

herself as an expert on public safety issues and was instrumental in decisions to make Aurora a leader in ensuring its citizens had necessary protections with programs including the Victim Advocate program and service on the Officer Standard and Training Board, the Aurora Gang Task Force and the National League of Cities Public Safety and Crime Prevention Steering Committee. She was active in municipal organizations and has been a respected leader in the National League of Cities, the Denver Regional Council of Governments and the Colorado Municipal League, where she remains a member of the Board of Directors.

Bob LeGare was an Aurora City Councilman for eight years. Devoted to the importance of small business, he worked to make Aurora a partner with businesses to provide jobs and services. He provided leadership on a variety of economic development initiatives including the Fitzsimons Redevelopment Authority, Colorado Commission on Taxation, Aurora Citizens Advisory Budget Committee, Colorado Office of Regulatory Reform Advisory Board, Aurora Chamber of Commerce, Aurora Association of Realtors and the Aurora Realtor Governmental Affairs Committee and further contributed to the community through Leadership Aurora, Aurora Museum Foundation, Aurora Open Space Board and the Aurora Boys and Girls Club.

Edna Mosley spent 12 years serving Aurora as a City Councilwoman. She championed issues of importance to veterans and military retirees and worked to promote volunteerism, diversity and the enhancement of the cultural arts in the community. She was instrumental in the formation of the Aurora Youth Commission and served with distinction on the Fitzsimons Redevelopment Authority Executive Committee, Aurora Economic Development Council, Denver International Airport Business Partnership, Lowry Economic Recovery Project, Adams County Economic Development Council, Community College of Aurora Advisory Council and Aurora Business Advisory Board.

John Paroske completed ten years of public service as a City Councilman last month. An accountant, John offered his financial expertise and worked hard to make sure Aurora taxpayers knew their resources were being used wisely. He devoted countless hours to make Aurora a better place through his work on the Economic Development Committee, E-470 Authority, Aurora Chamber of Commerce, Utility Budget Committee, Visitors Promotion Fund, Aurora Education Foundation, Spirit of Aurora, Community Housing Services and Aurora Rotary Club.

Dave Williams served 11 years during two different stints as a member of the Aurora City Council. He worked to improve the efficiency of the City by encouraging better review processes and more efficient administration. He represented the views of his constituents by promoting business and development in an effort to improve the City's quality of life. He has been a leader in the business community as illustrated by his experience on the Aurora Economic Development Council, E-470 Authority, Aurora Rotary Club and the Urban Drainage and Flood Control District.

These outstanding public servants deserve our thanks and admiration. Their work on behalf of the people of Aurora has improved quality of life in innumerable ways. They leave

big shoes for their successors to fill. We are honored to have served with them and offer our best wishes for future success.

RECOGNIZING DREW QUINTON THOMPSON FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 8, 2003

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Drew Quinton Thompson, 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 60, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Drew has been very active with his troop, participating in many Scout activities. Over the eight years Drew has been involved with Scouting, he has earned 62 merit badges and has held numerous leadership positions, serving as Senior Patrol Leader, Assistant Senior Patrol Leader, Patrol Leader, Quartermaster, Troop Guide, and Librarian. Drew is a Warrior in the Tribe of Mic-O-Say and has received the Arrow of Light Award.

For his Eagle Scout project, Drew completed a walking trail at Mark Youngdahl Conservation Center in Saint Joseph, Missouri.

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

HONORING MRS. ZELMA WITT

HON. JEB HENSARLING

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 8, 2003

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, I had the privilege of being one of fourteen students in Mrs. Zelma Witt's first kindergarten class in Omaha, Texas. Today, I honor Mrs. Zelma Witt for her love of learning and thank her for the wonderful gifts she bestowed on all of the students who were blessed to be in her classroom.

Mrs. Witt left an indelible mark on the lives of countless students during their earliest and most formative years of schooling. Mrs. Witt taught her young pupils the most fundamental building blocks of education, setting her students on a path toward higher education and brighter futures.

I feel honored to have been a part of Mrs. Witt's first kindergarten class and part of the commitment to learning that she ingrained in her young students. May God bless you, Mrs. Witt. Thank you for all the gifts you have given us.

IN CELEBRATION OF THE RE-OPENING OF THE SAN FRANCISCO CONSERVATORY OF FLOWERS

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 8, 2003

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I was very pleased to be present at the grand re-opening of the San Francisco Conservatory of Flowers. The Conservatory is considered by many to be the jewel of Golden Gate Park and the City of San Francisco. It is a monument to biodiversity, renewal, and beauty.

