livingston, Maplewood, North Caldwell, Orange, Roseland, South Orange, West Orange, and part of Newark. Senator Codey was selected Senate Co-President for the 210th Legislative Session beginning January 8, 2002. He will be selected President at the 211th Session of the Legislature in January, 2004. Senator Codey was Senate Minority leader from 1998 until 2002. He chaired the Senate Health, Institutions and Welfare Committee from 1982 to 1992, and has been a champion of the mentally ill and disabled in state institutions and group homes statewide. As a result of an undercover investigation he initiated, strict background checks and improved training standards for all employees of state psychiatric institutions were put into effect.

Senator Codey has received numerous honors and awards, including the state Psychiatric Association's "Citizen of the Year" award and the state Mental Health Association's service award.

A graduate of Fairleigh Dickinson University, Senator Codey is a licensed insurance broker and president of the Olympic Agency. He is married to the former Mary Jo Rolli. They are the proud parents of two sons, Kevin and Christopher.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues here in the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in congratulating Senator Codey and wishing him all the best as he continues his outstanding public service.

THE IMPORTANCE OF SELECTING MIAMI AS THE PERMANENT SECRETARIAT OF THE FREE TRADE AREA OF THE AMERICAS AND THE VITAL PROTECTION OF FLORIDA CITRUS

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 17, 2003

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, South Florida is honored, as leaders from over thirty nations from the Western Hemisphere convene in my beautiful hometown of Miami to discuss what is to be one of the largest free trade agreements in history.

The FTAA would be the world's largest free market, with combined GDP of nearly \$13 trillion in over 30 countries, and nearly 800 million consumers. The creation of the FTAA would foster economic growth and opportunity, promote regional integration and good governance. In concert with my colleagues in the U.S. Congress, I have corresponded and met numerous times with Ambassadors Zoellick and Cobb to discuss at length the selection of Miami as the headquarters for the Secretariat.

Miami is a perfect location for the Secretariat due to its bustling economy, multilingual population and its role as the hub for Latin America.

I have supported efforts on behalf of Miami that involve the Permanent Secretariat of the

Free Trade Area of the Americas; especially the most current appropriations of \$8.5 million that will assist our local South Florida community.

Free trade cannot encompass nations that are dictatorial, ruthless, and that lack regard for freedom and human rights. Ruthless regimes cannot be allowed entry into any free trade agreements as they lack the fundamental premise for market-based trade to succeed freedom. Without a democratic system of government, free trade cannot flourish. Brutal dictatorships in our Hemisphere should not have access into any form of free trade agreements until they hold independent elections, free its political prisoners, allow freedom of press, and respect and upheld other basic liberties.

It is the hope of our South Florida community that the Administration will select Miami as the U.S. candidate city to serve as home to the FTAA Secretariat, when an agreement is completed. Miami's special and close relationship with our Latin neighbors make the city a natural choice to play this important role.

As leaders of the Western Hemisphere meet to discuss the vital issue of a tentative FTAA, it is important to remember our local citrus industry.

As we strive to open new markets and expand opportunities for U.S. workers and businesses through seeking new trade agreements, we must ensure that our workers and businesses have fair opportunities to compete in the increasingly global marketplace.

Any reduction of tariffs on imported orange juice would impede these important objectives. These tariffs help to promote competition, enabling us to compete on a level playing field in the global marketplace.

It is very clear that any reduction in the tariff would have serious consequences on Florida's citrus industry and could potentially devastate the State's economy. The citrus industry is the State's second largest, contributing over \$9 billion to our economy. In addition, the citrus industry accounts for nearly 90,000 direct and indirect jobs throughout Florida and the country.

As delegates congregate in South Florida to discuss the future of trade in the Western Hemisphere, I call upon our leaders of the Hemisphere to not forget the hard workers of Florida and the importance of Florida Citrus.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO AL HOMANN

SPEECH OF

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 11, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to rise and pay tribute to a remarkable man from my district. Al Homann from Silverton, CO was recently named Silverton's "Citizen of the Year," and I am proud to call his contributions to the attention of this body of Congress.

