

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