

the Future, a group of business and professional leaders in Greater Little Rock.

Doyle Rogers and his wife Josephine Raye Rogers have proved like-minded people tend to attract each other. In 2001, the White River Medical Center in Batesville received a unique Valentine's Day gift when Doyle Rogers and his wife Raye announced a gift of \$1 million to the hospital. It is the largest gift in the hospital's 25-year history. The gift was used as seed money for the Josephine Raye Rogers Center for Women and Imaging.

Raye, as she's known to her friends, complements Doyle well, proving her commitment to the community is as strong as her love for her husband. The Rogers' are truly a perfect match—and a shining example of the compassion our country occasionally lacks.

Mr. Rogers knows the people of Rural America will move this country ahead. He is a great business man, an impassioned community leader and a devoted family man. On behalf of the Congress, I extend a deep sense of appreciation for all he did to drive Arkansas and this nation forward.

INTRODUCING THE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE CONNECTIONS CAMPAIGN ACT OF 2004

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 1, 2004

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the "Domestic Violence Connections Campaign Act" of 2004, legislation that ensures that the National Domestic Violence Hotline continues to provide the essential services it has been providing since it was created in 1996. I am joined by Representative HART.

The Hotline was created by the Violence Against Women Act and answered its first call on February 21, 1996. By August 2003 it answered its one millionth call, an increase of approximately 133 percent. This is due in large part to public awareness of domestic violence and public promotion of the Hotline. Today, on average the Hotline receives almost 16,000 calls a month.

The Hotline is primarily funded by federal dollars that come from annual federal spending bills. However, as the Hotline's call volume continues to increase exponentially, funding has failed to keep pace. To keep up, the Hotline needs new equipment, new connection capability, and new data protection technology. Because its system is so outdated, over 26,000 calls last year went unanswered due to long hold times or busy signals.

The Connection Campaign is a combination of public and private efforts to bring the Hotline up to speed. It teams up private telecommunication and technology companies with the federal government to solve the Hotline's crisis and guarantee that the Hotline can answer every call. Under the Connection Campaign, companies like Microsoft, Sony, BellSouth, Verizon Wireless, IBM, Dell and others, may donate hardware and software such as cell phones, home computers, mapping software, flat-screened monitors, and telephone airtime to the Hotline.

On the public side of the partnership, Representative HART and I are joining Senator

BIDEN in introducing legislation to bridge the digital divide. Our bill, the Domestic Violence Connections Campaign Act of 2004, has three components:

It mandates that federal appropriations to the Hotline include technology training for Hotline advocates so that every new telephone, computer, and database will be used to its fullest capacity.

It provides a new research grant program to be used to review and analyze data generated by the Hotline. Administered by the Attorney General, the grant program will study trends, gaps in service and geographical areas of need. The findings of this research will be reported to Congress within 3 years of its enactment.

It provides a grant program for the Hotline to increase public awareness about the Hotline's services and domestic violence generally.

The Connections Campaign and this legislation are important next steps in our fight to defeat domestic violence and assist victims. I am hopeful that Congress can move quickly to enact this worthwhile and timely legislation.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO PHYLLIS TAYLOR

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 1, 2004

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute and thank Phyllis Taylor for her leadership and contributions to Aspen, Colorado, as principal of Aspen Middle School. I would also like to pay tribute to her excellent 40-year career in education and service to her Aspen community. As Phyllis celebrates her retirement, let it be known that the citizens of Colorado and I are eternally grateful for the outstanding work she has done in her 40-year career as an educator in Aspen.

Phyllis Taylor will leave Aspen Middle School at the end of this school year after a 2-year tenure, in which she helped to maintain the high level of achievement of the Aspen School District. The school routinely ranks in the top tier of Colorado school systems for academic performance. In fact, last fall Aspen Middle School was awarded the John Irwin Schools of Excellence Award, which is issued to schools that perform in the top 8 percent of Colorado public schools. This was the first time the school had received this award. As she retires to spend more time with her family, Phyllis Taylor's skills as an educator will surely be missed.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to bring the service of Phyllis Taylor to the attention of this body of Congress and this Nation, and to congratulate her on an outstanding career as an educator in Colorado. I would like to wish her the best in retirement and sincerely thank her for her service.

PFC LEROY SANDOVAL JR.

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 1, 2004

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to extend my deepest sympathies to the family and friends of Pfc. Leroy Sandoval Jr., who died while bravely serving our country in Iraq.

Pfc. Sandoval was from Houston, Texas and graduated in 2000 from Harvest Christian Academy. He joined the Marines on May 19, 2003 and attended basic training at the Marine Corps Recruit Depot, San Diego. Pfc. Sandoval was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, 1st Marine Expeditionary Force, in Camp Pendleton, California.

On March 26, 2004, less than 2 weeks after arriving in Iraq, Pfc. Sandoval suffered a fatal bullet wound in a gunfight between the 600 Marines stationed in Fallujah, Iraq, and rebel insurgents.

I know his parents, family and friends are devastated by this loss, but Pfc. Sandoval's family can be proud knowing that he died a hero while serving his country.

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

TRIBUTE TO MR. CHESTER MILAM

HON. JOE KNOLLENBERG

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 1, 2004

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. Chester Milam, a notable citizen of Knoxville, Tennessee as well as a distinguished man in my home area of Oakland County, Michigan. Mr. Milam has owned and maintained Wendell's Barber Shop in Lathrup Village for the past 47 years and has recently announced he's retiring.

Mr. Milam has committed professionally to serve a loyal group of Oakland county customers, including me, for 37 years. He has played a significant role in our community, serving politicians, civic leaders, sports figures from the Detroit Red Wings, the Lions, and the Tigers, and not to mention people from every level of the community.

For the last nine years, Mr. Milam has driven 1,200 miles round trip, returning to Michigan from his home in Tennessee, one week per month to continue the loyal service to his community. Not only has he taken great pride in his business, he has taken great pride in his customers, providing his own personal touch and great stories.

Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate Mr. Chester Milam on his retirement and his many years of dedication to serving the people of Oakland County, Michigan and extend our best wishes.