The charitable acts that culminated in Al's recognition as "Citizen of the Year" are too numerous to list. He is an active member of the American Legion, and an organizer of the "Hoop Shoot," a yearly event that raises funds for local scholarships. In addition, Al has spread his joy for life to countless audience members as a performer in the Miner's Union

Theater. Al has also volunteered in countless community events, including Fourth of July parades and sporting events. Silverton is truly a better place as the result of Al's selfless dedication.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to pay tribute to Al Homann. His selfless dedication to serving others is a shining example to all Americans. The many charitable events that Al has supported are a testament to his altruistic spirit. On behalf of the countless people he has helped, and a grateful nation, I would like to thank Al Homann for all that he has done, and congratulate him on his receipt of a well-deserved award.

RECOGNIZING PATRICK TAYLOR SAMPSELL FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 17, 2003

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Patrick Taylor Sampsell, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 351, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Patrick has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the three years Patrick has been involved with scouting, he has earned 44 merit badges and has held numerous leadership positions, serving as Patrol Leader, Quartermaster, Scribe, Assistant Patrol Leader, and Senior Patrol Leader. Patrick has also received the honor of Arrow of Light, is a Brotherhood Member in the Order of the Arrow, and is a Brave in the Tribe of Mic-O-Say.

For his Eagle Scout project, Patrick refurbished 60 fire hydrants in Platte City, Missouri by scraping, cleaning, and repainting the hydrants orange and black. He also cleaned the area surrounding the hydrants.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Patrick Taylor Sampsell for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

RED HOT MAMAS

HON. C.L. "BUTCH" OTTER

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 17, 2003

Mr. OTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and praise the efforts of a group of women known across America as "Idaho's Ambassadors of Fun." They are the Red Hot Mamas—a family oriented musical-comedy troupe from Coeur d'Alene, ID. These are women in the prime of their lives, all over the age of 30, who revel in sharing their good humor and infectious high spirits. The ladies wear brightly colored house dresses and 5-foot-tall hats made from empty grocery cartons, milk jugs, balloons or other household items. They can be found most days in one parking lot or another in Coeur d'Alene, practicing their precision drill-team routines. The

Red Hot Mamas performed at the 54th Presidential Inaugural Parade in Washington, D.C., on ABC's "Good Morning America" and "Nightline" programs, at Philadelphia's Independence Day Parade; Hershey, Pennsylvania's Centennial Anniversary Parade; the Fiesta Bowl Parade in Tempe, Arizona; the Holiday Bowl Parade in San Diego; the Seafair Parade in Seattle and many more. Many of their performances have raised money for various charities. They soon will be traveling to England to perform in London's New Year's Day Parade—the world's largest. Once again they will be spreading the word about their beautiful home state of Idaho, and spreading joy in the process. I want to thank these unique, fun-loving ladies and let them know their efforts are appreciated.

TRIBUTE TO ABIGAIL RICE

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 11, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with profound sadness that I rise today to recognize the life and contributions of Abigail Rice from Durango, CO. Abi's life was recently cut short in a tragic accident. As her family mourns their loss, I think it is appropriate to call her tremendous contributions to the attention of this body of Congress and our Nation.

Abi was an excellent student. A member of the Dean's List at Colorado State University, she was majoring in Natural Sciences. Abi was also a member of the PreMedica Club, and the Air Force ROTC. She had plans to attend medical school following graduation and her dream was to serve her country in the United States Air Force as a flight surgeon.

Abi also excelled in athletics. She was a High School Barrel Racing State Champion, an accomplished participant in 4-H, and a co-captain of Colorado State's Varsity Trap and Skeet Team.

Despite Abi's many academic and athletic talents, those who knew her well say that her greatest attribute was her loving and caring personality. Abi had an infectious love of life and her many friends and family will miss her deeply.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to rise and pay tribute to Abigail Rice. Abi was an amazing young woman and my heart goes out to her family and friends during this difficult time.

RECOGNIZING KYLE D. SNYDER
FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF
EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 17, 2003

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Kyle D. Snyder, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 351, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Kyle has been very active with his troop, participating in many Scout activities. Over the

three years Kyle has been involved with Scouting, he has earned 40 merit badges and has held numerous leadership positions, serving as Assistant Patrol Leader, Patrol Leader, Quartermaster, and Chaplain Aide. Kyle has also received the honor of Arrow of Light, is a Brotherhood Member in the Order of the Arrow, and is a Brave in the Tribe of Mic-O-Say.