Congratulations to all those who joined forces in the fight to restore our Conservatory: John Murray, President of San Francisco Recreation & Parks Commission; Scott Medbury, Director of the Conservatory; Rebecca Green, President of Friends of Recreation & Parks; and Elizabeth Goldstein, General Manager of Recreation & Parks. Thank you for your vision and your leadership. The people of San Francisco, future generations of San Franciscans and visitors alike, owe you a great debt of gratitude.

I would like to take this opportunity to commend Richard Goldman, one of San Francisco's most generous citizens. His support of our City and our environment is immeasurable. His tremendous contribution to the Conservatory in honor of his late wife, Rhoda, led the way. Many other extremely generous families followed; the Madeleine Haas Russell family and the Fisher, Friend and Taube families. These families have graciously supported so many of San Francisco's treasures for decades.

This grand undertaking could never have been realized without the leadership of our Mayor, Willie Brown. This is yet another project marked by excellence, effectiveness, and success. It is fitting that this extensive project was completed under his watchful eye. Mayor Brown raised the visibility of the project to a national level and used his unique abilities to develop private public partnerships.

An army of volunteers worked non-stop since the devastating windstorm of 1995 to make this day happen. The 124 year old conservatory was thought to have sustained irreparable damage. Of the \$25 million needed for this massive rehabilitation, \$15 million came from individual donations. The prospect of the Conservatory's imminent destruction was unthinkable to the people of San Francisco. They had the wisdom to know that its beauty could never be rivaled or replicated. They were stubborn and unrelenting in their demand that we preserve this architectural masterpiece. Because of their labor of love, we once again can view the exquisite beauty outside and experience the lush splendor within. Their talent, commitment and dedication to this magnificent project honors our patron saint, St. Francis, honors nature, and honors God's creation.

Today we can once more enjoy the stunning high altitude orchids, the giant cycads, and the rest of the 1,500 species of plants from over 50 countries. In addition to the tropical paradise that we all remember, there are new displays to inspire visitors to appreciate and conserve our planet's extraordinary biodiversity.

San Francisco is proud to be the home of the oldest glass and wood conservatory in the

United States. It is a place of exquisite and intoxicating beauty. It is a spiritual place. We are all very fortunate to be able to enjoy its magic again.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE LACKEY CHARGERS OF INDIAN HEAD, MARYLAND

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 8, 2003

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to offer my congratulations to the Lackey High School Chargers football team of Indian Head, Maryland, for reaching the State finals this past Thursday, December 4, 2003.

The Lackey Chargers had a fairytale season led by their head coach, Mr. Scott Chadwick, and many devoted assistant coaches. In regular season matches, they were defeated only once, and this record allowed them to begin competing in championship games in early November.

The path that would lead the Lackey Chargers to the State finals began on November 7, 2003, when the Lackey Chargers defeated Westlake High School to become the Southern Maryland Athletic Conference champions. Their momentum continued on November 15, 2003, as they beat Northern High School, and they showed their strength once again on November 22, 2003, when they narrowly overtook Westlake High School to become the Regional Champions.

On November 28, 2003, the Lackey Chargers defeated Randallstown High School in the Maryland Triple A Semifinals, propelling them to the State finals at Ravens Stadium in Baltimore, Maryland, where they faced Lingnor High School. Despite a valiant effort, the Lackey Chargers fell short in the end in a heartbreaking loss. Even without carrying home the title, Principal Jarvis Petty and the students, staff and parents at Lackey High School have shown their support for a football team that has made the entire Charles County community proud of their incredible season.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing each of these outstanding athletes, #2 Cameron Neal; #3 Courtney Knight; #5 Devonte Williams; #6 Avery Lancaster; #7 Aaron Smith; #8 Michael Young; #10 Damian Shorter; #11 Jason Murray; #15 Jesse Hitch; #16 Mark Herbert; #20 Morgan Green; #23 Darren Bullock; #25 Brandon Gaylor; #32 Ricardo Young; #34 Tre Gray; #40 Bryan Gibbons; #43 Kevin Glascock; #44 Robert Matthews; #48 Kyle Mckeown; #50 Jeremy Hairston; #52 George Kerr; #55 Mike Seman; #56 Aaron Williams; #60 Kenny Washington; #65 J.B. Walton; #66 Tyler McCready; #70 Joe Hughes; #72 Nate Leigh; #77 O.J. Huddleston; #79 D'antae Adams; #80 Quinton Stith; #81 William Johnson; #86 Donte Page; and #88 Justin Lucas. They have shown true dedication to their sport and I am extremely proud of their accomplishments. It is with great pride that we congratulate and wish them luck in all their future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO MICHAEL J. WELLBROCK

HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 8, 2003

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a great American journalist, Michael J. Wellbrock.

