

has also attended the National Scout Jamboree at Fort A.P. Hill in Virginia and the Junior Leader Training Conference at the Pony Express Council.

For his Eagle Scout project, Derek built a new sign for the Alta Vista Baptist Church.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Derek Scott King 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 FRUITA MONUMENT  
HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

**HON. SCOTT MCINNIS**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 24, 2004*

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to rise before you today to pay tribute to the students of Fruita Monument High School who recently devoted their time and efforts toward improving the lives of others. Last year, 25 students joined the Committee for a Merry Christmas For All to construct, collect and distribute Christmas toys to needy children in Colorado. Their actions serve as a valuable model of community service, and I would like to ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing their tremendous contributions to the State of Colorado before this body of Congress and this nation.

The Committee for a Merry Christmas For All was established 17 years ago. Since the committee's beginning, the Grand Junction Free Press reports that "Students have designed and constructed nearly 5,000 toys . . . and they've collected another nearly 6,000." This past year, under the tutelage of their teachers Ed Reid and Mel Crider, the students constructed and distributed a variety of toys. On the Saturday preceding Christmas, the students and their teachers met at Fruita Monument High School and distributed the collection of toys to children in need throughout the Grand Junction community. This is an amazing group of young citizens, and I am proud to highlight their amazing actions here on the floor of the House of Representatives.

Mr. Speaker, it is a high honor to rise before this body of Congress to pay tribute to each member of the Committee for a Merry Christmas For All. I would also like to thank their teachers Ed and Mel, who have dedicated their time and efforts to make this service possible. These efforts have brightened the lives of thousands of needy children in Colorado, and the State will forever remain grateful. It is my honor to offer my deepest gratitude and appreciation to the Committee and School, and I thank them for their service.

HONORING JAMES HUFF

**HON. CHARLES W. "CHIP" PICKERING**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 24, 2004*

Mr. PICKERING. Mr. Speaker, this month James Huff retires—again. A mentor, a confidant, a family friend, and a counselor since before I ran for Congress, Jim represents the best Mississippi has to offer and will be irreplaceable on my staff.

Jim and Marilyn Huff reared two children and proudly claim 5 grandchildren. For 32 years he worked at the Masonite Corporation in Laurel. As operations manager at Masonite, he was one of the leading businessmen in Jones County, where I grew up and first appreciated his wisdom, wit, and integrity.

President George H. W. Bush put Jim's knowledge and expertise to work, appointing him Mississippi's state director of the Farmers Home Administration. Excelling as administrator and leader, Jim was next asked by President Bush to come to Washington DC and serve as the national administrator of the Rural Electrification Administration.

Years later, Jim's political knowledge of Mississippi and Washington DC benefited my work both in my first campaign for Congress and then as I worked to serve the constituents of Mississippi's Third District. Few freshman Congressmen could boast of such unique experience on staff. His guidance was exceptional; his advice, outstanding.

Jim continues to be a servant in his community. He is a leader at the Hebron Baptist Church where his abilities as a Sunday school teacher and work as a deacon are well known and appreciated. Active in the Kiwanis Club, people in Jones County know they can come to Jim for advice and assistance during life's struggles.

The pages of Mississippi record a lifetime of public service and private engagement from Jim Huff. He will never fully retire. He may have more time now to work his cattle farm and relax at his favorite fishing hole, and more time to spend with his loving family.

When I think of Jim Huff, I think of honesty, service, humor, and experience. I thank him for his service to this office and to Mississippi. I join the rest of my staff in saying we will miss him, but I know I will see him often because he is more than a colleague and assistant. He is family and will remain near in my heart, constant in my thoughts, and always in my prayers.

HONORING RAHEEN TYSON  
HEIGHTER

**HON. STEVE ISRAEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 24, 2004*

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share with my colleagues an address that I delivered at the memorial service of Raheen Tyson Heighter, a fallen soldier from my district on November 11, 2003.

Raheen Tyson Heighter went to the Middle East willingly, sacrificed selflessly, and served proudly.

In the two and a quarter centuries of our nation's history, our country has faced seemingly insurmountable obstacles. But in generation after generation, Americans have risen to the occasion and met every challenge.

In the 18th century, our forefathers were able to beat back the greatest military superpower in the world to secure our independence. In the 19th century, Americans defeated the greatest injustice in the world—slavery. And in the 20th century, millions of patriots, in what has come to be known as America's greatest generation, defeated the greatest evil the world has ever known—the Nazis.

Raheen is part of a generation that faces a newer, but no less dangerous tyranny.

He is a child of Long Island. He went to this high school. In many ways, he is very much like the hundreds of thousands of other children in our community—with one remarkable exception.

Raheen was willing to make the ultimate sacrifice to secure the blessings of liberty for his countrymen, for our children, and for America's future.

By sacrificing himself for our way of life, Raheen, in the words of his mother, "died an American hero."

By fighting for a better world, Raheen, as the poet John Gillespie Magee, Jr. wrote, "slipped the surly bonds of earth" to "touch the face of God."

May his name be remembered throughout history, and may he serve as a source of strength and pride to American generations yet unborn.

HONORING PFC ARMANDO  
SORIANO

**HON. GENE GREEN**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 24, 2004*

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to extend my deepest sympathies to the family and friends of PFC Armando Soriano.

PFC Soriano was a constituent of the 29th District of Texas, and a true hero, who died on February 1, 2004, while serving his country in Haditha, Iraq.

Armando Soriano joined the Army 2 months after graduating from South Houston High School in 2002. Soriano was assigned to the howitzer battery, 3rd Squadron, 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment, in Fort Carson, Colorado. His unit in Iraq was attached to the 82nd Airborne Division of Fort Bragg, North Carolina. His vehicle, traveling with another one on a supply route, slid off a road and rolled over during bad weather.

Armando Soriano leaves behind his two parents, Clotilde and Enrique, and 4 younger siblings.

I know his parents, family and friends are devastated by this loss, but they should be proud of the great man Armando Soriano had become and that he died a hero while serving his country.

His loss will be felt by all of South Houston, and I ask that you remember the Soriano family in your thoughts and prayers.

TRIBUTE TO DR. LAWRENCE T.  
GERATY PRESIDENT OF LA SIERRA UNIVERSITY

**HON. KEN CALVERT**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 24, 2004*

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to an individual whose dedication and contributions to the community of Riverside, California are exceptional. Riverside has been fortunate to have dynamic and dedicated community leaders who willingly and unselfishly give their time and talent and make their communities a better place to live and work. Dr. Larry Geraty is one of these individuals. On Wednesday, February 25, 2004,