For his Eagle Scout project, Kyle planned and built ten blue birdhouses and one wood duck house. He then placed them along a nature trail and the pond at Riverview Park in Platte City, Missouri.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Kyle D. Snyder for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

RECOGNIZING THE RETIREMENT
OF JIM L. RIDLING OF MONT-
GOMERY, ALABAMA

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 17, 2003

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Jim L. Ridling of Montgomery, Alabama, on the occasion of his retirement as President, CEO and Chairman of the Board of Southern Guaranty, a part of Winterthur Insurance Company.

Jim was born and raised in Arkansas. He began his professional career as a Management Trainee with Fireman's Fund Insurance Companies in 1967. By 1984, he was Executive Vice President of United States Operations. In 1987, he traded his ownership in Fireman's Fund for ownership in Southern Guaranty Insurance Company, then a subsidiary of Fireman's Fund, and moved to Montgomery, Alabama, as President and CEO of Southern Guaranty.

Throughout his business career, Jim Ridling has been involved in varied professional organizations. He is a member of the International Insurance Society and the National Association of Independent Insurers. He is a past member of the University of Alabama School of Business' Board of Advisors; the Advisory Board of the University of Arkansas Business School; and a graduate of Stanford University's Inaugural Leadership Effectiveness Studies Program. Currently, he is a member of the School of Business Advisory Council for Troy State University.

Jim Ridling continues to be very much involved in his community. He is a member of the Executive Board of the Montgomery Air Force Association; a member of the Board of Directors of the Business Council of Alabama; a member of the Board of Directors of the Montgomery Area Chamber of Commerce and Chairman of their Military Council; and a member of the Montgomery Area Committee of 100. Jim is also President of the Board of Directors of the Montgomery Ballet; a member of the Board of Directors of the Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts and a Boy Scouts Board of Director.

I congratulate Jim Ridling for his accomplishments and his willingness to share of himself in service to his new adopted state. On the special occasion of his retirement celebra-

tion on November 20, I wish him, his lovely wife Cathy and their two daughters, Erin and Hannah, the very best in the future.

FREEDOM FOR NORMANDO
HERNÁNDEZ GONZÁLEZ

HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 17, 2003

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to inform this Congress about Normando Hernández González, a prisoner of conscience in totalitarian Cuba.

Mr. Hernández, age 32, and the director of the College of Independent Journalists, has been a chronicler of truth amid the lies and deceit of Castor's villainous regime. As a journalist who exposed the ruthless repression and failed policies of Cuba's totalitarian dictator, Mr. Hernández has been continuously harassed by Castro's political police. He was detained and released miles from his home on at least two occasions and his telephone has been cut off since June 15, 2002.

Men and women who seek truth and freedom are the enemies of Castro's totalitarian dictatorship. On March 24, 2003, Mr. Hernández was sentenced to 25 years in the Cuban totalitarian gulag. According to the sham indictment "He prepared reports . . . in which he attacked the health system (and) the education provided in this country, questioned the justice system, tourism, culture, agriculture. . . ."

Mr. Hernández, for the "crime" of reporting truth instead of government mandated lies, is languishing in Castro's gulag. According to a statement by his wife, Yaraí Reyes, on September 3, 2003, the food in the gulag was often rotten, Mr. Hernández had no electricity in his cell and was being refused all medical care.

Mr. Speaker, last Thursday, in his address at the 20th anniversary of the National Endowment for Democracy, President George W. Bush said "Communism, and militarism and rule by the capricious and corrupt are the relics of a passing era. And we will stand with these oppressed peoples until the day of their freedom finally arrives." President Bush went on to state, "The advance of freedom is the calling of our time; it is the calling of our country."

My Colleagues, I applaud President Bush's stirring remarks and I ask that we answer his call to advance freedom by demanding liberty for every prisoner of conscience. Today I ask the entire Congress to cry with one, united, voice for the immediate release of Normando Hernández González.

RECOGNIZING BRETT MICHAEL
BABCOCK FOR ACHIEVING THE
RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 17, 2003

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Brett Michael Babcock, a very special young man who has exemplified the

finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 351, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Brett has been very active with his troop, participating in many Scout activities. Over the two years Brett has been involved with Scouting, he has earned 27 merit badges and has held numerous leadership positions, serving as Patrol Leader, Librarian, Senior Patrol Leader, and Assistant Senior Patrol Leader. Brett is also a Brotherhood Member in the Order of the Arrow and is a Brave in the Tribe of Mic-O-Say.

