

at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C., and at festivals in Great Britain and Israel.

Finally, he served for many years on the board of trustees for the University of South Alabama and fought tirelessly for the interests of the thousands of students, faculty members, and staff who have been involved in the life of that institution since its founding in the early 1960s.

Mr. Speaker, during my twenty years of work in the House of Representative, both as a staffer and now as the representative for Alabama's First Congressional District, I have met few public servants as committed and dedicated to the well-being of their community as Judge Otha Lee Biggs. With a tenacity and work ethic matched only by his kindness and generosity, he truly represents the finest example of both a southern gentleman and fine public servant. I have certainly learned a great deal from him during our many years of association, and have during that time been proud and deeply honored to develop a strong friendship with him. Monroe County and, indeed, all of South Alabama have benefited greatly from his experience and wisdom, and he has been a great friend to many people.

Along with his many friends and colleagues, not only in the Coosa-Alabama River Improvement Association but throughout the State of Alabama, I wish to extend to Judge Otha Lee Biggs my warmest congratulations on the receipt of the Dr. R.F. Henry Outstanding Service Award.

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PAYING TRIBUTE TO THE RIFLE  
AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

**HON. SCOTT McINNIS**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 3, 2004*

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to rise and pay tribute to the Rifle Area Chamber of Commerce in Rifle, Colorado. The Chamber recently celebrated 50 years of service to the City of Rifle, and it is my honor to call the attention of my colleagues and this nation to all that the Chamber does for the citizens of Rifle.

The Chamber has a strong tradition of excellent leadership and a dedicated staff. Since its inception, the Chamber has focused on the organization and health of Rifle's economy and its able and dedicated staff members always greet each citizen with a smile. In addition to its traditional activities, the Rifle Chamber of Commerce has always gone beyond the call of duty to be involved in the community. This anniversary celebration also marks a milestone for the only remaining charter member since 1954, John Scalzo. John's service to the chamber and to the city of Rifle has been much appreciated and invaluable, and I know the community is thankful for his service.

Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to rise and pay tribute to the Rifle Area Chamber of Commerce. The Chamber works tirelessly for the betterment of the city of Rifle and I am honored to pay tribute to its contributions today. Congratulations on your anniversary and keep up the hard work.

TRIBUTE TO PRIVATE FIRST  
CLASS LUIS A. MORENO

**HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 3, 2004*

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Private First Class Luis Moreno, a Dominican American who gave his life while serving our country in Iraq.

Pfc. Moreno, who was only 19 years old, was born in the Dominican Republic but immigrated to this country with his family in 1991 in search of a better life. Hoping one day to serve as a police officer, Pfc. Moreno made the courageous decision to dedicate his life to protecting the lives of others.

Pfc. Moreno enlisted in the Army shortly after graduating from Taft High School in the Bronx. He had been deployed in Baghdad for only three months with the Army's 1st Armored Division before his untimely death.

Mr. Speaker, I was inspired by this young man's courage and conviction and sadly reminded of the high cost of war. Pfc. Moreno, like so many other young soldiers made the ultimate sacrifice for his country. As we mourn the life of this brave soldier, let us remember the sacrifices of all our service members and work to ensure that their heroic deeds are never forgotten.

For his heroism and service to his country, I ask my colleagues to join me in mourning the loss of Pfc. Luis Moreno.

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PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. LUIS V. GUTIERREZ**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 3, 2004*

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent from this Chamber on January 21, 2004. I would like the record to show that, had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on roll call vote number 4.

I was also unavoidably absent from this Chamber on January 28, 2004. I would like the record to show that, had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on roll call numbers 8, 9 and 11. I would also like the record to show that I would have voted "no" on roll call number 10.

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PAYING TRIBUTE TO HELEN  
HAVERSTRAW

**HON. SCOTT McINNIS**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 3, 2004*

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to pay tribute to a truly remarkable woman who resides from my district, Helen Haverstraw. Helen resides in Bayfield, Colorado and has been an active member of her community and her church for many years. Helen is a gracious individual and inspires those around her and I am honored to praise her accomplishments today.

Helen celebrated her 100th birthday on December 12th. She was born in 1903 in West

Virginia on a farm during the Teddy Roosevelt era. The farm produced tomatoes, corn and other crops and her father would travel six miles to get into town to sell the fruits of his labor. Helen went on to become valedictorian of her high school. She married Ted Haverstraw in 1928 and they raised their daughters in West Virginia. Following a series of moves in the 1980's and early 90's, she returned to Colorado, where she continues to reside.

Mr. Speaker, Helen Haverstraw has lived a long and active life. She attributes her longevity to her abstaining from harmful products and a positive attitude. Helen's personality and willingness to help others have led her to the exceptional milestone she celebrates this year. Congratulations on your 100th birthday Helen, and I wish you all the best in your future endeavors.

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PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. MIKE McINTYRE**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 3, 2004*

Mr. McINTYRE. Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday, January 27, 2004, I was unavoidably absent due to inclement weather for roll call vote 6 on passage of H.R. 1385, and roll call vote 7 on passage of H.R. 3493. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on roll call votes 6 and 7.

Mr. Speaker, on Thursday, January 28, 2004, I was unavoidably absent due to inclement weather for roll call vote 8 on passage of the Baldwin amendment; roll call vote 9 on the Schakowsky motion to recommit; roll call vote 10 on final passage of S. 1920; and roll call vote 11 on the motion to instruct conferees. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on roll call votes 8, 9, 10, and 11.

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PAYING TRIBUTE TO PEGGIE  
FORD

**HON. SCOTT McINNIS**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 3, 2004*

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to rise and pay tribute to a remarkable woman from my district. Peggie Ford from Grand Junction, Colorado recently returned from a trip to Venezuela where she and a team of volunteers performed volunteer medical work for underprivileged children. Peggie's altruistic dedication to those less fortunate than herself is certainly deserving of recognition and it is my honor to call her acts to the attention of this body of Congress and our Nation here today.

Peggie is a surgery nurse with Saint Mary's Hospital in Grand Junction. She traveled to Venezuela as a member of a team of volunteers organized by Rotaplast International, a non-profit organization dedicated to providing medical help to underprivileged people throughout the world. This was Peggie's second trip to provide medical services to the needy. On the first, she traveled to Chile, where she assisted in numerous beneficial surgeries for those in need.