

his commitment to the community never waned as he joined countless local boards and organizations over the years.

As a fellow Member of Congress, Barber was the model representative we should all aspire to. As a fellow Western New Yorker, I strive to serve the region with the same humility and regard Barber once did. The legacy of his warmth and generosity will live on in those who had the pleasure of knowing him. He will always be remembered as a true leader and a true friend. Like the many others fortunate to call Barber Conable a friend, I will miss him dearly.

IN SUPPORT OF THE AIR FORCE
ACADEMY

HON. HENRY BONILLA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 8, 2003

Mr. BONILLA. Mr. Speaker, I ask to enter the editorial "Aiming High: Academy Still Soars Above Rivals in Terms of Academics and Research Work," which appeared in the Colorado Springs Gazette on October 30, 2003, into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

AIMING HIGH: ACADEMY STILL SOARS ABOVE
RIVALS IN TERMS OF ACADEMICS AND RESEARCH WORK

Wednesday in this space we dabbled in the negative, wrestling with some of the continuing fallout from the Air Force Academy sex scandal. Today we accentuate the positive, mindful, as we all should be, that the occasionally disheartening headlines we see concerning the academy hardly present a fair and balanced reflection of what remains one of the nation's premier military and academic institutions.

What brings this to mind is a document that landed on our desk this week, the school's "Annual research Report," which will be distributed to the four-star and invited three-star generals attending next week's Corona Conference at the academy. While not something the academy is attempting to spoon-feed the media in an effort to polish its reputation, the report catalogs some truly impressive accomplishments out at the academy—in part a result of the leadership shown by the dean of faculty since 1998, Brig. Gen. David A. Wagie.

Wagie, as readers may be aware, last month was singled out for special criticism by the Fowler Commission, a congressionally appointed panel responsible for the latest regurgitation of the academy sex scandal. Its report suggested that Wagie hadn't been held accountable for problems that occurred during his tenure. And that's led to speculation that Wagie could be the next Air Force official invited to fall on his sword to assuage Washington witch hunters. But by at least one critical measure of performance—the school's academics—the general seems to have been doing an outstanding job.

The school's academic environment in recent years consistently has been ranked among the nation's best by the Princeton review. In 2000, the academy earned the review's top ranking for providing the best overall academic experience for undergraduates; and it tied for third in that category in 2001, 2002 and 2003. Last year the school also took top honors in terms of professor accessibility, the study habits of students and the excellence of its library. FAA's undergraduate engineering program was ranked fourth best in the nation by U.S. News &

World Report in 2000, 2001 and 2002; and sixth in the nation in 2003.

We read a lot these days about cadet surveys, mostly revolving around the school's sexual climate or reform efforts. But in another survey, the National survey of Student Engagement, fourth-class and first-class cadets in 2002 ranked the school highly in terms of academic challenge, active and collaborative learning, student-faculty interactions and a supportive campus environment.

During his tenure, Wagie has brought the academy into its own as a top-flight research university. Funding for research has quintupled since 1997, from \$2.6 million to \$123 million this year, collaborative research work with private companies, universities and federal agencies has increased, and five new research centers have been added, engaging the talents of 887 faculty or staff and 230 students.

And the research has real world relevance for the Air Force and the nation. One team of academy researchers solved a battery problem plaguing the unmanned serial vehicles playing such an important role in the war on terror, doubling the air-crafts's range and greatly reducing battery costs. And they did it in less than two months. The school also in the past year provided high performance computing supporting addressing stability problems that have plagued the V-22 tilt-rotor aircraft program, and helped enhance the capabilities of C-130 "Commando Solo" aircraft, which handle psychological operations and civil affairs broadcast missions in Iraq, Afghanistan and elsewhere around the world.

In spite of being buffeted by occasionally ugly news, it's clear that on at least one important front—academics—Wagie and the academy continue to soar high above most other U.S. institutions of higher learning.

TRIBUTE TO MAYOR PAUL TAUER

HON. THOMAS G. TANCREDO

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 8, 2003

Mr. TANCREDO. Mr. Speaker, profound political change has come to Aurora, Colorado, and that change provides an opportunity to reflect on the contributions of Mayor Paul Tauer and City Councilors Barb Cleland, Bob LeGare, Bob Perosky and Dave Williams.

These dedicated public servants had a profound impact on a growing and vibrant city. Aurora has grown dramatically and it is now one of the largest city in the nation—indeed people now refer to the Denver-Aurora Metro area. Aurora's population is approaching 300,000, or almost the size of Buffalo, New York and St. Paul, Minnesota. During this period of rapid growth, these civic leaders insured that services kept pace with growth, and that growth met the needs of the residents.

Few people contributed more to this process than the outgoing Mayor Paul Tauer. He served as Mayor from 1987 to 2003, and sat on the city council for eight years prior to his election as Mayor. During his tenure, the face of the city was literally reconfigured to respond to the demands of the 21st century.

During the Mayor's tenure Fitzsimmons Army Medical Center was closed and it was replaced by the largest medical facility between Chicago and California. The former Fitzsimmons campus is now home to the University of Colorado's Health Science Center,

the University Hospital, the Lion's Eye Bank, the University Physicians HMO and a large and growing biotechnology research park which has become a magnet for research and development firms in the Rocky Mountain Region. Soon the former Fitzsimmons campus will be the location of a new Denver Children's Hospital and a new Veterans Administration Hospital, replacing the antiquated facility in Denver. The Fitzsimmons campus will employ more than 30,000 people and generate untold millions in revenue.

The phenomenon of Fitzsimmons was not the only notable development contributing to the increasing dynamism of Aurora. Buckley Air National Guard Base became Buckley Air Force Base, a new facility of the Air Force Space Command. Ongoing growth at Buckley is likely to continue as the role of space-based defense in our national security grows to meet the requirements of military transformation and the war on terror. It was Mayor Tauer who worked actively with the Air Force to make the new base a reality ensuring that the requirements for national security were balanced against the requirements of a growing urban community.

Mayor Tauer also presided over the redevelopment of "original" Aurora and development of the Southeast area of the city. This revitalization was accomplished by a city-wide growth management plan which created realistic, yet forward-looking standards for "quality" and "smart" growth. Aurora's implementation for these policies has won widespread recognition for its excellence.

Perhaps in no area was Mayor Tauer's foresight more evident than his leadership on water resource issues. During his time in office Aurora has acquired new water resources, increased distribution and treatment facilities and implemented innovative recycling and drought management policies. The result has been an effective doubling of water system capacity. Among his most notable achievements was forging an agreement with the Department of Interior's Bureau of Reclamation that ensured the city's storage facility in the Bureau's Pueblo Reservoir. I am currently working with Representatives BEAUPREZ and HEFLEY to codify that agreement in federal law.

Mr. Speaker, Mayor Tauer has been the force that has given shape, form and a distinctive identity to Aurora. Nowhere is this more evident than in the new Aurora Municipal center. The new urban core of the city includes a recently opened municipal building, public safety building, a central library and museum. Together, they constitute the virtual center of this increasingly urbane metropolis. This distinctive city locus took shape during the tenure of Mayor Tauer.

Paul Tauer did not do it alone. Working with him for growth and progress in Aurora was an exceptional cadre of city councilors whose vision and understanding contributed mightily to the city.

Barb Cleland served on the council for two decades and focused on insuring that public safety and public services in Aurora were unrivaled. An early advocate of victims' rights, her leadership and influence extended beyond Aurora to the National League of Cities and other municipal groups. The valuable contributions to all areas of city governance will be sorely missed.

Edna Mosely spent 12 years on the city council. Edna, whose husband was one of the