For his Eagle Scout project, Brett did landscaping for the courtyard at Heritage Village Assisted Living Center in Platte City, Missouri. Brett planted and mulched two trees, built a birdfeeder, and also constructed two wooden benches that were placed in the courtyard for use by the residents.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Brett Michael Babcock for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO VERNA
TOWNE

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 17, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to rise and pay tribute to a remarkable woman from my district. Verna Towne from Mancos, Colorado was recently named "Citizen of the Year" for the Mancos Valley. I am proud to call her contributions to the attention of this body of Congress and this nation today.

The charitable acts that culminated in Verna's recognition as "Citizen of the Year" are too numerous to list. She is an active member of the VFW and Lioness clubs, volunteers her time at the Mancos Senior Center, and is instrumental in the organization of the USDA Commodity Give-Away. Although she donates her time in many ways, Verna is best known for her excellent cooking. She often serves meals at a church breakfast club for teens, the Good Samaritan Center, and 9 Health Fairs as well.

Verna always extends a hand to those in need. She can often be seen shoveling snow from a friend's driveway, or delivering food to those in need of a home-cooked meal. Verna's dedication can best be described as tireless altruism and her hard work on behalf of others often extends late into the night. Verna is truly a compassionate and loving woman and Mancos is lucky to have her.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to pay tribute to Verna Towne. Verna's selfless dedication to serving others is a shining example to all Americans. The many charitable events Verna has supported over the years are a testament to her vibrant and altruistic spirit. On behalf of the countless people she has helped, and a grateful nation, I would like to thank Verna for all she has done, and congratulate her on the receipt of a well-deserved award.

HONORING THE CONFEDERATED
TRIBES OF SILETZ INDIANS ON
THE 26TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
RESTORATION TO FEDERAL RECOGNITION

HON. DARLENE HOOLEY

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 17, 2003

Ms. HOOLEY of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians as they celebrate their 26th anniversary of the Restoration to Federal Recognition on November 15, 2003.

The Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians is a confederation of 27 tribes which originally ranged from Northern California to Southern Washington. In 1954, the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians were one of many tribes whose federal status was terminated by Congress, and all their lands were taken away. The Siletz reservation, which once exceeded 1.1 million acres was completely gone, and the confederation was no longer recognized.

While nothing could destroy the tribes' culture and traditions that were passed from generation to generation, the lack of federal recognition and support hurt the Siletz.

In the late 1960s, a group of tribal members which recognized the severe effects that the termination was having on the tribe began to work to reverse the effects. They restored the tribal cemetery and created programs for drug and alcohol rehabilitation, job training, and other social services. As they worked to fight against the ills that termination had brought on, the group realized that it must regain its federal recognition.

After many years of intense lobbying, the tribe regained its federal recognition on November 18th, 1977 when President Carter signed an act of Congress restoring the Siletz. The Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians were the second tribe in the Untied States and the first in Oregon to have their federal recognition restored.

Since being restored, the tribe has blossomed and re-established nearly all of its institutions of government. This re-establishment of tribal government has led to better service programs and economic growth which in turn has led to greater preservation of tribal history and tradition.

With its recognition restored and tribal government re-established, the tribe began to grow, and that growth continues to this day. In 1983, a community center was built, serving as an all-purpose gathering place for tribal and non-tribal activities. 1991 brought the addition of a community health clinic which serves all members of the community, tribal and non-tribal. An administration building was developed in 1995 which provides many services to tribal members on the reservation and in eleven surrounding counties in Oregon.

In 1995 the tribe developed its biggest economic project to date, the Chinook Winds Casino and Convention Center. This venture, combined with the other tribal projects, made the tribe one of the largest employers in Lincoln County.

This growth didn't end with the creation of the casino and convention center. Since 1995, the tribe has built a Dance House, the Siletz Tribal Business Corporation, and most recently the Siletz Valley School. The school, a

public charter school that serves 170 children from the surrounding community, was opened after the local school closed due to budget cuts.