Michael J. Wellbrock has been a faithful employee of WBAL Radio in Baltimore for the past 21 years and just a few days ago he turned 40 years old.

Michael J. Wellbrock has been instrumental in the long term success of WBAL Radio and served the past two decades as a producer, executive producer, and general all-around go-to guy and trouble shooter.

Michael J. Wellbrock was the technical wizard whose expertise has enabled the station to pull-off many high-quality, award-winning broadcasts, including the visit of Pope John Paul II, the All-Star game, the Orioles trip to Cuba, the Preakness Stakes, and several national political conventions.

Michael J. Wellbrock was the genius behind the re-design and re-building of studios at WBAL Radio and helping to bring the station into the 21st century.

Michael J. Wellbrock has been the guiding force in the career development of many young, aspiring broadcasters.

Michael J. Wellbrock has been the creative force behind many successful programs on WBAL Radio.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Michael J. Wellbrock for his service and for his work on behalf of America's citizens and our nation.

COMMENDING THE ADAMS COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL MARINE CORPS JUNIOR RESERVE OFFICER'S TRAINING CORPS

HON. BOB BEAUPREZ

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 8, 2003

Mr. BEAUPREZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the Marine Corps Junior Reserve Officer's Training Corps program at Adams City High School in Commerce City, Colorado.

On Friday, December 12, they will present the colors for a field hearing I have requested at the Colorado State Capitol. It is worth noting the history of this group.

The only Marine Corps JROTC program in the State, the Adams City High School program started in 1969 and enjoyed several years of popularity before declining in the late 70's and early 80's.

After a concerted effort to improve expectations and standards, the program has received several awards of recognition as a program of excellence. In the 2001-02 academic year, they received the prestigious Marine Corps Reserved Officer's Association Award (MCROA) as the best JROTC program in the ten-state 8th Marine Corps District. Only six programs across the Nation receive this distinction annually.

Due to the superior performance of the program, Adams City High School was also des-

ignated as a Naval Honor School for the first time in its history. This is the highest award attainable for a Marine Corps JROTC program and exemplifies leadership, integrity and excellence. Naval Honor School status is reserved for the top 20 percent of the schools nationally and affords the Senior Marine Instructor the opportunity to nominate up to three cadets to the United States Naval Academy.

Last year (2002-03) the cadets continued their superior performance, repeating as a Naval Honor School and attaining distinction as the best inspected unit in the 8th Marine Corps District with a total score of 993 points out of a possible 1000, receiving "outstanding" marks in all twelve categories of the inspection. This accomplishment garnered the program the coveted "McLemore Detachment" Award for the Marine Corps League, McLemore Detachment in Houston, Texas.

JROTC is a regularly scheduled class for students, focusing on leadership, discipline, citizenship and physical fitness. Their weekly events include drill marching, uniform inspection, physical training and academic instruction.

J.D. Bristow, the senior Marine instructor at ACHS, has done a fine job with this group of young men and women. These young leaders are extremely active in the leadership of their class. They not only have the potential to make excellent officers in our military, but also have dedicated their time to many after-school opportunities, such as community and school service projects.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to represent this terrific organization in Congress. I appreciate their families for the support and encouragement necessary for its success. The ACHS JROTC program and its administrators have made a sizable impact on the community. They are to be commended.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF ASSISTANT POLICE CHIEF TOM UNDERHILL

HON. JEB HENSARLING

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 8, 2003

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, today, Texans mourn the loss of a fine law enforcement officer. Just 3 weeks after being diagnosed with leukemia, at 43 years of age, Athens Assistant Police Chief Tom Underhill passed away at Baylor Hospital in Dallas from complications related to his disease.

Underhill served Athens Police Department for 21 years. He started as a patrolman in May 1982. He was promoted to sergeant in 1987 and to patrol lieutenant in 1993. Tom Underhill took over the position of assistant chief in March. Previous to his time at Athens Police Department, he worked as a deputy sheriff at Gregg County and Henderson County. His coworkers remember him as having a quiet spirit, a strong sense of professionalism and a good sense of humor. He loved golf, gun shows and helping others.

During his years of service, Tom Underhill was recognized numerous times for his achievements. He was named officer of the year several times and headed up the department's special response unit. He was a training officer, a firearms instructor and a graduate of the FBI National Academy. He was