

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

PAYING TRIBUTE TO CHARLOTTE BOBICKI

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 15, 2004

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to Charlotte Bobicki and thank her for her dedication to Colorado as an Alamosa County Commissioner. Her dedication and tireless efforts have done much to ensure a promising future for her constituents. As Charlotte moves on in her career, let it be known that she leaves behind a terrific legacy of commitment to the people of Alamosa County and the State of Colorado.

An Alamosa native, Charlotte worked for thirty-six years in the Alamosa Public School System as both a teacher and an administrator before being elected a county commissioner in 1996. During her tenure as a commissioner, Charlotte has been very active in health and human welfare issues. She serves on the Colorado State Board of Health, regional Workforce Committee, and Colorado Counties Incorporated. She also is a founding member of Action 22 in southern Colorado and serves as the San Luis Valley representative to the executive board of Action 22. Last year, Charlotte served as Chairman of the Board of Alamosa County Commissioners, working to enhance relations between the county and other local and state agencies.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to pay tribute to Commissioner Charlotte Bobicki before this body of Congress and this nation, and to congratulate her on an outstanding career of public service. Her selfless dedication to her community and the people of Colorado as an Alamosa County Commissioner is truly remarkable. I wish her all the best in her future endeavors.

WHIRLIE SOCCER DYNASTY CONTINUES

HON. HOWARD COBLE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 15, 2004

Mr. COBLE. Mr. Speaker, as the 2003–2004 academic school year comes to an end, I would like to take a moment to congratulate a high school in the Sixth District of North Carolina that won a state girls' soccer championship. The Whirlies had extra incentive in the final game as they faced a Raleigh Broughton team that had defeated the Grimsley girls (by a score of 2–0) in the finals just 1 year ago. This time around the score was again 2–0, but it would be the Whirlies who walked away with the state title. This game capped off a perfect post-season run in which Grimsley held all playoff opponents scoreless; a remarkable feat that was last accomplished by the Whirlies in 2002. Indeed, the Grimsley girls' soccer pro-

gram is no stranger to championships as this became their sixth title since 1990.

Despite a convincing playoff performance going into the final game, Grimsley Head Coach Herk DeGraw was weary of the Whirlies' sluggish first few minutes against a formidable Broughton adversary. "The slow start scared me because I thought if they sneak one in and we don't get going we're going to have a problem," DeGraw told the Greensboro News & Record. But with 19:53 remaining in the first half, freshman Holly Cresson's goal began to assuage DeGraw's concerns. A left-footed player, Presson used her right foot to shoot the ball past the Broughton goalkeeper putting the Whirlies on top 1–0. "The look on her face was the funniest thing I've ever seen . . . It was total disbelief," DeGraw told a local reporter about Presson's post-goal expressions. After the Whirlies secured the lead there was no looking back as they powered their way to a 2–0 victory.

This was a memorable win for the Whirlies who were led by a number of senior players. Laura Hanson, Erin Graham, Whitney Andringa, Marie Bobalik, Jenny Cauble, Arden Dwyer, Melissa Ellisen, Anna Betton, and Ashley Newsome all finished their careers with a state championship. These girls had a strong supporting cast comprised of Anna Rodenbough, Michele Driver, Carey Goodman, Alex Leeder, Heidi Andringa, Carra Sykes, Lauren Atkinson, Casey Warmath, Holly Presson, Catherine Rierson, Lucy FanCourt, and Camelyn Dillon.

After such a strong season congratulations are in order for the Grimsley coaching staff. Head Coach Herk DeGraw and Assistant Coach Kevin Conaway deserve much credit for leading the Whirlies on their title run. Recognition should also be given to Athletic Director Neal Hatcher, Principal Rob Gasparello, Athletic Trainer Kris Dickens, and team managers Lauren Chambers and Rachel Goans. On behalf of the citizens of the Sixth District of North Carolina, we congratulate the Grimsley Whirlies for winning the 4–A girls' soccer championship.

TRIBUTE TO MR. RAMÓN VÉLEZ JR.

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 15, 2004

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. Ramón Vélez, an extraordinary community leader who has played an important role in improving housing opportunities for the people of the Bronx.

Ramón was born in Colon, Panama but raised in Puerto Rico and the Bronx, NY. He earned a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and Public Administration from InterAmerican University of Puerto Rico in 1978, a Masters in Public Administration from John Jay College

of Criminal Justice in 1985 and a Master of Science in Real Estate Development and Finance from New York University in 1992. He is also a graduate of the Minorities Developers Program at Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Today, Ramón serves as the President of the South Bronx Community Management Company, Inc., a property management company responsible for the management and operations of approximately 2,200 units of housing. Under his leadership, the company has been able to develop over 1,300 units in the South Bronx. Recently, they successfully completed a scattered site project consisting of 18 two and three family homes in the South Bronx for first time home buyers.

Mr. Speaker, I am truly appreciative of the work Ramón Vélez has done for the people of my district. As a result of his strong leadership and vision many people have been able to achieve a higher standard of living in the Bronx. For his outstanding service to the people of my community, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring this remarkable man.

IN RECOGNITION OF MARY JESSIE GONZALEZ ROQUE

HON. CHARLES A. GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 15, 2004

Mr. GONZALEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of a very special woman, Mary Jessie Gonzalez Roque, known by her friends as "Susie." Susie is a valued employee of mine who is retiring after thirty-three years of dedicated service to the federal government. I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge this important milestone in her life, and to also express my appreciation for the impact she has made on the lives of the constituents of the 20th District of Texas.

Susie's parents immigrated to the United States from Mexico before she was born so that they might have a piece of the American dream. They raised Susie, their first born, and her four siblings in San Antonio. Susie exhibited her value of education throughout her elementary, high school, and college careers. She parlayed this love of education and her skill of helping others into a job as a teacher at Burbank High School in San Antonio during the 1970–1971 academic year.

In 1971, Susie obtained a summer job in the District Office of my father, former U.S. Congressman Henry B. Gonzalez. She was hired full-time to handle casework for the 20th District of Texas and her summer job turned into a thirty-three year career.

Susie has expressed pride in working for my father, a notable figure in Texas and U.S. politics. He was celebrated in San Antonio as being a man who gave a voice to those who could not speak for themselves. Susie was vital to my father's efforts in this endeavor because she worked in close contact with people

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