As you can see, since their successful fight to regain federal recognition, the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians have been dedicated to improving the lives of their 4,000 members as well as the lives of the people of Oregon. One of the best examples of this dedication to improvement is the Siletz Tribal Charitable Contribution Fund, which has distributed more than \$1.5 million to projects in Oregon.

Today it is my pleasure to honor and recognize the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians as they celebrate their 26th anniversary of their Restoration to Federal Recognition.

RECOGNIZING MR. FRED SALEM

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 17, 2003

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today to recognize the accomplishments of my longtime friend Mr. Fred Salem. Fred Salem is a child advocate and philanthropist. His hard work and dedication to the people of Genesee County is without doubt commendable. On November 12, 2003, the community along with his family gathered to say thank you during a party held at the Ramada Inn located in my hometown of Flint, Michigan.

Fred Salem has been a resident of Mt. Morris Township for 35 years. If one could sum up the character of Fred Salem, it could be said that he is a concerned, compassionate, loyal and dedicated citizen. Fred is a humanitarian. Fred has dedicated numerous hours and dollars toward worthy causes. Through his efforts many children and organizations have been able to fulfill dreams that would have otherwise been dismissed. Fred is currently affiliated with a number of organizations, those organizations include but not limited to, the Whaley Children's Center, St. John Vianney Day Care, New Life Childcare & Preschool, Girl Scouts and Brownies Troops of Genesee County, Boy Scouts, The Sylvester Broome Center, Big Brothers and Sisters Organization. Fred is also involved with the Flushing Community Church of the Nazarene, Dr. John Socey and staff, Dr. Chambers & Staff, St. Pius Church and Bible groups, St. George, New Life Christian Fellowship, St. Robert's Pre-K classes (all), St. Robert's Kindergarten classes, Flushing Kindergarten, St. Agnes Church, 96.1 and 93.7 radio stations' picnic, Johnny Burke Birthday Party, and the Northern High School Class Reunion.

On a personal note, each year Fred and his wife Cindy host the annual Community Fourth of July fireworks display in their backyard. Fred steps up when the Government can't. At his residence Fred has transposed his backyard into a miniature Disney Land. Children from ages 2 and beyond come to partake in the fun festivities that are held there year around. One attraction that children enjoy is the go-cart course he had installed and also the historical walkthrough, which includes an old fashion store, antique cars and trucks.

Aside from being an outstanding leader and role model, he is a wonderful devoted family man to his wife Cindy.

Mr. Speaker, as a member of Congress, I ask my colleagues in the 108th Congress to please join me in congratulating my friend Fred Salem. He has served his community with enthusiasm and concern. I wish him all the best in the future.

RECOGNIZING MARCUS W. PHILLIPS FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 17, 2003

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Marcus W. Phillips, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 362, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Marcus has been very active with his troop, participating in many Scout activities. Over the ten years Marcus has been involved with scouting, he has earned 21 merit badges and has held numerous leadership positions, serving as Chaplain Aide, Quartermaster, Patrol Leader, and Scribe. Marcus earned the honor of Brave, Warrior, and Firebuilder in the Tribe of Mic-O-Say and served on staff at H. Roe Bartle Scout Reservation teaching younger scouts woodworking.

For his Eagle Scout project, Marcus organized and supervised ten other Scouts in the landscaping of a section of the Children's Garden at Duncan Road Baptist Church in Blue Springs, Missouri. They spent 150 hours planting trees and shrubs, placing decorative rock, and adding both edging and fencing to the Garden.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Marcus W. Phillips for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

TRIBUTE TO PAULA SCHAEFER

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 17, 2003

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with profound sadness that I rise today to recognize the life and contributions of a remarkable woman from my district. Paula Schaefer from Durango, Colorado passed away recently at the age of 54. She will long be remembered for charitable acts in her community, her friendly disposition, and her unyielding love for her family.

Paula was born in Wichita Falls, Texas in 1948. It was there that she met and married Lyndall, her husband of 36 years. Upon moving to Durango, Paula became an accomplished Businesswoman. She served as the President of the Durango area Association of Realtors, and was recognized as "Realtor of the Year" in 2003.

Paula's contributions to the Durango community were extensive. As a member of the Lion's Club, and co-founder of the local chapter of Habitat for Humanity, Paula was dedi-

cated to helping those in need. There is no doubt that countless people are better off as the result of Paula's selfless commitment to others.

Mr. Speaker, the dedication and integrity demonstrated throughout Paula Schaefer's life certainly deserves the recognition of this body of Congress and our nation. There is no question that Paula will be remembered as a great businesswoman. However, she will best be remembered as a selfless person, a great friend, and a dedicated mother and wife. My heart goes out to Paula's loved ones in this difficult time of bereavement.

TRIBUTE TO WILLIAM AUSTIN

HON. ROBERT T. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 17, 2003

Mr. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate William Austin on being honored with the National Caring Award for his efforts to help hearing-impaired children around the world. Through his tireless work at the Starkey Hearing Foundation, William has helped provide over 80,000 hearing aids to children in 70 countries since 2000.

William has worked constantly on innovative ways to improve hearing technology and serves many high profile celebrities and athletes. But his true calling lies in helping children around the world who suffer from hearing impairment. By donating hearing aids, batteries and other hearing products to countless needy children, he has given them the ultimate gift—the gift of hearing. Where there was once silence, thousands of children can now hear their mother's voice, the falling rain, and the sweet sound of music.

The Caring Institute, who honored William with the award, seeks to promote the values of caring, integrity and public service. Those selected to receive the National Caring Award, including William, represent the best of these qualities.

Again, I congratulate William. And thank you for all your work for hearing impaired children around the world.

TRIBUTE TO MR. ALBERT H. VIERLING, JR.

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 17, 2003

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. Albert H. Vierling, Jr., a community leader and veterans advocate from Berlin, New Jersey who died suddenly on October 24, 2003.

A decorated Army Veteran of the Korean War, Al was a member of ANMAC VFW Post #6253 where he served as Service Officer and was the Commander for 12 years. He was a member, Service Officer, and past commander of American Legion Post #271. Al was the Commander of Camden County VFW District 1984–1985 receiving the All American District Commander Award. He was a 1977 founding member of the Camden County Veteran Advisory Committee. Al was a volunteer with the

Camden County Veterans Affairs Office since 1990, becoming a part time employee with the Office while serving as Supervisor of Veterans Interment for Camden County.

Al was also a leader in the greater Philadelphia labor community. Retiring in 1977, Al was the Shop Steward for Teamsters Union Local 628 of Philadelphia where he worked for over 25 years. He was the building maintenance supervisor for the borough of Berlin for over 10 years. Additionally, Al was very active in community athletics as a founder and past president of the Interboro Athletic Association, former coach of the Overbrook Cowboys, and former member and coach of the Berlin Athletic Association.

Whether he was helping veterans navigate the Veterans Administration bureaucracy, selling poppies each May to raise money for South Jersey veterans or organizing scores of events to pay tribute to our nation's heroes, Mr. Vierling worked tirelessly to assist and honor veterans. Al did everything in his power to make sure that our government upheld the promises it made to veterans and that the American people did not forget the sacrifices made and the freedom won by those who served our nation in uniform. Additionally, on the athletic field, Al taught scores of South Jersey youth the value of hard work and dedication.

Mr. Speaker, Al Vierling left the First Congressional District of New Jersey a better place. He touched the lives of hundreds of people in South Jersey. His lifelong service will not be forgotten.

TRIBUTE TO JOSE MACARIO VALDEZ

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 17, 2003

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with a solemn heart that I pay tribute to Jose Macario Valdez of Trinidad, Colorado. Jose passed away recently at the age of 79, and as I look back on his life, I see the story of a great American. As his family mourns their loss, I think it is appropriate that we remember Jose's life, and celebrate the outstanding contributions that he made to the community of Trinidad, and this country.

Jose was born in Trinidad in 1924. During World War II, he answered his country's call to duty and joined the Army Air Corps. As an Air Transportation Technician in the Pacific Theater, Jose served with remarkable valor and courage on nearly 100 missions. For his heroism, Jose was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Bronze Star, a Good Conduct Medal, and the Burma Asiatic Pacific Service Medal. Jose's awards are illustrative of the courage and valor that defined his selfless protection of our country.

Upon returning to Trinidad, Jose met and married Prospera Lovato, his wife of 56 years. He went to work for CF&I Steel for eight years. He then became a coal miner before going to work for the City of Trinidad as a power plant fireman, a position he held for 24 years. Jose was deeply involved in the Trinidad community. He was an active member of the Sociedad De San Antonia de Padua and the Holy Trinity Church as well.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to pay tribute today to a fine American. A loving and devoted husband, father, grandfather and great grandfather, Jose Macario Valdez will be deeply missed by his family and the Trinidad community. I am proud to call Jose's valiant protection of our country, and selfless dedication to the Trinidad community to the attention of this body of Congress and this nation here today. My thoughts go out to his family in this difficult time.

TRIBUTE TO PETE HAUTZINGER

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 17, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to rise and pay tribute to a remarkable man from my district. Pete Hautzinger of Mesa, Colorado

was recently named "Prosecutor of the Year." As a District Attorney, Pete works tirelessly for the betterment of his community, and I am pleased to call his contributions to the attention of this body of Congress, and this Nation here today.

Pete graduated from the University of Colorado School of law in 1988, and upon graduation, he became a Deputy District Attorney for Adams County. Later, Pete took a position with the 21st Judicial District Attorney's Office in 1992, where he currently serves as a Chief Deputy District Attorney. Pete's experience is vast. He has tried 97 jury trials, 51 of which have been at the felony level.

Pete approaches his job with the best interests of his district's citizens in mind. As a leading advocate for the victims of domestic violence, Pete works tirelessly in conjunction with police and victims to assure that justice is achieved. Pete also works with various domestic violence organizations such as Men Against Violence, the Domestic Violence

Taskforce, and the Western Slope Center for Children. He is truly dedicated to protecting women and children from the terrors of domestic violence.

Pete's contributions reach far beyond the courtroom. Despite his untiring dedication to his work, Pete manages to find time to be a great father and is the volunteer coach for his children's soccer and basketball teams. Pete is also involved in passing along his knowledge and ethics to the next generation of prosecutors and police officers. Each year, he teaches a number of classes and supervises a number of young Deputy District Attorneys.

Mr. Speaker, Pete Hautzinger is truly a tremendous asset to his community. I know that the people of Mesa, Colorado feel safer as the result of his tireless dedication to the pursuit of justice. I am proud to join the people of Mesa in thanking Pete for his service and congratulating him for his achievements.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate on February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place, and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled, and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Tuesday, November 18, 2003 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

NOVEMBER 19

9 a.m.

Armed Services

To hold hearings to examine current Army issues.

SH-216

9:30 a.m.

Governmental Affairs

To hold hearings to examine the threat of agroterrorism.

SD-342

Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine pending judicial nominations.

SD-226

10 a.m.

Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

To hold hearings to examine S. 741, to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act with regard to new animal drugs, proposed Mammography Quality Standards Reauthorization Act, proposed Medical Device Technical Corrections Act, proposed Organ Donation and Recovery Improvement Act, and pending nominations.

SD-430

2:30 p.m.

Governmental Affairs

Oversight of Government Management, the Federal Workforce, and the District of Columbia Subcommittee

To resume hearings to examine the August 2003 Northeast blackouts and the Federal role in managing the nation's electricity.

SD-342

NOVEMBER 20

Time to be announced

Governmental Affairs

Business meeting to consider the nominations of James M. Loy, of Virginia, to be Deputy Secretary of Homeland Security, and Scott J. Bloch, of Kan-

sas, to be Special Counsel, Office of Special Counsel.

Room to be announced

9 a.m.

Governmental Affairs

Investigations Subcommittee

To resume hearings to examine the role of professional organizations like accounting firms, law firms, and financial institutions in developing, marketing and implementing tax shelters.

SH-216

9:30 a.m.

Commerce, Science, and Transportation

To hold hearings to examine drug importation.

SR-253

10 a.m.

Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

Business meeting to consider S. 1531, to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of Chief Justice John Marshall, and the nominations of Alicia R. Castaneda, of the District of Columbia, to be a Director of the Federal Housing Finance Board, and Thomas J. Curry, of Massachusetts, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation; to be immediately followed by a hearing on improving the corporate governance of the NYSE.

SD-538

2 p.m.

Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

To resume hearings to examine current investigations and regulatory actions regarding the mutual fund industry.

SD-538